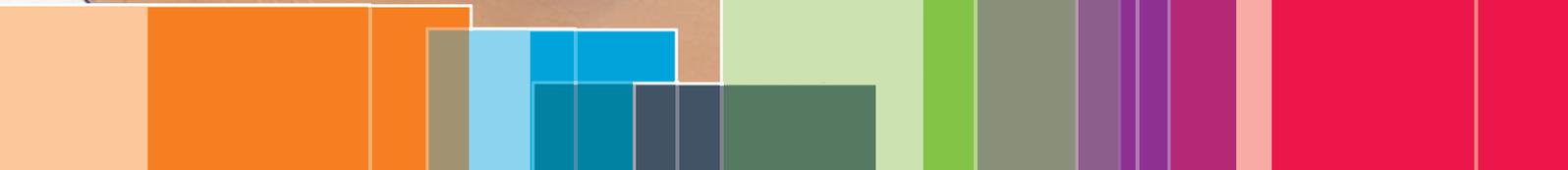




FLOOD RECOVERY PLAN

2022-2024

January/February/May 2022 Extreme Rainfall and Floods
Endorsed by the Local Disaster Management Group 08 November 2022



Recovery Plan

About this Plan

This plan provides an overview of recovery activities to be delivered in the Gympie region to 30 June 2024.

It is a living document that will be updated to respond to changing circumstances as required.

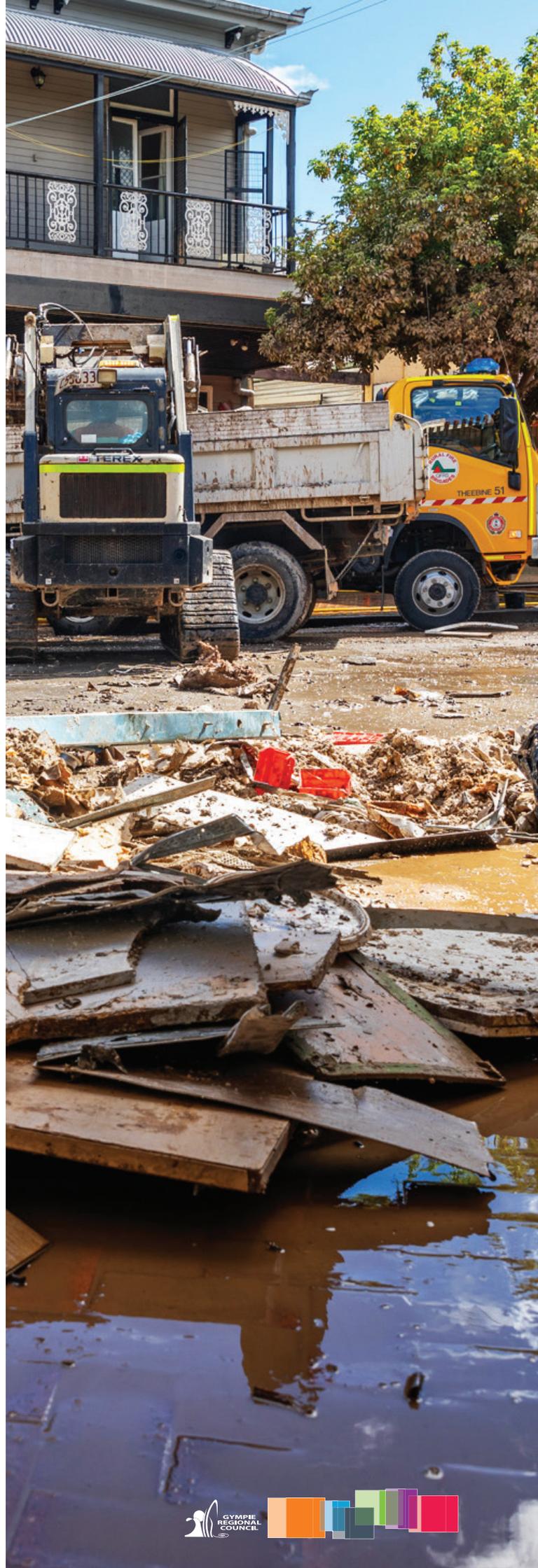
Meaning of Recovery

In accordance with the Queensland Recovery Plan, disaster recovery is defined as the coordinated process of supporting disaster-affected communities' psychosocial (emotional and social), and physical well-being; reconstruction of physical infrastructure; and economic and environmental restoration (including regeneration of the natural environment, associated infrastructure and heritage sites and structures and the management of pollution and contamination).

