



2019 Queensland Bushfires State Recovery Plan 2019-2022

Working to recover, rebuild and reconnect more resilient Queensland communities following the 2019 Queensland Bushfires

August 2020



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Message from the Premier and Minister for Trade

Bushfires scorched over 7.7 million hectares in Queensland between September to December 2019, destroying homes and businesses, and causing disastrous consequences for residents, primary producers, agriculture and the environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the dedication and hard work of all the fire and emergency service workers who devoted themselves to combat the fires at home. Many of them went on to help fight the bushfires in New South Wales and Victoria.

I also pay tribute to the leadership shown by the mayors, CEOs, and the disaster management teams of the impacted local government areas.

The fires took a great toll. Forty-nine homes were destroyed across the state, with a further 100 suffering some level of damage. There has been considerable damage to crops, pasture, water infrastructure, sheds and machinery.

Even while the danger of the summer fire season was still with us, my government turned its attention to the long-term recovery of our communities, with their health and well-being top of mind.

On 18 September 2019, I appointed former Police Commissioner Ian Stewart as State Recovery Coordinator to lead the recovery effort. He has frequently visited the impacted areas to identify the needs of each community and has been instrumental in developing the 2019 Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan 2019-2022.

Mr Stewart is fully supported in his work by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Australia's first stand-alone agency responsible for coordinating disaster recovery and resilience building.

The 2019 Queensland bushfires have been devastating for multiple communities, with long-term impacts yet to be fully realised. This devastation has, of course, been exacerbated by the impacts of COVID-19.

This plan focuses on locally-led initiatives that will help rebuild the health and emotional wellbeing of those impacted by the disaster, as well as infrastructure, local economies and the environment.

I want all fire-affected Queenslanders to know their government is focused on their personal, economic and community recovery, and that we will continue to support those impacted in the long-term. I have great faith in the resilience of Queenslanders, and we will stand with our communities as they recover over the months and years ahead.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anastacia'.

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier and Minister for Trade



Message from the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning

Queensland has once again shown its resilience in the face of adversity, with devastating bushfires in late 2019 impacting many communities across our state.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel, and many rural volunteer firefighters, battled through catastrophic conditions. Their bravery in protecting lives, property and bushland is to be applauded.

As fires continued to rage into December, recovery was already underway with the activation of the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. DRFA has since provided more than 12,200 people with over \$2.5 million in hardship and other financial assistance.

Community outreach was also significant, with 22 evacuation centres opened during the crisis, 12 community recovery hubs opened in the aftermath, and community recovery officers conducted 1388 visits.

In addition, 11,486 people were assisted with psychological first aid, which is vital when dealing with events of such distress.

Throughout all this the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA), our state's lead agency for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy, has been on the ground working with local governments and disaster management groups to support impacted communities in recovery.

Following the destruction of Binna Burra Lodge, a taskforce was also established to aid the economic recovery of the iconic ecotourism destination and the region at large, including assistance for the 56 staff impacted by Binna Burra's closure.

The 2019 Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan 2019-2022 will support communities affected by these recent bushfires, providing the framework they need on their recovery journey.

The human, social, environmental and economic impacts of the bushfires will be significant and felt for a long time, make no mistake. Added to this is the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on all Queensland communities.

But through the efforts of our government, the QRA, other state and federal agencies, and councils and communities, we will stand with and support Queenslanders affected during this trying time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Dick', followed by a horizontal line.

Cameron Dick MP

Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning



Message from the State Recovery Coordinator and Deputy State Recovery Coordinator

On 18 September 2019, I was appointed as State Recovery Coordinator (SRC) for the Southern Queensland Bushfires which had significantly impacted the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Southern Downs, Scenic Rim and Noosa while causing lesser effects in the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast regions.

These fires, which occurred in early September, were the beginning of a series of bushfires that revisited Scenic Rim, Southern Downs and Noosa whilst also significantly impacting Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Somerset, Toowoomba, Gympie, Bundaberg, Gladstone and Livingstone LGAs. These new fire areas were collectively classified as the Eastern Queensland Bushfires. My role was subsequently expanded to include the recovery efforts for these areas.

Superintendent Steve Munro of the Queensland Police Service was appointed as the Deputy SRC. Superintendent Munro was pivotal in engaging affected LGAs, particularly Noosa, Gympie and the Sunshine Coast, which suffered multiple bushfires. Our ability to provide support for all areas impacted has been underpinned by the excellent work of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and the partnerships they have developed across all agencies involved. The professionalism and long established networks of the QRA regional liaison and recovery teams are essential components of the recovery process. Others would do well to consider this model as a basis for more resilient communities.

Bushfire events across Australia since August have had a devastating effect on individuals, families and communities, with the significant loss of property, economic hardship and anguish suffered by those impacted, including responders. New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have been hit particularly hard, with at least 33 lives lost. I am grateful Queensland has been spared any loss of life as a result of bushfires this season. I share the thoughts of all Queenslanders for those in other states who have endured the loss of a loved one, friend or colleague due to bushfires in those areas.

Each disaster event requires a coordinated approach to the recovery process and this State Recovery Plan is part of that well-practised process. It also contributes directly to the national recovery effort. While the incredible stories of personal courage by ordinary Queenslanders, our wonderful fire fighters and all emergency services will linger in the hearts and legends of all Queensland, we will be judged as a community on our ability to assist those adversely affected, to ensure a sense of normality returns to their lives. To achieve this, we need to make our communities even more resilient to all types of natural disasters.

I am pleased and proud that this 2019 Queensland Bushfires State Recovery Plan provides the connectivity between us as individuals, as community members and as Queenslanders, to achieve these aims. I thank all who have shared in its development.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Stewart'.

Ian Stewart
State Recovery Coordinator
Southern and Eastern Bushfires 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Munro'.

Steve Munro
Deputy State Recovery Coordinator

A large bushfire at night, with a thick orange glow from the flames and smoke. Two firefighters in full protective gear are visible in the lower right foreground, holding hoses. The background is filled with smoke and falling embers.

Section 1: Queensland's Bushfires

Introduction

The 2019 bushfire season in Queensland was catastrophic. At the height of the season, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) was dealing with more than 90 bushfires at one time. More than seven and a half million hectares burnt state-wide, resulting in the activation of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for 23 Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The Southern Queensland Bushfires and the Stradbroke Bushfires both occurred in September, and the Eastern Queensland Bushfires burnt throughout November and December.

The fires impacted the 14 LGAs of Bundaberg, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Gympie, Ipswich, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Redland, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba. The fires resulted in impacts across the five lines of recovery (Human and Social, Economic, Built, Environment and Roads and Transport) and have exacerbated existing drought related challenges in a number of communities.

Additionally, fires in other parts of the state saw another nine LGAs activated under the DRFA resulting in the merging of the bushfire events into one disaster event - Queensland Bushfires, September - December 2019. The nine LGAs are Brisbane, Cook, Fraser, Mareeba, North Burnett, Rockhampton, South Burnett, Townsville and Whitsunday.

Former Police Commissioner Ian Stewart was appointed to the role of State Recovery Coordinator (SRC) on 18 September 2019 to lead recovery. The role has involved development of this *2019 Queensland Bushfires – State Recovery Plan 2019-2022* (Recovery Plan).

This Recovery Plan acknowledges the existing challenges and inherent resilience of impacted communities and will provide a framework for communities to recover, rebuild and reconnect.

Recovery will be delivered across the five lines of disaster recovery – Human and Social, Building, Roads and Transport, Economic and Environment. The Recovery Plan focuses on phase two of the recovery phases – Recovery and Reconstruction.



The Deputy SRC and staff from QFES inspect the Somerset LGA bushfire ground following the Eastern Queensland Bushfire event

The Recovery Plan identifies that successful recovery relies on a collaborative, coordinated, adaptable and scalable approach where the responsibility for disaster recovery is shared between all sectors of the community – individuals, families, community and service groups, businesses and all levels of government. Locally-led approaches to recovery support the restoration of community connectedness and services essential to human wellbeing.

The Recovery Plan recognises the lead role local government plays in the recovery process, including developing local recovery plans to help guide restoration and enhancement of infrastructure, support vulnerable and isolated members of the community, increase disaster preparedness, and enhance existing resilience for the future.

The aim of the Recovery Plan is to outline support for local governments and communities impacted by the 2019 Queensland Bushfires to enable them to reach a state of ‘recovered.’

The Recovery Plan identifies impacts and develops strategies and outcomes required to restore functionality of community. It aligns capacity and capability to deliver those outcomes.

The Recovery Plan will support communities affected by the impacts of the 2019 Queensland Bushfires, providing them with the framework to access support, recover from its devastation, restore essential infrastructure and functionality, capture lessons and acknowledge the impacts of drought on current circumstances and through their recovery journey.

The Queensland Government will work with local governments and community organisations to facilitate the delivery of local recovery initiatives, focus on community connectedness and support community development in order to recover and build resilience following the impacts of the 2019 Queensland Bushfires event.

Recovery progress will be monitored against key metrics nominated by agencies through regular reporting undertaken six monthly for the duration of the *2019 Queensland Bushfires – State Recovery Plan 2019-2022*.

The State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRPPC) will report on recovery progress to the Premier. These reports will be developed by QRA and informed by input from Functional Recovery Groups (FRGs) and local government will be published on the QRA website, together with public reporting requirements related to DRFA funding.

In response to the bushfires across the country, the Morrison government established the National Bushfire Recovery Agency (NBRA). QRA is supporting the agency to achieve its national objectives. The NBRA and the Queensland Government have recognised the need for flexibility in delivery of bushfire recovery as a result of the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.



Activated local government areas

The 2019 bushfire events impacted 23 of the 77 local government areas.



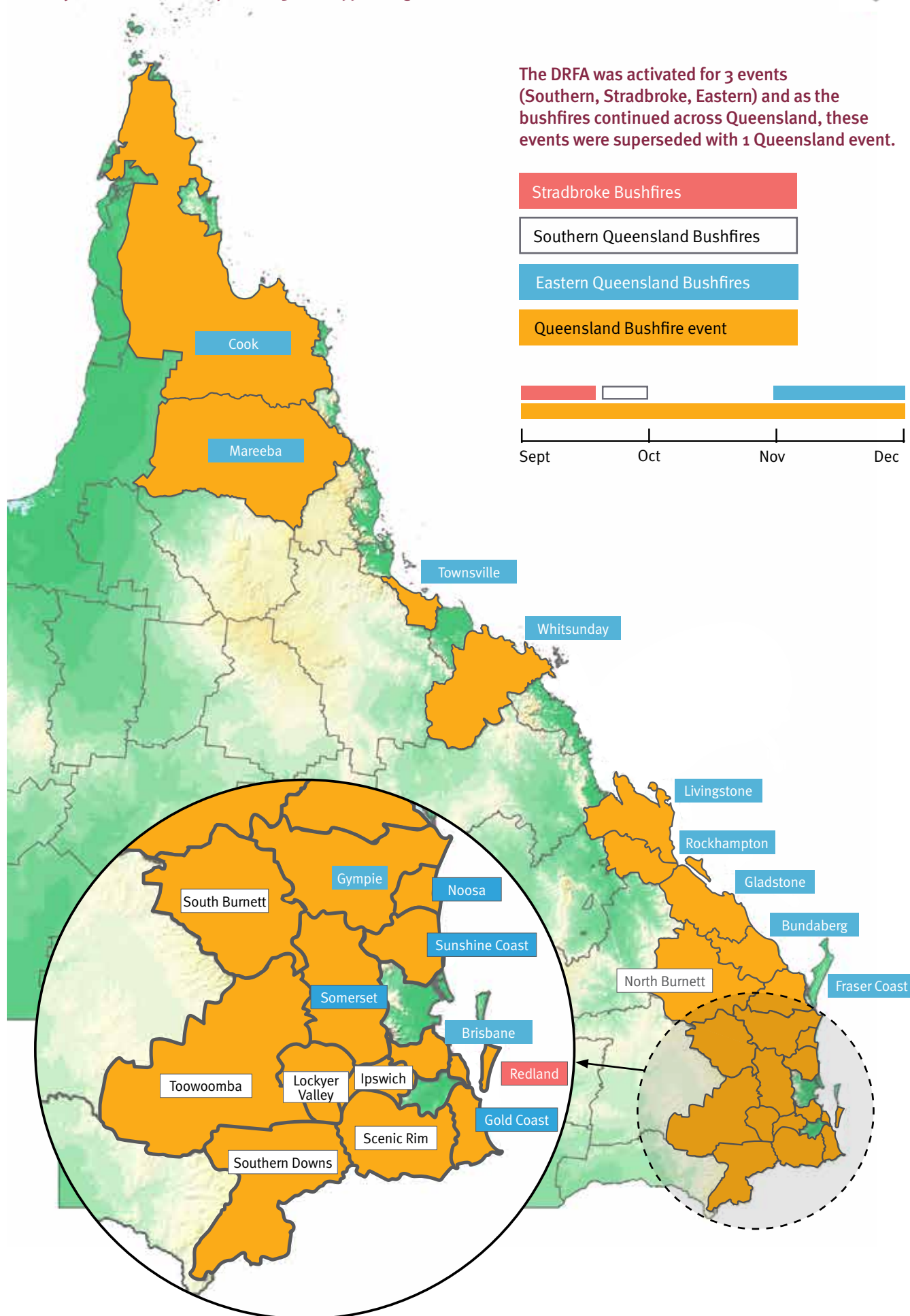
The DRFA was activated for 3 events (Southern, Stradbroke, Eastern) and as the bushfires continued across Queensland, these events were superseded with 1 Queensland event.

Stradbroke Bushfires

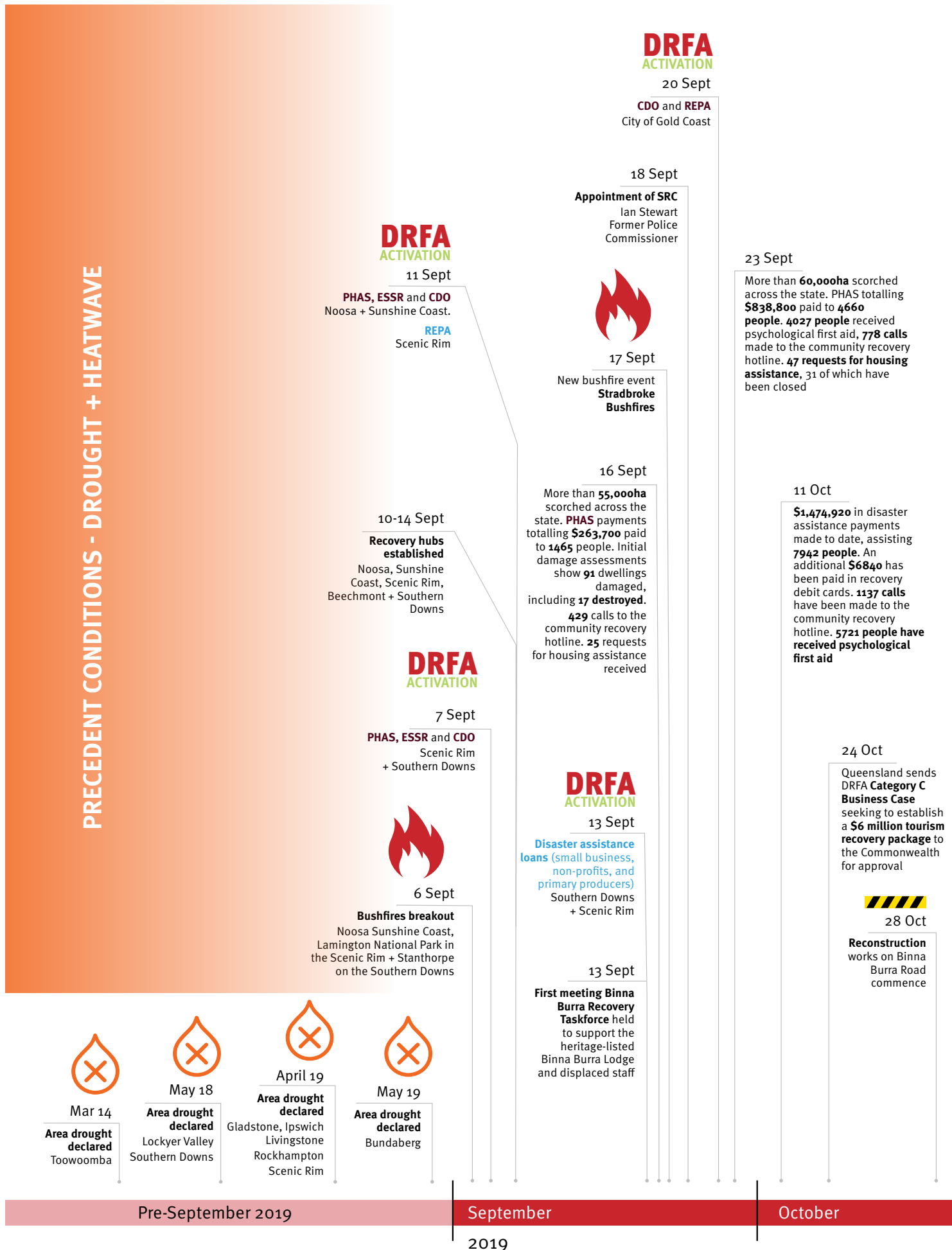
Southern Queensland Bushfires

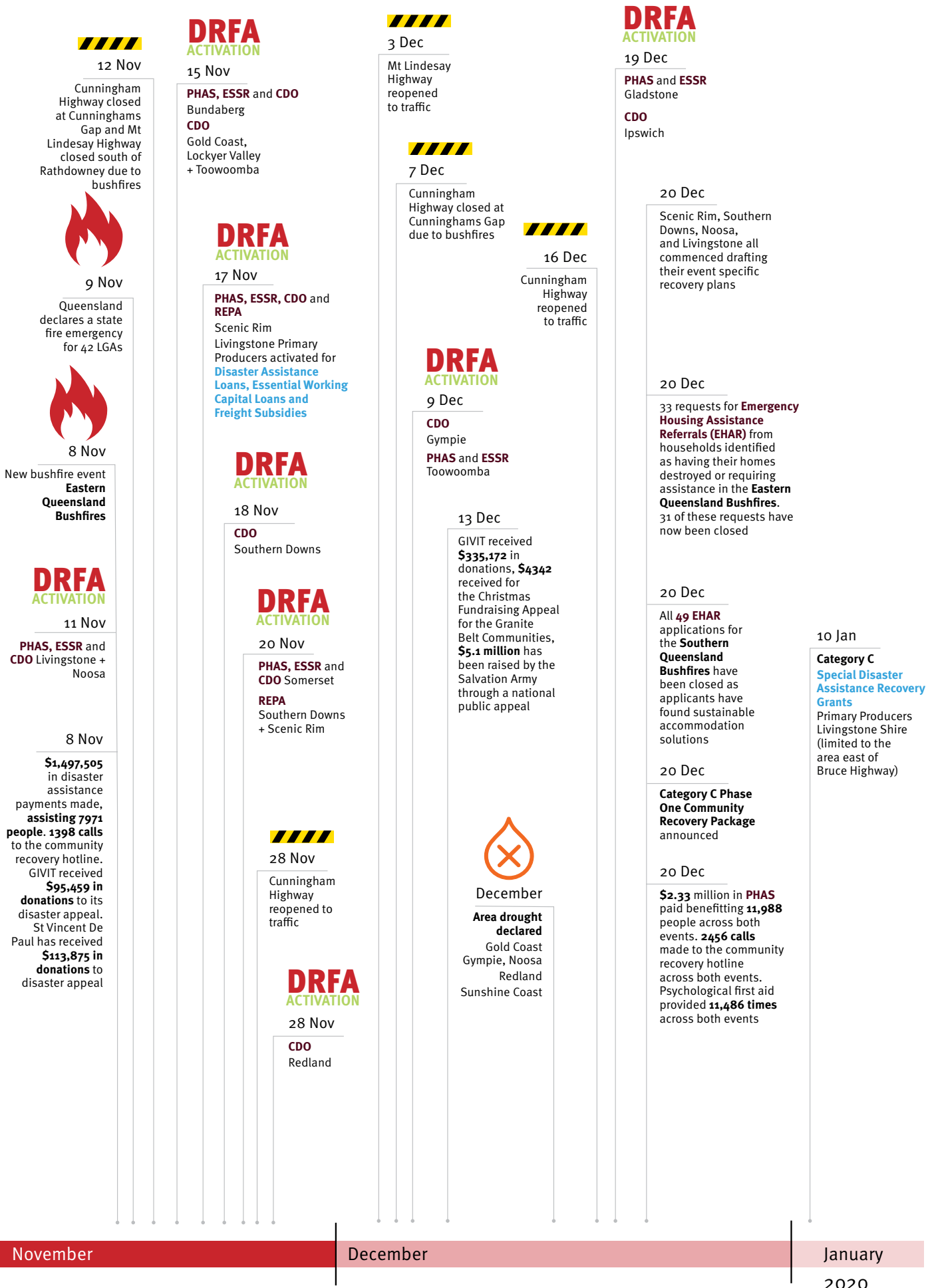
Eastern Queensland Bushfires

Queensland Bushfire event



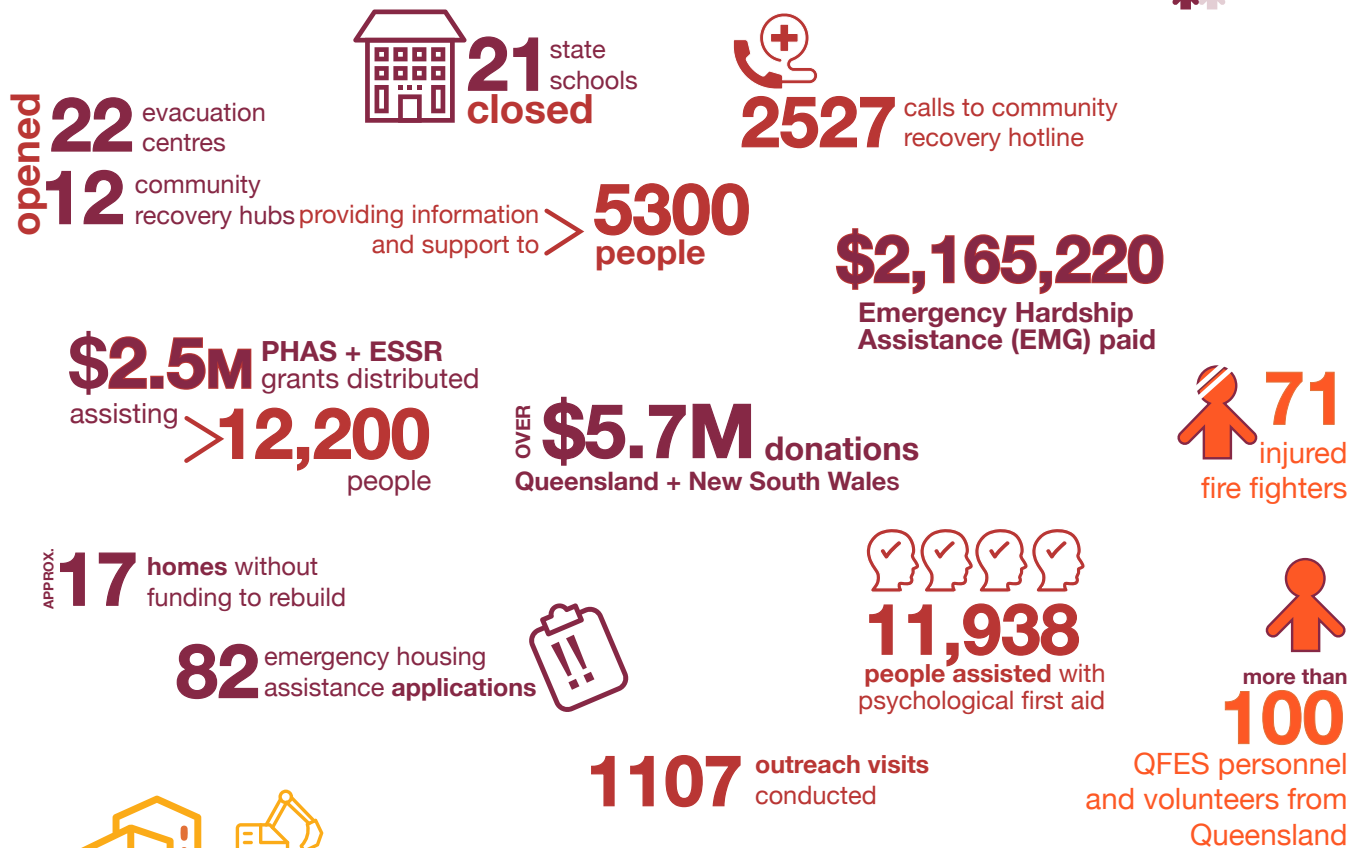
Timeline – 2019 Queensland bushfires





Queensland's 2019-20 bushfire season in numbers

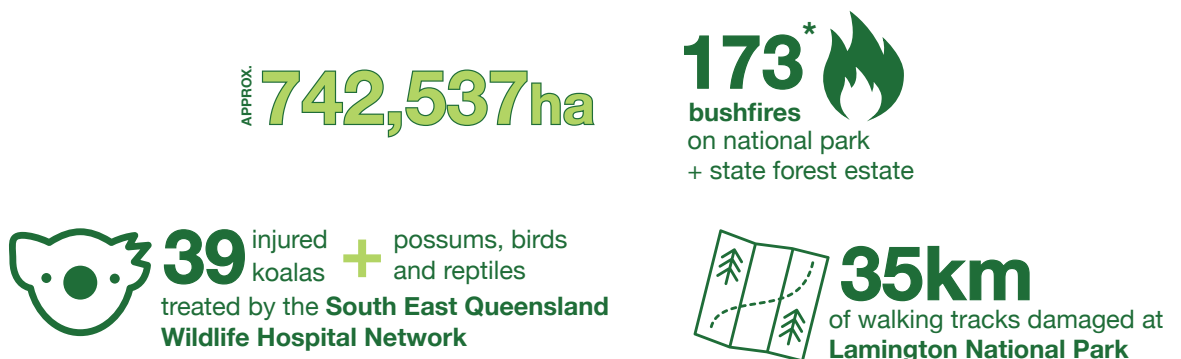
HUMAN AND SOCIAL



BUILDING



ENVIRONMENT



* Data based on situational reports from the fire ground at a point in time, and reliant upon the accuracy of individual updates.

ECONOMIC

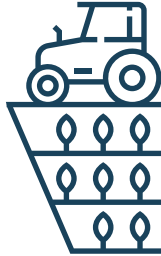


more than **7.7Mha**
burnt state wide

300,000
emergency alerts issued

OVER **230ha**
high value horticulture
crops impacted

29 properties
in the horticulture
industry impacted



est. **\$17.9M**
impact on agriculture industry
in the Shire of Livingstone

8500ha
grazing land impacted

56 Binna Burra Lodge staff directly
affected through loss of employment



56 workers from Binna Burra
sourced alternative employment



est. **\$1,133,700** Total direct and indirect
impact on small business

First

deployment nationally of
**Australian Defence Force
Reservists** to assist



100-150

interstate and international
personnel assisting the
Queensland firefighting effort
at any one time



Almost 70 small local
businesses surveyed nominated a
direct or indirect business impact

est. **\$732,500** Direct impacts to
small business

est. **\$9.9M** Tourism disruption
in the **Scenic Rim**



more than
3000 bushfires have occurred
in Queensland this season

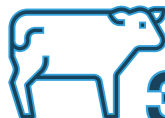
14 activated
LGAs
cover an
area of **7,350,436ha**
= 4% Queensland's
land mass

9,362 Contents
Claims **89%**
closed
average
value **\$11,364**

est. **\$5.2M** Impact to **Southern Downs**
agriculture industry

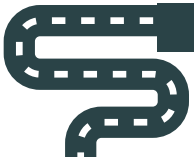
13,252 Residential
Building
Claims **84%**
closed
average
value **\$59,077**

4,577 Domestic Motor
Claims **98%**
closed
average
value **\$11,810**



37 beef
producers
experienced impacts
to their stock

ROADS + TRANSPORT



APPROX. **340 km** state road network impacted

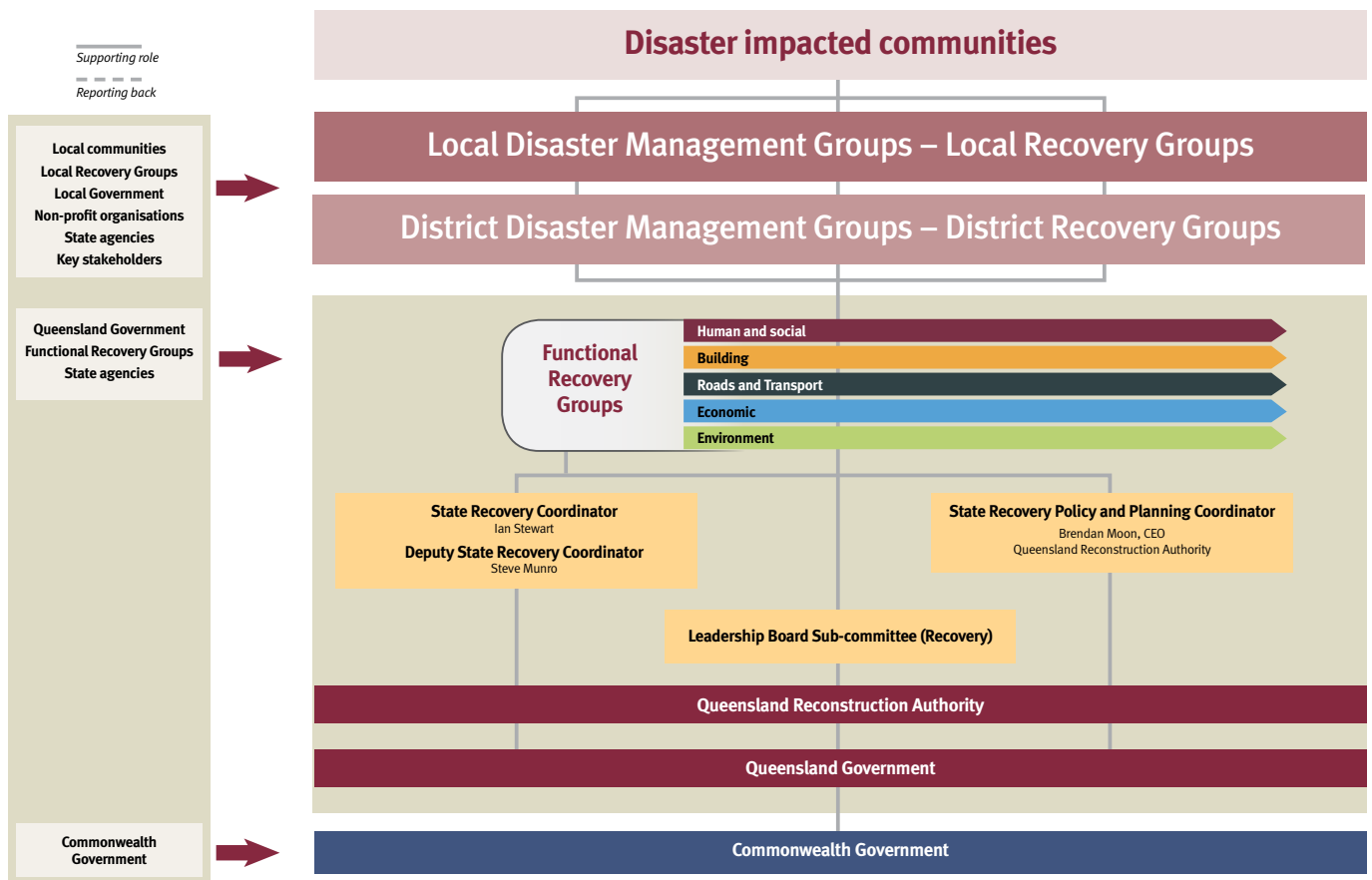
Section 2: Recovery



Queensland recovery arrangements

This diagram outlines the recovery arrangements which inform roles and responsibilities across all levels of government.

The SRC and Deputy SRC appointments are for a specific timeframe. The SRC appointment is determined by the Premier, in accordance with legislation. At the conclusion of their appointments, the SRC and Deputy SRC's responsibilities were transitioned to the SRPPC.



Roles and responsibilities

Local government

Local government is responsible for ensuring recovery occurs in affected community. This responsibility stems from the *Disaster Management Act 2003*. In this plan, this responsibility is demonstrated through the inclusion of local recovery plans.

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

QRA is the lead agency for coordination and development of disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy in Queensland.

QRA supports the delivery of recovery and reconstruction projects for communities impacted by the 2019 Queensland Bushfires from a state perspective by providing coordination and facilitation of communication across the five FRGs to achieve whole-of-community outcomes.

QRA also administers funding assistance on behalf of the Commonwealth and Queensland governments under the DRFA.

QRA will provide regular reports outlining recovery progress across local governments, informed by the FRGs at a state level.

State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator

The Chief Executive Officer of the QRA also fulfils the role of the SRPPC. The SRPPC works with the SRC to ensure a smooth transition between response and recovery, as well as overseeing recovery operations including state-level preparedness and recovery policy, planning and capability development.

State Recovery Coordinator

The SRC works in partnership with the SRPPC to coordinate recovery activities for the 2019 Queensland Bushfires, reports regularly to the QDMC, and provides strategic advice to government agencies undertaking disaster recovery work.

