Local Disaster Management Plan

CAIRNS REGION

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Local Disaster Management Plan - Cairns Region

Foreword from Chair of LDMG-CR

Cairns Regional Council has an active Disaster Management philosophy which embraces mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies.

The Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region aims to provide the Cairns Regional community with the tools to ensure a full and effective response, recovery and speedy return to a safe and secure environment for all residents as soon after a disaster as possible.

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Authority to Plan

Cairns Regional Council has a legislative responsibility to develop a Disaster Management Plan in accordance with *Section 57(1) Disaster Management Act 2003*.

"s57 Plan for disaster management in local government area

> *(1) A local government must prepare a plan (a local disaster management plan)   for disaster management in the local government's area.*

> *(2) The plan must include provision for the following—*

>> a) *the State group's strategic policy framework for disaster management for the State, and the local government's policies for disaster management;*
>> b) *the roles and responsibilities of entities involved in disaster operations and disaster management in the area;*
>>
>> c) *the coordination of disaster operations and activities relating to disaster management performed by the entities mentioned in paragraph (b);*
>>
>> d) *events that are likely to happen in the area;*
>> e) *strategies and priorities for disaster management for the area;*
>> f) *the matters stated in the disaster management guidelines as matters to be included in the plan;*
>> g) *other matters about disaster management in the area the local government considers appropriate".*

"s58 A local disaster management plan must be consistent with the disaster management guidelines"

Approval of Plan
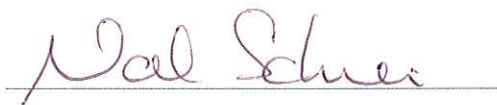
This plan has been produced by and with the authority of Cairns Regional Council pursuant to *Section 57* and *58 Disaster Management Act 2003*.

The Cairns Regional Council accepts its roles and responsibilities as described in the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

This plan is the result of the co-operative efforts of the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region after consultation with those agencies and organisations identified therein. This plan will be reviewed in accordance with *Section 59 Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Cairns Regional Council has adopted this plan by resolution at the General Meeting of Council *(DM5 Ref #2001203)* in accordance with *Section 80(1)(b) Disaster Management Act 2003 (QLD)*.

Cr Val Schier
Mayor
Cairns Regional Council
Chairperson LDMG-CR

Noel Briggs
Chief Executive Officer
Cairns Regional Council

Cr Alan Blake
Deputy Chairperson LDMG-CR

Ross McKim
Executive Officer LDMG-CR

Reviewed by Executive Officer
Cairns District Disaster Management Group

Reviewed by District Disaster Coordinator
Cairns District Disaster Management Group

Amendment Register and Version Control

This document is a controlled document and is not to be altered, amended or changed in any way other than those amendments issued by the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region. From this, the plan is intended to be a "live" document, open to suggested amendments.

Plans will be amended as follows:

- Proposals for amendment to this plan should be made in writing to:

    The Executive Officer
    Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region
    PO Box 359
    CAIRNS QLD 4870

- With the exception of minor changes, typographical changes and changes to position titles all suggestions for amendments to the plan will be submitted to the LDMG-CR for discussion.

- If not supported a written response will be provided to the submitter.

- When necessary amendments to the plan will be ratified by Council.

Version	Date	Prepared by	Comments
1	March 2007		Cairns Local Disaster Management Plan - first version under the DM Act 2003
1	2007	Douglas Shire Council	Douglas Local Disaster Management Plan – first version under the DM Act 2003
2	December 2008	CT Management Group (Qld)	Revised Plan to reflect Cairns Regional Council area

Distribution List

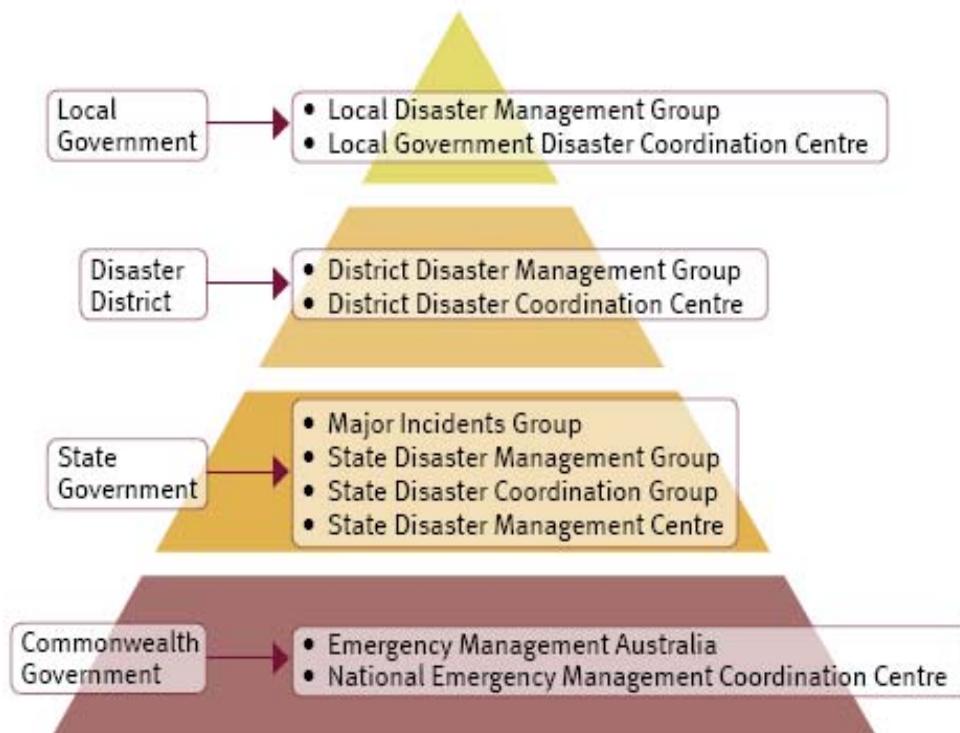Refer to Appendix C

Definitions
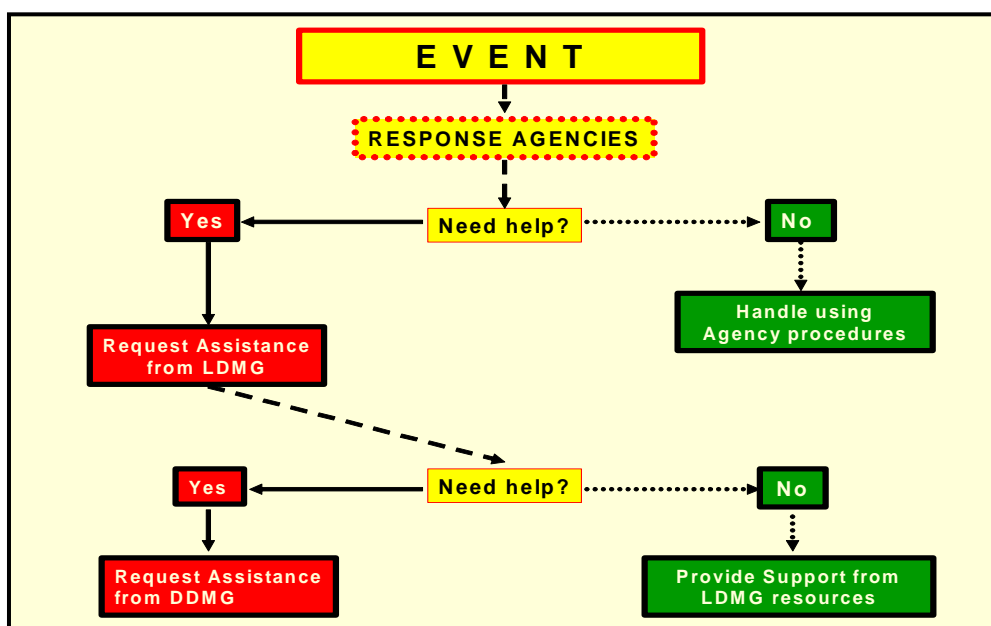
Refer to Appendix D

Abbreviations

Refer to Appendix E

The Disaster Management System in Queensland

STRUCTURE

The following chart depicts the Disaster Management System
in operation at the local level

1. Introduction

1.1 Aim of Plan

The aim of this Plan is to minimise the effects of, co-ordinate the response to, and the recovery from, a disaster or major emergency affecting the community of the Cairns Regional Council.

Local Government underpins the Queensland Disaster Management System as the key management agency at the local level.

The primary focus of the Cairns Regional Disaster Management System is to mitigate the effects of disasters on the community wherever possible or practical, and being prepared to respond when disasters do occur. Plans and management arrangements have been developed with a community focus.

The plan shall:

- Ensure there is a consistent approach to disaster management in Cairns region;
- Create an auditing tool for disaster management functions;
- Demonstrate a commitment for the safety of our community;
- Ensure there is a central coordination of disaster management in the Cairns region;
- Demonstrate mitigation efforts and accountability for the purpose of eligibility for available funding;
- Reduce the impact of a disaster; and
- Reduce community consequences following an event.

1.2 Key Objectives

The broad objectives of the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region (LDMG-CR) are to:

- Detail specific objectives to meet the overall purpose of the plan; and
- Include specific statements relating to Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR).

PREVENTION

- Increase adherence to and introduction of systems, procedures and regulations that reduce disaster risks.
- Lists the studies that have been conducted, provide a short summary and identify other studies which need to be conducted; and
- Ensure the community is aware of methods of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster in order to reduce the impact.

PREPAREDNESS

- Identify and implement risk treatment strategies that have been determined by studies;
- Increase community safety through public awareness, information and education;
- Detail how a multi agency, all hazards approach will be used by the LDMG-CR and how some agencies will provide guidance for the group on specific hazards;
- Identifying resources to maximize response;

- Establish relationships to increase disaster management capability; and
- To ensure the community is aware of methods of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster so as to reduce the impact.

RESPONSE

- Ensure there is centralised local co-ordination of disaster management;
- Try to minimize the impact on the community of a disaster event through good response;
- Assist with the re-establishment of the community as effectively and efficiently as possible;
- Detail the strategic manner in which elements of the LDMG-CR shall deal with day to day disaster management business and how information will be passed out on events that impact on the group; and
- Demonstrate a commitment to the safety of the Cairns Regional communities.

RECOVERY

- Adequately provide immediate post event assistance and advice to the affected community;
- Ensure the recovery priorities of the community are met;
- Ensure the community is aware of action that can be taken after the impact to assist with a speedy recovery and return to normality;
- To reduce the community consequences following an event;
- Provide advice and/or support to the Cairns Disaster District Recovery Committee and State disaster management and recovery agencies;
- Ensure a consistent approach to disaster management; and
- Demonstrate a commitment to the safety of the Cairns Regional communities.

1.3   Local Government Policy for Disaster Management

This plan is consistent with the State Disaster Management Group Strategic Policy Framework which focuses on a comprehensive, all hazards approach with all levels of government working in partnership to reduce the effects of disasters.

A Disaster Management Policy is to be included in the Cairns Regional Council new Corporate Plan.

1.4   Integration with Council's Corporate, Strategic and Operational Planning Processes

Disaster Management is an integral part of Council's core business and will be identified in the Cairns Regional Council's new Corporate and Operational Plans to be developed 2008/09.

1.5   Local Disaster Management Group

The Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region has been established in accordance with *Section 29 Disaster Management Act 2003* which states:

> ***"s 29 Establishment***
>
> *A local government must establish a Local Disaster Management Group (local group) for the local government's area".*

The functions of the Group are set out in *Section 30 Disaster Management Act 2003* which states:

> **"s 30 Functions**
>
> *(1) A local group has the following functions for its area—*
>
> a) *to ensure that disaster management and disaster operations in the area are consistent with the State group's strategic policy framework for disaster management for the State;*
> b) *to develop effective disaster management, and regularly review and assess the disaster management;*
> c) *to help the local government for its area to prepare a local disaster management plan;*
> d) *to identify, and provide advice to the relevant district group about, support services required by the local group to facilitate disaster management and disaster operations in the area;*
> e) *to ensure the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster;*
> f) *to manage disaster operations in the area under policies and procedures decided by the State group;*
> g) *to provide reports and make recommendations to the relevant district group about matters relating to disaster operations;*
> h) *to identify, and coordinate the use of, resources that may be used for disaster operations in the area;*
> i) *to establish and review communications systems in the group, and with the relevant district group and other local groups in the disaster district of the relevant district group, for use when a disaster happens;*
> j) *to ensure information about a disaster in the area is promptly given to the relevant district group;*
> k) *to perform other functions given to the group under this Act;*
> l) *to perform a function incidental to a function mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (k).*
>
> *(2) In this section—*
>
> *relevant district group, for a local group, means the district group for the disaster district in which the area of the local group is situated."*

1.6   Membership Details

The Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region consists of the following positions and the relevant persons are appointed in accordance with *Section 33 Disaster Management Act 2003.*
The membership of the Group is to be reviewed annually.