Commitments, Communication, Review and Reporting

The Local Disaster Recovery Group will:

- Take lead responsibility for the implementation of this plan
- Inform residents and stakeholders of this plan and provide progress updates
- Promote and leverage disaster funding and support packages
- Escalate issues to State and Federal agencies as required
- Review implementation of this plan every two months or as required
- Provide reports to the Local Disaster Management Group every quarter to 30 June 2024
- Develop any further actions in June 2024 based on remaining flood recovery need assessed at that time.



Recovery Narrative

About our Region

- Population approximately 53,800 people.
- Land area of 6,898 km² with mix of urban, rural and coastal townships.
- Ageing population with overall higher than state/national proportion of people with a disability.

About the Disaster Events

Extreme Rainfall Event Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth:
7-9 January 2022:

- More than 400mm recorded in Bureau of Meteorology gauges in the hills to the north-west of Gympie
- Local reports of intense rainfall between 600-700mm in some areas of Goomeri, Kilkivan, Woolooga, Boobyjan, Tansey causing flash flooding and severe impacts to road network and agricultural areas and rural townships
- Mary River peaked at 13.7m.

SEQ Rainfall and Flooding Event: 23 February -
2 March 2022:

- Mary River peaked at 22.96m, highest peak since 1893
- Widespread flooding throughout the entire Mary River catchment
- Transport corridors inundated, cutting Gympie city in half and isolating communities north, south, east and west.

SEQ Rainfall and Flooding Event: 6-20 May 2022:

- Mary River peaked just above 16m
- Floodwaters cut Bruce Highway and low-lying business owners evacuated
- Flooding at Dagun, Gympie and Miva.

Local Recovery Group

- Chaired by the Deputy Mayor with group comprised of council and agency staff.

Key Stakeholders

- Gympie residents and property owners.
- Community, business, industry, tourism sectors.
- Local Disaster Management Group.
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority .
- Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.
- Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Damage and Impacts

Human and Social

- January 2022: places of refuge established at Kilkivan, Goomeri and Imbil for stranded persons; 100 families isolated at Borumba Deer Park, Imbil.
- February 2022: over 460 people accommodated at four evacuation centres.
- May 2022: evacuation centre opened predominantly for stranded travellers.
- Two deaths - January/February events.
- Swift water rescue teams deployed.
- Aerial and boat drops of food and medication/ ambulance services to isolated streets/ communities.
- February 2022: 291 residential properties with minor – severe flood damage (February 2022 initial QFES damage assessment).
- Psychological distress and anxiety, compounded by mental health impacts of COVID-19 and previous bushfires and drought in region.
- Disruption to community events and volunteer capacity.
- Lack of access to damaged sporting and recreational facilities and open space e.g. netball, polocrosse/pony clubs, gem club, AFL grounds, Albert Park precinct, One Mile precinct, River to Rail Trail, Tansey Bowls Club.
- Flood inundation of several not for profit retail shops e.g. Little Haven Palliative Care Market Place, Neighbours Aid Gympie Op Shop, RSPCA Op Shop with resultant revenue loss.
- Further disruption to creative sector through inundation or flood damage of cultural assets e.g. Gympie Civic Centre; Alluvial Gallery.
- For the February flood, schools temporarily closed; significant damage to One Mile and Two Mile State Schools; USC Gympie and TAFE temporarily closed.
- Increase in demand for services at Gympie Community Place (neighbourhood centre) and key community services e.g. St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army.

Economic

- Extensive damage and loss to agricultural properties and primary production e.g. fencing, irrigation, livestock, dam walls, destroyed crops.
- 143 commercial and industrial properties with minor – severe flood damage (February 2022 initial QFES damage assessment).
- Severe damage to retail and commercial precincts including Mary Street and CBD, Crescent/Brisbane Road.
- Loss of business revenue.
- Loss of employment/less hours.
- Moderate – severe damage of tourism attractions e.g. The Rattler, Glen Echo Park and Gympie Historical and Gold Mining Museum.
- Damage to hotels and accommodation e.g. Fox Glenn Gympie, resulting in loss of temporary/crisis accommodation and visitation.
- Severe damage to major business e.g. Nolan Meats.