Deputy State Recovery Coordinator

The Deputy SRC provides local support to the SRC or acts as the SRC in the SRC's absence. The Deputy SRC also provides Queensland Government with critical insights on how to best assist communities on their road to recovery.

Recovery support and collaboration

Effective recovery requires collaboration between local, state and federal governments, community and non-government agencies in consultation with impacted communities. Other agencies that play a part in assisting with the recovery of impacted communities are listed in Annex A, including their purpose and contact details.

Functional Recovery Groups

FRGs coordinate and support the planning and implementation of Queensland's whole-of-community recovery activities across the five lines of recovery – Human and Social, Building, Roads and Transport, Economic, and Environment – supporting local government to fulfil its recovery objectives.

The FRGs leverage existing strong partnerships between local and state government to ensure close collaboration and coordination during the management of recovery activities.

Activities are in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by communities and the state and includes those outlined in local recovery plans.

The Recovery Plan is delivered locally with support from FRGs and QRA, with oversight from the Queensland Disaster Management Committee.

National Bushfire Recovery Agency

The Agency is responsible for administering a National Bushfire Recovery Fund which is supporting recovery efforts across Australia over the next two years. An initial \$2 billion has been allocated to this fund, which is in addition to other services and support available under existing natural disaster support mechanisms. The Agency works shoulder to shoulder with and for communities and collaborates with all levels of government, industry experts, business and charity sectors.

Department of Home Affairs - Emergency Management Australia (EMA)

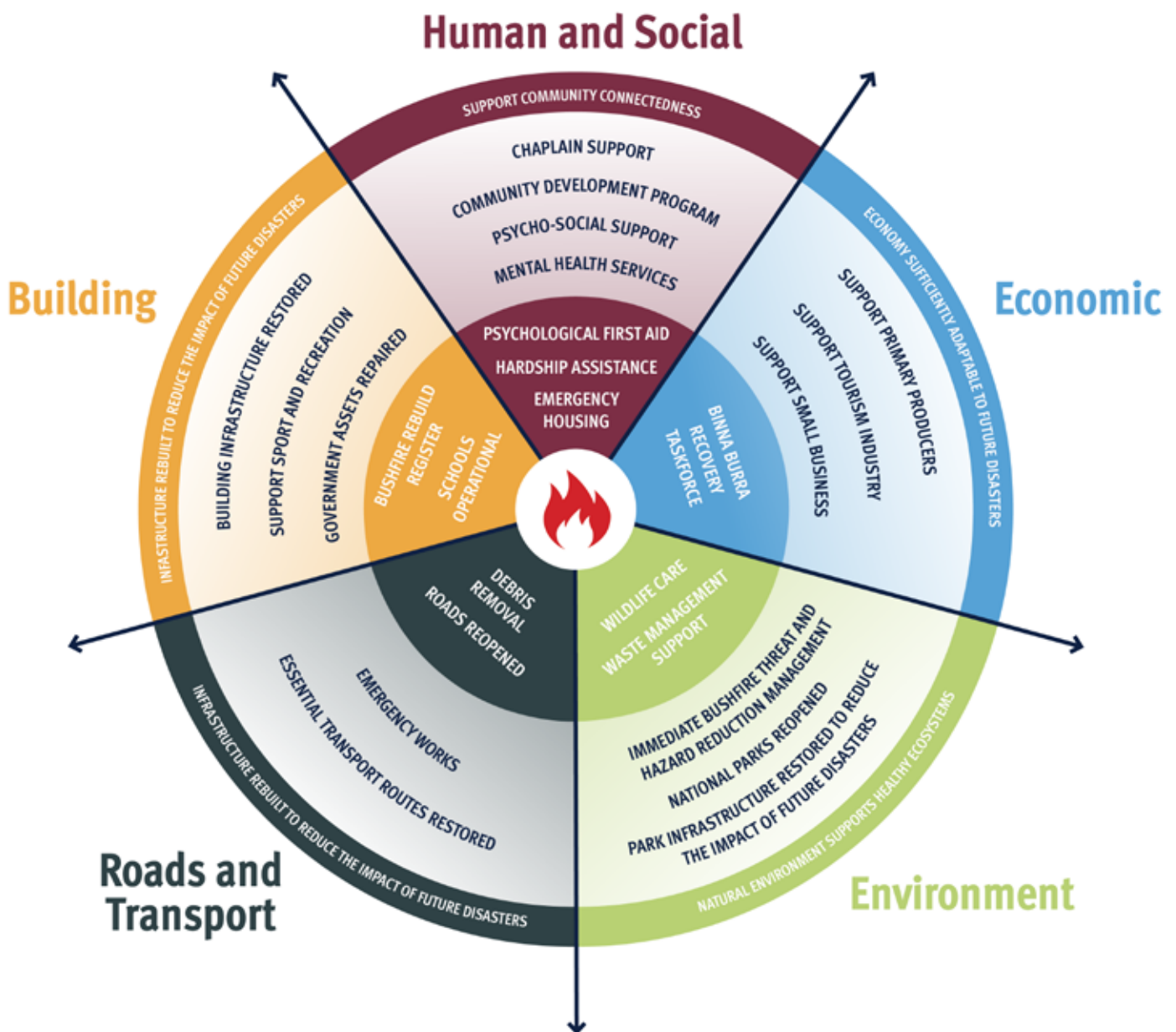
EMA plans and coordinates Australian Government disaster recovery assistance to Queensland and contributes a significant portion of funding to Queensland to help individuals and communities recover from disasters with financial support.

State recovery objectives

In response to the impacts following the 2019 Queensland Bushfires, each FRG has developed a comprehensive recovery action plan. Cumulatively, these plans include over 60 specific recovery activities, projected outcomes and timing.

To assist in the communication of these detailed plans, key actions have been identified that are critical in achieving state recovery objectives. The following diagram outlines the strategic actions within each recovery phase, for the relevant functional line of recovery.

Strategic actions across phases and functional lines of recovery



Human and Social recovery

State lead agency: Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS)

Impact summary

The human and social impacts from the 2019 Queensland Bushfires have been evident, with community disruption, infrastructure damage, psycho-social impacts and financial hardship affecting the local government areas of Bundaberg, Gladstone, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba. Several areas have been evacuated or impacted by bushfires more than once, and this has had significant psychological impact upon the community members in the impacted areas. During the bushfire events there were 11,938 instances of psychological first aid provided to residents within these communities, whilst there were over 12,000 residents financially assisted with EHA grants.

This highlights some of the compounding psychological impacts that the fires have had on the affected communities. Concerns regarding air quality were also raised, with air toxicity levels being some of the highest recorded since 2009 in certain areas. It should also be noted that many of these communities have also been subject to ongoing drought conditions and in recent years, some have been impacted multiple times by cyclones, floods or bushfires.

- Over 3700 claims for Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments (AGDRP) and Disaster Recovery Allowances were lodged by bushfire affected people in Queensland and New South Wales (across all bushfire events) resulting in \$4,593,400 being paid.
- Over 12,796 donated goods for the 2019 Queensland Bushfires have been provided through GIVIT.
- Significant financial hardship support is also being provided by emergency relief service providers and charities such as Uniting Care QLD, GIVIT and Salvation Army, who have held public appeals for Queensland and New South Wales bushfire relief. This has been particularly targeted to people who fall outside the grant eligibility criteria and/or who have significant damage/losses.

Southern Queensland Bushfires

A number of key community supports, health and wellbeing recovery impacts and issues have been identified across locations and interest groups.

Financial hardship:

- 3538 EHA grants paid with a total of \$1,443,600 paid to assist 8095 residents.
- 22 Essential Household Contents grants paid with a total value of \$29,035.
- Four Structural Assistance Grants paid with a total value of \$25,400.
- Three ESSR scheme grants paid with a total value of \$13,290.
- In total, \$1,511,325 has been distributed under the jointly funded state and Commonwealth PHA and ESSR schemes to impacted communities throughout the event to date.

Housing and accommodation:

- 87 properties were assessed as damaged with 21 having severe or total destruction.
- DHPW received 49 applications for emergency housing assistance, all 49 applications have been finalised and closed.

Provision of a range of social, emotional and psychological support services:

- Partner agencies (Uniting Care QLD – Lifeline and Red Cross) have provided 5738 instances of psychological first aid.
- 1398 phone calls were made to the community recovery hotline.
- 3484 visitors attended the four community recovery hubs.
- 271 outreach visits were conducted to provide support to impacted communities.

Partner agency referrals:

- Many of these communities were already impacted by drought further compounding the impacts of the bushfires. This was particularly noticeable with the unusually high numbers of farmers seeking financial, emotional and practical support. Referrals to a range of existing community and welfare services, and to the extraordinary disaster-specific partner agencies were crucial in providing the level of additional support that was required by these communities.
- During outreach and hub operations, over 475 referrals were issued to partner agencies working in conjunction with Community Recovery.

Community disruption:

- A total of 18 state schools were closed during this event.
- There was disruption of community social events, volunteering and community services activities (due to impacts upon volunteers and staff), impacts on sporting or service facilities, road closures, and impact on financial capacity of business to support events and/or community members to attend.

Community concerns:

- The ongoing drought continued to be a concern for residents, not only for water preservation but potential of further bushfire danger from the extreme hot and dry weather.
- Air toxicity was also a concern raised by community members based on the smoke-filled haze affecting much of the state during this event. Residents with asthma or respiratory problems were most adversely affected, with children and the elderly also being of concern.

Eastern Queensland Bushfires

A number of key community supports, health and wellbeing recovery impacts and issues have been identified across locations and interest groups.

Financial hardship:

- 1799 EHA grants paid with a total of \$721,620 paid to assist 4080 residents.
- 37 Essential Household Contents grants paid with a total value of \$66,340.
- 11 Structural Assistance Grants paid with a total value of \$133,640.
- 13 ESSR scheme grants paid with a total value of \$64,489.
- In total, \$988,939 has been distributed under the jointly funded state and Commonwealth PHA and ESSR schemes to impacted communities throughout the event to date.

Housing and accommodation:

- 48 properties were assessed as damaged with 29 having severe or total destruction.
- DHPW received 33 applications for emergency housing assistance. 31 applications have now been finalised and closed. DHPW continues to manage the remaining two applications.

Provision of a range of social, emotional and psychological support services:

- Partner agencies (Uniting Care QLD – Lifeline, Queensland Health and Red Cross) have provided 6200 instances of psychological first aid.
- 1129 phone calls were made to the community recovery hotline.
- 1843 visitors attended the three community recovery hubs and five pop-up hubs.
- 836 outreach visits were conducted to provide support to impacted communities.

Partner agency referrals:

- Many of these communities had recently been impacted by the Southern Queensland Bushfires, which has added another layer of complexity with the compounding and cumulative impacts evidenced by the level of personal support required. Referrals to a range of existing community and welfare services and to the extraordinary disaster specific partner agencies were crucial in providing the level of additional support that was required by these communities.
- During outreach and hub operations, over 475 referrals were issued to partner agencies working in conjunction with Community Recovery.

Community disruption:

- A total of three state schools were closed during this event.
- During this event many people were evacuated on more than one occasion, leaving residents in a constant state of heightened vigilance, resulting in individual and community fatigue.
- Disruption of community social events, volunteering and community services activities (due to impacts upon volunteers and staff), impacts upon sporting or service facilities, road closures, and impact on financial capacity of business to support events and/or community members to attend.

Stradbroke Bushfires

- An evacuation centre housed up to 25 residents over the four day peak of the fires.
- Evacuated residents were provided with psychological first aid and counselling through community champions who are trained Red Cross Volunteers.



Community concerns:

- The cumulative impacts of multiple events over the last couple of years has begun to deteriorate communities' wellbeing with many communities stating they are 'worn down'. These complications have caused anger, frustration and a genuine level of concern in communities.
- Extremely high referral rates were recorded by partner agencies during this event which further supports the conclusion that the cumulative impact is taxing resilience and exceeding community resources.
- Air toxicity was a concern raised by community members based on the smoke-filled haze affecting much of the state during this event. Residents with asthma or respiratory problems, children and the elderly were most adversely affected.
- Concern for wildlife and loss of habitat as well as farming/livestock was also an additional reported stressor.

Recovery outcomes

Sustainability

- Adequate housing is available to community members at appropriate times in the recovery process.
- Community members have access and are able to meet health needs (including mental health) arising from the disaster.
- Community members have access to psychosocial support.
- Households, families and individuals can act autonomously to contribute to the recovery process.
- Community members have access to education services.
- Community members have access to appropriate and coordinated social services.
- Community members feel sufficiently safe and secure following a disaster to engage in social activities and interactions with other members of the community.

Resilience

- The community has improved capacity and capability to respond to future disasters.
- The Community Recovery Package delivered targeted support to individuals and families to recover from the 2019 Queensland Bushfires, as well as building community capacity to more effectively respond to future events.

Case study

Queensland students learn resilience techniques through Pillowcase Project

Natural disasters, like the 2019 Queensland Bushfire events, impact different members of the community in different ways.

Children can experience disasters very differently to adults and need specialised skills to help them cope with issues like the uncertainty that bushfires bring.

To help children build their resilience in the face of natural disasters, Australian Red Cross is helping primary school students to cope with, and prepare for, emergencies through the Pillowcase Project.

As part of the Project, Australian Red Cross delivers one hour disaster resilience sessions for students where they will learn coping techniques and identify which personal items they might need to take with them if they were evacuated from their home.

Students are then given their own pillowcase to decorate and fill with emergency items at home.

Following the Southern Queensland Bushfires, Red Cross hosted a Pillowcase Project session at Beechmont State School to help some of its youngest students deal with the stress of evacuation by thinking about what items they would need to take with them if they had to leave their homes in a hurry.

Red Cross Project Officer Courtney Cronin said the sessions provided an opportunity to talk to children about ways they can deal with the possible emotional impacts of disasters.

“Children are our positive agents of change in the community with their own social connections, understandings and beliefs,” Ms Cronin said.

“They say children are the future and they really are when it comes to disaster resilience.”

Ms Cronin said the Pillowcase Project was developed with an art therapy specialist.

“The pillowcase gives the children an opportunity to pack their own personal items to take with them,” she said.

“Quite often when you’re evacuated from your home you might not have something that’s yours.

“The family might take a general emergency kit, but this is their own emergency kit that they can pack and take with them.”

Red Cross has received funding under the Queensland Government’s Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) to support the delivery of the Pillowcase Project across the state.

The Pillowcase Project is one of 62 projects to receive a share of \$9.5 million available under the first round of QDRF.

QDRF is administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, which is working to make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.



Recovery Action Plan – Human and Social

Location affected	Impact Consequence	Key Recovery Activity
All	People are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the disaster that is affecting their ability to recover.	Raise awareness and provide access to personal financial assistance through the activation of the DRFA Category A Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) and Category B Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme (ESSRS) through the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS).
		Provide awareness of: - disaster assistance and income support available to impacted people through the Australian Government - DRFA Category B concessional loans available to Non-Profit organisations through QRIDA.
		Coordinate the distribution of donated funds locally through charitable organisations (Salvation Army, UnitingCare Queensland, GIVIT)
		Provide awareness of: - Energy Hardship Programs available through energy retailers - assistance available to fast track tax support through the Australian Tax Office (ATO) - insurance support available through the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) - financial service provider issue resolution available through the Financial Ombudsmen - financial counselling services available (eg UCQ(Lifeline) and Salvation Army).
All	People are displaced from their residential dwelling as a result of the disaster.	Provide Emergency housing assistance (EHAR) for displaced residents through the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) - Temporary and short-term accommodation - Medium to longer term accommodation as appropriate - Awareness of the Bond Loans & Rental grants available to assist individuals & families to enter the private accommodation market
All	Affected people are unable to return home due to unsafe living conditions.	Provide information and advice for clean-up following a fire through Queensland Health fact sheets and publications.
All	Affected people are unable to return home due to loss of essential household contents.	Provide Essential Household Contents Grants (EHCG) as a contribution towards replacing or repairing essential household contents through the DRFA Category A Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme administered by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS).
		Coordinate the provision of donated goods to replace essential household contents through charitable organisations.
All	Residential property is damaged and requires repair.	Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS) to administer and provide: - Structural Assistance Grants (SAG) as a contribution towards replacing or repairing damaged dwellings through the DRFA Category A Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme - financial assistance as a contribution towards safety inspections or and repairs to residential essential services through the DRFA Category B Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme (ESSRS) - support through case management of vulnerable grant recipients.
		Define scope of works and provide estimate of cost for SAG applications through the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW).
All	People have experienced injury, trauma or other psychosocial impacts affecting their wellbeing.	Coordinate the provision of psychosocial and practical supports lead by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors in conjunction with: - Red Cross - Uniting Care QLD (Lifeline) - QLD Health.
		Referrals to existing personal support and generalist counselling services.
		Establishment of local case coordination mechanisms (as required).

Projected Outcome	SQ Fires Start	SQ Fires Finish	EQ Fires Start	EQ Fires Finish	Agency Responsible
Households, families and individuals are enabled to affect their own recovery through appropriate income sources.	Sept 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	DCDSS
	Sept 2019	Sep-20	Nov-19	Nov-20	GIVIT
	Sept 2019	Ongoing	Nov-19	Ongoing	Salvation Army
	Sept 2019	Ongoing	Nov-19		UnitingCare (Lifeline)
Households, families and individuals are aware of the financial services available to support their own recovery.	Sept 2019	Oct-19	N/A	N/A	UnitingCare (Lifeline)
	Sept 2019	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Red Cross
Residents have access to safe and secure accommodation.	Sep 2019	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	DHPW
Residents are aware of the housing support available.					
Households, families and individuals are supported to return safely to their residential dwelling.	Sept 2019	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	DCDSS, QLD Health
	Sept 2019	Sep-21	Nov-19	Dec-21	DCDSS
	Sept 2019	Sep-20	Nov-19	Nov-20	GIVIT
	Sept 2019	Ongoing	Nov-19	Ongoing	Red Cross
	Sept 2019	Ongoing	Nov-19	Ongoing	UnitingCare (Lifeline)
	Sept 2019	Sep-21	Nov-19	Dec-21	DCDSS
	Sept 2019	Ongoing	Nov-19	Ongoing	DCDSS & DHPW
Community members have access to psychosocial support.	Sept 2019	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	DCDSS
	Sept 2019	Ongoing	Nov-19	Ongoing	QLD Health
	Sept 2019	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	UnitingCare (Lifeline)
	Sept 2019	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Red Cross
	Sept 2019	Ongoing	Nov-19	Ongoing	Salvation Army
	Jan 2020	Jun-22	Dec-19	Dec-19	DCDSS, Qld Health, UCQ (Lifeline)

Recovery Action Plan – Human and Social

Location affected	Impact Consequence	Key Recovery Activity
All	Disruption to Health and Social Services.	Additional outpatient services; theatre lists and other services to ensure provision of services to those affected (in addition to services provided to meet acute needs following the disaster).
		Public Health Units working with local governments to manage public health risks to the community.
		Patients with existing chronic health conditions receiving regular care have their needs assessed and treatment plans modified accordingly.
All	<p>People struggle to adjust to a 'new normal' after disaster due to practical and social needs being unmet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of key documents. - Need for practical support and assistance. - Disruption to community events and activities. 	The Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM) will provide free replacement life event certificates to those people who have had their certificates lost, damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster area.
		Provision of funds for Community Development Officers in most significantly impacted communities to support community-led initiatives, facilitate linkages, collaboration and partnerships between and across groups, support and enable recovery and resilience planning and have a focus on building upon the strengths and capabilities of the affected communities.
		Flexible Funding Grants are available for projects aimed at driving recovery, building awareness and resilience within the most disaster affected Local Government areas.
All	People are not aware of what assistance is available or have insufficient information to make decisions.	<p>Provision of information regarding availability of existing supports, services and additional community recovery services through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community services brochures, information kits and school newsletters - advertisements, media (radio, print, web, social media and TV) - information boards and community meetings - Community Recovery Centre/CRRIC's/Rental Hubs - community events/activities/celebrations - Agforce/DAF industry sessions - MP Amber Packs and Daily Updates - websites and Disaster Recovery Hotline - whole of Government messages.
All	Actions to address human and social recovery undertaken in an uninformed and haphazard manner may not deliver best use of resources.	<p>Provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information to other agencies regarding registered evacuees (NRIS) and mapping data thereof. - PHAS & ESSRS grants information and mapping data thereof to QRA - awareness of one-off grants and low-interest loans for not for profit organisations affected by the fires (QRIDA).
All	Closure and/or disruption to education.	Ensure school facilities are returned to pre-event status as soon as practicable to allow students to return to a normal school routine.
		Identify school age children in evacuation centres and assist their parents/carers to reengage the students in schooling.
		Provision of student counselling, support services and referral through Guidance Officers, School Chaplains, other relevant staff as well as additional support and assistance to teachers and Principals in the affected areas.
All	<p>Decline in offers to volunteer for future events due to delays in effectively utilising volunteers immediately following the disaster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low volunteer awareness of, and participation rates in, longer-term recovery needs and activities as a result volunteers lack of awareness of recovery process, fatigue, need to return to normal activities, economic circumstances, media and broader community focus moving on from the disaster. - Lack of awareness of, and models to effectively utilise, local community volunteering assets, capacity and capability to respond to disasters. 	Use current disaster management structures to inform and influence local planning on effective volunteer engagement and management, and to result in shorter lag time between the response and the start of volunteer recovery activities.
		The community makes and benefits from effective use of the narrow window of volunteer interest for future disaster events leading to improved community resilience and support in recovery.
		Volunteer organisations and groups have access to mechanisms for the recruitment of volunteers to assist in the provision of practical support and other immediate and longer-term recovery-based activities.

Projected Outcome	SQ Fires Start	SQ Fires Finish	EQ Fires Start	EQ Fires Finish	Agency Responsible
Community members have access and are able to meet health needs (including mental health) arising from the disaster.	Sept 2019	Sept 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	QLD Health
Communities can act autonomously to direct and contribute to their recovery process.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	RBDM
	6 Sept 2019	2021-2022	7 Oct 2019	2021-2022	DCDSS
	6 Sept 2019	2021-2022	7 Oct 2019	2021-2022	DCDSS
Community members have access to appropriate and coordinated social services.	Sept 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	DCDSS
	Sept 2019	Sept 2019	Nov 2019	Nov 2019	Red Cross
Community members have access to education services.	Sept 2019	Sept 2019	Nov 2019	Nov 2019	Dept of Education
	Sept 2019	Sept 2019	Nov 2019	Nov 2019	Dept of Education
	Aug 2019	Ongoing	Oct-19	Ongoing	Red Cross
The community has improved capacity and capability to respond to future disasters and strengthen resilience.	Sept 2019	Sept 2019	Nov 2019	9 Dec 2019	Volunteering QLD

Recovery Action Plan – Human and Social

Metric	Measure
Timely procurement of Community Development Officers.	Community Development Officers to be appointed before 1 July.
Communities have access to flexible funds for recovery and resilience projects.	Stage 1 opens 2020.
Communities are provided with Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) and Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme within activated areas.	<p>Number, status and value of PHAS/ESSRS grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency Hardship Assistance - Essential Household Contents Grant - Structural Assistance Grant - Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme Grant - Essential Services Hardship Assistance. <p>Proportion of EHA grant recipients satisfied with the speed of EHA payment.</p> <p>Proportion of EHA grant recipients that found it easy to apply for EHA.</p>
Communities are provided additional support services.	<p>Number of people receiving personal support/psychological first aid services as a direct result of the event.</p> <p>Number of hours of service provision from funded personal support/psychological first aid services as a direct result of the event.</p> <p>Number of new clients receiving support from funded counselling services as a direct result of the event.</p> <p>Number of hours of service provision from funded counselling services as a direct result of the event.</p> <p>Number of new clients receiving financial aid and/or financial counselling from funded services.</p> <p>Number of hours of service provision from funded financial aid/financial counselling services as a direct result of the event.</p>
Cat C Community Development, Mental Health and Grants Program (DCDSS and QH).	<p>Recovery and Resilience Plans developed for affected areas in all 39 LGAs.</p> <p>Number of community engagement activities in each affected area to: identify the needs and aspirations of diverse groups within the affected area and the number of participants involved in each community and/or discuss the recovery process.</p> <p>Number of service users provided with information about other recovery and resilience projects.</p> <p>Number and type of activities undertaken under the Flexible Funding Program Gradual commencement of mental health recovery services.</p> <p>Number of people receiving mental health clinical services.</p>



Building recovery

State lead agency: Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW)

Impact summary

The state Building Recovery Group (BRG) moved to “lean forward” on 9 September 2019 to ensure its members had situational awareness and to provide a pathway for the resolution of identified issues. The BRG seasonal preparedness meeting held on 21 November 2019 included a situational update across both the Southern and Eastern Bushfire events. At that meeting, the BRG downgraded its activation level to “alert” after it was advised that no new issues had been identified and there were no significant issues outstanding.

Although Queensland was fortunate that the structural damage from the bushfires was less than other states, there were 49 dwellings destroyed and 100 properties sustaining minor to severe damage.

The Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) and the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA), either directly or via member organisations, deployed staff to provide advice and assistance at recovery hubs in the immediate aftermath of the fires. The insurance industry prioritised claims from these events, providing confidence and reassurance to the community. Support continues to be provided to impacted local governments and disaster management groups including provision of information and factsheets to assist with the appropriate clean up and repair of sites.

QBCC also opened the Bushfire Rebuild Register to ensure that impacted residents had access to the details of suitably qualified and certified tradespeople in their local area. 291 licensed tradespeople made themselves available to support the repair and recovery of impacted areas. Advertising in impacted communities both encouraged residents to check the register before engaging tradespeople, and issued a call-out to trades people, particularly those local to the impacted area, to register their availability through the QBCC website. This register, based on learnings from previous events, has been widened in scope to operate on a state-wide basis.

The Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program supports not-for-profit sport and recreation organisations with funding to re-establish their facilities and activities after extreme natural events, including floods, fires, cyclones and severe storms. In response to the impact of the bushfire events there has been one claim, for the Stanthorpe Pistol Club, to assist with clean-up efforts after the Southern Queensland Bushfires.

Recovery outcomes

Sustainability

- Infrastructure that relates to education, health, justice, welfare and any other community infrastructure/buildings that support the community (private or public owned assets) is sustainable.
- Private infrastructure including residential, commercial/ industrial and rural assets sustainable.

Resilience

- Infrastructure is rebuilt to reduce, to a reasonable degree, the impact of future disasters on communities.

Recovery Action Plan – Building

Location affected	Impact Consequence	Recovery Activity
All	Actions to address building recovery undertaken in a haphazard and untimely manner and may not deliver best use of resources.	Maintain consultation with built environment stakeholders, peak industry bodies and industry to support local led recovery.
All	Lack of coordination of community infrastructure may lead to non-validated data which drives ill-informed decision making.	Initiate immediate coordinated Rapid Damage Assessment of community infrastructure.
All	Lack of coordination and prioritisation of repair of government assets may not deliver the best use of resources or outcomes.	Finalise detailed building assessments on frontline government building infrastructure.
All	Lack of local recovery plan may result in missed opportunities and fail to deliver resources to priority areas.	Support the development and implementation of local built infrastructure recovery plans.
All	Affected communities are not supported and are unable to contribute to economic recovery.	Investigate and address relevant insurance policy issues.
All	Lack of understanding by residents as to their rights, responsibilities and avenues of redress when dealing with the building industry.	Facilitate community access to independent building repair advice.
All	Lack of understanding by residents as to the things they can personally do to repair or make ready their homes for repairs, and things that they should leave to licensed tradespeople.	Facilitate community access to independent safety, cleaning and building repair advice.
All	Lack of understanding by contractors and residents as to the compliance requirements for health and safety when undertaking building work.	Input into general communication strategy in relation to building and electrical health and safety messages.
All	Affected contractor and trade-based businesses are not supported and are unable to contribute to economic recovery.	Establish and promote a register of licenced building contractors and trades people. On closure of the register enquiries are directed to the Bushfire Rebuild Register search on the QBCC website.
All	Lack of understanding regarding the progression of the repair and rectification of the impacted built infrastructure.	Review of identified Damage Assessments and Reconstruction Monitoring (DARMSys).
All	Lessons are not learned and similar actions result in similar outcomes.	Provide advice to regulators regarding learnings from bushfire event related to the recovery of built infrastructure.

Metric	Measure
Provision of assistance and advice to support the repair and restoration of State-owned public buildings	Time taken for State-owned public buildings to return to operations
Provision of building advice and information to support the recovery of the impacted community	Member agencies provide impacted LDMG with access to factsheets and advice relevant to repair and rebuilding after fire events QBCC attendance at established community recovery hubs Regular updates of identified issues to the BRG lead agency by industry associations.

Projected Outcome	Timing (start date – finish date)	Responsible agency
Information is being shared to allow informed actions to be taken.	Ongoing	BRG members
Recovery planners across all five pillars are able to understand magnitude of built infrastructure impacts and develop appropriate support plans.	When safe	QFES
State government agencies are able to plan for the delivery of services from alternate locations, if required. Prioritisation plan is developed to allow government services to recommence.	Dec 2019	DHPW
Recovery plan is developed that establishes regional rebuild priorities. Recovery planning is underpinned by a strong evidence base and impact assessment data. Local recovery plan in place to fast-track recovery.	Jan 2020	QRA & impacted LGAs
Insurers are responding to customers experiencing hardship in a fair, timely and compassionate manner. Residents are provided with certainty on insurance matters and can plan for their own recovery.	June 2020	DHPW/ICA/QRA
Residents are able to make informed decisions when engaging contractors to undertake repair work.	Ongoing	QBCC
Residents are able to make informed decisions when preparing their homes for repair work or occupation.	Ongoing	QBCC
Residents and contractors make informed workplace health and safety decisions when undertaking repair work.	Early recovery	DHPW/WHS/OES/QBCC
Residents and insurance companies are confident that any repair work is done by an appropriately licenced contractor. Residents and insurance companies are able to easily select local contractors to support the economic recovery of the region.	Ongoing	QBCC/HIA/MBQ/MEA/
Residents are able to access validated data reflecting the ongoing process of the infrastructure recovery.	3-6-9-12 month	QRA
As part of the 2020-21 BRG preparedness activities any identified improvements from bushfire, or other disaster event, will be provided to the appropriate entities.	Nov 2020	All BRG members

Case study

Managing fire in parks and forests

The Department of Environment and Science manages about 13 million hectares of parks and forests, which comprises about 14 per cent of Queensland's bushfire-prone land.

Some fires have nature conservation benefits while others, particularly severe wildfires, can cause damage to property and the environment.

The need for carefully planned fire management activities and practices has never been more critical, due to the expansion of urban and rural residential areas neighbouring parks and forests, combined with the severe bushfire risk caused by the increasing adverse impacts of climate change.

The department monitors wildfire risk and fire danger conditions across the land it manages to maintain preparedness levels and emergency response plans, with priority given to protecting life and property. Strategies to mitigate the risk of wildfires include:

- planned burning to reduce fuel loads, protect life and property, park and forest facilities, and conserve natural systems and processes
- maintenance of an extensive network of roads and firelines
- well-trained and equipped staff to respond to wildfire outbreaks
- a cooperative approach to fire management across the landscape with QFES, other land management agencies, park neighbours and the community. This includes supporting QFES in initiatives such as the QFES-led state bushfire initiative 'Operation Cool Burn'.

The department is committed to continuously improving fire planning, management and action. One of its priorities is working with Traditional Owners to combine modern management practices with traditional knowledge, and to ensure appropriate partnership arrangements and management objectives are tailored to each regional and cultural landscape.



Roads and Transport recovery

State lead agency: Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)

Impact summary

TMR is undertaking slope stabilisation works and geotechnical inspections for further treatment to bushfire-damaged state roads in South East Queensland.

Approximately 340 kilometres of the state road network were closed or had restricted access during the 2019 Queensland Bushfires.

In early September 2019, bushfires damaged vegetation and caused instability and scouring to the steep slopes along Binna Burra Road in the Gold Coast hinterland. In addition to slope stabilisation works, guardrails and signage on Binna Burra Road will require replacement as intense heat from the bushfires compromised their safety.

A section of Binna Burra Road remains closed for safety while slope stabilisation works are undertaken at two critical sites. TMR is facilitating limited access under traffic control to assist Binna Burra Lodge and local residents in their reconstruction efforts. Following the road reopening, works will continue on this section and additional sites.

In November 2019, bushfires in forested areas along Main Range and the Border Ranges in Queensland's south damaged vegetation and caused slope instability that required temporary closures of the Cunningham Highway and Mount Lindesay Highway, impacting heavy vehicle routes. Emergency works were undertaken to clear and reopen the Cunningham Highway on 28 November 2019 and Mount Lindesay Highway on 3 December 2019.

A subsequent fire broke out on 7 December 2019, requiring another highway closure for a one-kilometre section of the Cunningham Highway on both sides of Cunninghams Gap. Emergency works including tree clearing, installing temporary barriers and replacing damaged signage were undertaken, with the road reopening on 16 December 2019 at a reduced speed limit of 50km/h.

Preliminary geotechnical and structural assessments have identified some long-term slope stability issues, which will require complex design solutions and permanent batter slope protection works.

Recovery outcomes

Sustainability

Roads and transport infrastructure supports the delivery of essential services to the community.

Resilience

Infrastructure is rebuilt to reduce, to a reasonable degree, the impact of future disasters on communities.