CHAIRPERSON	Mayor, Cairns Regional Council Cr Val Schier
DEPUTY CHAIR	Delegated Councillor – Cr Alan Blake
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Chief Executive Officer – *position delegated to Manager of Technical Support Services CRC*
DEPUTY XO	Executive Engineer - Mossman Cairns Regional Council
CORE MEMBERS	SES Local Controller
	Manager Sport Recreation & Community Development / Community Support Coordinator Cairns Regional Council

Manager Corporate Communications
Cairns Regional Council

Principal Environmental Health Officer
Cairns Regional Council

Disaster Management Operations Officer
Cairns Regional Council

Manager Infrastructure Management
Cairns Regional Council

Supervising Inspector – Cairns Region
Queensland Police Service

Cairns Area Director
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service – *position delegated to Manager Community Safety Operations*

Officer in Charge Cairns Station
Queensland Ambulance Service – *position delegated to Operations Supervisor - Cairns & Coastal, Intensive Care Paramedic*

Disaster Management Officer
Emergency Management Queensland

Executive Director Corporate Services
Cairns Base Hospital

Area Operations Manager
Ergon Energy

Fire Station Manager
Air Services Australia

General Manager
Cairns Airport – *position delegated to Security and Emergency Services Coordinator*

Manager Operations Seaport – *position delegated to Security and Emergency Manager*
Cairns Port Authority (Seaport)

Observers, Advisors and guests may attend the meeting and participate in discussions but do not form part of the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region or have voting rights.

Any member of the LDMG-CR may appoint a delegate to attend the meetings on the member's behalf, and the delegate will have the authority to make decisions and commit resources affecting that organisation.

Refer to **Appendix F** for contact details.

The State Disaster Management Group and the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) are to be advised annually of membership of the Group under the requirements of *Section 37 Disaster Management Act 2003.*

Appointment of Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer for Cairns Regional Council has delegated authority to appoint the Executive Officer for the LDMG-CR.

Emergency Management Queensland

The role of Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ), with respect to disaster management, is to provide advice and assistance to all agencies and committees within the Queensland disaster management system, and administrative and executive support to the State Disaster Management Group (SDMG).

Frequency of Meetings

The LDMG-CR meets bi-monthly except for the cyclone season when the group meets monthly from November to April.

Reporting Requirements

The LDMG-CR shall report its activities to:

- Cairns Regional Council in an annual report prepared by the Executive Officer. The annual report shall be in accordance with the requirements of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*. Copies of the report shall be forwarded to the Regional Director EMQ;
- Council in the form of meeting minutes; and
- DDMG and Regional Director EMQ – Prior to each meeting of the DDMG a Disaster Management Status Report as set out in *Queensland Disaster Management Guidelines 2005 - **Disaster Management Status Report*** template shall be submitted to the Regional Director EMQ.

Operational Reporting shall be as required during an event and be in accordance with ***A.2 Local Disaster Coordination Centre Operational Plan-Cairns Region.***

1.7   Roles and Responsibilities of LDMG-CR Members

Refer to ***Appendix B*** for the membership list and the Roles and Responsibilities for members.

1.8   Review and Renew Main and Operational Plans

A review of the plans in accordance with *Section 59 Disaster Management Act 2003* is to be conducted by the Executive Officer of the LDMG-CR subsequent to:

- The performance of the Plan following an activation;
- Exercises designed to practice or test aspects of the plans;
- Alterations to the roles or responsibilities of any agency involved in the plans;
- Operational procedures that have been changed;
- External disasters or introduction of new technology which suggest a review should be carried out;
- The officer responsible for overseeing a task has resigned from that position;
- The Plan will be reviewed at least once annually, if other review methods as mentioned above are not undertaken; and
- Minor changes such as typographical changes and changes to position titles may be made to the plan from time to time.

2. Disaster Risk Management

2.1 Community Context

The following is relevant information regarding Cairns Regional Council and the associated Disaster Management considerations.

Geography

The Cairns Regional Council contains Queensland's most northern city of Cairns which is located approximately 1700 kms (by road) from Brisbane.

The Cairns Regional Council has an area of approximately 4,135 sq km and is comprised of the Cairns Area (previously City of Cairns) 1,690 sq km and Far Northern Area (previously Douglas Shire) 2,445 sq km. The Cairns city area is approximately 160 sq km and is the population centre for the region.

Cairns Area

The Cairns Area comprises mostly of a corridor of coastal flood plains bounded on the west by mountain ranges which mark the eastern edge of the Atherton Tablelands. The Barron and Russell/Mulgrave Rivers traverse these plains and have regularly flooded river deltas, isolating Cairns. A network of small creeks flow into Trinity Inlet which is the harbour for the city. These small creeks can flood and together with a high tide could cause flooding in the city.

The main arterial road and the railway line to the south, traverse the flood plain of the Russell/Mulgrave Rivers. Flooding can quickly isolate various communities. Other access roads to the Atherton Tablelands to the west and Port Douglas, Mossman and Cooktown to the north are also prone to flooding, and can be prone to landslides.

The natural vegetation of the area is tropical rainforest. Extensive areas of this type exist along the ranges and are incorporated, under World Heritage listing, into the Wet Tropics Management Area. Rainforest grades to various forms of eucalypt dominated forest or woodland and grassland exposed to frequent burning. Most of the valley and coastal plain areas not occupied by urban development are under sugar cane cultivation or are covered by mangrove communities.

The main drainage features are:

- The Barron River which rises on the Atherton Tableland and enters the coastal plain through the Barron Gorge;

- Freshwater Creek which joins the Barron River below the Gorge and drains the Lamb and Whitfield Ranges. Freshwater Creek is dammed at Copperlode Falls to create Lake Morris – the main storage for Cairns water supply; and

- The network of small creeks which flow into Trinity Inlet. This system represents the original delta of the Mulgrave River.

Far Northern Area

Some eighty percent of the Far Northern Area is in public ownership in the form of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, National Park and/or Forestry Reserves.

The Bloomfield River is the northern geographic boundary of the Cairns Regional Council. In all, 95 kilometres of coastline make up the eastern boundary of the Far Northern Area while the Great Dividing Range forms the western boundary.

The Far Northern Area is characterised by extensive areas of steep, mountainous terrain in the north, west and south which defines limited areas of alluvial coastal plain, estuarine flats and coastal dunes. The mountainous areas generally retain their natural vegetation while the coastal plain and associated valleys have largely been cleared for cultivation, grazing and settlement. Much of the foreshore, riverine and estuarine vegetation remains intact, although some areas have been cleared as a result of agricultural or urban development.

Human Settlement

The main population centre for the Cairns Regional Council is based around Cairns itself.

In the Cairns Area the northern beaches contain pockets of significant development with smaller towns to the south of Cairns along the main arterial road with a number of smaller townships in between.

Double Island, Green Island, Fitzroy Island and Low Isles have some permanent staff on the islands and at the respective resorts, but temporary residents and day visitors can easily exceed 500.

In the Far Northern Area human settlement can be considered to be located in five discrete areas, each of which share numerous common characteristics:

- Bloomfield-Degarra;
- Cape Tribulation-Cow Bay;
- Daintree Township-Newell Beach;
- Mossman-Cooya Beach; and
- Port Douglas-Wangetti Beach.

Bloomfield-Degarra has a small rural-residential population adjoining the southern bank of the Bloomfield River as well as a small Aboriginal community at China Camp, located 10 kilometres southwest of Wujal Wujal. Wujal Wujal is an Aboriginal urban community, with its own local government, on the northern bank of the Bloomfield River. Road access to the Bloomfield-Degarra locality from the south is problematic during the wet season as is access from the north.

Cape Tribulation-Cow Bay is the coastal strip north of the Daintree River that passes through the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Access to this area from the south is via the Daintree Ferry which is inoperable in times of flood. The population in this locality is principally engaged in tourism and primary production.

Daintree Township–Newell Beach area includes those two urban centres as well as the villages of Wonga Beach, Rocky Point, Miallo and a rural population which is predominantly involved in cane growing. Road access from the south is usually good, but is often blocked for short periods during cyclone/flood events.

Mossman-Cooya Beach also incorporates a rural adjunct, the residents of which are involved principally in cane growing. Mossman township is the location of the Customer Administration Centre for the Far Northern Area and the location of the Area's hospital, the Multi Purpose Health Service, and State High School as well as the Mossman Central Mill where all locally produced sugar cane is processed. Tourism is also important to this area which includes the Mossman Gorge. This locality must be traversed by all visitors travelling between Port

Douglas and the Daintree coast. Road access from the south is either via the Captain Cook Highway which passes Port Douglas, or via the Mossman-Mount Molloy Road.

The Port Douglas-Wangetti Beach locality also has a small cane growing hinterland. Port Douglas is an internationally renowned tourist destination and is the largest urban settlement in the Area. Access to this locality from the south is via the Captain Cook Highway which follows the coast along a narrow and scenic route. Landslips during cyclone/flood events have often caused the highway to be closed for short periods of time as have major traffic accidents.
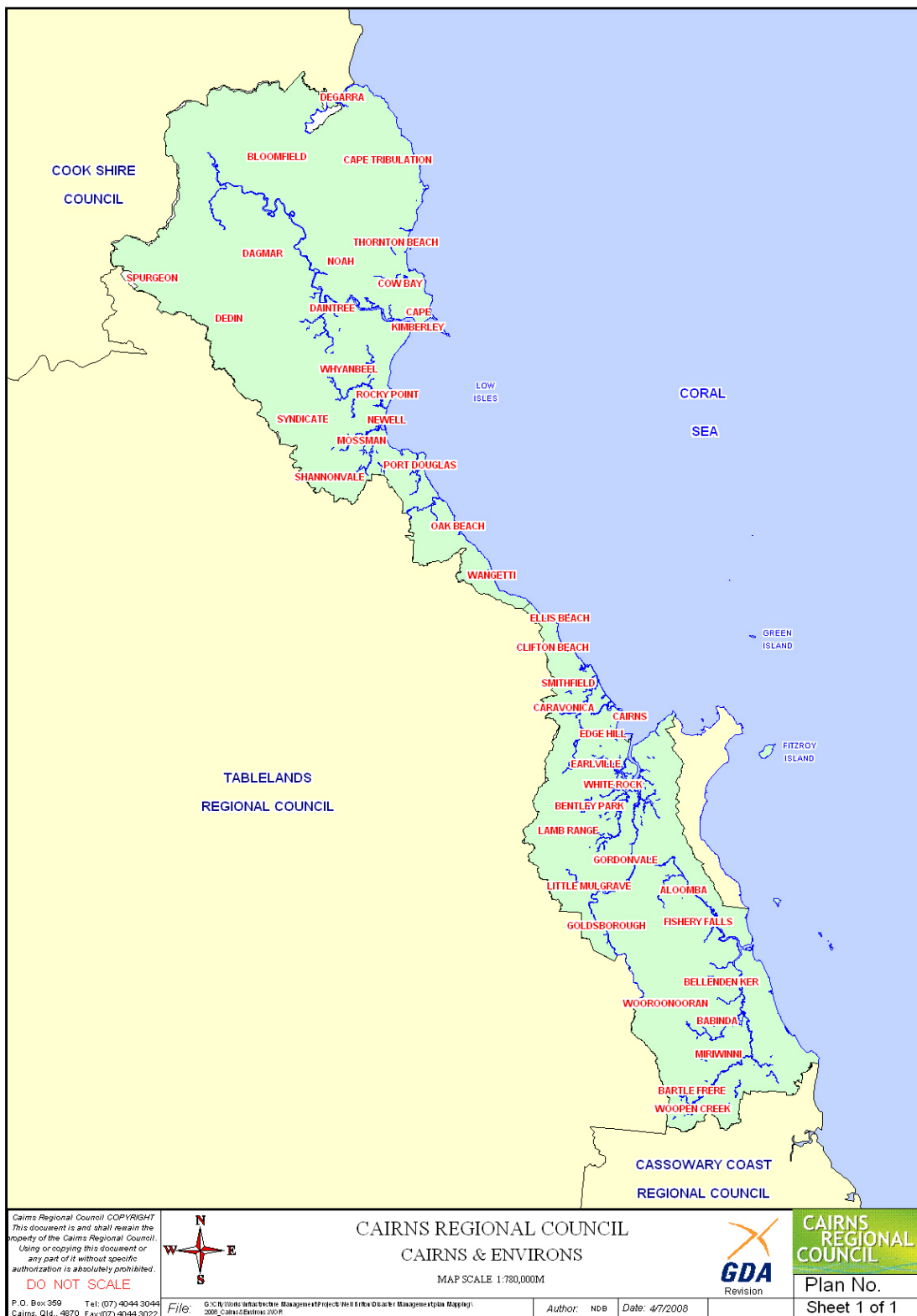
Figure 2.1.1: Map of Cairns Regional Council and Environs

Climate and Weather

Cairns Regional Council lies on the coast of Queensland at approximately 17˚ south latitude and has a moist tropical climate. Rainfall is seasonal, with the heaviest rain occurring during the summer months. Extreme rainfall events are associated with tropical cyclones. Cairns comes under the influence of tropical cyclones on average at least once every two years. Temperatures rarely exceed 35 ˚C or go below 15 ˚C for extended periods.

