

# **GOLD COAST RECOVERY PLAN**

**SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND SEVERE STORMS AND RAINFALL**

**VERSION 5.0**

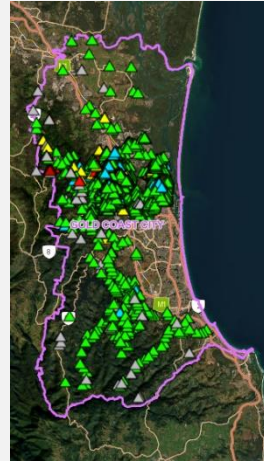
CITY OF  
**GOLDCOAST.™**

# GOLD COAST LOCAL RECOVERY GROUP – RECOVERY PLAN V5.0

## GOLD COAST – SEVERE WEATHER – DECEMBER 2023

- Significant severe weather was experienced across the Gold Coast from Christmas evening 2023 through to New Years Day 2024. Three separate weather events occurred over this period bringing destructive winds, extreme heavy rainfall, severe heatwave conditions and large hail.
- On Monday 25 December wind gusts up to 160km/h were recorded, 53mm rain was received, numerous lightning strikes were observed, and large hail was received bringing extensive damage to property and infrastructure across the Gold Coast.
- Considerable structural damage was experienced due to destructive winds with a high level of fallen trees and powerlines, damage to roofs and buildings, extensive power outages and disruption to communications.
- On Thursday 28 December a low intensity heatwave was experienced over the following 3 days to with temperatures recorded up to 40 degrees and high humidity. A large number of Gold Coast residents and businesses remained without power and means of communication.
- On Monday 01 January 2024 additional severe storms occurred bringing destructive winds and extreme heavy rainfall across the Gold Coast. Falls in excess of 500mm were received in areas across the Gold Coast bringing further flooding impacts and damage.

## DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE	TOTAL	MINOR	MODERATE	SEVERE	DESTROYED
Aged Care	3	2	1	0	0
Commercial	10	5	3	2	0
Community hall	4	4	0	0	0
Private house	770	361	313	93	3
Industrial	3	0	1	2	0
Infrastructure	103*	4	1	0	0
Mobile property	3	1	1	1	0
Place of worship	4	3	1	0	0
School	10	2	5	3	0
Shed	13	4	2	6	1
Other	7	6	1	0	0

\*Total includes No Damage / Unaffected assessments



NATURE RESERVE



CEDAR CREEK ROAD



COOMERA STATE SCHOOL

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## EARLY RECOVERY PHASE

## MEDIUM TERM RECOVERY PHASE

## LONG TERM RECOVERY PHASE

Event

8 weeks

8 weeks

8 months

8 months

8 months+

HUMAN AND SOCIAL



ECONOMIC



ENVIRONMENT



INFRASTRUCTURE



RESILIENCE



## OBJECTIVES

### HUMAN AND SOCIAL

1. Provision of immediate emergency shelter for impacted vulnerable residents
2. Access to essential needs and financial assistance
3. Provision of relief and early recovery information in diverse languages and through multiple accessible channels including digital and face to face outreach
4. Provision of psychological first aid and immediate support
5. Residents' reconnection of essential services
6. Insurance claim support and information
7. Support for the repair of damaged properties
8. Provision of targeted support to assist impacted uninsured and/or vulnerable residents
9. Impacted community members are aware of available psychosocial and mental health support.
10. Targeted support to assist priority community groups
11. Strengthen social connections and deliver trauma informed activities across impacted communities
12. Integration of recovery and resilience information and activities into BAU
13. Advocacy and complex case coordination for insurance matters
14. Support transition to permanent accommodation solutions
15. Identification of mitigation strategies for future events

### ENVIRONMENT

1. Provision of heightened water quality monitoring
2. Prioritise the collection of impact data from natural area reserves to continue to quantify the damage
3. Provide green waste management activities in open spaces and prioritise need for additional resourcing
4. Ongoing need for the provision of environmental health advice to affected communities and businesses
5. Implement pest and vector control management
6. Clean up of debris in waterways and beaches
7. Prepare and implement a resilient street replacement program for trees lost in impacted suburbs
8. Provide support for conservation partners and wildlife community groups to address heightened demand for services
9. Assess and mitigate the impacts of this event on bushfire risk
10. Clear and redress impacts to fire trails
11. Redress erosion, stability and vegetation loss to waterways
12. Implement canopy regeneration and forest restoration measures across both public and private land in the impact zone

### INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Conduct inspection and immediate repair of power networks, water supply and telecommunication connections
2. Target progressive re-establishment of power networks, water supply and telecommunication connections
3. Establish a program of works for removal of debris and green waste from private land under 'Operation Clean Up'
4. Restoration of schools and education facilities
5. Reinstatement of signage
6. Establish a program of works for debris and green waste removal from non-essential public assets (parks, sporting fields, recreational assets, conservation area board walks, fire trails, waterways)
7. Identify and establish program of works for the restoration of parks, sporting, recreation and community infrastructure
8. Establish and implement a program of works for the restoration of essential public assets – road and landslips
9. Implement sewage and water pump betterment programs

### ECONOMIC

1. Provide loan and grant fund assistance to businesses
2. Provision of services to address business specific waste needs, such as debris and green waste, hazardous and industrial waste
3. Promotion of "Gold Coast is open for business"
4. For significantly impacted areas, identify long-term financial support measures needed for businesses to reestablish and promote operations
5. Support for impacted businesses to recommence operations
6. Connect businesses with appropriate support networks and mechanisms to address emerging needs, including wellness, psychosocial and professional development services
7. Advocate for impacted business needs to support insurance claims via the sharing of information
8. Identify initiatives to encourage visitation and business and investment confidence
9. Reestablishing connections within business communities

### RESILIENCE

1. Restore public trust in emergency warnings and modelling capability
2. Identify critical lessons and implement improvements to increase disaster management capability
3. Review and enhance recovery specific capability and capacity
4. Review scope and implementation timeframes of Program Air to incorporate broader severe wind types and impacts
5. Provision of education and wellness activities to mitigate severe weather-related impacts
6. Lead the provision of impacted community resilience, preparedness and capacity building programs
7. Synchronise key recovery initiatives with the event specific State Recovery Plan
8. Support coordinated community resilience, education and information campaigns in peri-urban areas
9. Enhance the capacity of psychosocial support of response, relief and recovery stakeholders
10. Review implementation plans of climate adaptation and disaster readiness programs to identify gaps and opportunities to adapt and improve the long-term resilience of the City
11. Reassess City severe wind code requirements and large vegetation policies to increase infrastructure resilience
12. Reassess and understand critical infrastructure failure points and risk to households / businesses in vulnerable areas

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