Recovery Action Plan – Roads and Transport

Location affected	Impact Consequence	Recovery Activity
Scenic Rim, Gold Coast	Essential transport routes disrupted.	Undertake Southern Queensland Bushfires emergency works to return state-controlled roads to a safe and trafficable condition.
Scenic Rim, Southern Downs	Essential transport routes disrupted.	Undertake Eastern Queensland Bushfires emergency works to return state-controlled roads to a safe and trafficable condition.
Scenic Rim, Gold Coast	Essential transport routes disrupted.	Undertake reconstruction works to reinstate access to Binna Burra.
Scenic Rim, Gold Coast	Essential public assets damaged.	Scope reconstruction program of works.
Scenic Rim, Gold Coast	Essential public assets damaged.	Develop project delivery plans to achieve key tasks at project level.
Scenic Rim, Gold Coast	Essential public assets damaged.	Undertake reconstruction works.
Scenic Rim, Gold Coast	Essential public assets damaged.	Finalise DRFA funding submissions.

Metric	Measure
Essential public assets reconstructed.	Number of earthworks and batter locations damaged. Number of earthworks and batter locations under reconstruction. Number of earthworks and batter locations reconstructed.

Projected Outcome	Start	Finish	Comment	Status
Essential transport routes reopened.	13/9/2019	13/12/2019	Based on end of emergency works period for Southern Queensland Bushfires event.	Narrative-based reporting until system data available.
Essential transport routes reopened.	22/11/2019	22/2/2020	Based on end of emergency works period for Eastern Queensland Bushfires event. Cunningham Highway reopened 28/11/19 and Mt Lindesay Highway reopened.	Narrative-based reporting until system data available.
Essential transport routes reopened.	1/11/2019	Mid 2020*	Repair of two critical sites to enable road to reopen under restricted access. * Road targeted to be reopened under restricted access by mid April 2020, weather and site conditions permitting, while works continue.	Narrative-based reporting until system data available.
Essential public assets restored.	1/12/2019	1/6/2020	Phase 1 (scoping) submissions progressively developed.	Narrative-based reporting until system data available.
Essential public assets restored.	1/1/2020	1/6/2020	Projects to be established in TMR systems.	Narrative-based reporting until system data available.
Essential public assets restored.	1/11/2019	31/12/2020	Metrics reflect type of damage.	Number of earthworks and batter locations damaged. Number of earthworks and batter locations under reconstruction. Number of earthworks and batter locations reconstructed.
Essential public assets restored.	30/11/2020	31/3/2021		Number submitted to QRA. Number assessed by QRA.

Economic recovery

State lead agency: Former Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP)

Impact summary

The 2019 Queensland Bushfires have had a considerable on-the-ground effect on local businesses and economies with detailed, quantified assessments of capital damage and economic loss underway.

Risk assessments continue to identify new issues, however early reports indicate significant impact on the local and regional tourism industry and some impact to agriculture output in the region. A major business and employer, Binna Burra Lodge, had 56 staff directly affected through the loss of employment. Almost all of the 70 local businesses surveyed for impact from the fire event nominated a direct or indirect business impact (Source: DESBT Small Business Survey, November 2019).

Economic recovery will be more difficult and take longer in the event of reduced visitation to tourist and support businesses in affected areas in the aftermath of the fires, as has occurred in the short term period following the fires.

The five LGAs affected by the September fires – Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Redland, Noosa and Sunshine Coast all rely heavily on tourism. Of these, Scenic Rim and Southern Downs sustained most damage.

The Binna Burra Lodge recreational camping and accommodation business suffered substantial damage with the heritage listed lodge and accommodation cabins completely destroyed by fire. The local economy of Beechmont is reliant on this iconic business for local employment and demand for goods and services.

The Southern Downs is also heavily reliant on tourism. Bushfire-related impacts in this area have been exacerbated by the local impact of the prolonged drought.

Noosa Shire Council and Redland City Council reported concern regarding tourism impact, which is being assessed over the longer-term.

In response to the September bushfires, the Tourism Industry Development Division of the former Department of Innovation and Tourism Industry Development (DITID) drafted a Southern Queensland Tourism Recovery Package which focuses primarily on supporting tourism recovery in the Southern Downs and Scenic Rim regions. With additional bushfire activity in November and December, consideration is being given to expanding the package to include tourism recovery provisions for more recently impacted regions.

For the November bushfires, the central Queensland office of the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) communicated with Livingstone Shire Council and the former DSDMIP's Rockhampton regional office to determine the impact of the fires on small businesses. As a result, the Livingstone Shire Council is planning to hold a small business recovery event early in 2020 to be attended by local stakeholders, as well as Commonwealth and state agencies.

The most significant of these bushfires, from an agricultural impact perspective, was the recent major event in the Cobraball/Bungundarra area of Livingstone Shire Council. Fourteen homes and 47 other structures were totally destroyed as a result of the fire.

The fire impact area for this event reached over 13,000 hectares and included over 230 hectares of high value horticulture crops, 80 hectares of other crops and 8500 hectares of grazing lands. There were significant impacts to pineapple, mango, lychee, avocado and banana plantations in the area including both destroyed and damaged crops and destroyed farm infrastructure.

Estimates of the total impact to agriculture from the Cobraball fire is over \$17.9 million, which includes loss of production combined with losses to critical infrastructure (including fencing, pipes and irrigation), machinery, plant and other infrastructure.

This is a very significant loss to agricultural production in the Livingstone area.

The fires in the Stanthorpe area from September 2019 also had an estimated impact of \$2 million to agriculture for this area.

Recovery outcomes

Sustainability

- Businesses and industries in the local economy operate and trade in line with broader economic trends.
- Betterment projects result in more resilient infrastructure.

Resilience

- Business and not-for-profit organisations have adequate mitigation practices in place for risks and threats.
- The economy is sufficiently flexible and adaptable to shocks.

Case study

Rising from the ashes: the restoration of the Binna Burra Lodge

The rugged landscape of the Gold Coast Hinterland is a nature lover's paradise, full of hidden gems and unspoilt beauty.

In September 2019, after years of dry conditions, the steep hills and deep valleys burst into flames that were spread by strong winds, threatening homes, businesses and extensive areas of bush and farmland.

While firefighters worked tirelessly to contain multiple fires, the historic Binna Burra Lodge could not be saved as flames ripped through the heritage-listed property, totally destroying the cabins and several other structures.

In just a matter of days, the Queensland Government moved swiftly to establish the Binna Burra Lodge Recovery Taskforce to support recovery and rebuild the iconic lodge, including necessary support for the 56 staff impacted by the closure.

The taskforce is made up of representatives from relevant government agencies, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Energy Queensland and the Binna Burra Trust.

Twenty-six staff members have gained employment and 12 staff are looking at training through TAFE, University or other service providers. The Department of Transport and Main Roads engaged two staff members as temporary administration officers and another in their Traffic Management Centre. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service made two temporary Ranger positions available. 18 staff have identified and pursued their own opportunities.

Binna Burra Lodge Chairman Steve Noakes said he has been blown away by the support from the community, businesses and agencies.

"The extent of the damage was a sight you had to see to believe. It took my breath away when I saw what was a thriving business, that helped create life-long memories, turned into piles of charred rubble," Mr Noakes said.

"Soon after the fire swept through the site, my mind turned to the people who have not only played a huge part in keeping the lodge running over the past 86 years, but have been a part of the Binna Burra family and surrounding community.

"Now that our staff have been supported through their recovery, we are focused on rebuilding the spirit of Binna Burra to ensure we are back on people's travel itinerary before the end of 2020."

It is anticipated that Binna Burra sky lodges, tea house and camp grounds will be re-opened in mid-2020.



Recovery Action Plan – Economic

Location affected	Impact consequence	Recovery activity
Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Livingstone Shire	Primary Producers are unaware of the support available to them as a result of the impacts from the disaster event.	Advice on various financial support arrangements available to primary producers including freight subsidies, disaster loans, essential working capital loans.
Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Livingstone Shire	Primary Producers require assistance for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> repairs for direct damage access to working capital assistance with freight. 	Distribution of assistance measures under Category B of the DRFA including Primary Producer Loans, Essential Working Capital Loans and Freight Subsidies.
Livingstone, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Gympie, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Mareeba, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba	Primary Producers require assistance to ensure viability beyond the assistance measures provided under Category B of the DRFA.	Distribution of Primary Producer Grants under Category C of the DRFA.
Livingstone Regional Council	Economic Impact to Agriculture. Loss in Agriculture Production.	Conduct impact assessments on agricultural enterprises to determine level of assistance required.
All activated local governments	Impacts to small business and economic downturn.	The natural disaster business survey is completed by impacted businesses across impacted areas.
Scenic Rim, Southern Downs	Small business owners require assistance for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> essential working capital loans repairs for direct damage required to re-establish normal operations. 	Distribution of assistance measures under Category B of the DRFA including small business loans and essential working capital loans for small business.
Scenic Rim, Southern Downs	Not-for-profit Organisations require assistance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> repairing or replacing damaged assets access to essential working capital required to continue operations. 	Distribution of assistance measures under Category B of the DRFA including Not-for-profit Organisations loans and essential working capital loans for not-for-profit organisations.
Scenic Rim Regional Council – Binna Burra Lodge	Severe impact to the Binna Burra Lodge infrastructure and surrounding environment preventing the Lodge to trade.	Establish the Binna Burra Lodge Recovery Taskforce.
Scenic Rim Regional Council – Binna Burra Lodge	Severe impact to the Binna Burra Lodge infrastructure and surrounding environment preventing the Lodge to trade resulting in the displacement of employees.	Binna Burra Lodge Recovery Taskforce developed a displaced worker transition strategy.
Scenic Rim Regional Council – Binna Burra Lodge	Severe impact to the Binna Burra Lodge infrastructure and surrounding environment preventing the Lodge resulting in the need to rebuild.	Binna Burra Lodge Recovery Taskforce - Planning support program.
Southern Downs	Downturn in visitations numbers in a region reliant on tourism.	Support tourism recovery by providing Southern Queensland Country (Regional Tourism Organisation) funding to deliver recovery campaign activity.
Scenic Rim	Downturn in visitations numbers in a region reliant on tourism.	Support tourism recovery by providing Brisbane Marketing (in liaison with Destination Gold Coast) funding to deliver recovery campaign activity.
Noosa Shire	Downturn in visitations numbers in a region reliant on tourism.	Support tourism recovery by providing Visit Sunshine Coast (Regional Tourism Organisation) funding to deliver recovery campaign activity.
Sunshine Coast	Downturn in visitations numbers in a region reliant on tourism.	Support tourism recovery by providing Visit Sunshine Coast (Regional Tourism Organisation) funding to deliver recovery campaign activity.
Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast and Noosa	Severe impact to tourism resulting in impacts to community revenue, livelihoods and community composition.	Support the tourism industry through marketing activities to encourage visitation to impacted regions. This includes a regional marketing program, a wine tourism marketing program and a Go Local Media Campaign (Category C funding).
Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast and Noosa	Severe impact to tourism resulting in impacts to community revenue, livelihoods and community composition.	Support the tourism industry through engaging tourism recovery officers (Category C funding).
Scenic Rim and Southern Downs	Severe impact to tourism resulting in impacts to community revenue, livelihoods and community composition.	Support the tourism industry through grants to facilitate recovery activities (Category C funding).

Projected outcome	Timing (start date – finish date)	Responsible agency
Community members are able to meet their material and service needs and participate in the economy.	September 2019- June 2022	DAF/QRIDA
Businesses and industries in the local economy are able to operate and trade in line with broader economic trends.	September 2019 – June 2022	QRIDA/ DAF
Businesses and industries in the local economy are able to operate and trade in line with broader economic trends.	January 2020-TBD	QRIDA/DAF
There is an understanding of impact to agricultural businesses.	November 2019 – December 2019	DAF
There is an understanding of impact to small business.	September 2019– December 2019	DESBT
Businesses and industries in the local economy are able to operate and trade in line with broader economic trends.	September 2019 – June 2022	QRIDA
Businesses and industries in the local economy are able to operate and trade in line with broader economic trends.	September 2019 – June 2022	QRIDA
Government, Council and other body coordination to restore business functions.	September 2019 - April 2020	Former DSDMIP
Support for workers displaced by destruction of the Binna Burra Lodge to find alternate employment and training opportunities.	September 2019 – November 2019	Former DSDMIP
Facilitate planning processes for rebuilding Lodge and accommodation cabins.	September 2019 - December 2020	Former DSDMIP
Tourism numbers and money spent in impacted regions remain steady.	September 2019- June 2020	Former DITID TEQ
Tourism numbers and money spent in impacted regions remain steady.	September 2019- June 2020	Former DITID TEQ
Tourism numbers and money spent in impacted regions remain steady.	September 2019- June 2020	Former DITID TEQ
Tourism numbers and money spent in impacted regions remain steady.	September 2019- June 2020	Former DITID TEQ
Businesses and industries in the local economy are able to operate and trade in line with broader economic trends.	February 2020 – June 2022	TEQ Former DITID DESBT
Businesses and industries in the local economy are able to operate and trade in line with broader economic trends.	February 2020 – June 2022	Former DITID
Businesses and industries in the local economy are able to operate and trade in line with broader economic trends.	February 2020 – June 2022	Former DITID QRA

Recovery outcomes – Economic

Sustainability	
High-level outcomes	Mid-level outcomes
Economy operates as a whole.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local business networks foster growth. Economic activity is appropriately diverse. Key industry sectors for the community are restored.
Community members are able to meet their material and service needs and participate in the economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households have access to an adequate range of goods and services. Individuals and households have sufficient financial security to allow them to take advantage of economic opportunities. Community members have access to banking and financial services. Vulnerable groups are not further disadvantaged by the impact of the disaster, in terms of their ability to participate in the economic system (eg. employment prospects, accessing credit).
Businesses and industries in the local economy are able to operate and trade in line with broader economic trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer and business confidence levels support business operations (both within and outside of the community). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business models are appropriately adaptive to market conditions and fluctuations. Local businesses have information to continue recovery from the disaster. Early-stage and small businesses have the capacity to continue operation. Businesses and not-for-profit organisations can access or attract appropriately skilled workers. Businesses and not-for-profit organisations have access to critical banking and financial services. Not-for-profit community service organisations continue to provide regular services. Businesses have secure and stable access to supply chains and networks (including markets, physical infrastructure and assets, as well as telecommunication networks).

Resilience	
High-level outcomes	Mid-level outcomes
Business and not for profit organisations have in place adequate mitigation practices for risks and threats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses and not-for-profit organisations have business continuity plans and dynamic organisational resilience practices that address relevant risks and threats. Business insurance is accessible where viable. Businesses and not-for-profit organisations know and understand the risks and threats of operating in the area.
The economy is sufficiently flexible and adaptable to shocks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic activity is appropriately diverse. The workforce has transferable skills.

Case study

Built asset damage and impact on recovery

The recovery process surrounding the Queensland College of Wine Tourism in Stanthorpe, impacted by fires in 2019, is an example of a planned approach to damage rectification. It can limit the impact on operational functionality of an asset, and repair works can go on concurrently with occupying/re-occupying the building after an event.

The Queensland College of Wine Tourism had three specific impacts:

- Due to a combination of ash debris, and concerns of potential for contamination from fire retarding chemicals used in aerial firefighting, the rainwater harvesting systems were isolated.
- Damage to the site sluice valve. This valve regulates the flow of water through the college water supply system.
- There are also a number of burnt out trees on the property.

The rainwater harvesting systems were reconnected once the roofs had been washed down, enabling rapid rectification. However, the sluice valve required a different approach.

In the first instance, the operation of the sluice valve was restored through interim repairs.

Due to the approach taken by QBuild and the collaboration with the local contractors, the college continued to operate when safe to do so as the level of damage did not impact on the operational functionality of the building and the services delivered. Eleven days after the initial damage occurred, final repairs were completed after a replacement body assembly could be sourced and supplied. The ongoing recovery effort for the Queensland College of Wine Tourism continues, while the facility is in use. This includes an initial site assessment of the site using drone shots and existing satellite imagery to ascertain the extent of the clean-up work required. QBuild was engaged by Department of Education to provide an estimate for the selective removal of burnt-out trees, which did not survive the fire. The estimate has been approved and the arborists have commenced marking up the trees ready for removal when safe to do so.

The ability to maintain some degree of normal functionality and continuity of services whilst repairs to finalise recovery efforts in the built environment occur is valuable in a community impacted by a significant disruption. In this instance the rectification works facilitates recovery across the human and social, economic and environmental lines of recovery.



Case study

Bushfire response and recovery improved through traditional practices and knowledge

Local knowledge and the input of Traditional Owners played a crucial role in the September bushfire response on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island).

The Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC), state and local government, and emergency services, worked together to protect the townships of Amity (Pulan), Dunwich (Goompi), and a number of areas where Quandamooka People are living on Country, as well as preserving culturally significant sites.

During the bushfire response, QYAC played a significant role within the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), alongside other agencies including Redland City Council, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Police.

Quandamooka Ranger teams led on the front line, delivered machinery operations, maintained a permanent presence in the incident control centre and provided their unique knowledge of fire behaviour and assets requiring protection.

Redland City Council LDMG Chair, Mayor Karen Williams said QYAC was a key member of the disaster management group.

“The local knowledge that QYAC provide is invaluable - they know the land better than anyone else,” Ms Williams said.

“During the September bushfires QYAC provided information about the location of Indigenous settlements within the fire area, which was crucial for planning and managing evacuations.

“QYAC was able to identify where the culturally sensitive areas were located so that emergency responders were able to ensure they were not damaged by the work being done to control the fire.

“Through QYAC, the LDMG is able to get critical information out to the communities, and provide updates back about any concerns the local communities might have.”

The award winning Minjerribah Township Fire Management Strategies were developed by QYAC with the support of QRA.

The strategies are being implemented across the island by stakeholders, and are unique in their combined use of traditional fire management practices and modern disaster mitigation strategies.

Incorporating traditional burning techniques on Minjerribah is helping to improve community safety and protect the lives and property of people on the island, in addition to maintaining the natural and cultural heritage of the landscape.

Traditional burning techniques were also incorporated into the Bushfire Management Plan for the Naree Budjong Djara National Park.

Bushfire management on Minjerribah is another great example of the work happening as part of Resilient Queensland, which is aiming to make Queensland communities more disaster resilient through local leadership, regional collaboration and state facilitation.



Environment recovery

State lead agency: Department of Environment and Science (DES)

Impact summary

Environmental impacts following the 2019 Queensland Bushfires affected recreational areas, wildlife, heritage values and waste disposal.

The Southern Queensland Bushfires affected walking tracks and significant trees in the world heritage-listed Lamington National Park. The Binna Burra section of Lamington National Park is still closed until the area is declared safe, with camp bookings also suspended for this area.

The extent to which local wildlife populations were impacted cannot be easily measured, and depends on the number of pockets of unburnt bushland within a fire zone. These areas act as refuges for wildlife to escape to and subsequently repopulate areas following the fires. Mapping plus ground based assessments were conducted, or are planned in some areas where mapping suggests there have been significant impacts from bushfires.

The Stradbroke Bushfires saw significant damage to the environment and the loss of wildlife, as most of the fire was located in the national park.

Bushfire conditions resulted in very poor air quality in Brisbane, Ipswich and Gold Coast areas. Live air quality data, sourced from the DES air monitoring network, provided a useful tool for disaster management stakeholders and the community. Queensland Health provided alerts about bushfire smoke to the community to assist with awareness and safety.

Fire scar mapping was undertaken across the state with a mosaic of the data forming a state-wide perspective. Fire scar mapping and historical fire information is important for improving our understanding and management of fire, and its interactions with climate variability, vegetation and land use.

Further fine scale analysis of fire extent, severity and field surveys are needed to confirm distribution and level of impact for priority species and locations, including on Minjerriba (Nth Stradbroke Island). Appropriate recovery actions will then be determined.

Impacts over the period of the 2019 Queensland Bushfires:

- With the large number of bushfires in Queensland since September 2019, less than 2 per cent are believed to have started within QPWS parks and state forests with the majority being contained within estate boundaries due to an effective combination of prevention, preparedness and response activities*.
- From 1 September 2019 to 31 January 2020, 742,537 hectares of QPWS estate was affected by bushfires -
- 35 kilometres of walking tracks damaged at Lamington National Park.
- Five regional areas received exempt waste declarations.
- The South East Queensland Wildlife Hospital Network received a combined total of 39 koalas from the recent fires in Queensland.

Recovery outcomes

Sustainability

- Pollution impacts to the environment are avoided or minimised.
- Recovery actions do not generate further risk to the environment.
- Natural environment operates to maintain or restore healthy biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Protection and management of parks and forests for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Resilience

- Reduced environmental issues following disaster events, due to more effective planning and preparedness by government, industry and community.
- Increased understanding of the risk of future disasters on the environment.
- Increased understanding of the way the environment can provide natural protection from disasters.

* Data based on situational reports from the fire ground at a point in time, and reliant upon the accuracy of individual updates.

Recovery Action Plan – Environment

Location affected	Impact Consequence	Recovery Activity
State-wide	Air quality compromised.	Ambient air quality monitoring and reporting.
Multiple locations	Parks and forests required partial or full closures to the public, and some infrastructure within these areas has been damaged.	Reopening parks and forests to the public, including submission of agency insurance claims.
Southern Downs Scenic Rim, Noosa Shire and Livingstone Shire Council areas	Large amounts of waste generated; including burnt debris, asbestos material and burnt poly tanks. Access to waste facilities may have been cut in a number of locations. Large amounts of waste will be generated; including burnt debris, asbestos material, burnt poly tanks. Access to waste facilities may be cut in a number of locations.	Assist local governments and operators with effective and rapid resolution of waste management issues. Waste Levy exemptions declared for waste in the disaster declared areas.
Multiple locations	Habitat damage and destruction may displace wildlife and remove food supply.	Recovery actions for impacted wildlife.
Toowoomba Regional Council	Infrastructure may be damaged resulting in impacts to water supply.	Provide advice and support reinstatement of drinking water services.
Multiple locations	Cultural heritage impacted and/or made visible by burning of vegetation.	Cultural surveys with First Nations peoples to identify both impacted and newly revealed sites.
Multiple locations	Local capacity to recover.	First Nations peoples and stakeholders effectively engaged, consulted and assisted, including land managers, local government and industry. Includes support to SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network, wildlife carer groups and Natural Resource Management bodies.
Lamington National Park (Binna Burra)	Parks and forests closed due to damage to walking tracks and issues with tree management.	Assessment and restoration of damaged infrastructure on parks and forests including DRFA business case submitted for Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience Program (Tourism Recovery Package).
Lamington National Park (Binna Burra)	Loss of Binna Burra Lodge, heritage listed building values, and workforce.	Support provided to Binna Burra Recovery Taskforce. Heritage assessment of BBL site and buildings, and approvals for clean up and essential works to facilitate re-opening.
Multiple locations	Loss of First Nations cultural heritage which leads to impacts on relationships and the social, cultural and economic futures of First Nations people.	Focussed assessment and analysis of the implications of fire threat and damage on First Nations cultural heritage protection planning and management.
State-wide	Strategic approach needed to prioritise planned burns and bushfire response operations.	Expansion of the hazard reduction program in priority fire risk areas.
State-wide	Fire scar mapping activities do not appropriately capture a complete and accurate picture, this includes in relation to key natural values.	Satellite imagery to map burnt areas and determine habitat loss and repercussions for native wildlife, native plant communities and cultural heritage. Provide information to Australian Government to determine species and habitat priorities for Bushfire wildlife recovery package \$50M. Convene Research Roundtable to discuss threatened species research priorities.
State-wide	Existing cultural heritage mapping is inadequate and inconsistently applied to planning and capital works processes.	Work in partnership with First Nations peoples and stakeholders to map cultural heritage sites on the Parks Estate.
State-wide	Failure to integrate First Nations knowledge into existing hazard reduction and fire management programs.	Work in partnership with First Nations peoples and stakeholders to integrate First Nations fire management expertise into all QPWS fire management planning and programs.

Metric

Measure

Locally led environment recovery enabled through appropriate funding sources.

Timely issuing of funding.

Number of national parks reopened to the public.

Number closed. Number partially open. Number reopened.

Pollution impacts to the environment are avoided or minimised.

Number of waste exemptions in place.

Protection of vulnerable species which survived the bushfires.

% wildlife safely returned to the wild. % completion of NP infrastructure works (DRFA).

Timing	Projected Outcome	Lead
1/12/2019	Air quality information that underpins health protection advice to government agencies, organisations and the general public.	DES (S&T)
1/1/2020	Protection and management of parks and forests for the enjoyment of current and future generations.	DES (DPWS)
Complete 1/5/2020	Pollution impacts to the environment are avoided or minimised.	DES (ESR) DES (EPP)
Ongoing	Protection of vulnerable species which survived the bushfires. Wildlife carers supported.	DES (DPWS) SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network
Complete	Recovery actions do not generate further risk to the environment.	QH and DNRME
Ongoing	Increased (appropriate) knowledge of First Nations cultural heritage on the Parks estate in order to protect and conserve cultural values with First Nations peoples	DES (DPWS)
Ongoing	Locally led environmental recovery enabled through appropriate funding sources.	All Australian Government - Bushfire Wildlife Recovery Package (\$50M)
1/6/2022	Protection and management of parks and forests for the enjoyment of current and future generations. Natural environment operates to maintain or restore healthy biodiversity and ecosystems.	DES (DPWS)
1/6/2020	Permitting requirements that assist effective and rapid recovery but still protect heritage listed buildings and places.	DES (Arts Qld)
Ongoing	Identification of improvements to planning and capital works programs on the Parks estate to better protect First Nations cultural heritage in partnerships with First Nations peoples.	DES (DPWS)
Ongoing	Fire risk minimised to people and property, including in the urban interface areas and around privately managed nature refuges.	DES (DPWS)
1/6/2020	Burnt area mapping helps determine extent of impacts and prioritisation of onground assessments and recovery actions.	DES (S&T) DES (DPWS)
Ongoing	Improved understanding of the landscape leading to better protection of cultural heritage and cultural values. Improved relationships with First Nations peoples on the Parks Estate.	DES (DPWS)
Ongoing	Improved fire management regime leading to better protection of natural and cultural values on the Parks estate.	DES (DPWS)

Disaster recovery funding

The Queensland Bushfires have resulted in 23 Queensland LGAs being activated to date for DRFA.

The Commonwealth provides financial assistance to support state governments with disaster recovery costs through the jointly funded program between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.

Details of the 2019 Queensland Bushfires activated DRFA assistance measures are referenced in Annex C: DRFA activation summary – 2019 Queensland Bushfires and are published at www.qra.qld.gov.au/activations

Exceptional circumstances package

In addition to the support listed, the Queensland Government identified a range of assistance measures to address gaps in recovery funding and support longer-term recovery of impacted LGAs. Details provided on the opposite page.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme
- Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers
- Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme
- Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets
- Extraordinary bushfire assistance (small business) loans
- Extraordinary bushfire assistance (primary producer) loans
- Extraordinary bushfire assistance (not-for-profit organisations) loans

Category C and D Package - 2019 Queensland Bushfires

Applicable LGA	Recovery package component	Approval status	Funding \$ (million)
Noosa, Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast	Marketing Campaign Regional Marketing Wine Tourism Marketing Go Local Campaign	Approved	\$1.500 0.750 0.150 0.600
Scenic Rim, Southern Downs	Tourism Recovery Officers A total of two officers up to two years.	Approved	\$0.500
Scenic Rim, Southern Downs	Tourism Recovery Fund for Local Government Provides grants to community organisations and tourism operators to assist recovery for their tourism industry.	Approved	\$3.000
Scenic Rim	Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience Damaged walking tracks will be restored and repaired, and will allow for increased resilience and visitor safety.	Approved	\$1.000
Noosa, Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Lockyer Valley, Livingstone	Community Mental Health Program Assists disaster-affected communities, including individuals, families and first responders, with mental health services and emotional wellbeing support after the bushfire events.	Approved	\$4.700
Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Noosa, Livingstone, Somerset and Lockyer Valley	Community Development Program The objective of the Community Development Program is to provide a best-practice and comprehensive response to support communities as they recover from the cumulative impacts of drought and the recent Southern and Eastern Queensland Bushfires, while minimising longer-term costs to the state.	Approved	\$3.000
All activated LGAs	Flexible Grants Program Supports local recovery and resilience building activities through an open grants process. This grants process will be available to community and industry groups, local governments and incorporated organisations to implement recovery and resilience projects and activities.	Approved	\$6.000
Binna Burra Lodge	Binna Burra Recovery Package Site clean-up and debris removal Stabilisation Master Planning	Approved	\$1.775 0.275 1.300 0.200
	Monitoring and Evaluation	Approved	\$0.300
	TOTAL – APPROVED		\$21.775

	Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package		\$10.375M
Livingstone, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Gympie, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Mareeba, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba	Primary Producer Recovery Grants Grants of up to \$75,000 for bushfire-affected primary producers.	Approved	\$1.500

National Bushfire Recovery Agency Funding Assistance

The following tables outline available assistance which may or may not be available to Local Government Areas focused on in the Plan. Initiatives outlined are those in addition to specific Queensland requests for Category C and D funding or are available through standard DRFA relief measures or are outside the DRFA.

Individuals and Families

Package	Funding
Disaster Recovery Payment (EMA)	One-off payment of \$1,000 per adult / \$800 (\$400 disaster recovery payment + additional \$400 payment for educational expenses) per child younger than 16.
Disaster Recovery Allowance (EMA)	Payments of up to the maximum rate of Newstart or Youth Allowance, for up to 13 weeks.
Emergency Relief	Providing \$40 million primarily to St Vincent de Paul Society and the Salvation Army to deliver emergency relief to bushfire affected communities, such as food parcels, clothing, vouchers and cash payments.
Expanded Financial Counselling	Additional \$10 million will be invested in financial counselling to deliver services in affected areas including extra support for the National Debt Helpline and increased funding for locally based providers in bush fire affected areas to deliver face-to-face services including through outreach.
Payment and Lodgement extensions for Tax Liabilities	Automatic extra time to pay your debt or lodge tax forms such as activity statements
School Support	25 mental health liaison officers to work with local schools and early childhood services in bushfire-affected communities, facilitated through Beyond Blue.
Child Care activity test debt exemption	Exemption from any Child Care Subsidy (CCS) activity test debt for this financial year.

Health

Package	Funding
Ten free mental health support sessions	Front line emergency distress and trauma counselling will be available immediately, with up to 10 free mental health support sessions for individuals, families and emergency services personnel
Medicare rebates for ten additional psychological therapy sessions	Bushfire affected individuals and families, and emergency response personnel eligible to receive Medicare rebates for up to 10 psychological therapy sessions. Psychological therapy sessions via telehealth will also be available to people in fire affected rural areas.
Additional headspace services in areas	Up to an additional \$300 000 to ensure that young people can get support when they need it
Assistance for small business, primary producers and the tourism industry	
Package	Funding
Dedicated, single contact point for small business	The Support Line will be staffed by small business specialist financial counsellors who will be able to provide information on the assistance and support available to small businesses in bushfire affected regions.
Additional 60 rural financial counsellors	\$15 million to fund 60 more rural financial counsellors and support workers to assist primary producers on their path to recovery, over the next two years.
Tourism support package	\$20 million for a nationally coordinated domestic marketing initiative, \$25 million for a global marketing campaign, \$10 million for a regional tourism events initiative for bushfire-affected regions, \$6.5 million to support tourism business' attendance at the Australian Tourism Exchange, and \$5 million for the diplomatic network to educate people that Australia is open for business.

Local Government

Package	Funding
\$60 million for severely impacted Local Government Area	Immediate \$1 million payments to 43 affected LGAs – with \$17 million remaining for top-up payments to impacted Local Government Areas.
Wildlife protection and habitat restoration	
Package	Funding
Down-payment protecting wildlife and restoring habitat	\$50 million package working with scientists and communities to plan longer-term restoration effort.
Firefighters and Volunteers	
Package	Funding
Payments for volunteer firefighters	Up to \$300 per day for lost income (up to \$6,000 per person) for eligible volunteers. Currently available for NSW and QLD volunteer firefighters – administered through State Governments. Payments for other States available on request.
Paid leave for Australian Public Service employees volunteering as part of the emergency services response	At least 20 working days paid leave for volunteers aiding with firefighting efforts.

Firefighters and Volunteers

Package	Funding
Payments for volunteer firefighters	Up to \$300 per day for lost income (up to \$6,000 per person) for eligible volunteers. Currently available for NSW and QLD volunteer firefighters – administered through State Governments. Payments for other States available on request.
Paid leave for Australian Public Service employees volunteering as part of the emergency services response	At least 20 working days paid leave for volunteers aiding with firefighting efforts.



Case study

Collaboration and community resilience in Livingstone Shire Council

When catastrophic bushfires ripped through Queensland in September, its speed and scale shocked communities across the state.

For the Livingstone community, having a well-equipped facility to support community resilience and a rapid, collaborative response during times of disaster made a life-saving difference during the bushfires.

Livingstone Shire Council has welcomed thousands of visitors into the Local Disaster Coordination Centre since opening in 2016, providing a disaster education and resilience hub for the region when they need it most.

Unlike other disaster coordination centres, the facility was built for year-round use by community groups, businesses, state agencies and surrounding councils as a collaborative space for meetings and training. Local residents are also welcome to tour the centre throughout the year to learn about disaster risks and how council uses the facility to respond in an emergency.