The tropical climate of the Cairns Region is characterised by:

- relatively high temperatures with only small variations between daily maximum and minimum temperatures;
- relatively small, yet discernible, variations in seasonal temperatures;
- relatively high humidity with generally little variation between morning and afternoon humidity levels;
- relatively small, yet discernible, variations in seasonal humidity levels; and
- relatively high rainfall with greater concentrations of rainfall in the summer months (December to April).

These climatic characteristics have a number of implications for human activity and development in the Region, including:

- the marked seasonality of rainfall in the Region, together with more comfortable temperatures during the winter months, have given rise to a quite marked seasonality in tourist visitation;
- the high number of rain days during the December to April period tend to restrict construction work during this period as it is more cost-effective to operate mainly during the drier months;
- in conjunction with the steep mountain slopes the high rainfall intensity has greater implications for soil erosion and land slippage;
- the high rainfall and its intensity also gives rise to greater road damage; and
- the high rainfall tends to render less effective septic and sullage waste disposal through absorption trenches.

Monthly average annual rainfall and temperature figures (Source: Bureau of Meteorology):
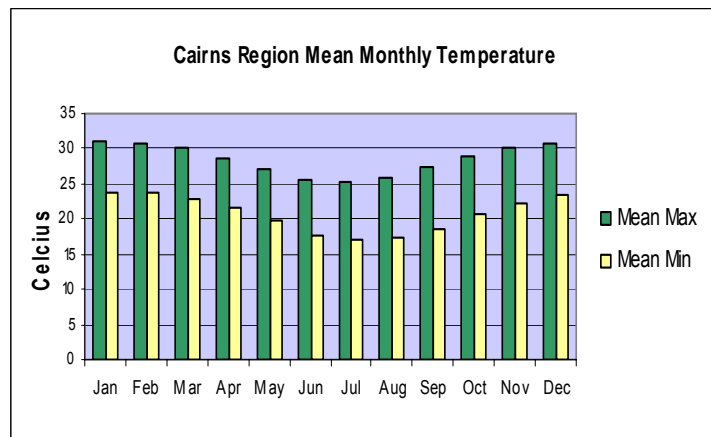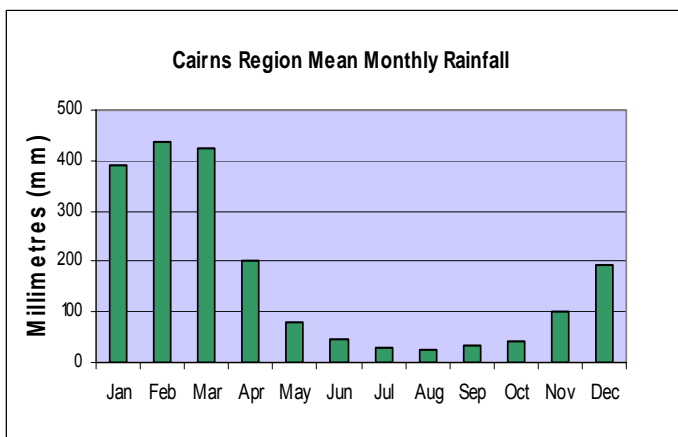
Population

At the time of the 2006 Census figures, 165,015 persons were counted in the Cairns Regional Local Government area. This figure includes overseas and domestic visitors to the region and excludes those that usually live in Cairns but were away visiting other areas.

The usual resident count from the Census was 137, 631 persons. This includes 127,438 in the Cairns Area and 10,193 in the Far Northern Area.

Statistical Details

The statistics displayed are the most recent for the region, compiled from the 2006 Census.

Local government area(a)	Usual residence (b)	Enumeration count (c)(d)
	— number —	
Cairns	127,438	148,261
Douglas	10,193	16,754
Cairns Regional Council	**137,631**	**165,015**

(a) Based on ASGC 2006.
(b) Usual Residence represents the total number of persons who usually live within the local government area.
(c) Enumeration Count represents the total number of persons who were located within the local government area on the night of the 2006 Census.
(d) Includes overseas visitors.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Basic Community Profile. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).

Table 2.1.1: Total Population - Cairns Regional Council, 2006

Local government area	2002pr	2006pr	2007p	Change	
				2006 to 2007p	2002 to 2007p(a)
		— number —		— per cent —	
Cairns	119,959	136,558	140,913	3.2	3.3
Douglas	10,695	10,947	11,190	2.2	0.9
Cairns Regional Council	130,654	147,505	152,103	3.1	3.1
Queensland	**3,714,937**	**4,091,546**	**4,182,062**	**2.2**	**2.4**

p = preliminary   r = revised
(a)   Average annual growth rate.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2006–2007* (cat. no. 3218.0).

Table 2.1.2: Estimated Resident Population - Cairns Regional Council (and Queensland), 2006

The Cairns Area has pockets of population along the northern beaches. Smaller towns dot the area to the south along the main arterial road with a number of smaller townships in between, (as indicated in Figure 2.1.2 below).
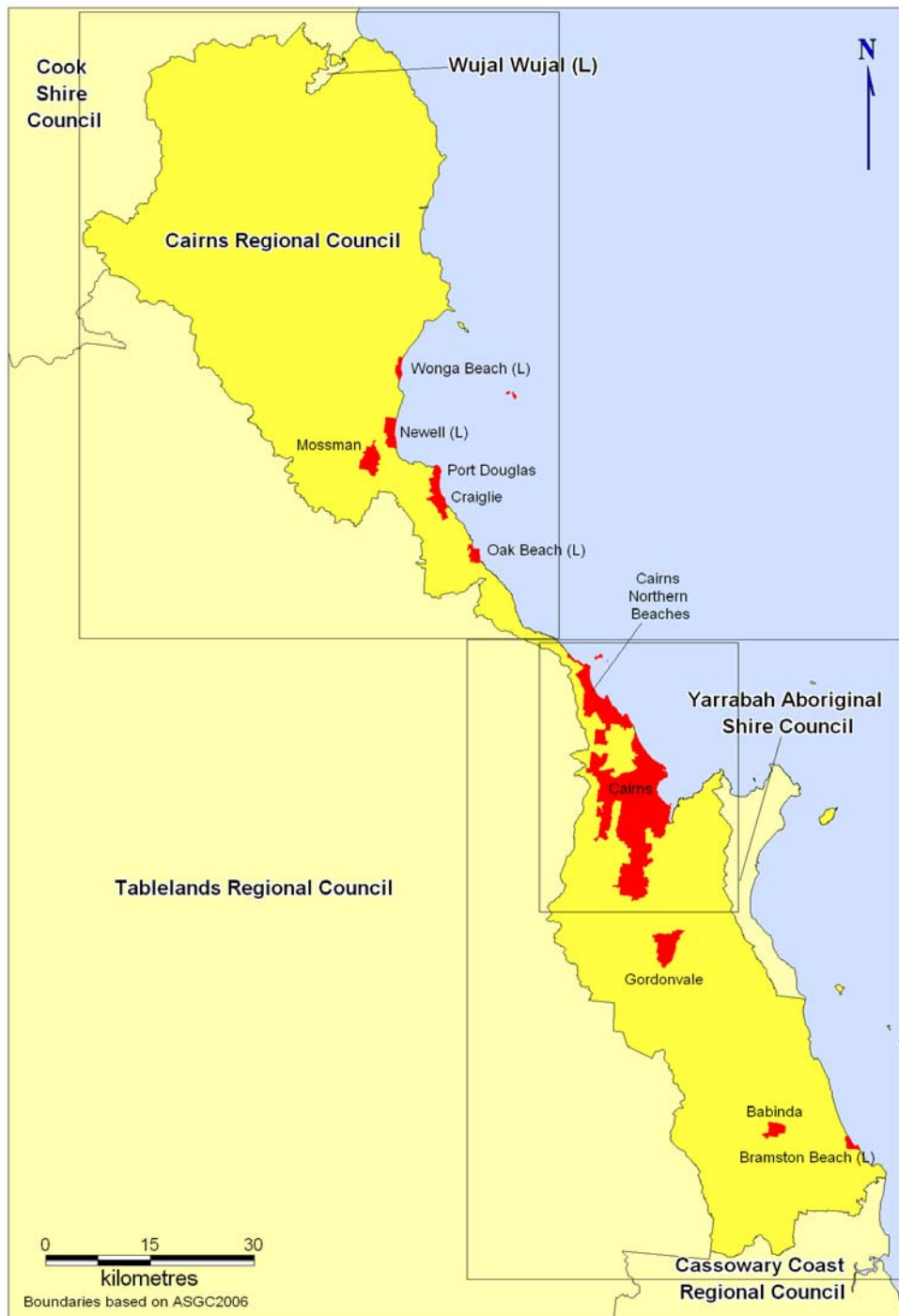
Figure 2.1.2: Cairns Regional Council – Main Population Centres

The region has been identified into suburbs for the purpose of understanding the demographic statistics and associated issues, such as travel and communications. The arrangement of suburbs for the Southern Area, Central Area and Northern Area are displayed in the figures below:

Figure 2.1.3: Cairns Regional Council – Southern Suburbs

Figure 2.1.4: Cairns Regional Council – Central Suburbs

Figure 2.1.5: Cairns Regional Council – Far Northern Suburbs

Double Island, Green Island, Fitzroy Island and Low Isles have some permanent staff on the islands and at the respective resorts, but temporary residents and day visitors can easily exceed 500.

Cairns is the main point of entry to Far North Queensland and the region is a major tourist destination throughout the year. The peak tourist season are the months of July and August with the population increasing by approximately 27,000 visitors per night for Cairns and approximately 20,000 for Port Douglas.

The Demographic, social and Economic profile of Cairns Regional Council and Suburbs prepared by the Office of Economic and Statistics Research of Queensland Treasury, (Cairns Office), provides more detailed demographic information, including age and cultural profiles as

well as housing structure and family types. The comprehensive information provides details by region and by suburb.

The following tables are representative of the information and are reproduced here as an indication of language profiles, to be used in the development of communication strategies.

Local government area	Speaks English only	Speaks other language	Not stated	Total population	Speaks other language as a proportion of total
	— number —				Per cent
Cairns	104,808	11,748	10,882	127,438	9.2
Douglas	8,582	772	838	10,192	7.6
Cairns Regional Council	**113,390**	**12,520**	**11,720**	**137,630**	**9.1**

(a) Based on place of usual residence.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Basic Community Profile. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research).

Table 2.1.3: Language Spoken at Home – Cairns Regional Council, 2006

Community Capacity

Cairns Area

The main shopping precincts are located in Cairns with other centres at Smithfield, Earlville, Manunda, Edmonton and numerous local centres.

There are 9 Bowls Clubs, 3 Lifesaving Clubs, 4 Golf Clubs, 2 Yacht Clubs, Cannon Park Racecourse, several football clubs and numerous other sporting clubs.

Council Depots are located at Martyn Street, McNamara Street, Babinda, Gordonvale, Stratford and McCoombe Street.

Far Northern Area

The shopping precincts are located in Port Douglas and Mossman with numerous local centres.

There is 1 Bowls Club, 1 Lifesaving Club, 3 Golf Clubs, 1 Yacht Club, several football clubs and numerous other sporting clubs.

Council Depots are located at South Mossman and Port Douglas, with smaller ones at Daintree and Diwan.

Cairns Region

Cairns Region is served by the Cairns Base Hospital, Cairns Private Hospital, Mossman Hospital, Babinda Hospital and Gordonvale Hospitals. There is also a hospital at Yarrabah Aboriginal Community and a small community hospital at Wujal Wujal in the northern extremity of the Region. There are other medical centres throughout the Region with some providing a 24 hour service.