Environment

- Contamination of public and private properties.
- Large amounts of flood debris scattered across public and private properties, as well as conservation areas and coastline.
- Large scale bank collapses, gully erosion and slips in Mary River and other catchments.
- Extensive damage to wildlife habitat, including nesting and breeding habitat for the endangered Mary River turtle and cod.
- Over 455 per cent increase in tonnage disposed at council Waste Facilities for the period 1/3/22 – 30/4/22 (being 14,186.41 tonnes compared to 3113.8 for the same period in 2021), representing 50 per cent of council's projected annual waste received in only eight weeks.

Built Environment

- **Electricity:** February 2022: Floodwater inundation/damage to a significant portion of electricity network infrastructure and customer electrical installations in the Gympie regional area resulted in approximately 6900 individual customer power outages in the peak of the disruption.
- **Telecommunications:** January 2022: Damage to fibre cable impacting Oakview Radio Tower (near Kilkivan) resulting in a loss of phone connection to approximately 800 customers in the surrounding area; loss of mobile coverage and internet services in Gympie and surrounds due to power failures at 11 mobile sites and one exchange impacting approximately 10,000 customers (no damage to network infrastructure sustained).
- February 2022: Loss of mobile coverage and internet services in Gympie and surrounds due to power failure at 18 mobile sites and one exchange impacting 20,000 plus customers (no damage to network infrastructure sustained); two locations (Oakview, Cinnebar) considered to be in isolation due to loss of both mobile and fixed line services as a result of power failure;
- **Sewerage:** January 2022: Water damage to three sewerage treatment pumps and leads causing sewer overflows and discharges from manholes; February 2022: 27 sewer pump stations without power including the region's four major stations.

- **Water:** January 2022: Damage to water infrastructure resulting in partial operation of Goomeri plant, 36 lineal metres of water main missing in Goomeri. Goomeri WTP clear water pumps damaged resulting in partial operation and shut down of Plant. Goomeri Showgrounds bore switchboard required repair. February 2022: five water treatment plants were not operational between one and three days.
- **Streetscapes:** Extensive damage to Gympie CBD, signature parks and playgrounds, Kandanga/Goomeri/Gympie community pools, military memorial sites (e.g. Memorial Walk, Anzac Flame), heritage listed assets (e.g. rotunda in Memorial Park), community halls, public amenities.

Roads and Transport

- Extensive damage across transport network including bridges, culverts, crossings, road surfaces, road shoulders resulting in road closures and isolation of some streets/communities.
- Train derailed near Traveston.
- Major bridge closures including Pengellys, Normanby, Bells, Inglewood and Kidd Bridges and numerous creek crossings and culverts.
- **Road closures at peak:** January 2022: 17 main roads, 23 council LGA roads. February 2022: 20 main roads, 28 council LGA roads. May 2022: 16 main roads, 34 council LGA roads.



Recovery Objectives

Human and Social

- 1 Enable residents to access the support they need for daily living (e.g. food, household, financial and psychological assistance).
- 2 Coordinate emergency and transitional housing for flood impacted residents.
- 3 Support community connection, mental health and resilience through community-led events, training and activities.
- 4 Reinforce community disaster preparedness for future events.

Economic

- 5 As far as possible, return streetscape and amenity to key commercial/retail precincts.
- 6 Work with local chambers of commerce and tourism networks to identify need and strategies for economic recovery.
- 7 Encourage local spend through “buy local” and “holiday local” campaigns.
- 8 Support economic development and resilience, advocate for economic opportunities including tourism and recreation.

Environment

- 9 Remove flood debris from natural assets including waterways, conservation areas and open space/recreational areas.
- 10 Monitor and address public health issues arising from flood contamination and waste disposal.

- 11 Identify flood impacts on vegetation, waterways and fauna, and support environmental recovery/resilience projects.
- 12 Implement sustainable solutions for the Gympie region’s waste disposal.

Built Environment

- 13 Identify damage to public infrastructure and telecommunication assets, including weather monitoring.
- 14 Prioritise restoration work to public infrastructure and telecommunications and secure short-medium term funding.
- 15 Repair and/or build more disaster resilient public infrastructure, telecommunications and weather monitoring assets.
- 16 As far as possible, ensure the Local Planning Scheme mitigates future hardship through comprehensive consideration of natural disaster planning.