Livingstone Shire Council Local Disaster Coordinator David Mazzaferri said the centre's role in bringing people together is a unique opportunity to help build local resilience.

"The centre is a great tool for starting conversations around disaster preparedness. Whatever reason people are visiting, they always leave with a greater understanding of disasters in the area," Mr Mazzaferri said.

"The centre hosts hands on training and educational sessions for local schools and visitors to the region to help them understand the role of emergency services and the disaster centre itself.

"During the rapid onset of the recent bushfires, community members were prepared to respond quickly and had a good understanding of how emergency services and council were responding as a result of those open conversations."

Livingstone Shire Council Local Disaster Management Group Chair Mayor Bill Ludwig said the centre has transformed council's ability to respond to disasters.

"This centre has created a holistic approach to disaster management for our region. We wouldn't have been able to respond to the bushfires in such a highly coordinated way without it.

"We hope to see these facilities open across Queensland to create a fully-integrated network to change the way we interact with the community and operate during a disaster," Cr Ludwig said.

The Livingstone Shire Council Local Disaster Coordination Centre was jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program and Livingstone Shire Council.



Section 3: Local recovery planning

Area Profiles

The 23 impacted LGAs are all unique. The following profiles provide an overview of the impacted LGAs including their economies, demographics and historical damage.

Bundaberg

Bundaberg sits at the northern end of the Wide Bay region and the southern-most tip of the Great Barrier Reef. The City of Bundaberg is 15 kilometres inland from the coast and is a gateway to Bargara and Mon Repos.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Bundaberg area are the Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, Taribelang Bunda, Kabi Kabi, Wakka Wakka and Butchulla Peoples.

Area: The Bundaberg region covers a land area of 6444km².

Population: In 2018 the Bundaberg region had a population of 94,000 people with a population density of 0.15 persons per hectare.

Economy: Bundaberg's \$4.1 billion economy supports more than 37,000 jobs and 6276 small businesses. Bundaberg's main industries include health care and agriculture, specifically sugarcane, small crops and livestock. The region is well known for its namesake export, Bundaberg Rum, which is distilled in the city. Bundaberg also boasts a thriving eco-tourism industry.

Context: In May 2019, the Bundaberg local government area was fully drought-declared which has impacted residents. The Eastern Queensland Bushfires impacted the communities of Woodgate and Buxton in November 2019 as well as Gregory River and Doughboy in December 2019.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in Bundaberg since 2011 are \$125,313,757.

City of Brisbane

Brisbane is the capital city of Queensland and the largest local government in Australia. Brisbane is a green city with an enviable subtropical climate and diverse population. It is one of the fastest-growing cities in Australia.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Brisbane area are the Turrbal, Jagera and Yugara Peoples.

Area: Greater Brisbane is the largest of Australia's six capital cities, with a land area of 15,842km².

Population: As of 2019, Brisbane had a population of over 2.5 million, with a population density of 145 persons per square kilometre.

Economy: Brisbane's 13.4 billion economy supports more than 48,000 jobs, with the largest industries being Health Care and Social Assistance.

Context: In November 2019, Moreton Island was impacted by significant bushfires, which resulted in the evacuation of many residents and visitors and required a multi-agency response to contain the fires.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in Brisbane since 2011 are \$226,154,070.



City of Gold Coast

Gold Coast City is located in South East Queensland, approximately 78 kilometres south of the Brisbane CBD and is bounded by Logan City, Redland City and Moreton Bay in the north, the Coral Sea in the east, the New South Wales border in the south and the Scenic Rim Regional Council area in the west.

Traditional owners: The traditional owners of the Gold Coast area are the Yugambeh People.

Area: The City of Gold Coast Council area covers more than 1400km² with more than 55 kilometres of beaches, more than 270 kilometres of navigable waterways and world heritage forest.

Population: In 2018 the Gold Coast region recorded a population of approximately 607,000 people with a population density of 4.55 persons per hectare.

Economy: The Gold Coast's \$35 billion economy supports more than 304,000 jobs and 66,093 small businesses with its main industries including health care, tourism, retail, construction and manufacturing.

Context: In December 2019, the City of Gold Coast area was drought-declared. The 2019 Queensland Bushfires impacted the community of Beechmont and the Lamington National Park in September and November 2019.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in the Gold Coast since 2011 are \$16,380,009.

City of Ipswich

Ipswich is conveniently located in the thriving South East Queensland region, roughly 40 kilometres west of Brisbane's CBD. Known for its friendly and multicultural community, Ipswich consists of residents from more than 163 different countries, speaking over 152 languages.

As one of Queensland's oldest cities, Ipswich inhabits a rich history and is renowned for its architectural, natural and cultural heritage.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Ipswich region are the Yugara/Yugarapul People.

Area: The Ipswich region has a land area of 1,204km².

Population: As of 2018, Ipswich had a population of over 213,000, with a population density of 1.95 persons per hectare.

Economy: Ipswich's \$9.37 billion economy supports more than 77,000 jobs and 9161 small businesses, with the largest industries being health care and social assistance.

Context: In December 2019, a fast moving fire that was initially sparked by a house fire, spread through an Ipswich community, causing more than 100 residents to evacuate the area. The incident reached Emergency warning level and relied on a multi-agency response to contain the fire.

Ipswich was drought declared in April 2019.

Historical damage to essential public assets: Disaster reconstruction costs in Ipswich since 2011 are \$98,033,542.



Area Profiles

Cook

Cook Shire, located in Far North Queensland, is the largest land area shire in Queensland. Cooktown, the Shire's largest town is 331km from Cairns or 266km, from Mareeba.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners for Cooktown: Guugu Yimithir peoples, Coen: Ayapathu, Mungkan, Kaanju, Lama Lama, Olkala peoples and Laura: Kuku Thypan, Gugu-Yalanji, Gugu Yimithirr, Gugu Warra, Gugu Ballanji, Gugu Olkola people.

Area: Cook covers more than 100,000km² and occupies 80 per cent of Cape York Peninsula.

Population: About half of the Shire's 4400-strong population live in Cooktown, on the banks of the Endeavour River, with the remainder spread between the smaller population centres of Marton, Laura, Lakeland, Coen, Ayton, Rossville, Portland Roads and offshore islands including Lizard Island.

Economy: Cook shire's \$.70 billion economy supports more than 3,351 jobs. The mining sector is the largest industry in the shire accounting for 29.3% of jobs. Other industries include agriculture, forestry, fishing and goods.

Context: In November 2019 a severe bushfire was sparked by a resident's unattended fire in the Poison Creek /Wilton Access area. Several Rural Fire Brigades the Cooktown Auxiliary Fire Brigade, QPWS, Police, Ambulance and SES were in attendance with support crews arriving from Tablelands. Orders to self-evacuate were issued to residents of properties that were not defendable and who have no fire management measures in place, via a door knock by Police. The Family Centre evacuated the area including 15 clients and 5 staff. 1 wheelchair bound resident was evacuated by ambulance. No other residents chose to self-evacuate. Fire fighters managed to contain the fire after 2 days, losing only the house as the point of ignition.

Extensive back burning and firebreaks were carried out during this time, with the fire jumping the containment lines in some areas.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in Cook since 2011 are \$ 289,274,392.

Fraser Coast

The Fraser Coast area is located in the Wide Bay Burnett region of Queensland south of Bundaberg and North of Gympie.

Traditional Owners: The Butchulla and Kabi Kabi people are the traditional owners of the Fraser Coast area.

Area: The Fraser Coast area covers 7,117km²

Population: In 2018, the total population of Fraser Coast was recorded at approximately 105,000 people with a population density of 0.15 persons per hectare.

Economy: Fraser Coast's \$.4.09 billion economy supports more than 34,500 jobs with the main industries being health care and social assistance.

Context: In December 2019, the Fraser Coast area was fully drought declared. The Eastern Queensland Bushfires impacted the area on southern Fraser Island at Hook Point as well as an area at Tinnabar on the mainland. The burnt areas within the Fraser Coast region occurred in highly dense vegetation areas and no properties were damaged.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in the Fraser Coast area since 2011 are \$49,728,250.



Gladstone

The Gladstone area is located on the Central Queensland coast bounded by the Coral Sea in the north-east and east, the Bundaberg Regional Council area and the North Burnett Regional Council area in the south, the Banana Shire in the west, and the Rockhampton Regional Council area in the north-west.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Gladstone area are the Port Curtis Coral Coast People which comprise of four groups the Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, Bailai and Taribelang Bunda.

Area: The Gladstone Regional Council area covers 10,506km².

Population: In 2018, the total population of Gladstone was recorded at approximately 63,000 people with a population density of 0.06 persons per hectare.

Economy: Gladstone's \$5.26 billion economy supports more than 29,072 jobs and 3635 small businesses, with the main industry being manufacturing.

Context: In April 2019, the Gladstone area was fully drought-declared. The Eastern Queensland Bushfires impacted communities at Lowmede and Mount Maria in December 2019.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in Gladstone since 2011 are 159,864,562.

Gympie

The Gympie region includes Queensland's first gold mining town, and boasts a selection of heritage-listed buildings and attractions. Situated in South East Queensland, both residents and visitors have the best of both country and coast at their doorstep. Gympie's outer-lying areas of Kilkivan, Goomeri, Kandanga and the Mary Valley showcase the breathtaking Mary River, which is home to many unique and endangered species.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Gympie area are the Kabi Kabi and Wakka Wakka Peoples.

Area: The Gympie region has a land area of 6898km².

Population: As of 2018, Gympie had a population of over 51,000, with a population density of 0.07 persons per hectare.

Economy: The Gympie region's economy is based around resource processing and primary industries, which have underpinned development of supporting industries such as transport and distribution, engineering, maintenance and professional services. Services to agriculture reflect the region's status as the service centre to the fertile Mary Valley and wider Wide Bay Burnett areas. Education and training, health and community services, and business services are well represented. The region supports 4372 small businesses.

Context: Gympie was originally drought-declared in March 2017, was revoked in May 2018 and then reinstated in April 2019. In November 2019, significant fires impacted the Black Snake and Kilkivan areas located within the Gympie region, requiring numerous emergency warnings to the community and a multi-agency response to contain the fires.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in Gympie since 2011 are \$40,158,130.



Area Profiles

Livingstone

The Livingstone area in the Capricornia region of Central Queensland is to the immediate north and east of the regional city of Rockhampton.

Traditional Owners: On the Capricorn Coast, the Traditional Owners are the Darumbal People and the Woppaburra People who inhabited Great Keppel and North Keppel islands. The Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala and the Barada Barna Kabalbara Yetimarla Peoples are the Traditional Owners of the western border.

Area: The Livingstone Shire Council area covers 11,776km².

Population: Livingstone area has a population of almost 36,000 residents with a population density of 0.03 per hectare.

Economy: Livingstone's \$1.3 billion gross regional product supports more than 5000 jobs and 2868 small businesses. Tourism is a mainstay of the area, with Keppel Bay and the nearby islands a major drawcard. The Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area is also located within the Shire. Timber is harvested from extensive pine plantations near Byfield in the north and pineapple production, as well as other agricultural crops, are plentiful within the Shire.

Context: In April 2019 Livingstone was completely drought-declared. On 9 November 2019 a fire broke out in Cobraball, Livingstone Shire affecting approximately 11,500. Fourteen homes were completely destroyed. The fire affected nineteen localities in Livingstone Shire.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in Livingstone since 2011 are \$9,746,922.

Lockyer Valley

The Lockyer Valley is rated among the top ten most fertile farming areas in the world and has been positioned as a leading agricultural production zone in Australia. Affectionately known as the South East Queensland food bowl, the prime agricultural area is laden with features. The Lockyer Valley boasts spectacular national parks, reserves, creeks, lakes and parks, including many water ways and green open spaces.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Lockyer Valley region are the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul Peoples

Area: Lockyer Valley has a land area of 2272km².

Population: As of 2018, Lockyer Valleys had a population of over 41,000 residents, with a population density of 0.18 persons per hectare.

Economy: Lockyer Valley's \$1.65 billion economy supports more than 13,000 jobs and 3005 small businesses, with the largest industries being agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Context: On 19 September 2019, a lightning strike started a fire within Glen Rock Park. This fire made its way into private property and escalated on 8 October 2019 at Left Hand Branch, Thornton and Townson. These fires were fuelled by warmer than average temperatures (up to 41 degrees), gale-force westerly winds and at one stage the fire danger level reached Catastrophic for the first time ever. The most notable fires were at Glen Rock, Thornton and in Laidley.

The Thornton fire reignited on 7 November 2019 as a result a smouldering tree in an inaccessible area on private property and the hot, dry, windy conditions. This fire escalated on 8 November and affected Thornton, Mulgowie, Left Hand Branch and Ingoldsby over the following weeks. The Townson fire also continued to burn in private property and made its way into the Scenic Rim. Both of these fires burned an additional 7600 hectares.

Lockyer Valley was fully drought declared in May 2018.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in Lockyer Valley since 2011 are \$171,165,795

Mareeba

Located only one hour west of Cairns, Mareeba experiences over 300 sunny days a year and is considered the ballooning capital of the world. Mareeba has a reputation as a food lovers' paradise and is also rich in wildlife, museums, coffee and wine and produces over 70% of Australia's coffee crop.

Traditional Owners: The traditional owners of the Mareeba Shire Council area are the Muluridji, Djabugay, Kuku-Djungan, Western Yalanji, Bar-Barrum, Ewamia and Wakaman peoples.

Area: Mareeba region has a land area of 53,547km².

Population: As of 2019, Mareeba had a population of over 22,000, with a population density of 145 persons per square kilometre.

Economy: Mareeba's 1.3 billion economy supports more than 8,500 jobs, with the largest industries being agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Context: In September 2019, the Mareeba Shire was impacted by significant bushfires that destroyed at least one home and had a considerable impact on a number of primary producer owned properties. A large, multi-agency response was required to contain the fires.

Historical damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in Mareeba since 2011 are \$ 29,750,873.

Noosa

Noosa is situated at the northern tip of Queensland's Sunshine Coast and is bounded by the Gympie Regional Council area to the north and west, the Coral Sea in the east, and the Sunshine Coast Council area to the south. Thirty-five per cent of the shire is protected as either national park, reserve or conservation area.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Noosa area are the Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi People.

Area: The Noosa council boundary covers an area of 871km².

Population: In 2018, Noosa recorded a population of 54,000 people with a population density of 0.63 persons per hectare.

Economy: Noosa's \$3 billion economy supports more than 26,000 jobs and 6780 small businesses, with the main industries including health, professional services, tourism, retail and construction.

Context: In December 2019, the Noosa LGA was fully drought-declared. The Southern Queensland Bushfires impacted the community of Peregrine Springs in September 2019 while the Eastern Queensland Bushfires impacted the communities of Cooribah and Noosa North Shore in November 2019.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in Noosa since 2011 are \$454,023.

Area Profiles

North Burnett

The North Burnett Regional Council area is located in the Wide Bay Burnett Region of south-east Queensland and bounded by Gladstone Regional Council area in the north, the Bundaberg Regional Council area and the Fraser Coast Regional Council area in the east, the Gympie Regional Council area, the South Burnett Regional Council area and the Western Downs Regional Council area in the south, and Banana Shire in the west.

Traditional Owners: The traditional owners in the North Burnett region are the Wulli Wulli, Wakka Wakka, Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, Taribelang Bunda, Auburn Hawkwood Peoples.

Area: The North Burnett area covers 19,710km².

Population: In 2019, the total population in the North Burnett Region was recorded at approximately 10,599 with a population density of 0.01 persons per hectare.

Economy: North Burnett's \$680M economy supports more than 5,038 jobs with the main industries being agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Context: In September 2019, the North Burnett area was fully drought declared. The Queensland Bushfires impacted the area of Hawkwood from 5-13 September 2019. The burnt areas within the the North Burnett region occurred in highly dense vegetation areas and no properties were damaged.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in the North Burnett area since 2011 are \$203,158,715

Redland

The Redland area is located in Queensland's south-east corner, roughly 45 minutes from Brisbane's CBD. Redland is known for its relaxed coastal lifestyle, strong community values and outstanding cultural and natural attractions. Redland attained city status in March 2008, having been a shire since 1949, when it was created by the merger of the former Tingalpa and Cleveland Shires.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Redland area are the Quandamooka, Yugumbah, Turrbal and Jagera People.

Area: The Redland region has a land area of 537.1km².

Population: As of 2018, Redland had a population of over 156,000, with a population density of 2.92 persons per hectare.

Economy: Redland's \$5.84 billion economy supports more than 48,000 jobs and 11,919 small businesses, with the largest industries being health care and social assistance.

Context: In September 2019, North Stradbroke Island was struck by dry lightning. This ignited a significant fire that burned through thousands of hectares of land and required a large, multi-agency response to contain the fire. No private property was impacted by the fire.

In December 2019 Redland was fully drought declared.

Historical damage to essential public assets: Disaster reconstruction costs in the Redland region since 2011 are \$1,446,996.



Rockhampton

Rockhampton is located roughly 600 kilometres north of Brisbane and is the heart of the Fitzroy Basin, Australia's second largest river system, and bordered by the brooding Berserker Ranges.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Rockhampton are the Darumbal and Gaangalu peoples.

Area: Rockhampton has a land area of 6,570km².

Population: As of 2019, Rockhampton had a population of over 81,000, with a population density of 0.12 persons per hectare.

Economy: Rockhampton's \$5.1 billion economy supports more than 40,000 jobs, with the largest industries being Health Care and Social Assistance.

Context: From September – October 2019, Rockhampton was impacted by large bushfires, located in the Mount Morgan and Lakes Creek regions. The Lakes Creek fire extended into the Mount Archer region and impacted communities in Mount Archer, Frenchville and Koongal. The fires posed a threat to properties at the time, which led to a number of emergency alert warnings been issued to the community. A multi-agency response was required to contain the bushfires."

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in Rockhampton since 2011 are \$104,182,104.

Scenic Rim

Nestled in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range and surrounded by world heritage-listed national parks, the Scenic Rim boasts an array of activities and supplies plenty for visitors to both see and do. Only an hour from Brisbane and the Gold Coast, the Scenic Rim's thriving rural paradise makes for an ideal getaway location.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Scenic Rim area are the Yugambah and Yugara/Yugarapul People.

Area: The Scenic Rim region has a land area of 4,256km².

Population: As of 2018, the Scenic Rim region had a population of over 42,000, with a population density of 0.10 persons per hectare.

Economy: Scenic Rim's \$1.79 billion economy supports more than 15,000 jobs and 4373 small businesses, with the largest industries being agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Context: In September 2019, the Southern Queensland Bushfires impacted the communities of Binna Burra and Sarabah. Communities across Scenic Rim were further impacted by the Eastern Queensland bushfires during November 2019.

In April 2019 Scenic Rim was fully drought declared.

Historical damage to essential public assets: Disaster reconstruction costs in the Scenic Rim since 2011 are \$128,651,192.

Area Profiles

Somerset

Surrounded by breathtaking mountain scenery, placid waterways and located just over an hour's drive from Brisbane's CBD, the Somerset region makes for an ideal country getaway and outdoor adventure.

Within the region there are 40 protected areas including national parks, state forests and forest reserves, as well as 11 nature reserves, which form a vital part of the region's environmental assets. The region also includes major water resources and recreational assets such as Lakes Wivenhoe and Somerset.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Somerset area are the Jinibara, Jagera, Yugara/Yugarapul and Kabi Kabi Peoples.

Area: Somerset has a total area of 5,382km² and includes five major townships, Esk, Fernvale, Kilcoy, Lowood and Toogoolawah.

Population: As of 2018, Somerset had a population of over 25,000.

Economy: Rural production is a vital industry within the region, while manufacturing is the largest employer with 14.5% of the region's labour force employed in the industry. The region supports 2055 small businesses.

Context: Somerset was drought declared in March 2017. During the November 2019 bushfires, communities within the Somerset region were forced to evacuate due to uncontained fires throughout the area. A 737 aircraft was required to drop fire retardant, along with interstate and international firefighters, in an attempt to control the blaze. A number of properties were lost in the fires.

Historical damage to essential public assets: Disaster reconstruction costs in the region since 2011 are \$109,013,303.

South Burnett

South Burnett is located in the Wide Bay Burnett Region of south-east Queensland, about 200 kilometres north-west of the Brisbane CBD. Surrounded by the majestic Bunya Mountains, the South Burnett region is home to one of Queensland's oldest towns, largest wine region and biggest inland waterways.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the South Burnett are the Wakka Wakka, Auburn Hawkwood Peoples.

Area: South Burnett has a land area of 8,397km².

Population: As of 2019, South Burnett had a population of over 32,000, with a population density of 0.04 persons per hectare.

Economy: South Burnett's \$1.9 billion economy supports more than 12,000 jobs, with the largest industries being Health Care and Social Assistance.

Context: As of March 2017, the South Burnett Region was fully drought declared. In September 2019, South Burnett was impacted by significant bushfires that impact the region of Linville. A large, multi-agency response was required to contain the fires.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in South Burnett since 2011 are \$ 171,960,715.

Southern Downs

The Southern Downs Regional Council area is located in south-east Queensland, about 160 kilometres south-west of the Brisbane CBD. The Southern Downs Regional Council area is bounded by the Toowoomba Regional Council area and the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area in the north, the Scenic Rim Regional Council in the north-east, the New South Wales border in the south-east and south, and the Goondiwindi Regional Council area in the west. It was created in 2008 from a merger of the shires of Warwick and Stanthorpe.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Southern Downs area are the Githabul and Kambuwal peoples.

Area: The Southern Downs region has a land area of 7,122km².

Population: In 2018, the Southern Downs region had a population of 35,601 people and a density of 0.05 persons per hectare.

Economy: The Southern Downs Regional Council area is predominantly rural, with land used largely for agriculture, particularly sheep and cattle grazing, orcharding, and vegetable and grain growing. Forestry and viticulture are also important industries. The region supports 4037 small businesses.

Context: In May 2018, the Southern Downs LGA was drought declared, which has substantially impacted residents. The Southern Queensland Bushfires impacted the communities of Stanthorpe, Applethorpe, and Ballandean in September 2019 and the community of Swanfels was impacted by the Eastern Queensland Bushfires in November 2019.

Historical damage to essential public assets: Disaster reconstruction costs in the region since 2011 are \$59,593,939.

Sunshine Coast

The Sunshine Coast area is located in South East Queensland, about 100 kilometres north of the Brisbane CBD. The Sunshine Coast area is a rapidly growing residential and tourist area, with substantial rural, rural-residential and parkland areas.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Sunshine Coast area are the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples.

Area: The Sunshine Coast region encompasses a total land area of approximately 2,290 square kilometres, including significant beaches, coastline, waterways, national parks, state forests and bushland. The area includes coastal urban centres and inland towns.

Population: In 2018 the population in the Sunshine Coast area was recorded at approximately 320,000 people with a population density of 1.40 persons per hectare.

Economy: The Sunshine Coast's \$16.7 billion economy supports more than 149,000 jobs and 31,144 small businesses, with the main industries including health care service, social assistance, construction, tourism, education and training.

Context: In December 2019, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council area was fully drought-declared. The Southern Queensland Bushfires impacted the Peregrine Springs community (located on the council boundary of Noosa) in September 2019 and the Eastern Queensland Bushfires impacted the communities of Peregrine and Lake Weyba in December 2019.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs in Sunshine Coast since 2011 are \$9,329,344.



Area Profiles

Toowoomba

Toowoomba Region makes up part of South East Queensland, a dynamic region that generates one-fifth of Australia's economic growth and is home to one in seven Australians. The Toowoomba region is also the gateway to South West Queensland.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Darling Downs region are the, Gaibul and Jarowair peoples. The Western Wakka Wakka have previously asserted traditional ownership.

Area: The region has a land area of 12,973km² including Toowoomba city and the regional centres of Cambooya, Clifton, Crows Nest, Goombungee, Greenmount, Highfields, Millmerran, Oakey, Pittsworth and Yarraman, along with numerous smaller townships.

Population: In 2018, the Toowoomba region had a population of 167,657 and a density of 0.13 persons per hectare.

Economy: The Toowoomba region has transformed its agricultural base into a diverse and strong economy, offering a range of business, investment and employment opportunities.

The Toowoomba region was a \$10.8 billion economy in 2017/18 and hosted 85,369 jobs and 15,629 small businesses.

Context: The Toowoomba region was drought declared, in March 2014 which has substantially impacted residents. In November 2019, the Eastern Queensland Bushfires impacted communities across the Toowoomba region, specifically Pechey and Crows Nest.

Historical damage to essential public assets: Disaster reconstruction costs in the region since 2011 are \$172,770,081.

Townsville

Townsville was founded in 1864 as a port for the fledgling pastoral industry in North Queensland. Following the discovery of gold in the immediate hinterland at Ravenswood and then Charters Towers, the town developed into the principal centre and de facto capital of North Queensland.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Townsville area are the Bindal, Gurambibarra, Nywaigi and Wulgurukaba People.

Area: The Townsville City Council Local Government area covers 3376 km².

Population: Townsville is the largest city in Northern Australia with an official population of 193,601 residents (2017 census), with a current estimate of 195,032, and a population density of 0.52 persons per hectare.

Economy: Townsville has a growing advanced manufacturing sector which cuts across the region's key industries such as defence and metal product manufacturing including copper, zinc, and nickel refineries. The region is also a significant link in the supply chain for agricultural and mining export markets. The Port of Townsville in Northern Australia's largest general cargo port and Australia's number one exporter of copper, zinc, lead and sugar. Townsville is home to more than 12,000 businesses.

Context: Townsville was drought declared in November 2015 until May 2018, then in early 2019 the area was severely impacted by heavy rainfall and major flooding, with approximately 3300 residential properties flooded, 199 sport and recreation clubs damaged and many businesses impacted. Fires in late 2019 also impacted the area.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs for Townsville City Council since 2011 are \$ 148,906,664



Whitsunday

The Whitsunday region is the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and the magnificent 74 Whitsunday Islands, and is located in North Queensland.

Traditional Owners: The Traditional Owners of the Whitsunday area are the Gia, Birriah, Jangga, Juru and Ngaro people.

Area: The Whitsunday Regional Council Local Government area covers 23,862 km², including 74 Whitsunday Islands.

Population: Whitsunday Regional Council has an official population of 35357 (ABS Estimated 2019).

Economy: Boasting a strong and diverse economy driven by the agriculture, construction, mining and tourism industries; the Whitsunday region has the potential to become the economic powerhouse of North Queensland. Mining is the largest contributor to the Whitsunday Region's economic output, worth \$1.05 billion or 17% of the region's total industry output. Tourism is the Whitsunday Region's largest employer, accounting for approximately 21% of jobs and it is the second-largest contributor to the region's industry value-added behind mining. Agriculture is diversified through crops, including tomatoes, capsicum, beans and corns, sugarcane and beef.

Context: Whitsunday is currently partly drought-declared, and has been impacted by a number of cyclones and floods over the last 10 years, including Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie. STC Debbie crossed the Whitsunday coastline on 28 March 2017. Fires in late 2019 also impacted the area.

Historical disaster damage bill: Disaster reconstruction costs for Whitsunday Regional Council since 2011 are \$ 115,319,406.





Case study

Park rangers play crucial role in fighting Noosa bushfires

Noosa Shire is home to some of South East Queensland's most beautiful natural scenery.

The Cooloolool Recreation Area and adjacent protected areas consist of more than 60,000 hectares of bushland. Protecting life and property while preserving these natural areas as far as possible was one of the key priorities for QPWS rangers and first responders during the Southern and Eastern Queensland Bushfire events.

As the bushfires increased on Noosa North Shore in November, rangers from across South East Queensland were sent to the area to assist the local teams with the response.

One of the biggest challenges faced by rangers in the area was spot overs and fires jumping containment lines because of the lack of rainfall, low humidity and strong winds.

While the bushfires have had an impact on the local environment, Principal Ranger Marc Dargusch said the tireless efforts of the park rangers and emergency services prevented further damage to the national park.

"We're extremely proud of the work our rangers did to assist in fighting the Noosa bushfires, as the conditions they faced were often difficult to manage," Mr Dargusch said.

"Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service works hard throughout the year to mitigate the risk of bushfires across Queensland, and we have teams of trained rangers with the skills needed to battle bushfires on national parks and within state forests.

"This training, combined with extensive knowledge of the local environment, was paramount in coordinating the recent bushfire response."

Park rangers in the area are continuing to maintain the national park on Noosa North Shore to enable native plants and wildlife to recover from the bushfires.



2019 Queensland Bushfires local recovery plans

The following 2019 Queensland Bushfires local recovery plans have been endorsed by their respective Councils and/or Local Disaster Management Groups at the time of publishing. QRA continues to support all impacted councils in developing recovery plans to guide recovery operations and build resilience.

- Gladstone
- Livingstone
- Lockyer Valley
- Noosa
- Scenic Rim
- Somerset
- Southern Downs
- Toowoomba



Developing local recovery plans

Following the 2019 Queensland Bushfires, QRA worked with impacted councils to support the development of local recovery plans for this event. Recovery planning is the responsibility of local governments, and is led by the Local Recovery Coordinators, with support from the Queensland Government via QRA.

A disaster will have different impacts on each LGA and on the communities within each area. Councils use local recovery planning to identify and develop strategies to overcome such impacts, and provide support to their communities to assist with recovery.

SRC Ian Stewart said, “The recovery planning process is a proven method of ensuring all issues are addressed at both the local, district and state levels. It is vital that any LGA impacted by these bushfire events, also leverage the planning opportunity to engage with their community and those who provide recovery support, to ensure recovery activities meet the needs of the community, address priorities that are essential for risk reduction and betterment. The wellbeing and resilience of every impacted community deserves nothing less.”

The Queensland Bushfires Local Recovery Plans have been developed by councils that identified a significant impact from the Bushfires and elected to include their region’s approach to recovery in the Recovery Plan. Although other councils have not sought to include a local recovery plan, QRA continues to work with them at a local level to assist in their recovery and identify opportunities to build resilience.

By integrating the experiences of impacted communities, community aspirations and development plans into disaster recovery operations, the longer-term recovery process will lead to ongoing and sustainable community and economic development and enhanced resilience.



Gladstone Regional Council

Mount Maria Bushfires Local Recovery Plan

About our community

The Gladstone area is located on the Central Queensland coast bounded by the Coral Sea in the north-east and east, the Bundaberg Regional Council area and the North Burnett Regional Council area in the south, the Banana Shire in the west, and the Rockhampton Regional Council area in the northwest.

The Traditional Owners of the Gladstone area are the Port Curtis Coral Coast People which comprise of four groups; the Gurang, the Gooreng Gooreng, the Bailai and the Taribelang Bunda.

The Gladstone Regional Council area covers 10,506km². In 2018, the total population of Gladstone was recorded at approximately 63,000 people with a population density of 0.06 persons per hectare.

Gladstone's \$5.26 billion economy supports more than 29,072 jobs and 3635 small businesses, with the main industry being manufacturing.

Council vision statement

The Gladstone Region is back in business and will rapidly rebuild as a stronger, more resilient community.

Gladstone Regional Council values:

- Safe – We are uncompromising in our commitment to safety, which is reflected in our attitude, our decisions and our actions.
- Ethical – We operate with transparency, openness and accountability at the fore.
- Responsive – We respond by being present, proactive and solutions-focused, and we deliver on our commitments.
- Visionary – We plan as futures-thinkers and opportunity seekers and we have the courage to shape a better future for our community.
- Inclusive – We create and value diversity and we actively demonstrate our commitment to equality and inclusivity.
- Community – We care about each other and our environment and we recognise that community is the core of our business.
- Efficient – We deliver; we challenge the status quo and we continually find better ways to reduce cost and improve services.

About the disaster event

In April 2019, the Gladstone area was fully drought declared. The Eastern Queensland Bushfires impacted Gladstone through the Mount Maria bushfires which occurred from 15 December 2019. These fires impacted communities at Rosedale, Lowmead, Mount Maria, and Berajondo. Places of refuge were established at Miriam Vale Community Centre and temporary accommodation in Rosedale Hotel and Miriam Vale Hotel for displaced residents.

Council and the community are grateful for the support provided by emergency services.

Local Recovery Group

Stood up 23 December 2019

Chaired by: Cr Matt Burnett, Mayor

The Human & Social Recovery Group was stood up to support the recovery efforts.

The LDMG was in an Alert state as emergency services were in control of the bushfires, however recovery required support of the LDMG hence the stand-up of the Human and Social Recovery Group.

Lines of Recovery

Community, Economic, Environment (including Building), Infrastructure (including Roads and Transport).

Key stakeholders

Lead state government agencies and community groups.

Recovery narrative

Recovery objectives

- 1 Ensure refuse management is available for impacted residences and provide increased availability of services.
- 2 Structure safety assessments are conducted to ensure buildings are safe.
- 3 Affected residents are supported with building and financial support information to be able to rebuild their place of residence.
- 4 All impacted residents have access to potable water.
- 5 All displaced residents are supported in seeking access to temporary accommodation.
- 6 Enhance community resilience by delivering community development activities and education strategies.
- 7 Rural property boundary fences are rebuilt to define property lines.
- 8 Financial assistance options are identified and widely communicated to all impacted residents.
- 9 Local businesses and primary producers are empowered to improve their resilience to disasters.