Cairns Regional Council supports the local SES with Groups located in Cairns Area at Buchan Point, Trinity Beach, Yorkey's Knob, Holloways Beach, Machans Beach, Cairns, Edmonton,

Gordonvale and Babinda. In the Far Northern Area, Groups are located at Alexandra Bay and Mossman with depots at Daintree, Forest Creek, Mossman, Port Douglas and Wonga. The SES Headquarters is located at the Cairns Unit in McNamara Street.

Cairns Regional Council Offices and Council Chambers are located at 119-145 Spence Street, Cairns, with a Customer Service Centre located at 64-66 Front Street-, Mossman.

Police Stations are located at Babinda, Cairns, Cairns Esplanade, Earlville, Trinity Beach, Smithfield, Gordonvale, Edmonton, Mossman and Port Douglas.

Broadcast radio and TV services are provided from studios in the City, Earlville and Parramatta Park, transmitters are located on Mt. Bellenden Ker, near Gordonvale and Trinity East. Dedicated telecommunications networks are also operated by the ADF units, Air Services Australia and numerous private sector networks such as fishing and mining. Council also has a dedicated Trunk Mobile Radio (TMR) network, which is the first line of communication for out-side Council staff and can be utilised as an alternative communication means during an event. TMRs rely on two communication towers, which are located at Yarrabah and Mt Bellenden Ker.

Many of the private UHF and VHF networks such as taxis, police, emergency services, council, etc. operate from base stations on Bellenden Ker and/or on prominent features on the coastal escarpment.

Cairns Region is not a self sufficient community. It depends on outside sources for its food, energy and material requirements as well as its principal sources of income. Such dependence imposes limits to the community resilience.

Industry

The predominant industry types for the Cairns Region are tourism, sugarcane and service industries which support the tourism and marine industries.

The tourism industry comprising of accommodation, tours, cafes and restaurants are significant employment sectors for Cairns and Port Douglas.

Public and Other Major Buildings, Spaces, and Events

Public and Other Buildings

Throughout the Region there are a number of public and other major buildings, including:

- Cairns Regional Council Chambers;
- Cairns Regional Art Gallery Centre;
- Cairns City Library plus seven branch libraries;
- Cairns Convention and Conference Centre;
- Cairns Reef Casino;
- Mossman Library;
- Mossman Administrative Building, Front Street;
- Mossman Indoor Sports Centre;
- Port Douglas Sports Centre;
- Old Douglas Shire Hall, Mossman;
- Port Douglas Community Hall; and
- A number of resorts and accommodation precincts.

Major Public Spaces
- Cairns Esplanade;
- The Pier Shopping Precinct;

- Cairns Night Markets;
- Cairns Mall – City Space; and
- Port Douglas and Mossman Markets.

Special Events
- New Years Eve;
- Cannon Park special racedays;
- Festival Cairns;
- Carnivale at Port Douglas;
- Cairns and Mossman Shows; and
- Christmas Street Party at Mossman.

Local Infrastructure

Cairns Area

- Cairns International Airport;
- Cairns Harbour;
- Bruce Highway to the south;
- Captain Cook Highway to the north;
- Kennedy Highway and Gillies Highway to the west;
- Rail to the south and west; and
- Cairns Area contains:
  - 2379 km of road network including 161 km of unsealed roads
  - 201 road and pedestrian bridges
  - 311 km of bikeways/footways
  - 2100 ha. recreational parks and reserves
  - 442 km of underground drainage
  - 182 km lined and unlined drains
  - 15 boat ramps
  - 2 marinas
  - 1909 km water supply pipelines
  - 2442 km sewerage pipelines

Far Northern Area

- Port Douglas Area;
- Captain Cook Highway;
- Mossman - Mt Molloy Road;
- Mossman – Daintree Road;
- Bailey Creek and Cape Tribulation roads system;
- Cape Tribulation – Cape Tribulation Road; and
- Far Northern Area contains:
  - 334 km of road network including 177 km of unsealed roads, in addition are roads that are the responsibility of Main Roads
  - 33 road and pedestrian bridges, including 16 timber bridges
  - Considerable number of recreational parks and reserves
  - 8 boat ramps
  - 1 marina

Airports

Throughout the region there are numerous locations where rotary wing aircraft can land in emergency situations and comprise of sporting fields, resorts, school ovals, etc.

Cairns International Airport

The Cairns International Airport has a 3200 metre main runway capable of handling 737-400, 747-800 and 767 aircraft. The airport has the ability to accommodate light aircraft and rotary wing aircraft.

Far Northern Area Airstrips

The existing air transport facilities include a small, private grass-surface airstrip at Cow Bay north of the Daintree River and established helicopter landing points at the Sheraton Mirage Resort, Port Douglas, and adjacent to the Captain Cook Highway some 2 kilometres north of the Port Douglas Road turn-off.

Essential Services

- Power supply for the Cairns Area is managed by Ergon Energy and is sourced from power stations near Rockhampton and Gladstone to the Bulk Supply Station at Caravonica for the Northern Beaches, Woree for the city and Edmonton for the southern area. There are two transmission lines into Cairns via the escarpment.
Power supply for the Far Northern Area is presently supplied via two 66kV feeder lines from the Atherton Tableland to a 66/22kV substation on Cassowary Creek Road adjacent to the soccer fields about 5 kilometres southeast of Mossman.

  From the substation a 66kV line extends along the western edge of the Mossman coastal plain, passing across the Dagmar Range and the Daintree River west of Daintree Township, across the mountain ranges north of the river passing near China Camp to Bloomfield and Wujal Wujal. A 22kV line extends from Bloomfield to Cooktown.

  Locally, the Cassowary Creek substation supplies the Port Douglas to Daintree area with two 22kV lines to Port Douglas. There is no reticulated power north of the Alexandra Range in the Cow Bay to Cape Tribulation area and limited power north of the Daintree River.

- The telecommunication network has a number of providers the main provider being Telstra. Mobile telephone communication is generally readily available to most inhabited localities south of the Daintree River to the Regions southern border. Mobile telephone communications in the Wonga locality and north of the Daintree River is generally less reliable, however NextG mobile network and the use of satellite telephones has improved this.

  In the Far Northern Area there are 5 communication towers located at, Newell Beach, Flagstaff Hill Port Douglas, Alexandra Range Lookout, and Gorge View Crescent Mossman

- Water supply for the Cairns Area is drawn from Lake Morris which has a capacity of 45,000 megalitres and also from the Behana Weir. Water is piped to the Freshwater Creek Water Treatment Plant and distributed to consumers by gravity feed from at least 16 reservoirs and water towers throughout the Cairns Area. Reticulation involves over 1,909 km of water mains of various size, material and age.

  For the Far Northern Area there are two main water supply service areas. The Mossman Service Area contains the major water supply system, serving the townships of Mossman, Port Douglas, Cooya Beach, North Mossman and Newell Beach as well as the rural and rural-residential areas of Cassowary Creek and Mowbray River Valleys. Supply is taken from Rex Creek, a tributary of the Mossman River within the

Mossman Gorge section of the Daintree River National Park which in turn is an integral part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The second service area is much smaller and takes its supply from Little Falls Creek in the Whyanbeel Valley. This system serves the townships of Wonga Beach and Miallo as well as development at Rocky Point and along Syndicate, Whyanbeel, O'Donoghue, Bamboo Creek, Kingston and the Mossman-Daintree Roads between Miallo and Wonga Beach.

Water filtration and storage facilities for the Mossman Service Area are located at Mossman on the hill accessed from Coral Sea Drive just to the west of the town. Storage tanks are also provided on Flagstaff Hill, Port Douglas, at ground level at Reef Park, Port Douglas, in a landmark water tower at Newell Beach, on the northern slopes of Mount Beaufort abutting Cooya Beach and at Cassowary and Mowbray. Pumping stations are located adjacent to storage reservoirs at Flagstaff Hill and Reef Park.

Filtration and storage facilities for the second service area are located in the Whyanbeel Valley at Little Falls Creek and these are augmented by storage tanks on the hill immediately to the west of Wonga Beach, at Rocky Point on the hill above the Port Douglas Views rural-residential subdivision.

There is also a minor reticulated water supply at Daintree Township. Water in this system is drawn from Intake Creek, a tributary of the Daintree River upstream of the township and Stewart Creek. The filtration system and reservoir for this service are located in Daintree Township.

- Wastewater treatment plants are located at Babinda, Gordonvale, Edmonton, Southern, Marlin Coast and Northern for the Cairns Area and at Port Douglas and Mossman for the Far Northern Area. There are at least ten wastewater pumping stations throughout the Cairns Area and 18 wastewater pumping stations in the Far Northern Area, most being in the low-lying areas.

- There are a number of refuse disposal sites located throughout the region, however in the event of storm damage easy accessible sites will be required for the disposal of green waste.

- There are limited (part of Forest Gardens and Port Douglas) reticulated gas supplies for Cairns and Far Northern Areas with the main method of supply for the Region being in bottles.

Hazardous Sites

- The Bruce Highway to the south, the Captain Cook Highway to the north, the Kennedy Highway to the west and the rail links to the south and west all carry bulk hazardous substances in a variety of containers;
- Bulk fuel and gas storage facilities are concentrated in Portsmith, with secondary (especially operational) storage of specialist products at facilities such as the airport (avgas and jet fuel), HMAS *Cairns* (bunker and diesel fuel) and some of the larger industrial and transport facilities (mostly diesel);
- There are major hardware and cooperative warehouses at Portsmith, Bunning's in Cairns CBD and Smithfield, Cairns Hardware in Bungalow, Home Timber and Hardware in Mossman and Port Douglas Timber and Hardware;
- Marine facilities adjacent to Portsmith;

- Bulk storage and distribution centres for products such as cement, paint, agricultural chemicals, pharmaceuticals, raw sugar, molasses, timber and hardware, as well as transport and handling equipment are concentrated close to the port and rail- head facilities of Portsmith;
- Babinda Sugar Mill;
- Gordonvale Sugar Mill; and
- Mossman Central Sugar Mill.

2.2   Hazards

The *Cairns Natural Disaster Risk Management Report 2002* was adopted by the City of Cairns in 2002 and the *Douglas Shire Natural Disaster Risk Management Report* was adopted by Douglas Shire Council in 2004.

The studies were undertaken to provide updated information on risks within the previous Council areas and took into consideration earlier studies.

A significant element of the process was the consideration of how a reduction in disaster risk can protect the community against loss of infrastructure, damage to the natural environment, compromised standard of living and economic failures brought about by disasters.

Other studies and relevant reports are:

- Community Risk in Cairns – AGSO Cities Project 1999, this report considered threats from earthquake, landslide, flood and cyclone and their affect on the Cairns community;
- The Flood Risk in Cairns – Bureau of Meteorology 2001;
- Treating Risks in Cairns – Ken Durham 2000;
- Cyclone and Storm Surge Threat to Cairns Regional Council Area C. Norris Cairns CC;
- The Tropical Cyclone Risk in Cairns – BoM 2001;
- Cyclone Surge and Community Preparedness – James Cook University 1999;
- Cairns Counter Disaster Plan – 1999;
- Copperlode Falls Dam Emergency Action Plan – June 2008;
- CairnsPlan 2006;
- Natural Disaster Risk Management Study - 2002
- AS/NZS 4360:2004 – Risk Management.

The full documents can be viewed by contacting the Operations Officer for LDMG-CR on (07) 4044 3455

The **Risk Management Record** in **Section 2.4** is a brief summary of identified risks to the Cairns Regional Community.

2.3   Risk Descriptors

Vulnerable Sector

The following are the sectors of Cairns Region that are at risk and are identified in the risk management record:

- People
- Infrastructure and Property
- Environment

Potential Risk

Cairns Regional people, infrastructure, environment and economy:
- Possible injury and fatalities
- Infrastructure including private buildings damaged and destroyed
- Damage to the environment
- Affect on the economy as a result of reduction in tourism and industry

Likelihood

The likelihood of the event occurring in Annual Recurrence Interval (ARI)
- A – almost certain ARI 10
- B – likely ARI 50
- C – possible ARI 100
- D – unlikely ARI 500
- E – rare ARI 1000

Consequence

The following are the potential risk scenarios of a disaster on Cairns Region:

Insignificant Risk

- No fatalities.
- Medical treatment required.
- Small number displaced for a short period, some damage.
- Little disruption to the community.
- Some impact on the environment, with no lasting effects.
- Some financial loss.

Minor Risk

- Small number of fatalities.
- Hospitalisation required.
- Minor temporary displacement.
- Significant damage.
- Some community disruption.
- Serious impact on environment with no long term effects.
- Significant financial loss.

Moderate Risk

- Multiple fatalities.
- Numerous injuries requiring hospitalisation.
- Significant numbers displaced for short periods.
- Serious damage requiring some external assistance.
- Community functioning with difficulty.
- Severe impact on environment with long term effects.
- Serious financial loss.