Roads and Transport

- 17 Inspect and make safe priority road and transport network.
- 18 Prioritise road and transport recovery works and seek funding for priority works.
- 19 Execute reconstruction works on time and on budget.
- 20 As far as possible, ensure future road and transport planning and construction methods mitigate future hardship relating to natural disasters.

Recovery Timeframes

Timeframe	Short Term 03/2022 - 09/2022	Medium/Long Term 10/2022 - 06/2024	Ongoing
Human and Social	1, 2	3	4
Economic	5	6, 7	8
Environment	9	10, 11	12
Built Environment	13	14, 15	16
Roads and Transport	17	18, 19	20

Recovery Tasks

Human and Social

- Establish recovery hub/s.
- Connect residents to available community and government support.
- Support flood impacted community and sporting groups with information about grant funding and provide grant writing support.
- Collaborate with State government on short – long term housing recovery solutions.
- Support and fund community-led recovery events and programs (e.g. Night at the Flicks, community BBQs, Neighbour Day activities, active and healthy program, creative/arts and cultural recovery projects).
- Monitor ongoing community fatigue, loss of hope and mental health issues during the recovery process and seek additional resources to address service shortages as required.

Economic

- Advocate to the Federal government disaster agencies in regard to criteria for the extraordinary primary producer and small business grants.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to deliver information sessions for primary producers and businesses impacted by the January extreme rainfall event.
- Provide skip bins to key commercial/retail precincts for emergency debris removal.
- Provide commercial operators with free waste disposal of eligible flood debris for limited period.
- Provide free car park allocation for trades and waste purposes for impacted businesses on Mary Street.
- Encourage “buy local” and “holiday local” campaigns.
- Work with local chambers of commerce and tourism networks to identify need and strategies for economic recovery.
- Work across sectors and all tiers of government to support industry development and assist in developing economic resilience.
- Advocate for economic opportunities including tourism and recreation.



Environment

- Support flood impacted residents and property owners with kerbside collection and waste disposal of eligible debris at council waste facilities.
- Provide public information regarding safe disposal of contaminated materials, asbestos, hazardous waste.
- Liaise with Department of Environment and Science regarding landfill site constraints, solutions for excess flood waste disposal and longer term sustainable options.
- Work with peak and local environmental organisations to understand impact on vegetation, wildlife (e.g. Mary River turtle and cod) and waterways (e.g. sediment and bank erosion) to plan and resource medium-long term environmental restoration and recovery projects.
- Monitor and address any increase in pest and weed species.

Built Environment

- Advocate strongly for better telecommunications infrastructure.
- Investigate shortcomings in weather monitoring systems and seek funding for replacement or new assets.
- Understand the impacts of new flood mapping on property owners ability to rebuild or repair and take into account in the development of new Local Planning Scheme.
- Prioritise key community assets for demolition, repair or future relocation.
- Improvement to water treatment plants in managing flooded/dirty water.

Roads and transport

- Inspect all public roads and transport networks.
- Remove debris.
- Undertake emergent works.
- Prioritise restoration and reconstruction work.
- Program works, based on available funding and priority list.
- Seek external funding to future-proof, build back better ageing road/transport infrastructure

Measures of Success

Human and Social

- Number of residents that have accessed the Gympie Recovery Hub and Recovery Support Centre.
- Number of residents/property owners that received State/Federal government disaster recovery funding.
- Number of flood impacted residents supported with emergency and/or transitional housing.
- Number of damaged not for profit community, cultural and sporting facilities that have re-opened or relocated after disaster events.
- Number of community recovery events (e.g. free BBQs) supported by council to June 2024.

Economic

- Completion of flood debris removal from key business precincts.
- Number of businesses that received State/Federal government recovery funding.
- Number of economic recovery information sessions delivered by council and partners.

Environment

- Completion of flood debris removal from natural assets including public conservation areas, waterways/banks, walking tracks, beach access points.
- Number of damaged playgrounds and parks made safe and re-opened to the public.
- Number of environmental recovery projects implemented to June 2024.

Built Environment

- Completion of flood debris removal from community facilities.
- Completion of damage assessment of council owned assets and public facilities.
- Submission of council insurance claim.
- Completion of restoration works on priority flood impacted buildings and public assets with available funding.

Roads and Transport

- All public roads and transport corridors inspected and made safe.
- Completion of repair and/or reconstruction of priority road and transport network with available funding.



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