GLADSTONE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Measures of success

Community

- Displaced residents have been provided temporary accommodation in a timely manner.
- Financial assistance options have been identified and communicated.
- Eligible applicants have successfully accessed funding support.
- Community development and education strategies have been delivered to increase community resilience.

Economic

- Local businesses and primary producers have reported an improvement in their resilience to disasters.

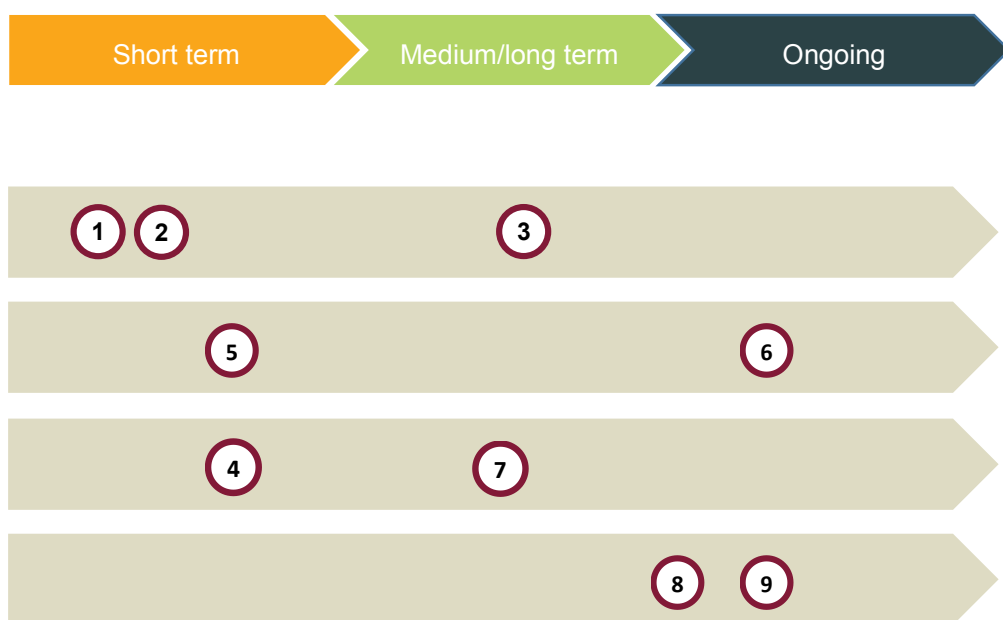
Environment

- The waste services implemented have addressed waste disposal needs in an effective and efficient manner.
- Building structure safety assessments have been conducted and outcomes have been provided to impacted residents and owners.
- Affected residents have been supported while their homes are rebuilt.

Infrastructure

- All roads have been reopened.
- Rural property boundary fences have been reinstated where required.
- Water supply systems have been cleaned, tested and deemed safe.
- Clean tank water has been provided to all impacted residents.

Recovery timeframes



Gladstone Regional Council

Damage and impacts

Community

- Increased risk to public health through potential contamination of household water tanks.
- Community wellbeing impacted due to the stress of evacuations.
- Community wellbeing impacted because of evacuations that took place during the Central Queensland Bushfires 2018.
- Community wellbeing impacted due to residents having to leave their animals behind.

Economic

- Full economic impacts to be further understood and site visits to be undertaken.

Environment

- In total 32,425ha of land was burnt.
- Impacts to land utilised by primary producers, such as fencing and stock welfare.
- Concern regarding condition of building materials impacted by fire e.g. asbestos.
- Possible impact to domestic animal welfare on inaccessible properties, in lieu of usual care.
- Vastly increased waste created, requiring timely disposal.
- Forecast impact of animal based nuisance as a result of property damage e.g. roaming stock, dogs etc.
- Eight dwellings were destroyed/uninhabitable.
- 23 other structures (sheds/mobile property).

Infrastructure

- A number of roads were closed by QPS due to fire threat during the event.
- Roads impacted by fallen vegetation.

Recovery tasks

Community

- Link community members to temporary accommodation.
 - Provide displaced residents temporary accommodation.
- Identify and communicate available financial assistance options.
- Provide access to psychosocial support for impacted community members through community services.
- Increase community resilience through community development activities and education strategies.

Economic

- Empower local businesses and primary producers
 - Provide education and training programs.

Environment

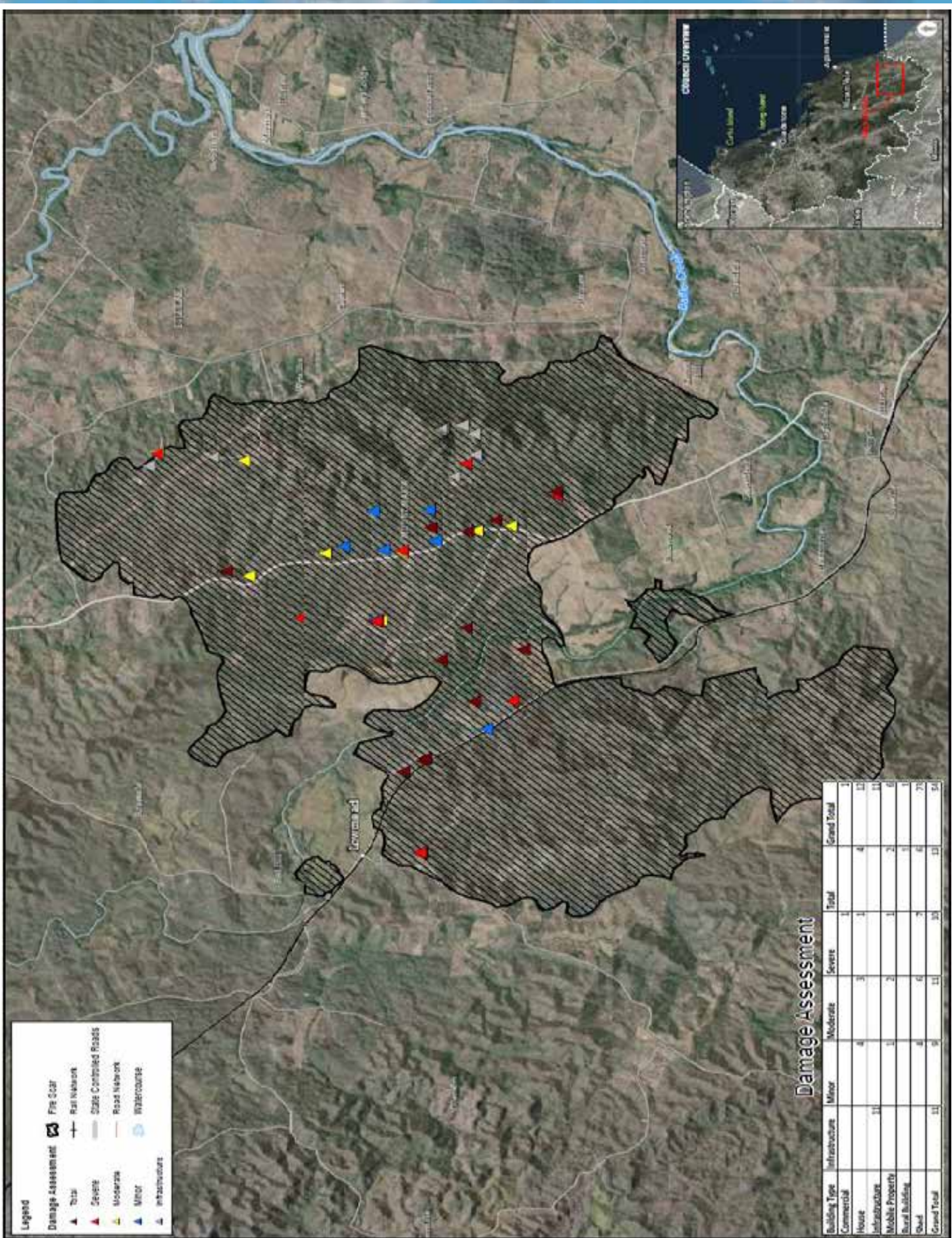
- Provide additional refuse services for affected residents including increased availability for essential services.
 - Refuse services – increase collection schedule.
 - Refuse services – waiving of fees at facilities.
 - Refuse services – safe removal of hazardous material e.g. asbestos.
 - Refuse services – removal of non-hazardous damaged material.
- Conduct building structure safety assessments.
- Provide support to affected residents during the rebuilding of their homes.
 - Provide information about the Queensland Building and Construction Commission building codes.
 - Prioritise building applications for impacted residents.
- Re-build rural property boundary fences.
 - Utilise volunteer groups to provide support to affected residents e.g. assistance with labour and access to fencing material.

Infrastructure

- Reopen roads that were closed during the event.
 - Council to remove vegetation debris from impacted roads.
 - Council to remove fallen trees from impacted roads.
- Provide clean tank water for all impacted residents.
 - Clean tank water – hose down roofs, clean guttering and replace water.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Assistance

Local Government Area	Counter Disaster Operations	Essential Services Safety Reconnection Scheme	Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme	Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Small Business) Loans	Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Primary Producer) Loans	Freight Subsidies for primary producers	Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers
Gladstone Regional Council	Activated 19/12/19	Activated 19/12/19	Activated 19/12/19	Activated 31/01/20	Activated 31/01/20	Activated 31/01/20	Activated 21/02/20



Livingstone Shire Council

November 2019 Bushfires: Local Recovery and Resilience Plan Endorsed by the Livingstone Shire Local Disaster Management Group on 14 November 2019

Recovery narrative

About our community

The Livingstone Shire local government area covers approximately 11,700km², from Stanage Bay in the north, the Keppel Island Group to the east, Nerimbera in the south and Ogmoo and Mount Gardiner in the west. The main population centres are Emu Park and Yeppoon, situated approximately 600km north of Brisbane on Queensland's Capricorn Coast. Livingstone Shire boasts a unique and relaxed lifestyle, strong community values, and diverse natural landscapes. Livingstone Shire has an average daily temperature of 17.8°C and 27.1°C and receives an average of 938mm of rainfall each year. Livingstone Shire's solid economic growth is built on a variety of industries including agriculture, mining and retailing; however, it is best known for tourism, which is based on a variety of natural, cultural, and entertainment attractions.

About the disaster event

On the afternoon of Saturday, 9 November 2019, a fire broke out on Old Byfield Road in Cobraball, a locality in Livingstone Shire. In a matter of hours, the fire spread very quickly and threatened lives and properties. Evacuations began that evening and continued throughout the night and into the next day. In total, approximately 11,500 hectares were affected. Many properties were damaged or destroyed, including fourteen homes which were completely destroyed. Livestock, wildlife, and other animals were also affected, along with significant damage to the natural landscape. Repatriations were completed on 13 November, when the last roads were re-opened to residents. Nineteen localities in Livingstone Shire were impacted, including Barmaryee, Bungundarra, Cobraball, Adelaide Park, Farnborough, Inverness, Lake Mary, and Woodbury.

Local Recovery Group

Chaired by: David Mazzaferri (Local Disaster/Recovery Coordinator)

Four Recovery and Resilience Taskforces have been established, which serve as sub-groups to the Livingstone Shire Local Disaster Management Group. These are:

- Economic and Regional Development;
- Community Development;
- Environment and Regulatory; and
- Built environment.

Key stakeholders

Stakeholders include lead state government agencies, community groups, non-government organisations and associations, local businesses and trade associations, service providers, community members, and other invested parties.

Recovery objectives

- 1 Road safety issues are addressed and roads re-opened quickly.
- 2 Evacuated residents are repatriated (return home or to appropriated longer-term accommodation).
- 3 Essential services (water, power, telecommunications) are restored and repaired safely and efficiently.
- 4 Burnt/damaged guideposts and signs are removed or replaced as required.
- 5 A comprehensive environmental impact/damage assessment is completed.
- 6 Animal welfare concerns are identified and addressed.
- 7 A comprehensive assessment of economic damage to assets and key industries is undertaken.
- 8 Support to farmers, rural landholders, and small businesses impacted by the event is coordinated and effective.
- 9 Funding is sought and secured to ensure holistic recovery and resilience-building initiatives (including improving economic growth, stability, and diversity).
- 10 Funding is lobbied for and secured for a Recovery and Bushfire Resilience Officer to work with the community and agencies.
- 11 Funding is secured for development of a *Resilience Strategy*.
- 12 Ongoing support for environmental health and revegetation programmes is coordinated and sustainable.
- 13 Ongoing industry and business resilience strategies are developed in collaboration with relevant groups and agencies.
- 14 Ongoing holistic support is made available to affected residents to address all recovery and resilience needs.
- 15 Ongoing community-led recovery and resilience initiatives are identified, developed, and supported.

Human and social

- Evacuated residents are repatriated quickly and effectively.
- Residents impacted by the event have access to a range of supports (including funding sources, psychosocial support, and community activities/programmes).
- Funding is sought and obtained to support holistic recovery and resilience-building initiatives.
- Ongoing community-led recovery and resilience strategies are established.

Economic

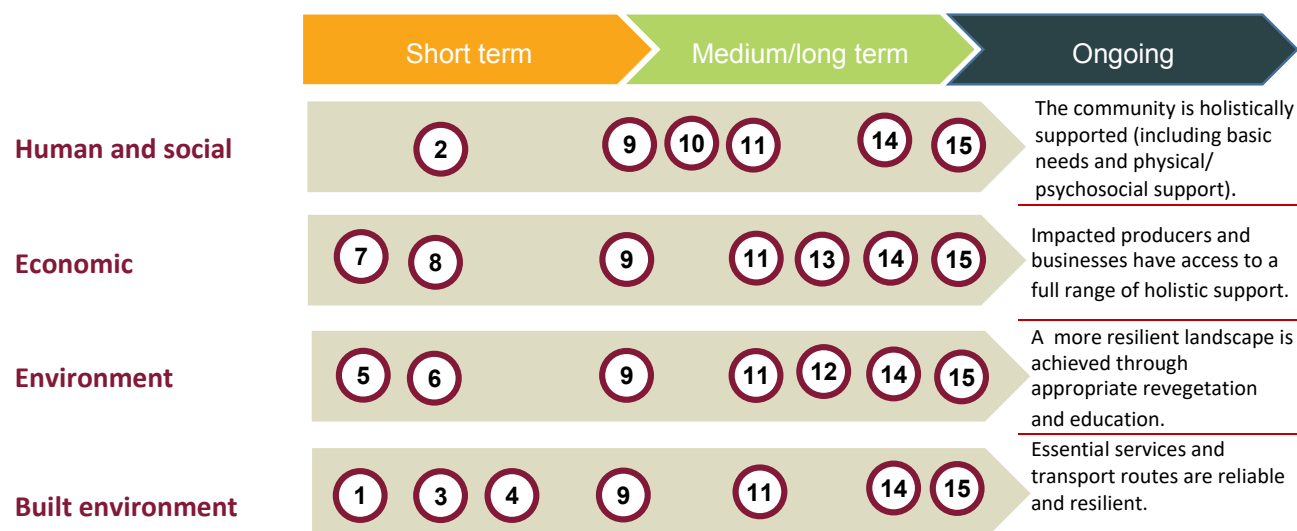
- There is an appropriate understanding of the economic impacts of the event (including impacts on industry and primary producers, and measures of financial assistance and donations provided).
- Primary producers and small businesses have access to appropriate support and financial assistance.
- Funding is sought and obtained to support holistic recovery and resilience-building initiatives.
- Ongoing economic resilience strategies are established (including continuity and recovery implementation planning).

Environment

- Damage assessments are compiled and shared with appropriate agencies.
- Animal welfare issues are identified and addressed.
- Environmental health hazards are reduced through provision of appropriate information (including hazardous waste disposal, biosecurity measures, and safe vegetation clearing).
- Funding for ongoing recovery and environmental rehabilitation programmes is sought and secured (including erosion control measures, appropriate revegetation, and community awareness campaigns).

Built environment

- Essential services are restored in a timely and effective manner.
- Roads are cleared and re-opened to residents quickly.
- Funding is sought and secured to support reconstruction of assets and development of resilient infrastructure.



Human and social

- Loss of 14 homes and 37 other structures.
- 1064 dwellings affected by event.
- Significant loss of/damage to property (including vehicles, fences, and machinery).
- Evacuations for 78 hours+.
- Loss of power for 5 days+ for some residents.
- Exacerbation of health concerns due to smoke inhalation.
- Significant and extended psychosocial, mental, and financial stress related to cumulative effect of multiple disasters in recent years.

Economic

- Loss of income for primary producers (including destruction of approximately 8500 hectares of grazing land and 275 hectares of horticultural production land).
- Loss of income for peri-urban producers and small producers.
- Significant financial losses for residents (including loss of income, loss of home/contents, sheds, machinery, and vehicles).
- 747 properties (rated against productivity land use) impacted – *currently being validated*.
- Evacuated residents unable to feed and water stock for extended period of time.

Built environment

- Damage to approximately 100 guideposts and 20 signs.
- Damage to Energy Queensland infrastructure.
- Significant damage to trees on road reserves at risk of falling onto roads.
- Extensive road closures throughout the event.

Environment

- Significant loss of vegetation across 11,500 hectares and associated psychosocial implications related to destruction of environment.
- Significant loss of/injuries to wildlife and other animals.
- Major impact on protected species and localised extinction risk.
- Increase in green waste (burnt/damaged trees and vegetation) on properties.

Damage and impacts

Human and social

- Essential services (water, power, telecommunications) repaired and restored.
- Appropriate longer-term accommodation coordinated for residents whose homes were destroyed.
- Coordination of donations and offers of support to affected residents.
- Community Recovery Hub established to address immediate needs of residents.
- Affected residents have access to emergency funding sources and are supported in making applications.
- Health/social/psychosocial wellbeing of affected residents to be monitored and assessed.
- Provide ongoing access to support services in partnership with appropriate agencies.
- Lobby for funding for ongoing case coordination to support affected residents.
- Promote positive news stories about community recovery and resilience.

- Coordinate community debriefing at an appropriate time following the event.
- Develop *Community Fire Management Plans* in collaboration with residents to ensure strategic fire breaks/community resources/communication methods are understood and gaps are addressed where required.
- Develop strategies to promote community connectedness and social inclusion.
- Coordinate community education opportunities to ensure residents have access to accurate and appropriate information.
- Seek funding to ensure the community is supported in recovering from this event and that resilience to future events is enhanced (including funding for a Recovery and Bushfire Resilience Officer and development of a *Resilience Strategy*).
- Support to schools for education and assurance on all hazards and risks.

Recovery tasks

Economic

- Liaise with agencies (including Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services) and landholders to assess economic impact of the event.
- Develop a functional tool for capturing economic costs of disasters for use in future events.
- Ensure barriers to logistical issues (including transportation and storage) are reduced.
- Promote positive news stories about the local economy and market stability/recovery.
- Develop and implement strategies to maximise use of local resources during reconstruction activities (a *Local Content Plan*).
- Work with all relevant stakeholders to facilitate a 'one-government', holistic approach to recovery.
- Work with primary producers, small businesses, and relevant agencies to develop business/industry recovery implementation plans.
- Ensure businesses and industry have access to information on funds, grants, and loans available from government and other entities.
- Provide targeted information regarding business continuity planning.
- Facilitate education sessions to ensure landholders understand insurance needs.
- Seek funding to ensure local producers and businesses can recover and economic resilience is improved for future events.
- Identify, implement, and seek funding for programs to build economic growth, stability, and diversity in the area.

Built environment

- Repair and restore essential services (power, water, waste, telecommunications).
- Inspect and remove burnt trees on road reserves.
- Promote positive news stories about restoration of infrastructure.
- Seek funding opportunities to support holistic recovery and resilience efforts, including measures to ensure ongoing resilience and reliability of essential infrastructure.
- Work with relevant stakeholders to develop *Community Fire Management Plans* to ensure strategic fire breaks/ community resources/communication methods are understood and gaps addressed where required.
- Develop ongoing resilience strategies in collaboration with community members and relevant agencies.
- Examine and improve the resilience of critical infrastructure.

Environment

- Conduct desktop and field assessments including direct fire damage, contamination, mechanical clearing, and downstream impacts.
- Liaise with relevant state agencies to ensure coordinated, holistic support is offered to impacted residents during recovery.
- Obtain and provide advice to assist landholders regarding environmental health hazards (including water quality, disposing of food waste, asbestos removal, and vegetation disposal).
- Obtain and provide biosecurity advice and safety measures for fodder and water transport and vehicles entering properties.
- Restore/retain/maintain areas for erosion control purposes on public land as required.
- Work with landholders to implement long-term erosion control measures.
- Facilitate natural revegetation and develop rehabilitation plans for environmental assets.
- Coordinate projects for revegetation/weed control to address fire risks and increase healthy native ecosystems.
- Seek funding to ensure environment can recover and resilience is improved for future events.
- Develop and support programmes to aid in clean-up of impacted land (including chemical clean-ups, waste plastic removal etc.).
- Coordinate community education opportunities to ensure residents have access to accurate and appropriate information.
- Develop Community Fire Management Plans in collaboration with residents and agencies to ensure strategic fire breaks/community resources/communication methods are understood and gaps addressed where required.
- Develop monitoring programmes to assess environmental recovery and develop interventions to improve long-term environmental recovery where necessary.
- Investigate and support Indigenous Fire Management training where appropriate.

Lockyer Valley Regional Council Bushfire Recovery Plan

Eastern Queensland Bushfires, 7 October – 19 December 2019

Endorsed by: Lockyer Valley Regional Council on 17 June 2020



Recovery narrative

Recovery narrative

Known as Australia's Food Bowl, the Lockyer Valley is rated among the top 10 most fertile farming areas in the world and has been positioned as one of the leading agricultural production zones in Australia.

The Traditional Owners of the Lockyer Valley region are the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul People.

Lockyer Valley's \$1.65 billion economy supports more than 13,000 jobs, with the main industries being Goods, Household Services, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

Lockyer Valley Regional Council is committed to deliver sustainable services to enhance the liveability of the community while embracing our economic, cultural and natural diversity.

Council Values

Lockyer Valley Regional Council has a strong set of values that remind us of what is important as an organisation. We strive to enable opportunities within our region with a strong customer focus. Our values are:

- **Leadership** - We lead through excellence and partner with the community to achieve Council's vision and mission.
- **Accountability** - We accept ownership of our role and take responsibility for our actions. We are results focused, take pride in our successes and efforts and learn from our mistakes.
- **Integrity** - We strive to be valued and trusted by the Lockyer Valley community. We are respectful, open, transparent and honest in our dealings with the community. At all times we act in the best interests of the community.
- **Communication** - We embrace diversity and communicate openly and honestly. We listen actively, consider and value the views of others. Our communication is clear, concise and consistent.
- **Customer Focus** - We strive to engage and communicate with our internal and external customers to meet agreed outcomes. We identify and aim to meet the needs of all customers in a responsive and equitable manner.
- **Teamwork & Collaboration** - We value creative thinking and look for opportunities to collaborate and connect to deliver a better Lockyer Valley. We work together by recognising and sharing our talents, skills, experience and knowledge.

About the disaster event

On 19 September 2019, a lightning strike started a fire within Glen Rock Park. This fire made its way into private property and escalated on 8 October 2019 at Left Hand Branch, Thornton and Townson. These fires were fuelled by warmer than average temperatures (up to 41 degrees), gale-force westerly winds, and at one stage, the fire danger level reached catastrophic for the first time ever.

On 7 November 2019 a smouldering tree in an inaccessible area reignited the fire in the Thornton area of the Lockyer Valley. The fire escalated on 8 November and affected Thornton, Mulgowie, Left Hand Branch and Ingoldsby over the following weeks.

Approximately 22,000 hectares were impacted by the 2019 bushfires in the Lockyer Valley region.

Local Recovery Group

Chaired by: Chief Executive Officer, Ian Church

Lines of Recovery

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council Recovery Sub Plan involves five key functions: Human and Social, Economic, Environment, Built and Roads and Transport.

Key stakeholders

Stakeholders include lead state government agencies, community groups, non-government organisations/non-government associations, local businesses and other invested parties.

Recovery objectives

Recovery objectives

1. Immediate response and recovery activities have been undertaken to ensure communities have access to essential services.
2. Evacuated individuals have returned to their homes.
3. Affected community members are aware of, and have accessed, available psychosocial support services and information on financial support.
4. Impacted businesses and primary producers are aware of and have accessed to financial support services.
5. A weed management program has been developed and implemented to assist with the rejuvenation of flora in the region.
6. Funding assistance opportunities have been identified to support community recovery efforts where required.
7. Funding assistance has been identified to support land management resilience.
8. Rural properties have been supported in the repair of fencing, sheds, stock welfare and paddock feed.
9. Risk mitigation and building resilience for essential services is undertaken.
10. Recovery of national parks and surrounding environment to increase the production of flora and fauna in the region.
11. Revegetation to restore habitat for native fauna and biodiversity conservation.
12. Confidence is restored in the tourism market.
13. Enhance community education for resilience for all hazards through community engagement.



Mayor
Cr Tanya Milligan



CEO
Mr Ian Church

Damage and impacts

Human and Social

- Evacuations – short term instructed and self-evacuations (129 people registered at evacuation centre, many more self evacuated).
- Psychosocial wellbeing of community members affected, compounded by drought.
- Public health – air quality impacted due to smoke, leading to increase in respiratory illnesses.
- Isolation for children due to school closure - Thornton State School.
- Laidley hospital – one patient relocated to Ipswich hospital.
- Compounded financial stress from bushfires and drought for small businesses and primary producers due to loss of stock, pastures and fencing.
- Increase in requirement for mental health support within the community, compounded by drought.

Built

- Power poles damaged/destroyed.
- 1 house destroyed.
- 11 properties sustained damage across the region
- Many kilometres of fencing destroyed
- Numerous sheds and outbuildings destroyed

Transport and Roads

- Road closures in fire impacted areas
- Road furniture damaged/destroyed.

Environment

- Loss of native flora and fauna in the region.
- Koalas moving into new habitats.
- Intensive soil damage.
- Increase in soil erosion due to loss of top soil as a result of the bushfires and compounding affects of drought.
- Threats to water quality.
- Increase in pests and weeds.
- Loss of power to a number of properties /businesses.
- Burnt and fallen trees – public health and safety risk.

Economic

- Tourism impacts:
 - Potential impact on tourism due to road closures and closure of national parks (Glen Rock)
 - Potential impact on tourism due to closure of the Bicentennial National Trail
 - Potential impacts on tourism due to closure of recreational facilities and campgrounds at Centenary Park, Thornton for two weeks.
- Impacts to rural properties such as, loss of fencing, drop in stock welfare and paddock feed.
- Smoke impact to horticulture producers – loss of crop/production.
- Loss/damage to primary production equipment – plant, vehicles, sheds etc.
- Mulgowie Short Course car racing cancelled due to bushfire impacts.
- Loss of cattle in the Thornton region.
- Hobby farmers destocking due to fires, compounded by drought.

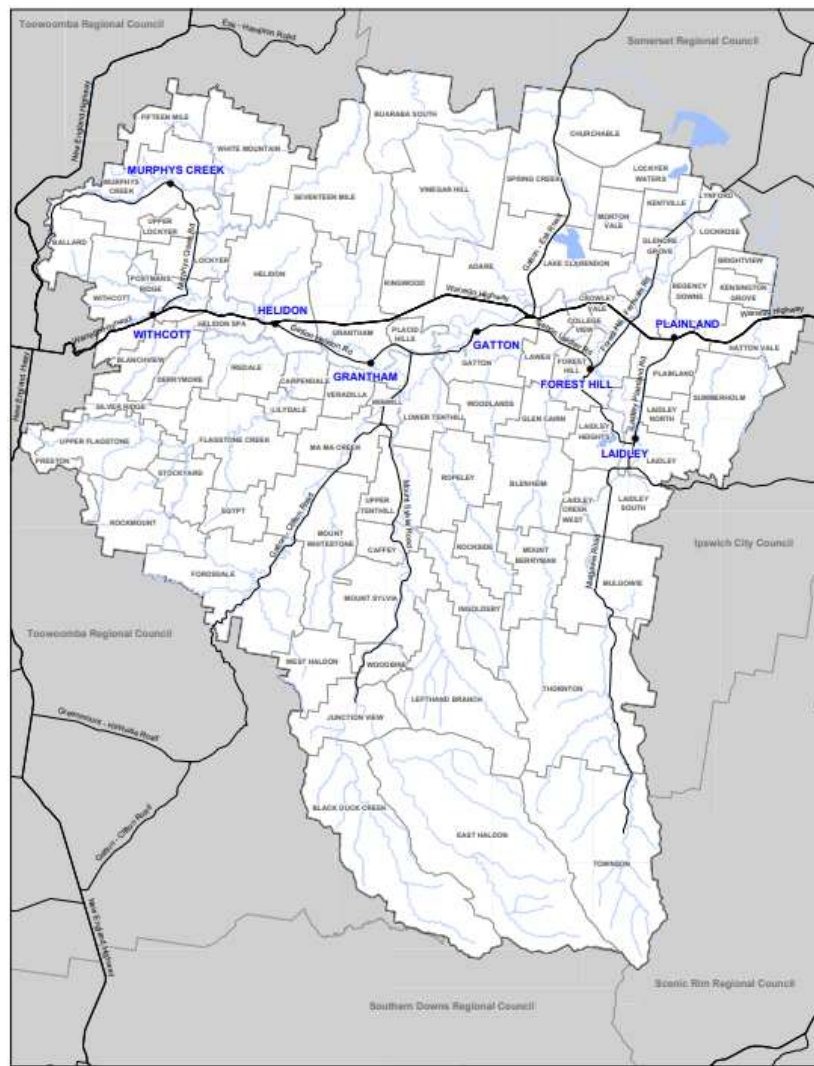
Recovery timeframes

	Short term						Medium to long term						Ongoing			
Human and Social	1	2	3	6	12	13	3	6	8	12	13	3	6	12	13	
Economic	4	6			12	13	4	6		12	13	6		12	13	
Environment			5		11	13	6	11	13			6	7	9	11	13
Built	1	6			13		6	8	13	6						13
Transport and Roads	1	6		11	13			6		13	6					13



Lockyer Valley Regional Council

Map of Lockyer Valley



Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance

For details of activations and assistance measures visit www.qra.qld.gov.au/activations.

Disaster relief measure

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Primary Producer) Loans
- Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers
- Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers

Activation date

15/11/2019
31/01/2020
31/01/2020
21/02/2020



Recovery tasks

Human and social

- Assess human and social impacts to community.
- Conduct community outreach visits to affected individuals.
- In partnership with relevant agencies, provide access to psychological support services to those in need of assistance.
- Promote psychosocial support to impacted community members.
- Reopen schools.
- Participate in LDMG and agency briefings
- Community education around land management.
- Review and update local plans as required.
- Provision of information and referrals to existing support services.

Built

- Power reconnections to affected areas of the community.
- Provide assistance in the repair of infrastructure on rural properties by advising residents of available support programs.
- Repair and restore essential services.
- Undertake damage assessments.

Economic

- Develop a strategy to re-engage the tourism market by issuing messaging that promotes the Lockyer Valley region.
- Assist with fencing replacement by directing impacted residents to relevant funding opportunities.
- Identify impact on agriculture and small businesses and potential funding opportunities to assist recovery.

Environment

- Seek resources to support the development and implementation of a pest and weed program.
- Implement targeted pest and weed program.
- Seek resources to support the development and implementation of an ecological restoration and regeneration program.
- Undertake hazardous tree assessment.
- In partnership with wildlife carers, provide support to impacted wildlife.
- Test water quality of natural waterways to determine impacts from bushfire residue.
- Monitor air quality.
- Reopen national parks.

Roads and Transport

- Reopen roads once bushfire related hazards are contained.
- Replace damaged road furniture.
- Remove burnt trees/vegetation from road corridors, as required.

Measures of success

- Impacted individuals have returned to their homes or have transitioned into appropriate accommodation.
- Targeted outreach visits to impacted areas have been completed, human and social impacts have been identified and referrals have been made to relevant partner agencies if required.
- Psychosocial support has been provided to community members where required.
- Schools have reopened and children have returned to school.
- Essential services have been restored and are operational.
- Landholders, small businesses and primary producers have been made aware of and have access to relevant support.
- Pest and weed program has been developed and implemented.
- Ecological restoration and regeneration program has been developed and implemented.
- Relevant funding has been secured, developed and implemented to support community recovery.
- Improvements to infrastructure that were damaged by the bushfire events have been made.
- Strategies have been developed to support re-establishment of native flora and fauna and monitoring has indicated a revival in numbers.
- National parks and camping grounds have been reopened.
- Relevant funding applications have been lodged.
- Water/air quality issues have been resolved.
- Assets damaged by the bushfires have been identified.

Noosa Shire Council

2019 Bushfires - Local Recovery Plan

Approved by Local Disaster Recovery Coordinator

Recovery narrative

About our community

Situated at the northern tip of Queensland's Sunshine Coast, Noosa Shire covers an area of 871km² and is home to more than 54,000 people. The Traditional Owners and original custodians of the land are the Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi people.

Noosa Shire has an economy that is diversifying beyond a thriving tourism industry. It is recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere and has a proud history of preserving its natural environment. Thirty-five per cent of the Shire is protected as either national park, reserve or conservation area.

About the disaster event

In September and November 2019, the Noosa Shire experienced unprecedented weather conditions, which attributed to severe bushfires occurring in the shire. These fires impacted properties, public assets, critical infrastructure, small businesses and the local environment. As a result of these impacts, approximately 8000 people were evacuated from their properties and additional firefighting resources from the surrounding area were deployed to respond to these bushfires.