Major Risk

- Numerous fatalities.
- Extensive injuries, with significant hospitalisation.
- Large numbers displaced for significant duration.
- Severe damage that requires external resources.

- Community only partially functioning.
- Severe permanent damage to the environment.
- Severe financial loss.

Catastrophic Risk

- Mass fatalities.
- Large numbers requiring hospitalisation.
- General and widespread displacement for extended duration.
- Widespread extensive damage.
- Community unable to function.
- Widespread severe permanent damage to the environment.
- Widespread severe financial loss.

2.4   Risk Management Record

Hazard	Vulnerable sector	Potential risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Level of risk	Action priority
Cyclone Cat 1-3	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure damaged, people injured	Likely	Minor	High	
Cyclone Cat 4+	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure destroyed people injured or fatalities	Rare	Major to catastrophic	High	
Flood (up to Q100)	People, infrastructure, environment	Property flooded, buildings damaged	Possible	Major	High	
Flood (PMF)	People, infrastructure, environment	Property flooded, buildings damaged	Rare	Major	High	
Storm Surge (Cyclonic)	People, infrastructure, environment	Property, buildings flooded Infrastructure damaged	Rare	Catastrophic	High	
Bushfire	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure destroyed people injured or fatalities	Likely	Minor	High	
Earthquake	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure damaged or destroyed people injured or fatalities	Rare	Catastrophic	High	
Tsunami	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure destroyed people injured or fatalities	Rare	Catastrophic	Moderate	
Landslip	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure damaged or destroyed	Possible	Moderate	High	

Hazard	Vulnerable sector	Potential risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Level of risk	Action priority
Terrorist	People, infrastructure	Infrastructure destroyed, people injured or fatalities	Rare	Major	High	
Hazardous Materials	People, infrastructure, environment	People may become ill, environmental damage	Possible	Minor	Moderate	
Dam Failure	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure destroyed, possible fatalities	Rare	Moderate	Moderate	
Marine Oil Spill	Environment	Environmental damage	Possible	Insignificant	Low	
Disease Pandemic	People	Major numbers hospitalised and fatalities	Rare	Catastrophic	High	
Heatwave	People	Possible hospitalisation and fatalities	Possible	Minor	Moderate	
Road Accidents	People	Possible hospitalisation and fatalities	Possible	Minor	Moderate	
Shipping/ Boating Accidents	People	Possible hospitalisation and fatalities	Possible	Moderate	High	

NOTE: Risk Treatment Options**,** Risk Treatment Evaluation, Responsible Agency for Treatment, Consequential Actions and Implementation Timeframe are included in the **Cairns** *Disaster Risk Management Study 2002, Mitigation Strategies, Risk Treatment Worksheets* and *Douglas Shire Council Natural Disaster Risk Management Study – 2002.*

3. Prevention

3.1 Building Codes and Building Use Regulations

In Cairns Regional Council the following codes and regulations apply:

- *Building Code Australia*
- *Building Act 1975*
- *Building Standards Regulation 1993*
- *Building Regulations 1991*
- *Building Fire Safety Regulation*
- *Body Corporate and Community Management Act*
- *Building Units and Group Titles Act*
- *Building and Other Legislation Amendment Act*
- *Building Services Authority Act*
- *CairnsPlan*
- *Douglas Shire Planning Scheme*
- *Integrated Planning Act 1997*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Queensland Development Code*
- *State Planning Policy 1/03 guideline: mitigating the adverse impacts of flood, bushfire and landslide*
- *State Coastal Management Plan-Mitigating the Effects of Storm Tide Inundation*

3.2 Legislation

In addition to the *Disaster Management Act 2003* the following Acts are relevant to Cairns Region Disaster Management;

- *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966*
- *Ambulance Service Act 1991*
- *Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988*
- *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1955*
- *Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act 2001*
- *Disaster Management Act 2003*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- *Exotic Diseases in Animals Act 1981*
- *Explosives Act 1999*
- *Fire and Rescue Services Act 1990*
- *Public Health Act 2005*
- *Integrated Planning Act 1997*
- *Land Act 1994*
- *Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Marine Parks Act 1982*
- *Native Title (Queensland) Act 1992*
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- *Petroleum Act 1923*
- *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986*
- *Terrorism (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2002*
- *Water Act 2000*
- *Workplace Health and Safety (Miscellaneous) Regulation 1995*

3.3   Public Education

Section 30e Disaster Management Act 2003 requires Local Government to be involved in an education program *"to ensure the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a disaster"*.

The Cairns Regional Council is committed to an ongoing public awareness campaign which satisfies the requirements of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and uses the *EMA Disaster Awareness and Education Resource Kit* as one of the source documents.

The following are methods and the medium Cairns Regional Council will be using to assist with promoting community awareness:

- BOM Weather Warnings;
- The LDMG-CR encourages all members of the LDMG-CR to provide public education programs in their area of responsibility;
- SES Group Leaders provide lectures to various organisations throughout the Region;
- EMQ presentations;
- Public displays;
- Brochures displayed and available in Council Offices and Libraries;
- Local Media including local television and radio, as well as articles in local newspapers and Council Newsletters;
- Cairns phone book BoM Cyclone Information and tracking map;
- Cairns Regional Council "*Cairns Tsunami Evacuation Guide*"
- Cairns Regional Council *"Emergency Action Guide"* ;
- Cairns Regional Council web site and media releases;
- Cairns Post Cyclone Survival supplement;
- Presentations to vulnerable communities;
- Presentations to schools and retirement villages; and
- Production of multi-lingual *"Cyclone Emergency Action Guide"* in Hmong, Italian, Traditional Chinese, Thai, Arabic and Japanese.

Refer also to ***A.10 – Public Information and Warnings Operational Plan.***

3.4   Land Use Management Initiatives

CairnsPlan contains Overlay Codes for the Cairns Area which regulate assessable development where the site is subject to possible landslip, bushfire or flooding and is referenced in:

- *3.5.1 Hillslopes*
- *3.5.11 Bushfire Hazard*
- *3.5.12 Flood management*

Overlay codes have been developed for the above and are:

- *4.6.4 Hillslopes Code*
- *4.6.7 Bushfire Hazard Code*
- *4.6.8 Flood Management Code*

Note: The Douglas Shire Planning Scheme does not contain overlay codes.

3.5   Local Government Counter Terrorism Risk Management Guidelines

The counter-terrorism risk assessment has been carried out in accordance with *the Local Government Counter-terrorism Risk Management Kit* and the information can be obtained through the Operations Officer.

4. Preparedness

4.1   Event Coordination

Overall management of the coordinated response is the responsibility of the Executive Officer of the LDMG-CR.

Coordination of the LDCC-CR is the responsibility of the Disaster Management Operations Officer.

Activation at the LDMG-CR will be in response to a local event that demands a coordinated community response to respond. The authority to activate the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region is vested in the Chair or delegate of the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region. It is the duty of the Chair or delegate to inform the DDC regarding the Plan's activation. The plan may also be activated at the request of the DDC.

The functions of the LDCC-CR are:

- To co-ordinate Cairns Regional Council and community resources in support of agencies involved in response and recovery operations;
- To co-ordinate additional resources allocated to Cairns Regional Council through the District Disaster Coordination Centre.
- To coordinate the collection, collation and dissemination of information to the DDCC and the community.

The Primary LDCC-CR will be located in the eastern corner, third floor of the Council Administration Building on the corner Spence and Draper Streets, Cairns.

Should the Council Offices become unusable the situation will be assessed by the Executive Officer and in consultation with the Chair a decision to locate to a more appropriate location will be made.

If an event occurs that is localised to the Far Northern Area the coordination may be from the Mossman Coordination Centre located in the Mossman Administration Building, 64-66 Front Street, Mossman. Alternatively if an event affects the whole region both Coordination Centres may be activated with the Far Northern Area LDCC-CR operating as a support centre to the main LDCC-CR at Cairns.

Activation and Standard Operating Procedures refer to *A.1 Activation of LDMG-CR Operational Plan* and *A.2 – Local Disaster Coordination Centre - Cairns Region Operational Plan*.

Communication procedures are included in *A.2 Local Disaster Coordination Centre - Cairns Region Operational Plan*.

4.2   Warning Systems and Public Education

The release of information to the community regarding the emergency and associated threats, will normally be approved by the Chairperson and distributed through the Media Liaison Officer after discussions with the Officer in Charge of the Lead Agency and the Executive Officer.

Refer to **Section 3.3 Public Education** in this plan, and also to **A.10 Public Information and Warnings Operational Plan**

4.3   Response Capability

4.3.1 Cairns Regional Council has the following resources available to respond to a disaster, a full list is included in **Appendix G – Resource List**

- Human Resources
  - o Cairns Area
    - - 400 field staff
    - - 600 administrative staff
  - o Far Northern Area
    - - 57 field staff
    - - 20 administrative staff

- Equipment - includes chainsaws, concrete cutting saws, pumps, pneumatic hammers and a variety of hand operated tools usually associated with road construction or maintenance work.

- Plant - ranges from small passenger vehicles to large trucks and includes four-wheel drive and two-wheel drive utilities and small trucks. Other plant includes graders, backhoes and front-end-loaders.

If additional resources are required the resources will initially be sourced through local suppliers that are:

- contracted to Council to provide a service or resource
- are capable of providing the resources
- can support Council in responding to a disaster through the provision of resources

A list of all available resources is included in **A.11 Public Works and Engineering Operational Plan.**

4.4 Exercises

Each year one or more of the following exercises shall be held:

- a table top exercise; and
- a Local Disaster Coordination Centre - Cairns Region exercise.
- a small scale exercise involving the SES and the testing of the LDCC-CR; and
- involvement in a District Disaster Exercise

The purpose of these exercises is to test the resource and response capabilities of the LDMG-CR and other agencies, the resource *Measurement of Capability Table 4.3* shall be updated after each exercise.

4.5 Measurement of Capability

The table below sets out a measurement of response capability. This may be achieved through operational activation or by the conduct of exercises.

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Date	Type	Process or Event	Participants	Specific lessons learnt and reports	Opportunities for improvement *(identify these in priority)*	Action Plan *(actions derived from lessons learnt)*	Completion Date *(for evaluation of implementation of Action Plan)*
Oct 2005	Annual Local Disaster Coordination (LDCC) Exercise	*Ex Cyclone Ruth* – Functional Ex	Coordination Centre Volunteers and liaison officers	Refer to #1104116	Completed	Completed	Completed
20 – 25 Mar 2006	Activation	Cyclone Larry/ Monica	All disaster management staff and volunteers	Refer to #1199509	Refer to #1199509	Refer to #1199509	On going
14 Dec 2006	Annual LDCC Ex	*Ex Cyclone Gary* - Functional Ex	Coordination Centre Volunteers and liaison officers	Refer to #1418155 #1413452	Refer to #1418155 #1413452	Refer to #1418155 #1413452	Completed
26 Feb 2007	Community Support Evacuation Ex	Discussion Ex	Community Support Sub-Committee Members	Refer to #1463186	Refer to #1463186	Refer to #1463186	Completed
10 Dec 2007	Annual LDCC Ex	*Ex Cyclone Brigid*- Functional Ex	Coordination Centre Volunteers and liaison officers	Refer to #1614716	Refer to #1630812	Refer to #1630812	Completed
11 Jun 2008	EMQ Multi-Agency Ex	Exercise *Harbour Wave* – Discussion Ex	Council Officers	Refer to #1730475	Refer to #1730475	Refer to #1730475	Completed
09 Oct 2008	Copperlode Dam EAP Ex	Ex *Cool Waters*- Desktop/ Discussion Ex	Council Officers and External Emergency Service agencies	Refer to # 1809973 #1809792	Refer to #1809792	Refer to #1809792	In Progress
27 Nov 2008	Annual LDCC Ex	Ex *Cyclone Jason* – Functional Ex	Coordination Centre Volunteers and liaison officers	Refer to #1891842 #1898053	Refer to #1898053	Refer to #1898053	In Progress

5. Response

The principle purpose of the emergency response is the preservation of life and property. Response is defined as the "actions taken in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an emergency to ensure that its effects are minimised, and that people affected are given immediate relief and support" (*EMA 2004*).

5.1 Activation

The authority to activate the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region is vested in the Chair (or delegate) of the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region. It is the duty of the Chair to inform the DDC regarding the Plan's activation.

Activation may occur as:

- A response to a worsening situation; or
- At the request of the responsible Lead Agency (in situations where no prior warning is possible).

Activation of the LDMG-CR is a five stage operation being Alert, Standby, Activation, Stand-down and Debrief. Activation of each stage will be dependent upon the type of hazard situation. For example, an earthquake or terrorist attack may have an immediate major or catastrophic impact and will require Stage Three activation. A cyclone, flood or storm surge may be a gradual build up and a staged activation is more likely.

Refer to *A.1 Activation of LDMG-CR Operational Plan.*

The Local Disaster Coordination Centre - Cairns Region (LDCC-CR) is activated by the Executive Officer of the LDMG-CR.

For Activation and Operating Procedures refer *to A.2 Local Disaster Coordination Centre - Cairns Region Operational Plan*

Authority to Activate

The authority to activate the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region is vested in the Chair (or delegate) of the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region. It is the duty of the Executive Officer to inform the DDC regarding the Plan's activation.

The Plan provides the basis for the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region to co-ordinate the response to a disaster through various response authorities.

Those incidents of local concern, and can be managed using local resources will be managed by the LDMG-CR, however when local resources are exhausted, the Cairns District Disaster Management Plan and State Disaster Management Plan provide for external resources to be made available, firstly from the District, and then secondly on a State-wide basis.

Only the Executive Officer and Chairperson are authorised to seek external resources through the DDC.

5.2   Accessing Support

In the LDCC-CR Council shall provide land line telephones, computer access, two way radios, desk space and administrative resources to agency Liaison Officers.

Requests to DDMG

- All requests to the DDC will go through either the Executive Officer or Chair of the LDMG-CR or their delegate after confirming all available local resources have been exhausted.

Support from External Agencies (public & private)

- All of Council's preferred suppliers as per the list of suppliers held by the Procurement Officer. All emergency service providers both Government and Non-Government agencies.
- Support is requested through the agency Liaison Officers or via the usual Council procedures. Requests to the DDC are as described previously.

Should support be withdrawn for whatever reason all agencies affected will be advised.

5.3   Operational Plans

Plans have been written for specific functions refer to **Section 7 Appendices - Appendix A – Operational Plans:**

- *A.1 Activation of LDMG-CR* – sets out the process for the activation of the LDMG-CR.
- *A.2 Local Disaster Coordination Centre - Cairns Region* – standard operating procedures for activating, staffing and management of the LDCC-CR during an event.
- *A.3 Financial Management* – establishes the procedure for purchasing, procurement and the process for tracking agency costs for response and recovery from a disaster.
- *A.4 Community Support* – includes the Community Support Sub Plan and provides procedures and processes to be used during both the response and recovery phase of an event.
- *A.5 Evacuation* – this plan sets out the process for evacuation, who makes the decision, how it is activated, who gives direction to evacuate and to which centre.
- *A.6 Evacuation Centre Management* – establishes the roles and responsibilities for the opening up, staffing, registering and in general caring for evacuees.
- *A.7 Impact Assessment* – this plan provides the LDMG-CR with the tools to carry out an initial and then a more detailed impact assessment on the effect of the disaster on infrastructure, private property and the people in the community.
- *A.8 Medical Services* – this Plan provides a list and contact details for medical support in the Cairns Region.
- *A.9 Public Health* – Cairns Regional Council Health Plan sets out the responsibilities of the Environmental Health Officer in the event of a disaster and the support given by Queensland Public Health.
- *A.10 Public Information and Warnings* – provides the guidelines for the public awareness and education programs undertaken by members of the LDMG-

CR and also the procedure for issuing warnings or advice pre, during or post event.

- *A.11 Public Works and Engineering* – protection and restoration of infrastructure before, during and after an event is paramount and this plan identifies key resources and assistance that can be deployed.
- *A.12 Transport* – transport plays a key role in a disaster in not only ensuring access to the area for response teams but also to evacuate people if required.
- *A.13 Logistics* – resource management, particularly of material resources, is an area that can cause extreme problems in response to a major event. This plan addresses the issues and provides process to be followed during a major event.

5.4   Risk Treatment Arrangements

As this Local Disaster Management Plan is based on the **all-hazards** approach there are no threat specific plans as such, each threat or event is responded to in a similar manner and the key to a successful operation is to manage the consequences of the event to produce the best outcome for the community.

The types of threat or disaster/emergency vary significantly and could be any of the following, cyclone and severe storm, counter terrorism, exotic animal disease, bushfire, flood, storm surge, oil spill, pollution, contamination of town water supply, major road/rail Incident, major aircraft accident, etc. Each type of event will have its own special requirements however the response will be in accordance with the Main Disaster Management Plan and supporting Operational Plans.

The Operational Plans are applicable to all hazards and some or all of the Operational Plans would be implemented depending on the particular event.

Some Risk Treatment Arrangements have been prepared for specific risks.

Refer to **Appendix J Risk Treatment Arrangements**.

5.5   Initial Impact Assessment

The details of who carries out initial inspections and assessments, the procedures for reporting and action to be taken is set out in **A.7 Impact Assessment Operational Plan**.

6. Recovery

6.1   Recovery Principles

Recovery is a remedial and developmental process encompassing the following activities (*the source document for Recovery is the EMA Recovery Manual*):

- Regeneration of the emotional, social and physical well-being of individuals and communities;
- Reducing future exposure to hazards and associated risks;
- Reducing the consequences of the disaster on a community; and
- Taking opportunities to adapt to meet the physical, environmental, economic and psychosocial future needs of the community.

Disaster recovery is most effective:

- When management arrangements recognise that recovery from a disaster is a complex, dynamic and protracted process;
- When agreed plans and management arrangements are well understood by the community and all disaster management agencies;
- When community service and reconstruction agencies have input to key decision making;
- When conducted with the active participation of the affected community;
- When recovery managers are involved from initial briefing onwards;
- When recovery services are provided in timely, fair, equitable and flexible manner; and
- When supported by training programs and exercises.

6.2 Recovery Concepts

The major themes of the Recovery Concepts are:

- Community Involvement – recovery processes are most effective when affected communities actively participate in their own recovery;
- Local Level Management – recovery services should be managed to the extent possible at the local level;
- Affected Community – the identification of the affected community needs to include all those affected in any significant way whether defined by geographical location or as a dispersed population;
- Differing Effects – the ability of individuals, families and communities to recover depends upon capacity, specific circumstances of the event and its effects;
- Empowerment – recovery services should empower communities to manage their own recovery through support and maintenance of identity, dignity and autonomy;
- Resourcefulness – recognition needs to be given to the level of resourcefulness evident within an affected community and self-help should be encouraged;
- Responsiveness, Flexibility, Adaptability and Accountability – recovery services need to be responsive, flexible and adaptable to meet the rapidly changing environment, as well as being accountable;
- Integrated Services – integration of recovery service agencies, as well as with response agencies, is essential to avoid overlapping services and resource wastage;
- Coordination – recovery services are most effective when coordinated by a single agency; and
- Planned Withdrawal – planned and managed withdrawal of external services is essential to avoid gaps in service delivery and the perception of leaving before the task has been completed.

6.3 Recovery Components

There are four elements of recovery and all components are interdependent of each other and one cannot operate effectively without the others. The Recovery Plan considers in detail each component and addresses the issues identified:

- Community Recovery – families and individuals:
  o Community characteristics;
  o Resources necessary to assist in recovery;

- What government agencies and non-government organisations would be necessary during recovery; and
- What financial assistance is available to the community and how to access this assistance.

- Infrastructure Recovery – infrastructure and services:

  - Restoration of essential services;
  - Community access to services;
  - Facilitation of restoration of living conditions and security;
  - Prioritising the rebuilding of infrastructure and community lifelines;
  - How to communicate with the community; and
  - How to integrate arrangements with other agencies.

- Economic Recovery – business continuity, industry restoration:

  - What impact will the disaster have on business continuity and job security;
  - Who needs to be involved in rebuilding economic viability in the community; and
  - Management of damaged reputation regionally, nationally and internationally.

- Environmental Recovery – our natural surroundings:

  - Identification of issues to be considered in managing environmental damage caused by the disaster; and
  - Identification of who should be involved in this process.

6.4   Interim Recovery Arrangements

These arrangements are attached as ***Appendix I – Interim Recovery Arrangements*** and provide interim guidelines for recovery from a disaster event and actions Cairns Regional Council may take in the recovery process.

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Operational Plans

The Operational Plans are for Cairns Region in general with two sections where required, relating specifically to the Cairns Area and the Far Northern Area.

    A. 1 Activation of Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region
    A. 2 Local Disaster Coordination Centre - Cairns Region
    A. 3 Financial Management
    A. 4 Community Support
    A. 5 Evacuation
    A. 6 Evacuation Centre Management
    A. 7 Impact Assessment
    A. 8 Medical Services
    A. 9 Public Health
    A.10 Public Information and Warnings
    A.11 Public Works and Engineering
    A.12 Transport
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Appendix B – Roles and Responsibilities of LDMG-CR Members

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Appendix D – Definitions

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Appendix H – Roles and Responsibilities

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Appendix J – Risk Treatment Arrangements

Appendix B – Roles and Responsibilities of LDMG-CR Members

CORE MEMBERS

Position	Organisation	Responsibilities	Contact Person
Chairperson Mayor	Cairns Regional Council	To chair LDMG-CR meetings and to provide a link between the LDMG-CR and Council	Cr Val Schier
Deputy Chairperson Nominated Councillor	Cairns Regional Council	To chair LDMG-CR Meetings in the absence of the Chair and to provide a link between the LDMG-CR and Council	Cr Alan Blake
Chief Executive Officer	Cairns Regional Council	To provide expert advice and support to the Chair and LDMG-CR (delegated to Manager TSS – Executive Officer)	Noel Briggs
Executive Officer	Cairns Regional Council	To provide expert advice and support to the Chair and LDMG-CR	Ross McKim
Deputy Executive Officer	Cairns Regional Council	To provide expert advice and support to the Chair and LDMG-CR	Bob Baade
Manager Infrastructure Management	Cairns Regional Council	To provide expert advice and support on all technical matters, including the provision of plant, materials and manpower during response and recovery.	Stephen Tyter
Principal Environmental Health Officer	Cairns Regional Council	Responsible for Public Health Operational Plan	Alex Skubij
Disaster Management Operations Officer	Cairns Regional Council	Responsible for provision of operational support for the LDMG-CR and coordination of LDCC-CR	Cheryl-Lee Fitzgerald
Manager Sport Recreation and Community Development	Cairns Regional Council	Chairing of the Community Support Sub-committee, and responsible for Community Support	Jennifer Hunter
Manager Community Relations	Cairns Regional Council	Preparation and dissemination of all press releases during an event	Kerie Hull
Cairns City Inspector	Queensland Police Service	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Insp John Harvey
Manager Community Safety Operations	Queensland Fire and Rescue Service	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Insp Adrian Stafford
Operations Supervisor Cairns & Coastal	Queensland Ambulance Service	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Brad Bird
Acting Executive Director, Corporate Services	Cairns Base Hospital	Liaison between the hospital and the LDMG-CR	Peta Herbert
Local Controller	State Emergency Service - Cairns	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Glenn Dutton
Area Operations Manager	Ergon Energy	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Gary Dunne
Disaster Management Officer	Emergency Management Queensland	To provide advice and assistance to all agencies and committees within the Queensland disaster management system	Glenn Alderton
Security & Emergency Services Coordinator	Cairns Ports (Airport)	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Phil Allen
Security & Emergency Manager	Cairns Ports (Seaport)	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	David Good

ADVISORS

Position	Organisation	Responsibilities	Contact Person
Acting Fire Station Manager	Airservices Australia	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Mark Best
Manager Joint Operations Support Staff	Australian Defence Force	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Major Chris Reed
Regional Manager	Australian Red Cross	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Lyndal Scobell
OIC Cairns Meteorology Office	Bureau of Meteorology	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Leo Farrell
IT Manager	Cairns Division of General Practice	To provide expert advice on medical and health matters	Chris Smith
CEO	Cairns Private Hospital	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Mark Page
Chamber President	Cairns Chamber of Commerce	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Jeremy Blockey
Manager Operations Cairns Water	Cairns Regional Council	To provide expert advice on matters relating to water supply (including Copperlode Dam)and sewerage treatment and disposal	Alex Ung
Manager Waste Services	Cairns Regional Council	To provide expert advice on matters relating to waste management and disposal	Warren Burgess
Senior Service Officer (Disaster Recovery)	Department of Communities	Liaison between the Cairns District Community Recovery Committee and the LDMG-CR	Adam Garnett
Coordinator Centre for Disaster Studies	James Cook University	Support and assistance to the LDMG-CR and the XO	Camilla Green
Director Environmental Health Tropical Population Health Unit	Queensland Health	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Paul Endres
Yards Supervisor, Regional Coordinators Office Cairns QR	Queensland Rail	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Darcy Benham
Manager (Passenger Transport) Northern	Queensland Transport	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Geoff Robbins
Senior Engineer, Traffic	Main Roads Department	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Michael Ringer
Manager Marine Safety	Maritime Safety Queensland	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Harry McLean
Local Development Consultant	Telstra	Liaison between the agency and the LDMG-CR	Bradley Rillie
Manager Marketing Operations	Tourism Tropical North Queensland	To provide expert advice on matters relating to the tourist population	Stevie King
General Manager Works and Services	Cairns Regional Council	To provide expert advice and support on all technical matters, incl. the provision of plant, materials and manpower during response and recovery	John Hawkes