A total of 13,700 hectares was burnt during this period across the Noosa Shire.

Local Recovery Group

Chaired by: Cr Joe Jurisevic
Local Recovery Coordinator: Kerri Contini
Human Social: Alison Hamblin
Infrastructure: Adam Britton
Environment: Craig Doolan
Economic: Anthony Dow

Key stakeholders

Noosa Shire Council
Queensland Police Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
Australian Red Cross

Recovery objectives

Timeline

- ① All evacuated residents are returned to their homes safely.
- ② Restoration of essential services - Power, water, waste, and telecommunications.
- ③ Mental health and community well-being support for community.
- ④ Support and assist people to access emergency hardship grants and funding approvals.
- ⑤ Utilise community events to engage with the community and provide further mental health support as needed.
- ⑥ Maintain community messaging to provide updates during recovery.
- ⑦ Build community resilience for future disasters (all hazards).
- ⑧ Undertake economic impact assessment.
- ⑨ Support primary producers.
- ⑩ Restore and build confidence in the tourism market in affected areas e.g. camping, retreats etc.
- ⑪ Restore and build on confidence in the tourism market for the Noosa Shire.
- ⑫ Support small business.
- ⑬ Empower local businesses to improve their resilience to disasters.
- ⑭ Build on the confidence in the tourism market.
- ⑮ Undertake environmental impact assessment.
- ⑯ Establish provisions for environmental rehabilitation in burnt areas.
- ⑰ Review fire management plans and develop community resilience and awareness.
- ⑱ Undertake impact assessments of damaged properties and infrastructure.
- ⑲ Restoration of community facilities and networks.
- ⑳ Undertake impact assessment of road transport network.

Human and social

- Evacuation centres established quickly to provide safe refuge.
- Immediate post-disaster community support provided to impacted people including assistance with emergency hardship payments.
- Follow-up community activities implemented to monitor mental health implications and provide support where required.
- The community kept up-to-date with key information during the recovery process.
- Community resilience increased for future disasters.

Economic

- Impact assessment for businesses undertaken.
- Support provided for affected businesses.
- Media campaigns to build on confidence in the tourism sector particularly those businesses that were impacted developed and delivered.

Environment

- Environmental impact assessment for flora and fauna has been completed.
- Environmental impact assessment for wildlife has been completed.
- Review of Council's fire management plan has been completed.
- Environmental waste has been disposed of safely.

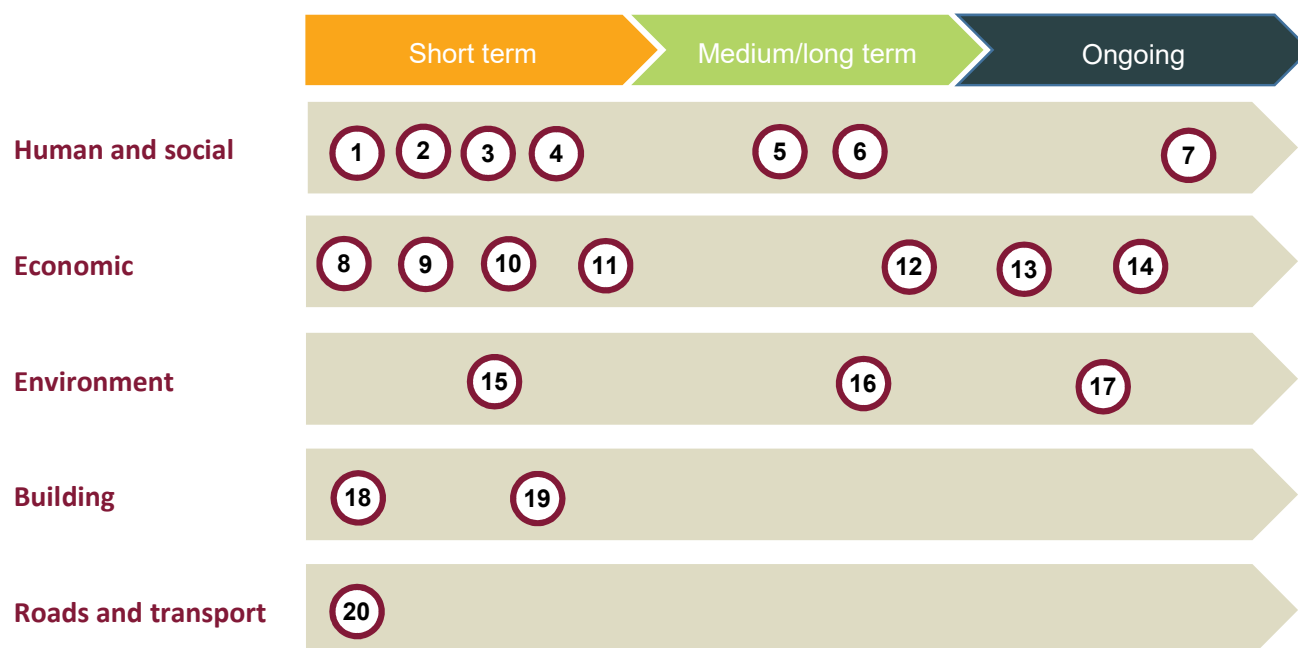
- Resource informing community about Council's fire management plan, as well as the purpose of hazard reduction burns outside of fire season, has been produced and released.

Building

- An impact assessment to understand damage to properties has been completed.
- The community has been supported with the facilitation of the reconstruction of homes where necessary.
- An impact assessment to understand damage to community facilities has been completed.
- Damage to community facilities has been repaired.
- The Queensland Building and Construction Commission Bushfire Rebuild Register has been shared with the community.

Roads and transport

- Impact assessment of the road transport network has been completed.
- All roads have been reopened.



Peregian Beach Bushfires - September 2019

Human and social

- Residents in the entire Peregian Beach suburb and neighbouring suburbs in Sunshine Coast LGA.
- Evacuation centre numbers:
 - a. Noosa Leisure Centre – 220 people
 - b. The J – 350 people.

Economic

- Power outage to Peregian Beach commercial district.
- Food loss to retail and hospitality businesses.

Environment

- Local wildlife impacted.
- 366 hectares burnt in Peregian area.

Building

- One house destroyed, low level infrastructure damage to several properties e.g. fence destruction.

Roads and transport

- David Low Way closed.

Cooroibah/Noosa North Shore Bushfires – November 2019

Human and social

- Residents in the northern area of Cooroibah, Noosa Banks, Daintree Estate, Forest Links Estate (Yellowwood Close/Blacknutt, Kurrajong), Noosa North Shore (McKinnon Drive between Tronson Road and Louis Brazzo Drive) evacuated approximately 6000 people.
- Evacuation Centre Numbers
 - Noosaville Library – 35 people
 - Noosa Leisure Centre – 350 people
 - The J – 110 people
 - Cooroy Library – 20 people
 - Christian Outreach Church – 90 people
 - Girraween Sports Complex – 2 people
- Power outage to Cooroibah (232 properties), Ringtail Creek (39 properties) and Tewantin (3 houses).

Economic

- Noosa North Shore ferry operations impacted.
- Cancellation of bookings to North Shore accommodation and hospitality.
- Closure of Tewantin commercial district for 24 hours.

Environment

- Local wildlife impacted.
- 1100 hectares burnt in Cooroibah.

Building

- Power disconnected to the pump stations on Lakeway Drive Cooroibah.
- One house destroyed, two unapproved dwellings destroyed and four sheds impacted.

Roads and transport

- McKinnon Drive closed north from Butler Street.

Human and social

- Establish community recovery hub for people who require support including assistance with emergency hardship payments.
- Conduct community outreach for those people who are not in a position to access recovery centre.
- Utilise community events and networks to check in with the community to monitor mental health implications and provide support as required.
- Keep the community up-to-date with key milestones during recovery.
- Develop a community messaging campaign focusing on building resilience for future disasters from an all hazards approach.

Economic

- Work closely with state agencies and collect impact data for rural residential properties.
- Work closely with state agencies and collect impact data for primary producer properties.
- Develop media campaigns to build on confidence in the tourism sector particularly businesses that were impacted.

Environment

- Conduct an environmental impact assessment for flora and fauna.
- Conduct a review of Council's fire management plan.
- Create a resource that informs community on what Council's fire management plan entails as well as the purpose of hazard reduction burns outside of fire season.
- Disposal of environmental waste.

Building

- Conduct an impact assessment to understand damage to properties.
- Support the community with facilitating their reconstruction of homes where necessary.
- Conduct an impact assessment to understand damage to community facilities.
- Repair any damage to community facilities.
- Share the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Bushfire Rebuild Register with the community to ensure building codes are met.

Roads and transport

- Conduct an impact assessment of the road transport network.
- Reopen roads that were closed during the events.

Scenic Rim Local Recovery Group

Bushfire Recovery *Plan on a Page*

Southern Queensland Bushfires, 6 – 12 September 2019 and

Eastern Queensland Bushfires, which impacted the western part of the Scenic Rim
November to 19 December 2019.

Endorsed by: Scenic Rim Local Recovery Group

Recovery narrative

Recovery narrative

Surrounded by World-Heritage listed national parks, breathtaking scenery and highest quality, locally grown fresh food, the Scenic Rim remains a popular must-see tourist destination. Only one hour from both Brisbane and the Gold Coast, the Scenic Rim's unique location makes for an ideal getaway location.

The Scenic Rim is a robust and resilient community, assisting each other through previous events and associated recovery. The Scenic Rim is committed to ensuring that our communities have a successful and resilient future and will approach recovery from an empathic and inclusive approach in partnership with other agencies.

Council Values

- Communication – we actively promote clear, concise and open discussion between staff, Council and communities.
- Respect - we act respectfully towards each other, accepting each person's individuality and their role
- Quality - we have pride in whatever we do and strive to do it well
- Staff worth - our actions demonstrate that our people matter
- Trust - we build strong relationships that we believe in and rely on.
- Teamwork - we work cooperatively to achieve common goals, drawing on the strengths of each other, in a supportive and safe environment.
- Honesty - we act with integrity and when we ask an honest question, we get an honest answer.
- Accountability - we accept ownership of our role and responsibility for our actions.

About the disaster event

In September 2019, the Southern Queensland Bushfires impacted a number of communities across the Scenic Rim, specifically areas of Binna Burra and Sarabah. The bushfires burned over some weeks, causing significant disruption to essential services, businesses, schools and tourism. In November 2019 bushfires, known as the Eastern Queensland Bushfires struck the Scenic Rim region, crucially impacting rural communities of farming and agriculture in areas of Tarome, Clumber and Carney's Creek.

Local Recovery Group

Established: 16 September 2019

Chaired by: Local Recovery Coordinator – Mrs. Debra Moore, Manager Community & Culture

Disaster Management Coordinator – Alisa Totenhofer

Lines of Recovery

The Scenic Rim Regional Council Recovery Plan on a Page involves four key functions:

- **Human and Social, Economic, Environment and Infrastructure** (Building, Roads and Transport).
- Based on the magnitude of the bushfires and ability for the Council to lead the recovery, the functions of Roads and Transport and Building have been amalgamated into one function called 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 objectives

Recovery objectives

1. Essential services – power and telecommunications - repaired and restored.
2. Emergency funding provided to eligible applicants.
3. Damage and impact assessments – completed.
4. Offers of assistance are effectively managed
5. Fencing, sheds, water tanks and farming infrastructure repaired and/or replaced.
6. Water tanks are able to be utilised
7. Restore confidence in the tourism market.
8. Road transport network – complete damage assessments, develop reconstruction program and coordinate works for state and local controlled roads.
9. Increase community awareness and preparedness for all hazards through community engagement.
10. Employment opportunities are sourced for those from Binna Burra Lodge
11. Recovery of wildlife habitats to accelerate return of wildlife.
12. Enhance the resilience of local businesses
13. Repair and rebuild of homes and businesses.
14. Seek further funding assistance opportunities to support community recovery efforts where needed.
15. Enhance recovery governance through the re-development of a Local Recovery Sub-Plan.
16. Support the restoration and re-establishment of Binna Burra Lodge and additional businesses and services affected.
17. Recovery of national parks and surrounding environment.
18. Replacement of park infrastructure and camp grounds and ensure public areas are safe from fire damage trees and other items.



Mayor
Cr Greg Christensen



CEO
Mr Jon Gibbons



LR Coordinator
Mrs Debra Moore

im, from 8
ery Group on 6 March 2020

Damage and impacts

Human and Social

- Community wellbeing – short term instructed and self-evacuations of Binna Burra, Sarabah, Palen Creek, and Carney's Creek areas.
- Community wellbeing – financial stress from lack of insurance
- Community wellbeing – psychosocial wellbeing of community members affected, compounded trauma from drought.
- Community Wellbeing – loss of community connections
- Public Health – concerns about water contamination, in particular with regards to retardant and ash, after rain events.
- Public Health – concerns on exposure to asbestos
- Isolation for children due to school closure – Beechmont State School.
- Essential services – loss of power and water to affected communities.
- Essential services – loss to little telephone and mobile service.

Economic

- Impacts to land utilised by rural producers, such as fencing, stock welfare and loss of paddock feed.
- Loss of income to local services and small businesses: power outages, damage, staff isolation.
- Insurance – lack of or underinsurance for residential and business properties
- Tourism: potential impact on tourism due to road closures and closure of national parks
- Tourism: drop in custom, cancellation of bookings and reduction of enquiries to hospitality businesses.
- Tourism: perception that area is unsafe - impacting local businesses.
- Loss of income for employees at Binna Burra Lodge – annual wage bill - \$1.8M/year.
- Loss of income for local suppliers of Binna Burra Lodge – annual supplies - \$3.6-4M/year.
- Loss of income for businesses and suppliers were experienced around closure of major highway.
- Loss of employment for Binna Burra Lodge employees
- Evacuations resulted in a loss of customers for O'Reillys, Spicer's Peak Lodge and surrounding local businesses.

Environment

- Damage to park infrastructure
- Potential contamination threat due to asbestos exposure.
- Catchments and waterways impacted by the fire, debris run off and retardants.
- Threats to water quality.
- Burnt and fallen trees – public health and safety risk.
- Concerns surrounding vegetation regrowth for rural producers.
- National, state and local parks and walking trails damaged, impacting on public access.
- Threat to flora and fauna in the region.

Infrastructure (Built and Roads)

- 11 dwellings were destroyed/uninhabitable.
- 18 properties sustained damage.
- A number of roads were closed due to fire threat during event.
- Major highways were closed, including Cunningham Highway and Mt Lindesay highway.
- Large landslip impacted Binna Burra Road. Estimated to remain closed until mid-2020.
- Heritage listed Binna Burra Lodge was destroyed.
- Vegetation impacting road furniture.
- Power disconnected to a number of homes.
- Road signs damaged.
- Water tanks sustained fire damage/residue
- Damage to dwellings, exposing hazardous materials such as asbestos.

Recovery timeframes

	Short term (ST)				Medium to long term (ML)				Ongoing (OG)					
Human and Social	1	2	3	10					15	16	4	9	14	
Economic			3		6	5	13	15	16	4	7	12	14	
Environment	1		3						15	16	4	11	17	14
Infrastructure	1		3		8		13	15	16	4	18		14	

Scenic Rim Regional Council

Map of Scenic Rim



Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance

For details of activations and assistance measures visit www.qra.qld.gov.au/activations

Disaster relief measure

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets
- Disaster Assistance (Small Business) Loans
- Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Small Business
- Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Primary Producers
- Disaster Assistance (not-for-profit organisations) Loans
- Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for not for-profit organisations
- Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers
- Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme
- Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS)*

Activation date

07/09/2019
11/09/2019
13/09/2019
13/09/2019
13/09/2019
13/09/2019
13/09/2019
13/09/2019
13/09/2019
07/09/2019
07/09/2019

*The PHAS and ESSRS for Scenic Rim is limited, refer to www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/queensland-disasters for specific areas.

Recovery tasks

Human and social

- Assess human and social impacts
- Provide emergency hardship payments to eligible impacted individuals
- Provide Australian Disaster Recovery Payments to eligible impacted individuals
- Identify and manage personal hardship cases within the community.
- In partnership with relevant agencies, provide access to psychological support services to those in need of assistance.
- Reopen schools and businesses.
- Community messaging relating to fire retardant
- Community events – fundraising/donation events and community engagement events
- Community Messaging – Enhancing community messaging through social media.
- Manage donated goods.

Economic

- Develop strategy to re-engage tourism market “open for business”.
- Develop resilience strategies for local businesses
- Provide support for Insurance challenges .
- Support workers unemployed as a result of the Binna Burra closure.
- Identify impact on agriculture and potential funding opportunities to assist recovery.

Measures of success

Human and Social

- Community members have returned home or have transitioned from “Places of Refuge” into appropriate accommodation.
- Community members have returned to work.
- Schools have reopened and children returned to school.
- Community members were able to access a recovery hub.
- Community members supported through outreach visits.
- Eligible community members have accessed financial assistance.
- Community messaging – community recovery newsletters have been distributed and received across impact zones.
- Community and visitors participate in and support community events.
- Funding secured to support community recovery and resilience strategies.
- Stronger partnerships and relationships built with communities and local non-government organisations.
- Community resilience has increased through education and engagement.
- Donated goods have been managed effectively
- Enhanced community connectedness through the use of media means.

Environment

- Identify impacts and activities to support the recovery of the natural environment.
- Remove hazardous debris/vegetation.
- Identify impact to wildlife and their habitats.
- Regeneration of wildlife numbers and habitats
- Clean up of national parks.
- Safely remove hazardous waste (asbestos).
- Arborist to inspect and remove hazardous trees in public areas
- Water tanks, quality of residential water tanks.
- Repair damage to park infrastructure and camp grounds.

Infrastructure (built and roads)

- Establish damage to dwellings / damage assessments to be undertaken
- Repair fencing to rural producer properties
- Reopen roads and highways
- Identify damaged public assets (buildings and roads)
- Identify damage to Binna Burra Lodge and support recovery through the Binna Burra Lodge taskforce.
- Removal of vegetation impacting road and road furniture.
- Power reconnections.
- Water tanks, clean and drinkable water supply to individual/private owners.
- Waste levy fee waived for bushfire waste/debris.

Economic

- Binna Burra Lodge workers transitioned to other employment.
- Tourism – targeted tourism strategies released, resulting in increased tourism.
- Tourism – live reads/adverts/open for business messaging across SE QLD has been implemented.
- Binna Burra Lodge has reopened and is accepting guests.
- Individuals are able to resolve insurance challenges
- Funding to support agricultural recovery has been sought.

Environment

- Wildlife strategies have been developed to support re-establishment.
- National parks and camping grounds have been reopened.
- Waste has been appropriately disposed of.
- Wildlife monitoring has indicated a revival in animal numbers
- Water quality issues of individual/private owners have been resolved.

Infrastructure (built and roads)

- Asset damage has been identified.
- Fencing is repaired.
- Hazardous trees and damaged infrastructure posing safety issues have been removed.
- Roads are open and usable.
- Damage assessments have been undertaken and damage to properties has been repaired.
- Power has been reconnected to all properties.
- Water tanks are clean and usable.

Somerset Regional Council

Bushfire Recovery Plan

Eastern Queensland Bushfires, 7 October – 19 December 2019

Endorsed by: Somerset Regional Council on 12 February 2020

Recovery narrative

Recovery narrative

Somerset is a region rich in diversity. From breathtaking mountain scenery to major water resources and recreational assets such as Lakes Wivenhoe and Somerset, the Somerset region is full of beauty and discovery, which makes for an ideal country getaway and outdoor adventure. Located only an hour away from Brisbane's CBD, Somerset's native forests, placid waterways and picturesque patchwork landscape is a major attraction for tourists and locals alike.

Despite its idyllic lifestyle and location, the Somerset region is no stranger to disaster events, which has made for a robust and resilient community unit. Somerset is committed to increasing the resilience and growth of the community while continuing its commitment to a sustainable future.

Council Mission

We, in partnership with the community, will realise our vision by:

- Focussing on our customer's needs
- Planning for the future
- Utilising resources efficiently and effectively
- Using sound business practices
- Utilising the practice of continuous improvement

About the disaster event

During the November-December 2019 bushfires, a number of communities within the Somerset region were forced to evacuate due to uncontained fires throughout the area. The fires continued to burn over several weeks, which led to disruption throughout the community, in particular to essential services, businesses, rural producers and tourism. The event required a multi-agency response, including the help of interstate and international firefighters, to bring the blaze under control.

Approximately 25,500 hectares were impacted by the 2019 bushfires in the Somerset region.

Local Recovery Group

Due to the prolonged time frames the fires continued (over two months), the Local Recovery Group was not formally established. Instead it was decided that the recovery could be managed by the lead agencies involved based on 'business as usual'. As such, in using this practical model for our recovery plan, Council did not require full activation of all the subgroups. Similarly, during the fire events, the LDMG did not meet the need to go beyond 'Lean Forward' and operated by direct interaction with lead agencies.

Lines of Recovery

The Somerset Regional Council Recovery Sub Plan involves four key functions:

- **Human and Social**
- **Economic**
- **Environment**
- **Infrastructure**

Key stakeholders

Stakeholders include lead state government agencies, community groups, non-government organisations/non-government associations, local businesses and other invested parties.

Recovery objectives

Recovery objectives

1. Essential services power and water supply - repaired and restored.
2. Emergency funding (personal hardship) available to the community.
3. Provide psychosocial support to community members.
4. Rural producer fencing repaired and/or replaced.
5. Damage and impact assessments performed by QFES.
6. Fencing, sheds, water tanks and farming infrastructure repaired and/or replaced.
7. Restore confidence in the tourism market.
8. Damaged/destroyed road furniture is removed or replaced as required. Ensure that fire damaged trees are inspected and removed if needed.
9. Increase community awareness and preparedness for all hazards through community engagement.
10. Recovery of wildlife habitats to accelerate return of wildlife.
11. Assist residents in finding grants/funding opportunities to support community recovery from event, for example DCDSS, GIVIT, BlazeAid and RuralAid.
12. Enhance recovery governance through the updating of Council's Local Recovery Sub-Plan.



Mayor
Graeme Lehmann



CEO
Mr Andrew Johnson

Damage and impacts

Human and Social

- Community wellbeing short-term evacuations, including Esk hospital.
- Community wellbeing a number of impacted properties not insured or underinsured.
- Community wellbeing psychosocial wellbeing of community members affected, compounded trauma from drought.
- Isolation for children due to school closure Esk State School.
- Essential services loss of power and water to affected communities.
- Community messaging limited radio broadcasts providing relevant information to the community during event.
- Concerns surrounding limited support for wildlife carers.

Economic

- Impacts to rural properties, such as fencing loss, stock welfare and loss of paddock feed.
- Potential loss of income to local services and small businesses.
- Tourism: potential impact on tourism due to road closures and closure of national parks.
- Tourism: perception that area is unsafe impacting local businesses.
- Loss of primary production equipment trucks, water tanks etc.
- 840 hectares of plantation destroyed at HQ Plantations.
- Landcruiser Mountain Park evacuated.
- Brisbane Valley Rail Trail closed in sections impact on tourism.

Environment

- Approximately 25,500 hectares were affected.
- Burnt and fallen trees public health and safety risk.
- Concerns surrounding vegetation regrowth for rural producers.
- National, state and local parks and walking trails damaged, impacting on public access.
- Threat to flora and fauna in the region.
- Increased erosion as a result of loss of vegetation.
- Removal of water from already depleted water sources.

Building

- Four dwellings were destroyed/uninhabitable.
- Three sheds destroyed.
- Power disconnected to a number of homes/businesses.
- Water tanks sustained fire damage/residue.
- Loss/damage to irrigation systems and water pumps.
- Power poles damaged/destroyed.
- Kilometres of fencing destroyed.

Transport and Roads

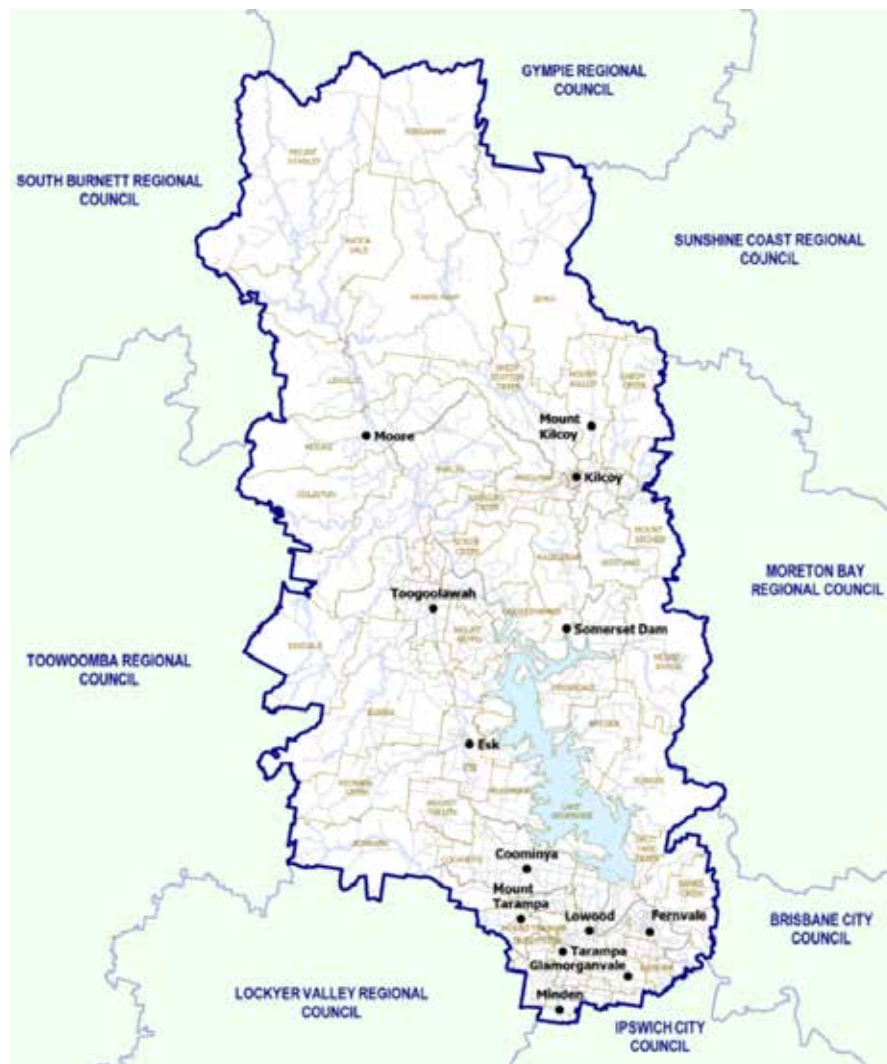
- Kilcoy-Murgon Road, Monsildale Road, Esk Hampton Road, Brisbane Valley Highway, Wivenhoe-Somerset Road, Wivenhoe Pocket Road and a number of local roads were closed during event.
- Road signs damaged/destroyed.
- Loss of sediment into Stormwater system as a result of fires with follow up rain storm.

Recovery timeframes

	Short term			Medium to long term		Ongoing
Human and Social	1	2	5	12		11 3 9
Economic				12	6 4	7
Environment				12		10
Infrastructure	1	5	12	6	4	8

Somerset Regional Council

Map of Somerset



Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance

For details of activations and assistance measures visit www.qra.qld.gov.au/activations

Disaster relief measure

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme
- Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS)*

Activation date

20/11/2019

20/11/2019

20/11/2019

*The PHAS and ESSRS for Somerset is limited, refer to www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/queensland-disasters for specific areas.

Recovery tasks

Human and social

- Assess human and social impacts.
- Provide emergency hardship payments to impacted individuals.
- Identify and manage personal hardship cases within the community.
- In partnership with relevant agencies, provide access to psychological support services to those in need of assistance.
- Reopen schools.
- Promote bushfire awareness in community.
- Confirm council processes for evacuation centres, incl. communications, stocking, materials etc.
- Promote Council's Disaster Dashboard as a one-stop-shop for Council 's disaster messaging.

Infrastructure

- Reopen roads.
- Identify damaged assets.
- Replace damaged road furniture.
- Removal of fire damaged vegetation impacting road and road furniture.
- Establish damage to dwellings/damage assessments to be undertaken.
- Provide assistance to repair fencing, water tanks, pipes, pumps and irrigation to rural properties by advising residents on available support programs.
- Power reconnections.

Economic

- Contact rural properties to determine extent of impact.
- Assist with fencing replacement by directing properties to funding opportunities.
- Reopen National Parks.
- Engage with local community groups and impacted businesses.
- Stimulate the tourism sector within Somerset 'Open for business'.
- Identify impact on agriculture and potential funding opportunities to assist recovery.

Environment

- Inspect, and remove if necessary, any hazardous fire damaged trees.
- Identify impacts and activities to support the recovery of the natural environment.
- Allow easy access for community to safely dispose of waste at council landfill.
- Identify impact on, and activities to support the recovery of, wildlife and their habitats.

Measures of success

Human and Social

- Community members have returned home or have transitioned from evacuation centres into temporary/ long term accommodation.
- Community members have returned to work.
- Schools have reopened and children returned to school.
- Community members have accessed financial assistance.
- Funding secured to support community recovery and resilience strategies.
- Stronger partnerships and relationships built with communities and local non-government organisations.
- Community kept up to date with key information during the recovery process.
- Community resilience increased in preparation of future disasters.
- Psychosocial support services have been provided.

Infrastructure

- Roads are open and trafficable.
- Asset damage has been identified.
- Damage assessments have been completed.
- Power has been reconnected to all properties.
- Irrigation, water tanks and pumps have been replaced/ fixed.

Economic

- Tourism targeted media campaigns/open for business messaging, resulting in increased tourism.
- Support has been provided for businesses affected by event.
- National parks and camping grounds have been reopened.
- Planned events have resumed in the region.
- Primary producers and rural properties have been supported.

Environment

- Wildlife numbers have increased in impacted areas.
- Re-opening of national parks.
- Hazardous fire-affected trees blocking road corridors have been removed.
- Effective waste disposal has been undertaken.

Recovery Narrative

About our community

The Southern Downs Regional Council area is located in South East Queensland, about 160 kilometres south-west of the Brisbane CBD. The Southern Downs Regional Council area is bounded by the Toowoomba Regional Council area and the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area in the north, the Scenic Rim Regional Council in the north-east, the New South Wales border in the south-east and south, and the Goondiwindi Regional Council area in the west. The Southern Downs region has a land area of 7122km², a population of 35,601 (2018) and a density of 0.05 persons per hectare. It was created in 2008 from a merger of the Shire of Warwick and the Shire of Stanthorpe. The original inhabitants of the Southern Downs area are the Githabul and Kambuwal people.

The Southern Downs Regional Council area is predominantly rural, with numerous small townships. The largest townships are Warwick and Stanthorpe, with smaller townships at Allora, Killarney, Wallangarra and Yangan. The Council area encompasses a total land area of about 7100km². Rural land is used largely for agriculture, particularly sheep and cattle grazing, orcharding, and vegetable and grain growing. Forestry and viticulture are also important industries.

Key features of the Council area include Girraween National Park, Main Range National Park, Sundown National Park, Mount Dumaesq Conservation Park, Morgan Park Regional Park, numerous wineries, Australian Rodeo Heritage Centre, Glengallan Homestead & Heritage Centre, Southern Downs Steam Railway, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, Warwick Art Gallery, Pringle Cottage, Connolly Dam, Glenlyon Dam, Leslie Dam, Storm King Dam, and various state forests.

The Southern Downs local government area has been drought declared which has substantially impacted residents. In September 2019, the Southern Queensland Bushfires impacted communities across the Southern Downs, specifically Stanthorpe, Applethorpe, and Ballandean. Over 3,000 hectares of land was impacted, with a larger number of rural residential landholders directly affected in these bushfires with damage to houses, fences, farm sheds and other infrastructure. Several horticulture enterprises sustained significant damage to crops, cool rooms, irrigation and water supply infrastructure, tree and vine crops, along with a significant amount of hail netting and fencing. Communities around Swanfels, Maryvale, Tregony, Upper Freestone and Emu Vale were impacted by the Eastern Queensland Bushfires in November 2019. An estimated 50,000 hectares of agricultural land was destroyed/damaged, primary producers lost stock and there was significant damage to infrastructure, including many hundreds of kilometres of fencing.

Council and vision statement

Our recovery will be founded on a collective, community led approach, enabled by inclusive communication and partnerships. Our approach will be to ensure the Stanthorpe and Granite Belt communities are able to improve capacity, grow and prosper to enhance community resilience. The Southern Downs Recovery and Resilience Plan was endorsed by Southern Downs Regional Council on 19 February 2020.

Council values

- Success
- Determination
- Resilience
- Commitment

Recovery and Resilience Group

Established: Monday 9 September 2019

Chaired by: Cr Jo McNally, Deputy Mayor Southern Downs Regional Council

Recovery and Resilience Taskforces

- Human and Social
- Economic
- Environment and Water
- Infrastructure and Roads and Transport
- Buildings

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. Stakeholders included the following to name but a few, Southern Downs Regional Council, Southern Downs region community members, Australian Red Cross, Lifeline, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Department of Housing and Public Works, Queensland Health, Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, Queensland Police Service, Rural Fire Services Queensland, State Emergency Services, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, GIVIT, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Ambulance Service, Department of Environment and Science, Department of Education and Ergon Energy.