Appendix C – Distribution List

Controlled Copies of Main Plan and *all* Operational Plans	
Organisation	**Controlled Copy #**
Cairns Regional Council ▪ Chairperson LDMG-CR ▪ Deputy Chairperson LDMG-CR ▪ Executive Officer LDMG-CR ▪ Deputy Executive Officer LDMG-CR ▪ Chief Executive Officer ▪ Disaster Management Operations Officer ▪ Community Support Coordinator LDMG-CR ▪ Principal Environmental Health Officer ▪ Manager Infrastructure Management ▪ Manager Corporate Communications ▪ General Manager Cairns Water ▪ General Manager Works & Services ▪ Disaster Management Unit (2 spare copies)	 **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7** **8** **9** **10** **11** **12** **13 & 14**
Cairns Airport ▪ LDMG-CR Representative	**15**
Cairns Ports (Seaport) ▪ LDMG-CR Representative	**16**
Emergency Management Queensland ▪ LDMG-CR Representative	**17**
Ergon Energy ▪ LDMG-CR Representative	**18**
Queensland Ambulance Service ▪ LDMG-CR Representative	**19**
Queensland Fire & Rescue Service ▪ LDMG-CR Representative	**20**
Queensland Health, Cairns & Hinterland Health Service District (Cairns Base Hospital) ▪ LDMG-CR Representative	**21**
Queensland Police Service ▪ Cairns District Disaster Coordinator ▪ LDMG-CR Representative	 **22** **23**
State Emergency Service ▪ LDMG-CR Representative	**24**
Copies of Main Plan and Relevant Operational Plans	
Organisation	**No. of Copies**
Airservices Australia – Aviation Rescue & Fire Fighting	1
Australian Defence Force (JOSS)	1
Australian Red Cross	1
Bureau of Meteorology, Cairns	1
Cairns Chamber of Commerce	1
Cairns Private Hospital	1

Cairns Regional Council ▪ Manager Operations, Cairns Water ▪ Manager Waste Services ▪ Libraries (9)	11
Department of Communities	1
Department of Main Roads	1
General Practice Cairns	1
James Cook University, Centre for Disaster Studies	1
Maritime Safety Queensland	1
Queensland Health, Tropical Public Health Unit	1
Queensland Rail	1
Queensland Transport	1
Telstra	1
Tourism Tropical North Queensland	1

Appendix D – Definitions

All Hazards Approach

This approach recognises that although counter measures will often vary with specific hazards, it is desirable to establish a single set of management arrangements capable of encompassing all hazards.

Command

The direction of personnel and resources from a single agency in the performance of its allotted task.

Community

A group of people with a commonality of association and generally defined by location, shared experience, or function *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998)*.

Consequence

The outcome of an event or situation expressed qualitatively or quantitatively, being a loss, injury, disadvantage, or gain *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998)*.

Declaration of Disaster Situation

A District Disaster Coordinator for a Disaster District may, with the approval of the Minister, declare a Disaster Situation for the District or part of it, if satisfied of a number of conditions as set out in *Part 4 – Provisions for Declaration of a Disaster Situation - Sect 64 Declaration (Disaster Management Act 2003)*.

Disaster

A serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event, that requires a significant coordinated response by the State and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption *(Disaster Management Act 2003, S13(1))*.

Disaster Management

Arrangements to manage the potential adverse effects of an event, including, for example, arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster *(Disaster Management Act 2003, S14)*.

Disaster Operations

Activities undertaken before, during or after an event happens to help reduce loss of human life, illness or injury to humans, property loss or damage, or damage to the environment, including, for example, activities to mitigate the adverse effects of the event *(Disaster Management Act 2003, S15)*.

Disaster Response Capability

The ability to use Local Government resources, to effectively deal with, or help another entity to deal with, within the capacity of the Local Government and their resources an emergency situation or a disaster in the local government's area *(Disaster Management Act 2003, S80(2))*.

District Disaster Coordinator

The role of the DDC in addition to other duties is the responsibility for coordinating operations in the Disaster District for the DDMG.

Event

An event means any of the following:
  • A cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, storm tide, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption or other natural happening;
  • Bushfire, an explosion or fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill, or a gas leak;
  • An infestation, plague, or epidemic;
  • An attack against the State; or
  • Another event similar to the above events.
An event may be natural or caused by human acts or omissions *(Disaster Management Act 2003, S16(1)&(2)).*

Hazard

A source of potential harm, or a situation with a potential to cause loss *(Emergency Management Australia 2004)*

Mitigation

Measures taken in advance of a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and environment *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998)*

Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements

 NDRRA provide a cost sharing formula between the State and Commonwealth Governments as well as a package of pre-agreed relief measures that may be activated by the Queensland Government on a needs basis.

Preparedness

Measures to ensure that, should an emergency occur, communities, resources, and services are capable of coping with the effects *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998)*

Prevention

Measures to eliminate or reduce the incidence or severity of emergencies *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998)*

Reconstruction

Actions taken to re-establish a community after a period of rehabilitation subsequent to a disaster. Actions would include construction of permanent housing, restoration of all services, and complete resumption of the pre-disaster state *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998)*

Recovery

The coordinated process of supporting emergency affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic, and physical wellbeing *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998).*

Rehabilitation

The operations and decisions taken after a disaster with a view to restoring a stricken community to its former living conditions, whilst encouraging and facilitating the necessary adjustments to the changes caused by the disaster *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998)*

Relief

The provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs of persons affected by, or responding to, an emergency. It includes the establishment,

management and provision of services to emergency relief centres *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998)*

Residual Risk

The level of risk remaining after implementation of a risk treatment *(AS/NZS 4360:2004)*

Response

Measures taken in anticipation of, during and immediately after an emergency to ensure its effects are minimised *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998)*

Risk

The chance of something happening that may have an impact on the safety and wellbeing of your community. It includes risk as an opportunity as well as a threat and is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood *(Adapted from AS/NZS 4360:2004)*

Risk Identification

The process of identifying what can happen, why, and how *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998)*

Risk Management

The culture, processes, and structures that are directed towards realising potential opportunities whilst managing adverse effects *(AS/NZS 4360:2004)*

Risk Reduction

Actions taken to lessen the likelihood, negative consequences, or both, associated with a risk *(AS/NZS 4360:2004)*

Risk Treatment

Process of selection and implementation of measures to modify risk *(AS/NZS 4360:2004)*

Serious Disruption

Serious disruption means:

- loss of human life, or illness or injury to humans; or

- widespread or severe property loss or damage; or

- widespread or severe damage to the environment *(Australian Emergency Management Glossary, 1998)*

Appendix E– Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used throughout the Local Disaster Management Plan – Cairns Region:

ADF	Australian Defence Force
AHD	Australian Height Datum
ASA	Air Services Australia
ARFF	Aviation Rescue & Fire Fighting
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
LDCC-CR	Local Disaster Coordination Centre – Cairns Region
LDMG-CR	Local Disaster Management Group – Cairns Region
LDMP-CR	Local Disaster Management Plan – Cairns Region
CPA	Cairns Port Authority
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DDCC	District Disaster Coordination Centre
DMR	Department of Main Roads
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
EMQ	Emergency Management Queensland
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
JCU	James Cook University
MSQ	Maritime Safety Queensland
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OPSO	Operations Officer
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
QFRS	Queensland Fire and Rescue
QPS	Queensland Police Service
Q-Rail	Queensland Rail
RFB	Rural Fire Brigade
SDCC	State Disaster Coordination Centre
SDMG	State Disaster Management Group
SES	State Emergency Service
XO	Executive Officer

Appendix F – LDMG-CR Contact Directory

Not for public release – refer #965174

Appendix G – Resources List

Not for public release – # 1823365

Appendix H – Roles and Responsibilities

The following are the roles and responsibilities of agencies that may be involved in the Disaster Management arrangements.

It is to be remembered that no organisation will be required to be involved in any activity which is not part of that agency's core business. The roles and responsibilities enumerated in this section are seen as an extension of the normal day to day business of the agencies involved.

All agencies should be involved in the formulation of the Local Disaster Management Strategies.

Agency	Roles & Responsibilities
Cairns Regional Council	- Maintenance of the Local Government function (via Local Government Business Continuity Contingency Planning) - Maintenance of normal Local Government services to the community - Water - Sewerage - Refuse disposal - Public health - Animal control - Environmental protection - Roads - Drainage - Maintenance of a disaster response capability - Design, maintenance and operation of Local Disaster Co-ordination Centre, including the training of sufficient personnel to operate the Centre - Maintenance of telemetry and warning systems - Collection and interpretation of information from telemetry systems - Short term welfare
Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region	- Development of the comprehensive Local Disaster Management Planning strategies - Design and maintenance of public education/awareness programs - Coordination of support to response agencies - Reconnaissance and impact assessment - Provision of public information prior to, during and following disaster impact events - Recommendations re areas to be considered for authorised evacuation (see Storm Tide Warning/Response Handbook, where appropriate) - Public advice re voluntary evacuation (SDMG/BoM) – more appropriately the role of the DDC (**for storm tide only**) - Provision of locally based community support services
Emergency Management Queensland	The role of EMQ, with respect to disaster management, is to provide advice and assistance to all agencies and committees within the Queensland disaster management system, and administrative and executive support to the State Disaster Management Group (SDMG). EMQ is responsible for: - The overall management of Queensland's disaster management system on behalf of the SDMG, - Provision of coordination, policy and operational advice to disaster managers at all levels of the State's disaster management system,

Emergency Management Queensland cont…	▪ Coordination of State and Federal assistance for disaster management and operations. ▪ Facilitation of a comprehensive approach to disaster management, ▪ Co-ordination of the provision of disaster management training, ▪ Facilitation of the development and maintenance of the State Counter Disaster Plan, and ▪ Operation and maintenance of the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC).
Queensland Police Service	▪ Preservation of peace and good order. ▪ 'Mandatory' evacuation orders ▪ Investigation of the criminal aspect of any event. ▪ Prevention of crime. ▪ Security of any site as a possible crime scene. ▪ Coronial investigation procedures. ▪ Traffic control, including assistance with road closures and maintenance of road blocks. ▪ Crowd management/public safety. ▪ Co-ordination of search and rescue (see State Rescue Policy). ▪ Security of evacuated areas. ▪ Registration of evacuated persons.
Queensland Fire & Rescue Service	▪ Fire control ▪ Fire prevention ▪ Rescue of trapped persons (see State Rescue Policy) ▪ Assist in pumping out of flooded buildings ▪ Assist in clean-up of flood affected buildings ▪ Management of hazardous material situations ▪ Provision of Hazardous Material Incident Management Information (ChemData) relative to hazardous materials ▪ Provision of expert advisory services (through the Special Operations Units RACE *[Response Advice on Chemical Emergencies]* Team)
Queensland Ambulance Service	▪ Assessment, treatment and transportation of injured persons ▪ Assistance with evacuation ▪ Provision of advice regarding medical special needs sectors of the community
State Emergency Service	▪ Assisting the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster. ▪ Public Education ▪ Rescue of trapped or stranded persons (See State Rescue Policy) ▪ Search operations for missing persons. ▪ First Aid ▪ Traffic Control ▪ Short term welfare support ▪ Assistance with impact assessment ▪ Assistance with communications ▪ Assistance with lighting
Ergon Energy	▪ Maintenance of electrical power supply ▪ Advice in relation to electrical power ▪ Restoration of power ▪ Safety advice for consumers
Industry	▪ General contractors under existing contracts with Cairns Regional Council
Tourism Tropical North Queensland	▪ Tourism industry to provide assistance in the coordination of accommodation, travel, etc for affected interstate and international tourists.
District Disaster Management Group	▪ Department of Communities – Community Recovery Role ▪ Queensland Transport – Transport and transport engineering ▪ Department of Public Works (Q Build) o Building and engineering services

	o Emergency supply o Communications ▪ Queensland Health – Health issues

District Disaster Community Recovery Committee	▪ Chaired by Department of Communities
	▪ Development, maintenance and implementation of the Cairns Disaster District Community Recovery Plan
	▪ Disaster District-wide coordination and provision of short term, medium term and longer term recovery strategies and services, such as:
	    o care and comfort, personal support, counselling, mental health services, financial assistance, case management and temporary accommodation arrangements (excluding evacuation centres).
	    o ongoing psychological services, community engagement and development, and the re-establishment of social and cultural activities, systems and structures, networks and services.
	▪ Support to assist eligible disaster affected people and organisations in the repair or demolition and reconstruction of homes or community facilities