Recovery and resilience 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.

Damage and Impacts

Human and Social

- Community wellbeing - experiencing lasting effects of the Region's most severe drought, compounded by the bushfire impacts.
- Community wellbeing – short-term evacuations of Stanthorpe, Applethorpe, Ballandean and Thulimbah communities – 135 people in Stanthorpe evacuation centre, 185 people in Leslie Dam evacuation centre and 12 people in emergency accommodation in Warwick.
- Community wellbeing – residents not able to return to the areas of Happy Valley, Glenlyon Drive, Nelson Crescent, McLeod Court for an extended period of time due to bushfires / road closures
- Community wellbeing/mental health – pockets of acute disadvantage presented at Recovery Hub
- Community wellbeing – psychosocial wellbeing of individuals / families affected.
- Community wellbeing – psychosocial wellbeing of Killarney community members as a result of 25,000 litres town water supply being used by QFES for fire suppression across Cunningham's Gap – reduced quantity of water available for community use.
- Community wellbeing - Two people injured by vehicle and taken to hospital.
- Isolation – land owners unable to return to their properties in the area west of the New England Highway, between Arico and Matthews Lane in the north and Plant Lane in the south.
- Isolation for children due to school closures - Amiens, Applethorpe, Ballandean, Dalveen, Pozieres, Stanthorpe, The Summit and Thulimbah State Schools; Stanthorpe High School and St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe – closed for 2-3 days. Decrease of 23 per cent in school enrolments across the region.
- Essential Services - loss of power and water to affected communities.
- Community Engagement – postponement of Chamber of Commerce awards events in Warwick and Stanthorpe.
- Community Engagement – challenging community dynamic due to de-amalgamation process.
- Community strength and willingness to support each other, donate and help others in need.
- Public health concerns – increase in presentations of respiratory related illnesses at local hospitals and health services due to reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.
- Public health concerns – decrease in attendance at community events due to reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.
- 11 staff evacuated from Spicers Peak Lodge from the 11 November until the 29 November 2019.
- Increased burden on Council funding resources through requests for event funding and increased urban design planning processes required to support communities in recovery.

Economic

- Loss of income to community members due to forced weekend closures of small businesses.
- Loss of income to community members due to evacuations.
- Increased financial burden to community members – reports of community members not being able to work due to respiratory illnesses associated with reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.
- Increased financial burden to community members having to care for family members experiencing respiratory illnesses associated with reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.
- Increased financial burden to community members having to move away from the region for extended periods due to respiratory illnesses associated with reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.

- Increased financial burden to community members having to purchase additional medication due to respiratory illnesses associated with reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.
- Increased financial burden to community members as a result of having to replace tank water due to continued effects of ash and fire suppressant on water supply quality due to smoke generated from bushfires.
- Increased financial burden to community members due to loss of employment as a result of businesses closing due to impacts associated with bushfires.
- Increased financial burden to primary producers due to loss of feed – 50,000 hectares of agricultural and forestry land lost as a result of bushfires around Swanfels, Tregony, Upper Freestone, Emu Vale and Maryvale.
- Loss of income/profits to landholders across the region – water allocated against pre-existing commercial agreements (private water licenses) used by QFES for fire fighting purposes.
- Loss of income/profits for local suppliers due to donations of goods to the region.
- Loss of income/profits to McDonalds and Caltex service station due to loss of power and burst water main.
- Loss of income/profits to specific businesses along the New England Highway such as Gap Creek Moto Club and Bestbrook Mountain Farmstay – due to road closures from 13 November to 20 December 2019 from bushfire damage.
- Loss of income/profits for tourism industry - perception that visitors were unable to attend local tourist attractions – accommodation occupancy reduced by 45 per cent.
- Loss of income/profits for tourism industry and small businesses due to closure of Cunningham’s Gap between 13 November to 16 December 2019 – tourists used alternate road routes.
- Loss of income/profits for tourism industry and small businesses - decrease in the number of tourists visiting the region due to reduced air quality as a result of smoke generated from bushfires.
- Increased freight costs for agriculture and viticulture industries, primary producers and small businesses due to closure of Cunningham’s Gap (freight transportation diverted through Gatton and Toowoomba 13 November to 16 December 2019) – Cunningham Highway is a national freight transportation route.
- Loss of income/profits to agriculture and viticulture industries, transportation and freight companies, stock agents due to major highway closures
- Loss of income/profits to primary producers - \$111,000 worth of livestock lost.
- Loss of income/profits to Girraween National Park – no camping permits issued due to threat of bushfires and major impact on tourism for the Region.
- Fire impacts on good quality agricultural land.
- Increased financial burden on Council to pay for costs of laundering bedding from Warwick evacuation centre.
- Increased financial burden on Council due to storage and logistics associated with donated goods.
- Increased financial burden on Council due to impacts on capital and operations works program.
- Increased financial burden on Council due to having to undertaking a marketing campaign to promote the region to counteract media’s portrayal of bushfires impact.
- Financial burden as some properties not insured and some properties are under-insured.

Damage and Impacts (cont.)

Environment and Water

- Large pockets of vegetation destroyed, native bushland around and inside affected areas.
- Threat to unique flora and fauna endemic to the region.
- Generation of additional waste and landfill as a result of burnt items.
- Public health concerns due to continued effects of ash and fire suppressant on roofing, water supply and air quality due to smoke generated from bushfires.
- Closure of Glen Rock State Forest and Girraween and Sundown National Parks.
- Biosecurity concerns – risk of weed and seed spread due to influx of fodder received from across Australia.
- Public health – potential incorrect handling and transport of asbestos materials burnt/destroyed by bushfire.
- Public health concerns – need to ensure quality of donated water delivered in cubes and trucks.
- Public health concerns – reduced air quality as a result of smoke generated from bushfires.
- Power outages for 14 hours across affected communities and at Stanthorpe Hospital.
- Ongoing water restrictions due to drought.
- Wildlife carers have been supporting impacted animals.
- Damage to water supply assets.
- Water main burst outside McDonalds on the New England Highway.
- Damage to Spicers Peak walking trails.
- 3,000 hectares of agricultural land burnt across Stanthorpe, Applethorpe, Ballandean, Swanfels, Tregony, Upper Freestone, Emu Vale and edge of Maryvale.
- 50,000 hectares of agricultural land impacted across Swanfels, Tregony, Upper Freestone, Emu Vale and Maryvale.

Buildings

- Damage to Energy Queensland Infrastructure.
- Damage to Queensland College of Wine Tourism.
- Damage to housing, community facilities and fence lines, farms sheds and other infrastructure.
- Several horticulture enterprises sustained significant damage to cool rooms, irrigation and water supply infrastructure and hail netting.
- Concerns regarding reduced life of Stanthorpe waste facility due increased volume of waste received from bushfire. Current life expectancy is until December 2020.
- One pump at water treatment plant damaged – reduced capacity at facility for 24 hours.
- Damage to two state schools in the region.
- Hundreds of kilometers of fencing damaged/destroyed around Swanfels, Tregony, Upper Freestone, Emu Vale and Maryvale.

Infrastructure and Roads and Transport

- Road closures occurred when evacuation orders were issued – Plant Lane (BWT); Applethorpe (Glenlyon Drive, Sims Lane, Pugh Lane, Roessler Avenue and Johnson Lane); Stanthorpe (Nelson Court, McKenzie Street, Passmore Road, Caves Road and Old Caves Road).
- Road corridors of concern due to burnt trees threatening to fall on road.
- Damage sustained to roadside furniture - Plant Lane (BWT); Applethorpe (Glenlyon Drive and Sims Lane); Stanthorpe (Nelson Court, Connor Street, Passmore Road, Caves Road and McKillop Lane).
- Aboveground power cabling damaged.
- Power poles in Applethorpe damaged.
- Cunningham Highway closed in both directions at Aratula (Cunningham's Gap) – 13 -28 November 2019 due to bushfire and rock falls. Some damage to road pavement.
- Spring Creek Road reduced to one lane due to boulder on road.

Recovery Tasks

1. Undertake rapid damage assessments.
2. Establish a Community Recovery Hub.
3. Provide emergency hardship payments.
4. Inspect and remove burnt trees as required from road corridors.
5. Identify and manage personal hardship cases.
6. Issue community messaging that “we are open for business”.
7. Assess human, health, and social impacts.
8. Attend Rural Fire debrief to capture learnings.
9. In partnership with the relevant agencies, provide access to psychosocial support services when required.
10. Facilitate wellbeing support to council staff affected by the bushfires.
11. Assess the economic impact on tourism, small business, agriculture, viticulture and primary producers and promote opportunities to drive economic recovery.
12. Assess resilience of critical infrastructure.
13. Assess environmental impacts across the bushfire affected areas.
14. Seek funding opportunities to support recovery and resilience across Human Social and Economic with particular attention to accumulative effects of disasters.
15. Seek funding opportunities to develop a database to capture baseline data of ecosystems across the region, in order to measure impacts from bushfires.
16. Coordinate donations and ensure that community/volunteers are recognised and thanked for their efforts.
17. Investigate opportunities and lobby for more resilient infrastructure and programs that support the short and long-term wellbeing of the community.
17. Work in partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to conduct hazard and risk assessments for bushfires, and develop education initiatives to build resilience through knowledge of their risk.
18. Assist short and medium-term recovery, and be a conduit to support services as required.
19. Embed Planners, Economic and Community Development Officer/s into the community to build long-term resilience strategies. Capture this forward direction in the form of the Granite Belt Vision and Action Plan.
20. Support community recovery through community events.

21. Develop and implement weed and seed management programs.
22. Repair property fencing.
23. Test water quality.
24. Test air quality.
25. Develop and implement a communication strategy regarding water and air quality.
26. Immediate repair of roads and roadside furniture.
27. Provide water to those affected properties not on town water supply to assist with wash down of houses to remove suppressant used by QFES on bushfire (2000 litres with an option to purchase an additional 2000 litres).
28. Repair community facilities.
29. Reopen schools.
30. Reopen national parks.
31. Develop and implement a tourism campaign.
32. Payment of SDRC Rates Notice – an additional month approved for all residents.
33. Stanthorpe Waste Facility – Waste levy fee waived for bushfire waste.
34. SDRC temporarily lifted the water restrictions of 100L/day/person.
35. Work with Chamber of Commerce to assist in rescheduling awards events.
36. Update region maps to include bushfire overlays and ensure accurate mapping of fire breaks.
37. Transition community members from evacuation centres into temporary/long-term accommodation.
38. Establish and implement re-skilling project for those community members who have lost their jobs.
39. Manage requests from community for sponsorship, events and funding towards activities and fundraisers to help promote and celebrate region.
40. Manage the waste disposal associated with the bushfire events and ensure appropriate waste levy and grants are obtained.

Recovery Objectives

- Essential services - Power, water, waste, telecommunications – repaired and restored -short term
- Community health, wellbeing and safety restored and resilience improved - short term
- Economic activity restored and resilience improved - short and medium term
- Support for and continuation of key community events - short, medium, long/ongoing
- Confidence in the tourism market restored - medium
- Infrastructure is restored – property fencing, roadside furniture and water supply assets - short and medium
- Environmental restoration and protection (prevention of spread of weeds and seeds)- short and medium
- Environmental restoration and protection (unique flora and fauna endemic to the region) - short and medium
- Develop a database to capture baseline data of ecosystems across the region- medium to long term
- Develop a revegetation plan to enhance natural buffers and critical ecosystems that contribute to resilience (funding dependent) - medium to long term
- Increase community awareness and preparedness for all hazards through community engagement- ongoing
- Quarterly meetings of Southern Downs Recovery and Resilience Taskforces reporting to LDMG - short to medium
- Continue to implement long-term resilience strategies as part of the Granite Belt planning process - ongoing
- Establish a long-term vision and action plan that helps reposition the community - medium to long term
- Secure the economic future of the region - medium – long term
- Community members reach a state of recovery, including being able to make decisions about destroyed or damaged property - short, medium-long, ongoing
- An effective waste management program is implemented - medium-long and ongoing

NCE PLAN



Measures of Success

Human and Social

- Community members have returned home.
- Community members have transitioned from evacuation centres into temporary/long-term accommodation.
- Community members have returned to work.
- Children have returned to school.
- Community members have accessed financial assistance where available.
- Community members have accessed psychosocial support where required.
- Community and visitors support and participate in community events.
- Funding secured to support community recovery and resilience strategies.
- Education initiatives to build resilience through knowledge of risk assessments has been implemented.
- Planners, Economic and Community Development Officer/s have been embedded into the community to support recovery initiatives.
- Coordination of fundraising and donation activities.
- Stronger partnerships and relationships built with communities and local non-government organisations.
- Residents choosing to stay and remain in communities, schools and sporting organisations

Economic

- Small businesses are trading at capacity.
- Community events are held and well attended, adding value to civic life.
- National parks, reserves and camping grounds have reopened and are receiving tourists.
- Tourism campaign has been implemented and results in an increase in tourism numbers.
- Strategies to support agriculture, viticulture and agriculture industries have been implemented and are successful.
- Community members have been reskilled and secured new employment across the region.
- Council has finalised and implemented the *Granite Belt Urban Design Framework* and is utilising the document to support initiatives and seek funding sources.
- Chamber of Commerce awards events have been held in Warwick and Stanthorpe.
- Tourism and visitor number have increased and are supporting a healthy economy.

Infrastructure and Roads and Transport

- All roads inspected for damage and risk of fallen trees - all now open.
- All water assets, pumps, treatment plants inspected and operating at full capacity.
- Road furniture has been repaired.
- Water treatment plant is fully operational.
- Resilient infrastructure programs implemented and are successful.

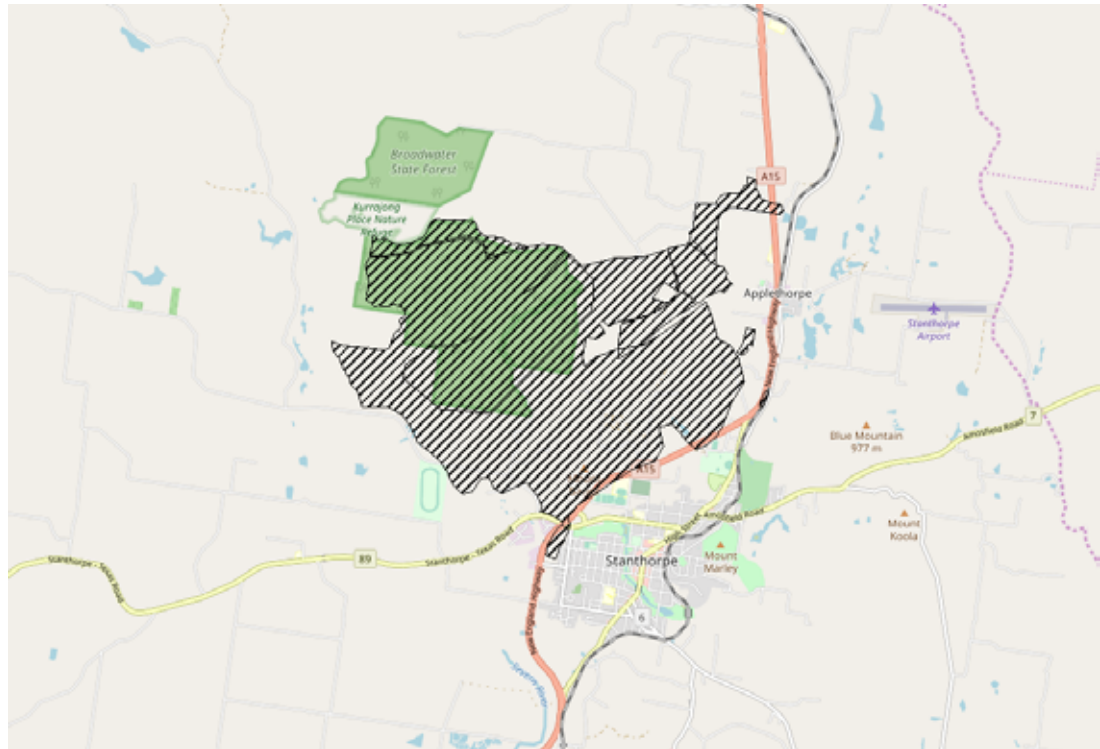
Environment and Water

- Waste transfer stations open and unmanned bin compounds fully operational.
- Domestic waste collection services restored.
- Waste program is identified and implemented in order to support recovery efforts .
- National parks, reserves and camping grounds have reopened.
- All parks and public spaces open.
- Trees blocking road and rail corridors have been removed.
- Safety procedures for handling and transporting asbestos materials have been implemented and communicated to the community.
- Weed seed spread awareness and management program has been implemented, and is successful.
- Water quality issues have been resolved.
- Public health restored.
- Essential services – water and waste has been repaired and restored.
- Support and additional resources have been provided to wildlife carers.
- Rehabilitation plans in place for impacted rare and threatened flora.
- Funding secured to develop a database to capture baseline data of ecosystems across the region.

Buildings

- Energy Queensland infrastructure has been repaired and is fully operational.
- Repairs to Queensland College of Wine and Tourism have been completed.
- Housing, community facilities and fencing has been repaired.
- School facilities have been restored.
- Affected roof wash downs complete.
- Owners of destroyed residences have been supported to make recovery decisions to support their needs.

Damage – Southern Queensland Bushfire (6-12 September 2019)



Applethorpe and Stanthorpe Fire Area

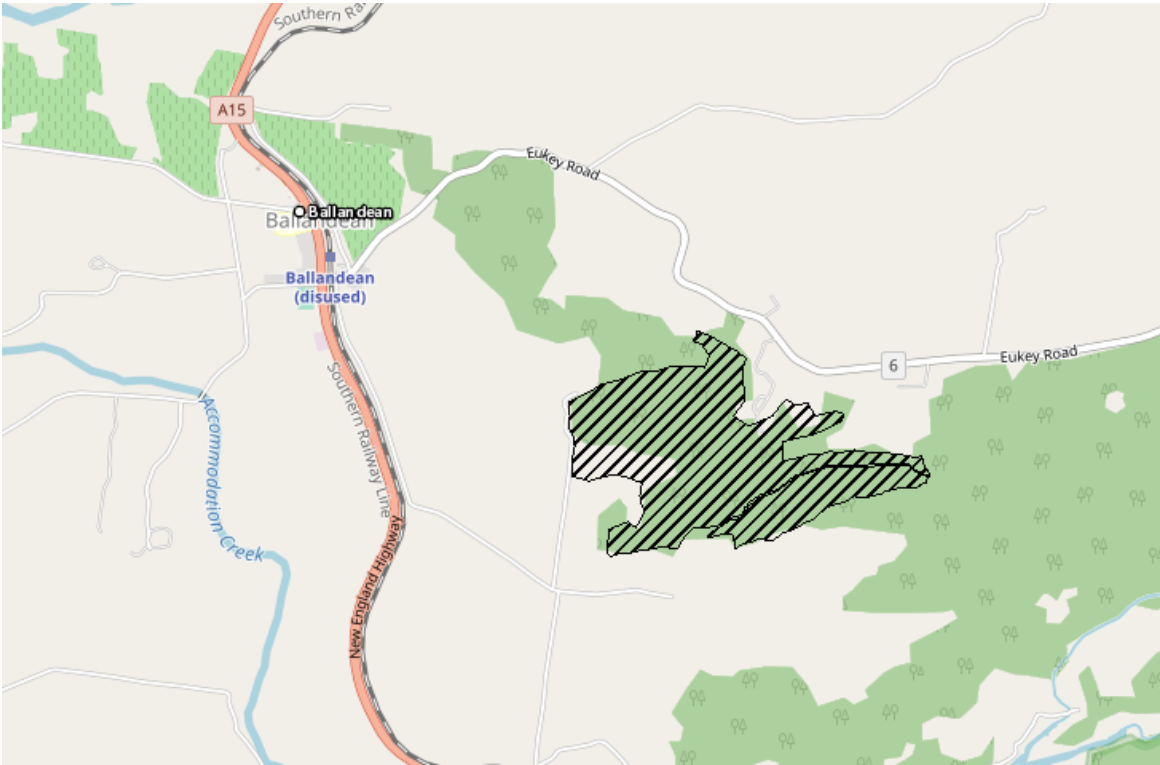
Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance – (6-12 September 2019)

For details of activations and assistance measures visit www.qra.qld.gov.au/activations

Disaster relief measure

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme **
- Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) **
- Disaster Assistance (Not-for-Profit Orgs) Loans
- Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for not-for-profit organisations
- Disaster Assistance (Small Business Loans)
- Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for small business
- Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans
- Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for primary producers
- Freight Subsidies for primary producers

** The PHAS and ESSRS for Southern Downs is limited to Applethorpe and Thulimbah. The Emergency Hardship Assistance (EHA) is available to all residents in the area.



Ballandean Fire Area

Southern Queensland Bushfire

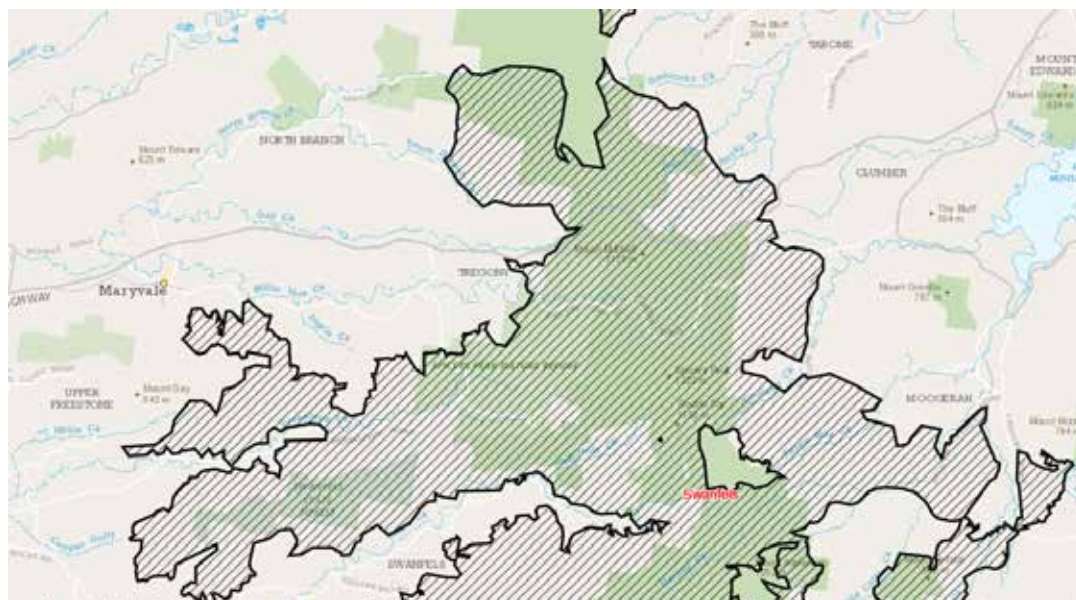
Activation date

- 07/09/2019
- 07/09/2019
- 07/09/2019
- 13/09/2019
- 13/09/2019
- 13/09/2019
- 13/09/2019
- 13/09/2019
- 13/09/2019
- 13/09/2019

component of the PHAS commences for Applethorpe on 7 September 2019 and on 16 September 2019 for Thulimbah.

Damage – Eastern Queensland Bushfire

(8 November – 19 December 2019)



Maryvale, Tregony, Upper Freestone - area

Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance - Eastern Queensland

(8 November – 19 December 2019)

For details of activations and assistance measures visit www.qra.qld.gov.au/activations

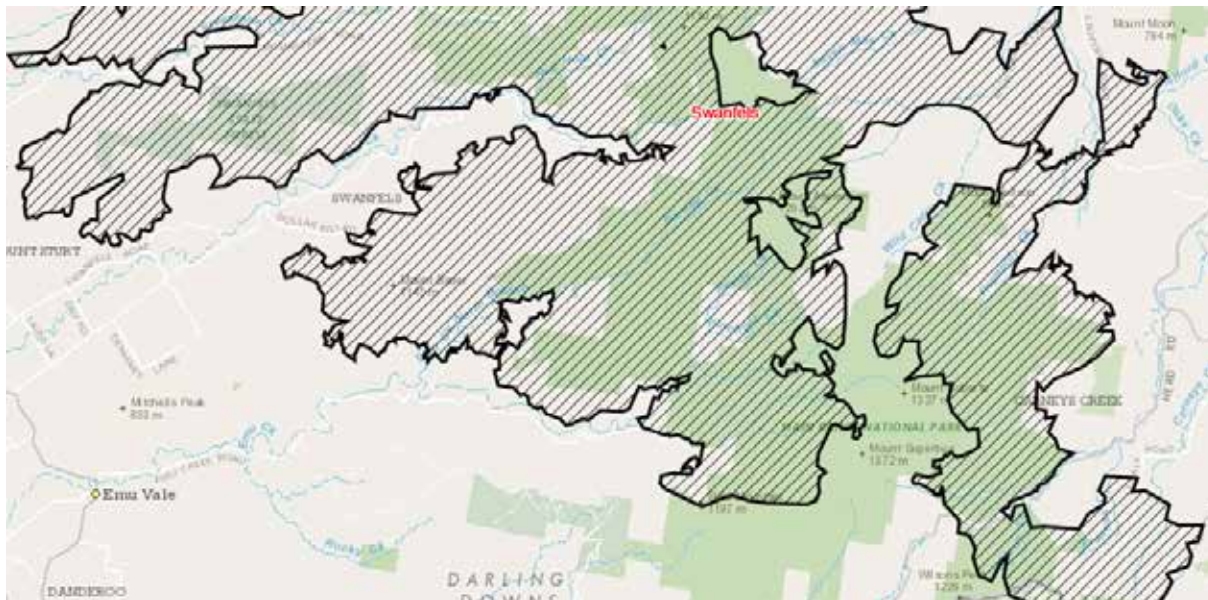
Disaster relief measure

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA)
- Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans**
- Freight Subsidies for primary producers

** Category B concessional loans up to \$500,000 for small businesses and primary producers for replacement

Exceptional Category C and D assistance measures

DRFA Category	Package Type
Category C	Community Recovery Package
Category D	Increased special disaster assistance grants (including Category C component)
	Payment to bushfire affected governments



Swanfels and Emu Vale - area

astern Queensland Bushfire

Activation date

18/11/2019
20/11/2019
31/01/2020
13/09/2019

ement of assets destroyed by bushfires or for essential working capital

Assistance Measures
Mental Health and Wellbeing
Community Development Fund
Flexible Funding Grants
Grants for primary producers of up \$75,000
\$1M payments to severely impacted local governments

Eastern Queensland Bushfires Local Recovery Plan

Approved by LDMG on 28 February 2020

Recovery narrative

About our community

The Toowoomba Region makes up part of South Queensland, a dynamic region that generates one-fifth of Australia's economic growth and is home to one in seven Australians. The Toowoomba region is Queensland's largest inland centre. It is also the gateway to South West Queensland.

The Region spans almost 13,000 km² including the Toowoomba City and the regional centres of Cambooya, Cecil Plains Clifton, Crows Nest, Goombungee, Greenmount, Highfields, Millmerran, Oakey, Pittsworth and Yarraman, along with numerous smaller townships. Each area has its own unique history and stunning landscapes. In 2018, the Toowoomba region had a population of 167,657. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes of the Western Wakka Wakka, Giabal and Jarowair peoples inhabited the Darling Downs.

The Toowoomba Region has transformed its agricultural base into a diverse and strong economy, offering a range of business, investment and employment opportunities. The Toowoomba Region was a \$10.8 billion economy in 2017/18 and hosted 85,369 jobs, 15,968 registered businesses and 167,657 people.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing contributes \$811 million to the Toowoomba Region economy with key outputs including grain, poultry, cotton, beef, pork and dairy products. Manufacturing contributes \$644 million and is the region's largest international exporter. Growth in mining operations in the Surat Basin has added to the Toowoomba Region economy with exceptionally strong growth in mining support services (e.g. well drilling and servicing businesses locating to the region). Mining contributed \$941 million in 2017/18.

Tourism has contributed to the diversity of the Toowoomba Region economy. The growth of sports and event tourism is expected to help grow this sector.

About the disaster event

The Toowoomba Region is drought declared and has been since 1 March 2014, which has substantially impacted residents. In November 2019, the Eastern Queensland Bushfires impacted communities across the Toowoomba region, specifically Pechey (Ravensbourne), Crows Nest, Cressbrook, Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge (Millmerran).

Local Recovery Group

Chaired by: Cr Paul Antonio, Mayor

Key stakeholders

Toowoomba Regional Council, Toowoomba Region community members, Australian Red Cross, Lifeline, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Department of Housing and Public Works, Queensland Health and Hospital Services, Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, Queensland Police Service, Rural Fire Services Queensland, State Emergency Services, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, GIVIT, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Ambulance Service, Department of Environment and Science, Department of Education and Ergon Energy.

Recovery objectives

- 1 Immediate relief and recovery activities ensure community has access to essential services.
- 2 Immediate relief and ongoing recovery activities ensure community has access to psychosocial support services.
- 3 Immediate relief and ongoing recovery activities ensure community has access to financial support services.
- 4 Implement effective and efficient process to support community members return to permanent residence/dwellings informed by existing protocols.
- 5 Implement effective and efficient process to enable community members to transition to temporary accommodation, if applicable, informed by protocols.
- 6 Implement effective and efficient system for managing the distribution of donated goods and services and gift vouchers to ensure they reach those in need.
- 7 The prevention of the spread of weeds program has been developed, implemented and progress is monitored.
- 8 A program to support the environmental restoration and protection of unique flora and fauna endemic to the region has been developed, implemented and progress is monitored.
- 9 Design and deliver disaster resilience education programs to identified schools/students.
- 10 Recovery activities ensure businesses have access to financial support services to restore/rebuild infrastructure.
- 11 Funding streams are identified to support community organisations and not-for-profits.
- 12 Identify and promote funding opportunities to support sustainable bushfire mitigations programs.
- 13 Identify and promote funding opportunities to stimulate tourism across the region.
- 14 Education initiatives to build bushfire resilience through knowledge of hazard and risk assessments have been developed, implemented and progress monitored.
- 15 Implement processes to support the testing and reporting on water quality.
- 16 Implement process to undertake repairs of council owned facilities/recreational areas.

Human and social

- Coordinated outreach visits to all areas identified on the rapid damage assessment have been completed and human and social impacts have been identified and referrals made to relevant partner agencies where required.
- Gift vouchers and food vouchers for the local Millmerran IGA have been distributed.
- Community Information Points have been established at Hampton Visitor Information Centre and Crows Nest Service Centre.
- Community meetings have been held in Hampton and Crows Nest.
- Community recovery information sessions have been held at Millmerran Showgrounds and Wylahra Grove Hall, Millmerran Downs.
- Community members have returned home.
- Community members have transitioned from evacuation centres into temporary/long-term accommodation.
- Community members have returned to work.
- Children have returned to school.
- Community members have accessed financial assistance where available.
- Community members have accessed psychosocial support where required.
- Community and visitors support and participate in community events.
- Funding secured to support community recovery and resilience strategies.
- Education initiatives to build resilience through knowledge of risk assessments have been implemented.
- Stronger partnerships and relationships built with communities and local non-government organisations.
- Pillowcase Program has been delivered to Years 3 and 4 at Crows Nest and Millmerran State Schools.
- Year 10 Digital Technology class at Crows Nest State School has developed and presented their Bushfire project to impacted Crows Nest community members.
- Water has been provided to those affected properties in Millmerran, not on town water supply to assist with wash down of dwellings to remove ash and suppressant used by QFES on bushfires.

Economic

- Agriculture and viticulture businesses (blueberry, avocado and olive oil) are trading at capacity.
- Funding secured for High Country Hamlets moveable feast concept to stimulate tourism and the economy resulting in an increase in tourists.
- Financial funding support has been provided to businesses affected by event.
- National parks, reserves, hiking and walking trails and camping grounds have been reopened and are resulting in an increase of tourists.

Environment

- Damage assessments have been completed.
- Injured wildlife have fully recovered from their injuries and returned to their native habitats.

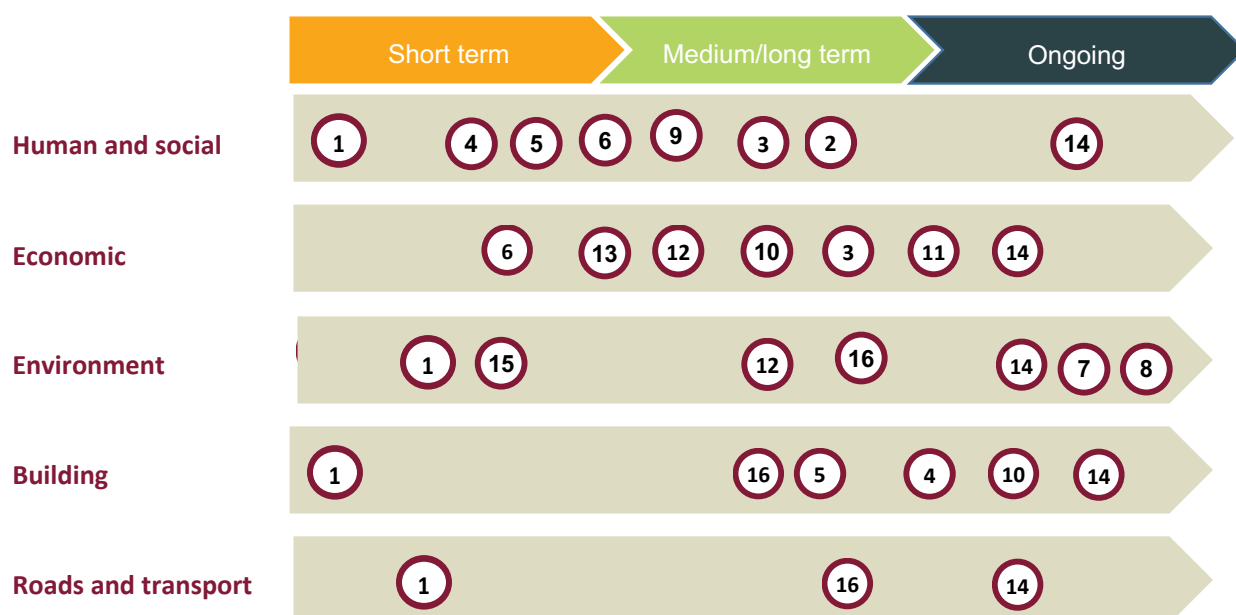
- Wildlife numbers have increased in impacted areas.
- National parks, reserves, hiking and walking trails have reopened and are being used by the community.
- Hazardous fire affected trees blocking road corridors have been removed.
- Effective waste disposal has been undertaken.
- Power has been restored to Cressbrook Dam water pumping stations and they are fully operational.
- Power has been fully restored to the Telstra tower in Millmerran.
- Green waste and other hazardous waste items have been removed from the Crows Nest Waste Facility.
- Hazard and risk assessments for bushfires have been undertaken and education initiatives to build resilience through knowledge of their risk have been developed, implemented and are successful.
- Ravesbourne National Park, reserves, hiking and walking trails and camping grounds across impacted areas have been re-opened.
- Recreational facilities and campgrounds at Cressbrook and Perseverance Dams have been re-opened.
- Conservation and pest management programs have been implemented.
- Water quality maintained to regulations.
- Essential services (power and telecommunications) have been restored to Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge within 48 hours.

Building

- Damage assessments have been completed.
- Fencing on properties in Crows Nest, Pechey (Ravensbourne), Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge has been repaired and/or replaced.
- Powerlines severely damaged/destroyed as a result of the Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran) bushfire have been repaired/replaced and are fully operational.
- Telstra roadside cabinet damaged as a result of Cypress Gardens' bushfire has been repaired/replaced and is fully operational.
- Landlines disabled as a result of the Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran) have been restored and are fully operational.
- Ergon pole damaged in the vicinity of Perseverance Dam causeway has been repaired/replaced.
- Damage to recreational infrastructure at Cressbrook and Perseverance Dam reserves has been repaired and infrastructure is fully operational.

Roads and transport

- Damage assessments have been completed.
- Roads are open and fully operational.
- Asset damage has been identified and rectified.



Toowoomba Regional Council

Human and social

- Psychosocial impacts on individuals and families experiencing lasting effects of the Region's most severe drought exacerbated by bushfire impacts.
- Psychosocial impacts exacerbated for impacted individuals and families in Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge as a result of experiencing loss of power and telecommunications for three days due to bushfires.
- Community member evacuations of eastern areas of Crows Nest, Pechey, Ravensbourne, Cressbrook Creek, Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge communities:
 - Three people at Highfields Fitness and Recreation Centre at peak.
 - 150 people at Crows Nest Showgrounds and Evacuation Centre at the peak for food and information, and over 30 adults accommodated within the centre and the camp grounds. 40 adults and 30 children at Millmerran Showgrounds Evacuation Centre at the peak.
 - Aged Care evacuations of Church of Christ Aged Care Facility to hospitals and Warwick facility from Crows Nest.
- Bushfire impacts exacerbated existing disadvantage in community resulting in increased need for psychosocial support services.
- Increased burden on support service capacity due to increased need for psychosocial support services.
- Isolation for children due to:
 - closure of Crows Nest State School for three days
 - postponement of the school's swimming carnival
 - closure of Crows Nest Children's Centre
 - closure of Little Possum Learning Centre (Early Childhood Learning Centres).
- Potential for reduced tourist numbers at community events due to road closures and media's portrayal of impact.

Economic

- Increased financial burden for impacted individuals and families due to:
 - some properties not being insured and some properties being under-insured
 - not being able to work due to respiratory illnesses associated with reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke
 - having to purchase additional medication due to respiratory illnesses associated with reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke
 - not being able to work due to having to care for family members experiencing respiratory illnesses associated with reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.
- Increased financial burden for pockets of acute disadvantaged community members as a result of increased costs of living.
- Loss of income to community members of Crows Nest, Pechey (Ravensbourne), Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge as they were unable to access work due to evacuations.
- Loss of income/profits to Blueberry Farm, Crows Nest and an avocado business, Crows Nest due to voluntary evacuations and road closures from 16-25 November 2019 as a result of bushfire impacts.
- Loss of income/profits to Olive Grove, Millmerran Downs due to tree loss and damage to catering facilities due to bushfire impacts.
- Loss of income/profits to forestry industry around Pechey due to bushfire impacts, road closures and firefighting operational costs.
- Damage to recreational infrastructure at Cressbrook and Perseverance Dam reserves.
- Potential impacts to tourism revenue due to closure of:
 - Esk-Hampton Road from 15-25 November 2019 (key tourist driving route)
 - Ravensbourne National Park, reserves, hiking and walking trails and camping grounds across impacted areas from 16-25 November 2019.

- Potential impacts on tourism revenue due to closure of recreational facilities and campgrounds at Cressbrook and Perseverance dams from 16-25 November 2019.
- Loss of income to Ravensbourne Waste Facility staff and contractors due to closure of the facility as a result of the bushfires.

Environment

- Loss of native fauna and flora, particularly the land burnt in the Cressbrook and Perseverance Dam reserves that are essential koala habitats.
- Large pockets of vegetation destroyed, native bushland around and inside impacted areas.
- Bushfire impacts to land exacerbated as a result the Region's most severe drought.
- Bushfire impacts to native fauna and flora exacerbated as a result the Region's most severe drought.
- Increase in waste and landfill requirements as a result of burnt items.
- Burnt trees in road corridors; risk of them falling onto roads.
- Biosecurity concerns for cattle due to animals crossing the tick line to Crows Nest Showgrounds.
- Loss of power to Cressbrook Dam water pumping stations due to damaged powerlines for five days 17-22 November 2019.
- Risk of power loss at Pechey Water Treatment Plant due to threat to other powerlines - planned for with generator moved on site.
- Loss of power to domestic dwellings as a result of the Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran).
- Loss of power to Telstra tower as a result of the Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran).

Building

- In Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge (Millmerran Downs), one dwelling was destroyed, three dwellings were significantly damaged and one dwelling lost their outdoor shower.
- Damage to fencing on properties in Crows Nest, Pechey (Ravensbourne), Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge.
- One shed destroyed and windmills damaged on one property and stockyards destroyed on a second property as a result of the Pechey (Ravensbourne) bushfire
- Damage to fencing, signage and recreational infrastructure at Cressbrook and Perseverance Dam reserves.
- Powerlines severely damaged/destroyed as a result of the Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran Downs).
- Telstra roadside cabinet in the Cypress Gardens area damaged.
- Some landlines disabled as a result of the Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran Downs).
- Ergon reported pole damaged in the vicinity of Perseverance Dam causeway, and there were some restoration issues due to the nature of the terrain.
- Powerlines severely damaged/destroyed as a result of the Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran Downs).
- Loss of power and telecommunications for three days due to bushfires.

Roads and transport

- Esk-Hampton Road closed from 15-25 November 2019 as a result of the Pechey (Ravensbourne)/Crows Nest bushfires.
- Gore Highway closed for 24 hours on 4 December 2019 as a result of the Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran Downs).
- Safety concerns due to hazardous trees potentially falling into road corridors.
- Several local roads closed from 12-25 November 2019 as a result of the Pechey (Ravensbourne), Crows Nest:
 - Grapetree, Perseverance Dam, Mount Jockey, McQuillan, Post Office and Esk-Hampton Roads.
 - Roving closures to protect firefighters and tree arborist crews.

Human and social

- In partnership with relevant agencies:
 - coordinate outreach visits to all areas identified on the rapid damage assessment to assess human and social impacts
 - provide emergency hardship payments where eligible
 - provide access to psychosocial support services when required with Lifeline and Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
 - coordinate the distribution of donations, gift vouchers and vouchers to impacted community members when required
 - host community recovery information sessions at Millmerran Showgrounds; Wylahra Grove Hall, Millmerran Downs
 - transition community members from evacuation centres back to temporary accommodation.
- Establish Community Information Points at Hampton Visitor Information Centre and Crows Nest Service Centre.
- Sponsor a 'Thank your bushfire heroes' community event at Crows Nest.
- Partner with Crows Nest and Millmerran State Schools to deliver the Red Cross disaster resilience education program (the Pillowcase Program) to students in Years 3 and 4.
- Provide funding to support the Crows Nest State School Year 10 Digital Technology Class to develop and present back to impacted Crows Nest community members, 'The Bushfire Project'.
- Seek funding opportunities to support recovery and resilience across Human and Social; specifically accumulative effects of disasters.
- Investigate opportunities and advocate for programs that support the short and long-term wellbeing of the community.
- Assist short, medium and long-term recovery, and be a conduit to support services as required.
- Reopen schools.
- Transition community from evacuation centres back to their permanent residences/dwellings.
- Attend LDMG debrief to capture learnings.

Economic

- Assess the economic impact on tourism, agriculture and viticulture industries (blueberry, avocado, olive and wine) and promote opportunities to drive economic recovery.
- Assist with fencing replacement by directing businesses/properties to funding opportunities.
- Engage with local community groups and impacted businesses.
- Stimulate tourism through identification and promotion of funding opportunities to impacted businesses.

Environment

- Undertake damage assessments across impacted areas.
- Undertake a hazardous tree assessment and remove burnt trees as required from road corridors.
- Rescue and recovery or disposal of native fauna.
- In partnership with wildlife carers, support impacted animals.

- Restore power to:
 - Cressbrook Dam water pumping stations
 - domestic dwellings in Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran Downs);
 - Telstra tower damaged as a result of the Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran Downs).
- Remove green waste and other hazardous waste items from the Crows Nest Waste Facility as emergency mitigation actions.
- Work in partnership with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Darling Downs Fire Management Group to conduct hazard and risk assessments for bushfires and develop education initiatives to build resilience through knowledge of their risk.
- Repair and reopen park, reserves, hiking and walking trails and camping grounds across impacted areas.
- Reopen recreational facilities and campgrounds at Cressbrook and Perseverance Dams.
- Develop and implement conservation and pest management programs.
- Continue water quality monitoring.

Building

- Undertake damage assessments across impacted areas.
- Assess resilience of critical infrastructure across impacted areas.
- Repair damage to infrastructure at Cressbrook and Perseverance Dam reserves.
- Repair powerlines severely damaged/destroyed as a result of the Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran Downs).
- Repair and/or replace Telstra roadside cabinet damaged as a result of Cypress Gardens' bushfire.
- Repair landlines disabled as a result of the Cypress Gardens and Forest Ridge Fire (Millmerran Downs).
- Repair and/or replace Ergon supply damaged in the vicinity of Perseverance Dam.
- Provide water to those affected properties in Millmerran, not on town water supply to assist with wash down of dwellings to remove ash and suppressant used by QFES on bushfires.
- Reconnect essential services (power and telecommunications) in Cypress Garden and Forest Ridge within 48 hours.
- Investigate opportunities and lobby for programs that support bushfire mitigation.

Roads and transport

- Undertake damage assessments across impacted areas.
- Repair roadside furniture across impacted areas.
- Reopen Gore Highway and Grapetree, Perseverance Dam, Mount Jockey, McQuillan, Post Office and Esk-Hampton Roads.
- Investigate opportunities and lobby for programs that support bushfire mitigation.

Section 4: Resilience





Building resilience in Queensland

Queenslanders are no strangers to natural disasters. Over the past decade, Queensland has experienced more than 80 significant natural disaster events and of these 13 were bushfires. This disaster season, Queensland has experienced more than 7550 bushfires impacting 23 Local Government Areas.

The Queensland Government, through its implementation of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR), is committed to working collaboratively with local governments to ensure a systematic and multidisciplinary approach to resilience, making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

QRA continues to work with impacted communities as they recover from the devastating effects of the bushfires to implement short, medium and long-term recovery initiatives as well as developing regional resilience strategies to assist in reducing the impact of future natural disaster events.

As Queenslanders, we are resilient when:



Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience objectives

Opportunities for resilience

Resilient Queensland

Resilient Queensland (RQ) is the implementation plan for QSDR and provides a detailed blueprint for use across government, community, the not-for-profit sector, business and industry, to ensure outcomes are delivered against the objectives of the Strategy.

As part of RQ, QRA piloted three regional resilience strategies throughout 2018-19. Key lessons learnt from development of these pilots include:

- Resilience is complex and multi-faceted – not just about episodic disasters – drought, climate adaptation, and socio-economic megatrends are all important.
- Aligning disaster resilience initiatives with climate adaptation efforts.
- Growing need to more clearly link resilience policy outcomes with tangible funding opportunities.
- Local government and community capacity and capability in key areas required for resilience is extremely limited in many parts of Queensland.

Actions from the pilot projects will be implemented to create more resilient communities. These lessons learnt will inform the state-wide rollout of resilience strategies.

Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund

The Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) supports projects to strengthen the resilience of Queensland communities and help them better prepare for disasters. QDRF is funded by the Queensland Government, with \$9.5 million available annually over four years. The second funding round will commence in the 2019-20 financial year, with funding available for infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects, including upgrading or replacing existing assets, planning and design of infrastructure, natural hazard risk assessments and studies, and research and development projects.

Get Ready Queensland

The Queensland Government's Get Ready Queensland (GRQ) grants program is a state-wide, year-round, all-hazards, resilience building initiative that assists local governments to better prepare their communities for severe weather and disaster events. GRQ funding helps all 77 local government entities and the Weipa Town Authority to facilitate locally-driven events and initiatives that build individual and community preparedness and resilience. Council led activities delivered with GRQ funding include disaster management dashboards, community education videos, pop-up events, training and information stalls. In 2019-20, \$2 million has been committed to Queensland local governments to improve community preparedness and resilience to disasters events.

Case study

QDRF-funded water tank supports national park bushfire response operations

The QDRF is helping our communities stand stronger in the face of natural disasters

During the response to bushfires in Deongwar State Forest in the Toowoomba Region during November, emergency responders were able to access water from a tank that was purchased by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) with money from the QDRF.

The 22,500 litre tank was strategically placed to help protect both the state forest and neighbouring properties from the threat of bushfires. Fortunately, the tank was installed and ready for use in time for the recent bushfire response.

QPWS received a total of \$42,000 of the \$9.5 million available under the first round of the QDRF to install water storage in both Deongwar State Forest and Girraween National Park for fire protection and suppression activities.

This includes permanent water tanks and transportable tank trailers to assist QPWS rangers to fight fires in areas where water cannot be stored.

Senior Ranger Stuart Henry said the new water storage at Deongwar State Forest played a crucial role in bushfire management, with QPWS, HQPlantations and Queensland Rural Fire Service crews all sourcing water for firefighting from the tank during the recent Pechey-Ravensbourne fire.

“The South West Region has park and forest estate and ranger bases in remote areas where water is not always easily accessed,” Mr Henry said.

“This is an ongoing concern in the region right now, given the current dry conditions.

“It is important that we have access to water for firefighting in these isolated areas so that we can protect the local environment and nearby properties without having to leave the fireline for extended periods to refill our fire units.

“Being able to refill near the fire at any time of the day or night helped us to stop the fire from spreading beyond containment lines.

“We were fortunate that we were able to purchase and install the tank when we did, so it was ready for use during the November bushfires. It also provides some peace of mind knowing the infrastructure is available if needed in the future.”



Section 5: Annexures



Annex A—Recovery support and collaboration

Effective recovery requires collaboration between local, state and federal governments, community and non-government agencies in consultation with impacted communities. Agencies that play a part in assisting with the recovery of impacted communities include, but are not limited to the following:

Queensland Government

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)

DAF can provide a range of extension and advice to primary producers affected by the bushfires, including agriculture recovery and animal welfare advice. DAF can also assist in identifying owners of misplaced livestock. DAF provides freight subsidy financial support to primary producers.

www.daf.qld.gov.au

13 25 23

Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS)

The Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors has lead responsibility for the delivery of human and social recovery support services following a disaster event. Human and social recovery is the emotional, social, physical and psychological health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities following a disaster. Human and social recovery generally aims to address a range of needs including:

- access to timely information
- assistance to reconnect with families, friends and community networks
- enabling people to manage their own recovery through access to information and a range of services and/or practical assistance
- access to financial assistance for those individuals and households who are most vulnerable and do not have the means to finance their own recovery
- engagement and access to emotional, psychological and mental health support at individual, family and community levels (psychosocial support)
- assisting people to maintain a sense of equilibrium in their life, come to terms with their reality and move forward into a new and possibly changed reality.

App: Self Recovery

www.communities.qld.gov.au

Community Recovery Hotline: 1800 173 349

Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT)

DESBT delivers programs that recognise the important relationship between employment outcomes, strong small business and a skilled workforce to the wellbeing of Queenslanders and their communities.

www.desbt.qld.gov.au

13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Department of Environment and Science (DES)

DES has an important role as stewards of Queensland's natural environment and cultural and built heritage, to ensure these unique assets are protected and sustainably managed for future generations to enjoy. In responding to natural disasters and threats to the environment, DES seeks to identify environmental impacts and will assist in prioritising environmental recovery actions, in addition to protecting urban and natural areas through fire management in parks and forests.

www.des.qld.gov.au

13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW)

HPW delivers a range of services to ensure in-need Queenslanders have access to housing and homelessness assistance after the closure of evacuation centres. After a disaster, DHPW will assist by facilitating immediate and longer-term temporary accommodation solutions and will coordinate frontline government building damage assessments across impacted areas.

www.hpw.qld.gov.au

13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Former Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games (DITID)

DITID focused on leading the Advance Queensland initiative, the success of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games (GC2018) and growing tourism in the state. DITID assists in the development and implementation of recovery activities.

www.ditid.qld.gov.au

13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Former Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP)

DSDMIP exists to deliver Queensland's economic prosperity by championing the interests of business and industry. DSDMIP seeks to identify and address issues and risks that affect ongoing economic impacts and rate of recovery. This includes, through its administration of the *Planning Act 2016*, ensuring state and local plans developed in conjunction with Queensland councils accommodate outcomes that minimise socioeconomic risks/impacts for communities as a result of natural disasters.

www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au

13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)

TMR is responsible for the delivery and maintenance of the integrated transport network across Queensland. TMR will continue to provide the latest information regarding disruptions and closures across the road, rail, aviation and maritime networks.

www.tmr.qld.gov.au

www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au

13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

QFES is the primary provider of fire and emergency services in Queensland. QFES aims to protect people, property and the environment through the delivery of emergency services; awareness programs; response capability and capacity; and, incident response and recovery for a safer Queensland.

www.qfes.qld.gov.au

Emergency: 000

Non-Emergency: 13 GOV (13 74 68)

Queensland Health (QH)

QH is at the forefront of the Queensland Government's responsibilities for planning and managing public health emergencies and disaster events. During a disaster, QH provides pre-hospital response through the Queensland Ambulance Service, aero-medical transport to support the Queensland Ambulance Service, and the provision of information, advice and services to the community and partner agencies.

www.health.qld.gov.au

Emergency: 000

13HEALTH (13 43 25 84)

Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA)

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Queensland Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster affected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.

In line with QRA's vision to build a more disaster resilient Queensland, QRA is the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. In this role, QRA works collaboratively with other agencies and key stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

www.qra.qld.gov.au

1800 110 841

Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA)

QRIDA administers financial assistance to disaster affected primary producers, small businesses and non-profit organisations under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and disaster loans.

www.qrida.qld.gov.au

1800 623 946

State Emergency Service (SES)

SES can provide temporary emergency assistance to help people protect themselves and their property from further damage in circumstances such as: damaged walls, windows or roofs, trees down blocking access, rising flood water, and any storm damage that may be a threat to life or property.

App: SES Assistance QLD

132 500

Australian Government

Emergency Management Australia (EMA)

EMA is a division of the department of Home Affairs and delivers programs, policies and services that strengthen Australia's national security and emergency management capability. EMA is also the Commonwealth administrator of the DRFA.

Department of Human Services (DHS)

DHS provides assistance to those adversely affected by natural disasters through the provision of Disaster Recovery Payments (DRP) or Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA).

www.humanservices.gov.au

www.disasterassist.gov.au

132 850

NBRA (NQLIRA)

Local Government

Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)

LGAQ is the peak body for local government in Queensland and is responsible for advising, supporting and representing councils. LGAQ provides direct advice and support to councils following any major event at the political, strategic and/or operational levels. This support is provided through the expertise of the LGAQ, subsidiary companies and the facilitation of 'Council-to-Council' (C2C) support. LGAQ recognises the range of needs of councils and their LDMGs and seeks to provide specific support based on the capability of each council.

www.lgaq.asn.au

1300 542 700

Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)

A number of NGOs are now actively committed to strengthening and extending emergency aid services throughout Queensland communities affected by natural disasters.

Australian Red Cross

www.redcross.org.au

1800 811 700

BlazeAid

www.blazeaid.com.au

GIVIT

www.givit.org.au

Lifeline

www.lifeline.org.au

13 11 14

North and West Remote Health

www.nwrh.com.au

Non-Emergency: 1800 799 244

Orange Sky

www.orangesky.org.au

07 3067 5800

Royal Flying Doctor Service

www.flyingdoctor.org.au

Emergency: 1300 My RFDS (1300 69 7337)

Non-Emergency: 07 3860 1100

RSPCA QLD

www.rspcaqlld.org.au

1300 Animal (1300 264 625)

Rural Aid

www.ruralaid.org.au

1300 327 624

Salvation Army

www.salvos.org.au

13 SALVOS (13 72 58)

St Vincent de Paul Society

www.vinnies.org.au

07 3010 1002 or 1300 vinnies (1300 131 812)

UnitingCare Queensland

www.unitingcareqlld.com.au

07 3253 4000

Volunteering Queensland (VQ)

www.volunteeringqlld.org.au

07 3002 7600

Insurance

Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS)

FOS provides accessible, fair and independent dispute resolution for consumers and financial services providers. FOS offers free and accessible dispute resolution services to all Australian residents. FOS assists people who encounter difficulties relating to insurance claims which are unable to be resolved directly with the insurer.

www.fos.org.au

1800 367 287

Insurance Council of Australia (ICA)

ICA is the representative body of the general insurance industry in Australia. It aims to promote insurance protection and security to the community and provides a range of practical information to support consumers.

www.insurancecouncil.com.au

1300 728 228

Agriculture

AgForce Queensland

AgForce is a non-government organisation that seeks to secure the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the agribusiness sector. AgForce provides direction and solutions to overcome challenges and build on opportunities within Queensland's farming and agriculture businesses.

www.agforceqlld.org.au

07 3236 3100

Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF)

QFF engages in a broad range of economic, social, environmental and regional issues of strategic importance to the productivity, sustainability and growth of Queensland's agricultural sector.

www.qff.org.au

www.farmerdisastersupport.org.au

07 3837 4720

Annex B—Glossary

BRG	State Building Recovery Group
CDO	Counter Disaster Operations
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DA	Damage Assessment
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DCDSS	Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
DESBT	Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
DES	Department of Environment and Science
DHPW	Department of Housing and Public Works
DHS	Department of Human Services
DITID	Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
DSDMIP	Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
DSRC	Deputy State Recovery Coordinator
EHA	Emergency Hardship Assistance
EHCG	Essential Household Contents Grants
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
ESSRS	Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme
FRG	Functional Recovery Group
GRQ	Get Ready Queensland
ICA	Insurance Council of Australia
LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group
LGA	Local Government Area
LGAQ	Local Government Association of Queensland
LRG	Local Recovery Group
NBRA	National Bushfire Recovery Agency

NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PHAS	Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme
QBCC	Queensland Building and Construction Commission
QDMC	Queensland Disaster Management Committee
QDRF	Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
QFF	Queensland Farmers' Federation
QH	Queensland Health
QRA	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
QRIDA	Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority
REPA	Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets
SAG	Structural Assistance Grants
SES	State Emergency Service
SRC	State Recovery Coordinator
SRPPC	State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator
TMR	Department of Transport and Main Roads

Annex C—DRFA Activation summary —2019 Queensland Bushfires

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements event Queensland Bushfires, September - December 2019



The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) is a jointly funded program between the Australian Government and state and territory (state) governments, through which the Australian Government provides financial assistance to support state governments with disaster recovery costs.

In response to the bushfires, assistance has been activated for the area formally defined as: *“Communities located in Queensland affected by bushfires, September - December 2019”*

DRFA assistance measures (as activated by the Queensland Government)

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme
- Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Not-for-Profit Organisations) Loans
- Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Small Business) Loans
- Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans
- Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers
- Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme
- Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets

DRFA assistance measures (jointly activated by the Queensland and Australian Governments)

- Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers

DRFA assistance measures activated

Local Government Area	Counter Disaster Operations	Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme	Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme	Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets	Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Small Business) Loans *	Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Not-for-profit Orgs) Loans *	Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans *	Freight Subsidies for primary producers	Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers
Brisbane City Council	✓ Activated 08/04/20								
Bundaberg Regional Council	✓ Activated 15/11/19	✓ ¹ Activated 15/11/19	✓ ¹ Activated 15/11/19		✓ Activated 31/01/20		✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 21/02/20
City of Gold Coast	✓ Activated 20/09/19			✓ Activated 20/09/19					
Cook Shire Council	✓ Activated 08/04/20								
Fraser Coast Regional Council	✓ Activated 08/04/20								
Gladstone Regional Council	✓ Activated 19/12/19	✓ ² Activated 19/12/19	✓ ² Activated 19/12/19		✓ Activated 31/01/20		✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 21/02/20
Gympie Regional Council	✓ Activated 09/12/19						✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 21/02/20
Ipswich City Council	✓ Activated 19/12/19						✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 21/02/20
Livingstone Shire Council	✓ Activated 11/11/19	✓ ³ Activated 11/11/19	✓ ³ Activated 11/11/19		✓ Activated 31/01/20		✓ Activated 17/11/19	✓ Activated 17/11/19	✓ ¹⁰ Activated 10/01/20
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	✓ Activated 15/11/19						✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 21/02/20
Mareeba Shire Council	✓ Activated 08/04/20						✓ Activated 08/04/20	✓ Activated 08/04/20	✓ Activated 23/04/20
Noosa Shire Council	✓ Activated 11/09/19	✓ Activated 11/09/19	✓ Activated 11/09/19		✓ Activated 31/01/20		✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 21/02/20
North Burnett Regional Council	✓ Activated 08/04/20								
Redland City Council	✓ Activated 28/11/19								
Rockhampton Regional Council	✓ Activated 08/04/20								
Scenic Rim Regional Council	✓ Activated 07/09/19	✓ ⁵ Activated 07/09/19	✓ ⁵ Activated 07/09/19	✓ Activated 11/09/19	✓ Activated 13/09/19	✓ Activated 13/09/19	✓ Activated 13/09/19	✓ Activated 13/09/19	✓ Activated 21/02/20
Somerset Regional Council	✓ Activated 20/11/19	✓ ⁶ Activated 20/11/19	✓ ⁶ Activated 20/11/19		✓ Activated 31/01/20		✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 21/02/20
South Burnett Regional Council	✓ Activated 08/04/20								
Southern Downs Regional Council	✓ Activated 07/09/19	✓ ⁷ Activated 07/09/19	✓ ⁷ Activated 07/09/19	✓ Activated 20/11/19	✓ Activated 13/09/19	✓ Activated 13/09/19	✓ Activated 13/09/19	✓ Activated 13/09/19	✓ Activated 21/02/20
Sunshine Coast Regional Council	✓ Activated 11/09/19	✓ ⁸ Activated 11/09/19	✓ ⁸ Activated 11/09/19		✓ Activated 31/01/20		✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 21/02/20
Toowoomba Regional Council	✓ Activated 15/11/19	✓ ⁹ Activated 09/12/19	✓ ⁹ Activated 09/12/19		✓ Activated 31/01/20		✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 31/01/20	✓ Activated 21/02/20
Townsville City Council	✓ Activated 08/04/20								
Whitsunday Regional Council	✓ Activated 08/04/20								

DRFA Activation summary - 2019 Queensland Bushfires

The Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) and Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme (ESSRS) for the following local government areas is limited to specified areas – refer to www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/queensland-disasters:

1. Bundaberg
2. Gladstone
3. Livingstone
4. Noosa
5. Scenic Rim
6. Somerset
7. Southern Downs
8. Sunshine Coast
9. Toowoomba

10. The Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers for Livingstone Shire is limited to the area east of the Bruce Highway.

* Category B concessional loans up to \$500,000 for not-for-profit organisations, small businesses and primary producers for replacement of assets destroyed by bushfires or for essential working capital.

Exceptional Category C and D assistance measures

DRFA Category	Package Type	Assistance Measure
C	Community Recovery Package	Mental Health and Wellbeing
		Community Development Fund
		Flexible Funding Grants
		Tourism Marketing Program
		Tourism Recovery Fund
		Tourism Recovery Officers
		Walking Trails Restoration
D	Increased special disaster assistance grants (including Category C component)	Grants for primary producers of up to \$75,000
	Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package	Grants to severely impacted local governments
	Binna Burra Recovery Package	



DRFA Assistance measures activated

Assistance for individuals

Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme

To alleviate personal hardship and distress.

Emergency Hardship Assistance Grant – provides assistance as a contribution to support people directly impacted by an eligible disaster to meet their immediate essential needs for food, clothing, medical supplies or temporary accommodation.

Essential Services Hardship Assistance – provides assistance for people directly impacted by an eligible disaster to meet their immediate needs where they have experienced the loss of 1 or more essential services for more than 5 days.

Essential Household Contents Grant – provides a contribution towards replacing or repairing essential household contents, such as beds, linen and whitegoods that have been lost or damaged by an eligible disaster.

Structural Assistance Grant – provides a contribution towards repairs or replacement of a dwelling damaged by an eligible disaster, to return it to a safe, habitable and secure condition.

Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme

To assist residents with the inspection and reconnection of essential services that have been damaged by an eligible disaster. The scheme provides financial assistance to individuals and families as a contribution towards safety inspections of and, repairs to, residential essential services (i.e. electricity, gas, water and sewerage) damaged by an eligible disaster.

Contact Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors on **1800 173 349** or www.communities.qld.gov.au

Assistance for small business

Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Small Business) Loans

Concessional interest rate loans to assist small businesses whose assets have been significantly damaged by an eligible disaster, to recover and return to viable operations and/or have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of an eligible disaster by providing the essential working capital required to continue business operations.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on **1800 623 946** or www.qrida.qld.gov.au

Assistance for not-for-profit organisations

Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Not-for-profit organisations) Loans

Concessional interest rate loans to assist not-for-profit organisations whose assets have been significantly damaged by an eligible disaster, to recover and return to viable operations and/or have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of an eligible disaster by providing the essential working capital required to continue business operations.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on **1800 623 946** or www.qrida.qld.gov.au

Assistance for primary producers

Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans

Concessional interest rate loans to assist primary producers whose assets have been significantly damaged by an eligible disaster, to recover and return to viable operations and/or have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of an eligible disaster by providing the essential working capital required to continue business operations.

Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants - Primary Producers

Grants for primary producers who have suffered direct damage caused by an eligible disaster. Grants are aimed at covering the cost of clean-up and reinstatement, but not at providing compensation for losses.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or www.qrida.qld.gov.au

Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers

To assist primary producers impacted by an eligible disaster with the transport of livestock, fodder or water for livestock, building, fencing equipment or machinery to the primary producer's home property.

Contact Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23 or www.daf.qld.gov.au

Assistance for state and local governments

Counter Disaster Operations

To assist local governments and state agencies to undertake activities that alleviate personal hardship and distress, address the immediate needs of individuals and protect the general public, immediately prior to, during or immediately after an eligible disaster.

Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (including Emergency Works and Immediate Reconstruction)

Emergency Works

To assist local governments and state agencies to undertake urgent activities necessary following an eligible disaster to temporarily restore an eligible essential public asset to enable it to operate/be operated at an acceptable level of efficiency to support the immediate recovery of a community.

Immediate Reconstruction Works

To assist local governments and state agencies to immediately and permanently reconstruct damaged essential public assets to pre-disaster function immediately after the eligible disaster. Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets are works undertaken by local governments and state agencies to reconstruct damaged essential public assets to pre-disaster function.

Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets

To assist local governments and state agencies to reconstruct damaged essential public assets to pre-disaster function.

Contact Queensland Reconstruction Authority on 1800 110 841 or www.qra.qld.gov.au

Assistance for communities and in exceptional circumstances

Category C – Community Recovery Fund

- A community recovery fund in circumstances where a community is severely affected and needs to restore social networks, community functioning and community facilities. Expenditure from the fund is aimed at community recovery, community development and community capacity building, and is administered by the state in close collaboration with local government or other community bodies.

Category D – Exceptional Circumstance Packages

- Acts of relief or recovery carried out to alleviate distress or damage in circumstances which are considered exceptional.



2019 Queensland Bushfires
State Recovery Plan 2019-2022



Queensland
Government