Queensland Health	▪ Coordination of medical resources ▪ Public health advice and warnings to participating agencies and the community ▪ Psychological and counselling services for disaster affected persons ▪ On going medical and health services required during the recovery period to preserve the general health of the community
Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting	▪ Aviation specialists for large flammable fuel fire control, rescue of trapped persons, first aid, water rescue service and structural fire fighting. Mutual aid support to State based emergency services.
Main Roads	▪ To assist in the planning of the management of disaster within Cairns Region, with a focus on the safe and efficient transport of people along the state-controlled road network. ▪ To manage and operate the state-controlled road network prior, during, and post disaster as required. ▪ To provide engineering advice, inspect and repair road and bridge infrastructure on the state-controlled road network following a disaster and to assist with the provision of machinery and personnel resources through the DDMG, when called upon by the LDMG-CR.
Cairns Port Authority	▪ Advise on airport and seaport infrastructure capability ▪ Advise on possible asset availability for air or sea evacuation tasks
Maritime Safety Queensland	Regulates the Safety of Vessels and the Marine Environment through: ▪ Vessel Registration ▪ Marine licensing ▪ Installation and maintenance of port navigational systems ▪ Vessel Traffic Management within Port and Coastal Waters (VTS Centre manned 24/7); ▪ Management of Marine Cyclone Contingency Plans; ▪ Marine Pollution response within Coastal Waters and GBR through MoU with GBRMPA

Appendix I – Interim Recovery Arrangements

Purpose

The purpose of recovery is restore the emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing of the community following a disaster.

Responsibility

The Cairns Regional Council is responsible for assisting and coordinating its resources and those of the community in recovering from a disaster.

The Department of Communities is the Qld Government's lead functional agency for Community Recovery at the State and Disaster District levels.

Context and Assumptions

The primary aim of recovery is to assist the affected community to regain a proper level of functioning following a disaster, both initially and long term.

Recovery is the coordinated process of supporting disaster affected communities in:

- Reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and the
- Restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical well-being through the provision of:

  o Information
  o Personal support
  o Resources
  o Specialist counselling
  o Mental health services

Introduction

Communities have long been involved in prevention, preparedness and response services to preserve life and property from the effects of disasters. In more recent times it has been recognised that people and communities need services to assist them in the recovery process following the experience of significant disaster.

There are four components to recovery, community recovery, infrastructure recovery, economic recovery and environmental recovery.

Support Agencies

The support agencies for recovery are:
- Australian Red Cross*
- Q Build*
- Queensland Health*
- Centrelink*
- Insurance Council Australia
- OzCare
- Department of Communities*
- QPS
- FNQ Volunteers
- General Practice Cairns
- Salvation Army*
- Minister of churches

- ▪ FNQ Indigenous Consortium
- ▪ St Johns Ambulance
- ▪ Blue Care

* Also members of the Cairns Disaster District Community Recovery Committee

Issues to be addressed in Recovery

Community Recovery - Information
- ♦ Services to provide information on:
  - o the range of recovery services available
  - o on the psychological effects of disaster

- ♦ Objectives
  - o To promote and hasten community recovery
  - o To decrease anxiety and emotional stress
  - o To engender a sense of control and predictability
  - o To increase the capacity of the community to participate in its own recovery

- ♦ Delivery
  - o Leaflets / fact sheets
  - o Through the electronic and print media, refer to *A.10 Public Information and Warnings Operational Plan*
  - o Public meetings
  - o Activation of the 1800 help line

Community Recovery - Personal Support Services
- ♦ Services
  - o Outreach counselling through Recovery Centre operations
  - o Reception at evacuation centres
  - o Comfort and reassurance
  - o Tracing services
  - o Personal services such as child care, advocacy, interpreters and practical advice
- ♦ Objectives
  - o To meet the personal needs of disaster affected persons and to reduce anxiety and accompanying debilitating effects
- ♦ Delivery
  - o Usually provided on a one-to-one basis by workers or volunteers with personal support and listening skills
  - o Refer to *A.4 Community Support Operational Plan*

Community Recovery - Financial Assistance
- ♦ Services
  - o Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance Scheme (NDRRA)
  - o Associations Natural Disaster Relief Scheme
  - o Commonwealth Government special benefit
- ♦ Objectives
  - o NDRRA Scheme to assist disaster affected persons whose financial position is such that they are unable to provide for their own recovery from the effects of disaster events

- o Associations Natural Disaster Relief Scheme to provide concessional rate loans and grants to non-profit organisations to repair or replace facilities damaged or lost as the result of disaster events
- o Special Benefit to assist people who have experienced a significant disruption to their normal source of income as the result of disaster. The benefit is administered by Centrelink.
- ♦ Delivery
  - o Centrelink
  - o Applicants' residences (outreach)
  - o Recovery Centres
  - o Department of Communities Offices

Community Recovery - Counselling and Mental Health Services
- ♦ Services
  - o Defusing
  - o Psychological support and debriefing
  - o Crisis and long term counselling
- ♦ Objectives
  - o To avoid or alleviate the emotional or psychological effects of disaster experiences
- ♦ Delivery
  - o Through the District Community Recovery Committee as per the State Community Recovery Plan Queensland
  - o Services may be delivered in a number of locations (community recovery centres, private residences, drop-in centres, professional offices and clinical settings)

Community Recovery - Long Term Accommodation
- ♦ Services
  - o Accommodation (medium to long term)
- ♦ Objectives
  - o To address the medium to longer term accommodation needs of disaster affected persons
- ♦ Delivery
  - o Through community recovery centres, Department of Housing facilities or applicants residences
  - o The LDMG-CR in its LDMP-CR addresses the urgent/short term needs in the following plans *A.4 Community Support Operational Plan, A.5 Evacuation Operational Plan* and *A.6 Evacuation Centre Management Operational Plan*

Community Recovery - Community Development Services
- ♦ Services
  - o Community network re-activation
  - o Community Information
  - o Public forums
- ♦ Objectives
  - o To provide community information to enhance recovery
  - o To reactivate and facilitate recovery of community networks and facilities
  - o To facilitate community understanding and participation in preparedness, prevention, response and recovery
- ♦ Delivery

- o Through the District Community Recovery Committee and/or Community Development Officers attached to local or state agencies that offer community development activities

Infrastructure Recovery
- ♦ Restoration of essential services
- ♦ Provide community access to services
- ♦ Facilitation of restoration of living conditions and security
- ♦ Prioritising the rebuilding of infrastructure and community lifelines

Economic Recovery
- ♦ Business continuity
- ♦ Industry restoration
  - o Manufacturing
  - o Service
  - o Building
  - o Tourist
  - o Commercial

Environmental Recovery
- ♦ Natural bushland
- ♦ Environmental Parks
- ♦ Beach restoration and erosion protection
- ♦ Waterways and canals clean up
- ♦ Replanting as required
- ♦ Consideration of animal habitats

OPERATIONAL CHECKLIST (To be used during activation) RESTRICTED DOCUMENT				64
Tasks	**Commenced**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Contact Numbers**	**Completed**
Community Recovery - Information refer also to *7.10 Public Information and Warnings Operational Plan*		**Department of Communities/LDMG-CR**		
		Responsible Officer: **Regional Director**		
Community Recovery - personal support services refer also to *7.4 Community Support Operational Plan*		**Department of Communities/LDMG-CR**		
		Responsible Officer: **Regional Director**		
Community Recovery - financial assistance		**Department of Communities/LDMG-CR**		
		Responsible Officer: **Regional Director**		
Community Recovery - counselling and mental health services		**Department of Communities/LDMG-CR**		
		Responsible Officer: **Regional Director**		
Community Recovery - longer term accommodation		**Department of Communities/LDMG-CR**		
		Responsible Officer: **Regional Director**		
Community Recovery - community development services		**Department of Communities/LDMG-CR**		
		Responsible Officer: **Regional Director**		
Infrastructure Recovery – Water Supply		**Cairns Regional Council**		
		Responsible Officer: **General Manager Cairns Water**		
Infrastructure Recovery – Sewerage Treatment and Disposal		**Cairns Regional Council**		
		Responsible Officer: **General Manager Cairns Water**		

Tasks	Commenced	Responsible Organisation	Contact Numbers	Completed
Infrastructure Recovery – Sewerage Treatment and Disposal		**Cairns Regional Council** Responsible Officer: **General Manager Cairns Water**		65
Infrastructure Recovery – Roads, Bridges and Drains		**Cairns RC/DMR** Responsible Officer: **General Manager Works and Services**		
Infrastructure Recovery – Rail		**Queensland Rail** Responsible Officer:		
Infrastructure Recovery – Cairns International Airport		**Cairns Port Authority (Airport)** Responsible Officer: **Security and Emergency Services Coordinator CPA**		
Infrastructure Recovery – Marine Fixtures		**Cairns Port Authority / QT Marine Safety (Seaport)** Responsible Officer: **Security and Emergency Services Coordinator CPA**		
Infrastructure Recovery – Buildings		**Cairns RC/Q Build** Responsible Officer: **General Manager Planning and Environment**		
Infrastructure Recovery – Debris Clearance		**Cairns Regional Council** Responsible Officer: **General Manager Works and Services**		
Environmental Recovery		**Cairns Regional Council** Responsible Officer: **General Manager Works and Services/ General Manager Planning and Environment**		

Appendix J – Risk Treatment Arrangements

J1 - Pandemic Influenza

Background

Pandemics occur when a disease spreads between humans to all parts of the world simultaneously. They have been an irregular but repeated occurrence during the last century. The World Health Organisation (WHO) is currently warning that the risk of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus (H5N1) initiating the next human influenza pandemic is high. Whether this occurs or not, the risk of a pandemic in the future will remain, exacerbated by an increasingly mobile world population.

Pandemic Influenza Plans

The Queensland Government commenced planning to address the threat of a future pandemic. This process has resulted in two plans, which continue to be developed:

- The *Interim Queensland (Whole of Government) Pandemic Influenza Plan,* which aims to support the health plan and address the wider whole of government consequences.
- The *Interim Queensland Health Pandemic Influenza Plan* sets out Queensland Health's contribution to the *Interim Queensland (Whole of Government) Pandemic Influenza Plan* and which aims to minimise the health consequences of an influenza pandemic.

Aim

The aim of the *Interim Queensland (Whole of Government) Pandemic Influenza Plan* is to support the minimisation of the health consequences of an influenza epidemic, and to minimise its social and economic consequences on the Queensland community.

Objectives

The objectives of the *Interim Queensland (Whole of Government) Pandemic Influenza Plan* is to:

1. Identify the roles and responsibilities of Government and other key stakeholders to deal with the threat of, and response to, pandemic influenza;
2. Outline the key action of Government, other agencies, and the community at each phase of the pandemic;
3. Guide strategies to limit the entry and spread of a potential pandemic influenza virus in Queensland, to the extent that this is possible;
4. Support the implementation of the Interim Queensland Health Pandemic Plan; and
5. Guide preparedness, response and recovery of Government agencies, industry, and the Queensland community.

Responsibility of Local Government

The following are the responsibilities of Local Government in the support of Government Agencies in preparing for, responding to, and recovery from a pandemic influenza virus outbreak in Queensland:

- Undertake preparedness planning which includes the event of pandemic influenza;
- Incorporate contingency planning for the event of pandemic influenza into business continuity plans;
- Maintain local government core functions/core business through business continuity plan;
- Maintain usual services to the community as per business continuity plan including the maintenance of essential services;
- Maintain an effective State Emergency Service Unit or emergency service unit in the event of an influenza pandemic;
- Facilitate and/or assist the provision of public education programs (with communications information provided by the Queensland Government);
- Issue accurate and timely public information prior to, during and following pandemic event in accordance with *Queensland (Whole of Government) Communications Strategy*;
- Coordinate support to response agencies (through the Local Disaster Management Group – Cairns Region);
- Contribute to the assessment of short-term and long-term social and economic impacts of an influenza pandemic;
- Provide (via the LDMG-CR) locally based community recovery services; and
- Provide support to Queensland Health at the request of District Disaster Management Groups.