



Whitsunday Region Local Disaster Management Plan



Acknowledgement

The Whitsunday Regional Council thanks all contributors and stakeholders involved in the development of this document.

Disclaimer

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Introduction

Foreword from the Chair of the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group



Living in the amazing Whitsunday Region carries with it the responsibility of always being prepared for cyclones, flooding and other threats such as earthquakes. It is the price we pay for living in tropical paradise. Natural disasters do happen and it's not a matter of if they will happen, but when.

As we know from the events of the last few years, disasters can severely affect our community. We all need to be prepared for these events whether we are an individual, a family, a business, a community, a council or one of the emergency services.

This Local Disaster Management Plan has been prepared to assist the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group to protect the community and community assets from the disaster events that may impact and affect all or part of the Whitsunday Regional Council area.

The Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Plan 2022-2023 is based upon the principles contained in the Queensland *Disaster*

Management Act 2003 and our commitment to building resilient communities.

The plan's primary focus is to ensure the safety of our community. It details actions we will take to ensure we are prepared and can deliver an effective and coordinated response to disaster events and to facilitate a speedy recovery as soon as possible after a disaster event. Disasters can be challenging, and the Local Disaster Management Group is dedicated to building our resilience and ensuring the safety of our community.

Mayor Julie Hall
Chair
Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group



Authority to plan

The Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Plan has been prepared by the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group for the Whitsunday Regional Council in accordance with Section 57(1) of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Julie Hall
Chair
Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group

Date: 8th November 2022

Approval of the plan

The Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Plan was endorsed by the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group.

In accordance with the *Disaster Management Act 2003 Section 80(1) (b)*, the Whitsunday Regional Council approved the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Plan.

Julie Hall
Mayor
Whitsunday Regional Council

Date: 8th November 2022



Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are use throughout this Local Disaster Management Plan.

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DACC	Defence Assistance to Civil Community
DCDSS	Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DDCC	District Disaster Coordination Centre
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
DTMR	Department of Transport and Main Roads
GIS	Geographical Information System
HAZMAT	Hazardous Material
LDC	Local Disaster Coordinator
LDCC	Local Disaster Coordination Centre
LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group (Local Group)
LDMP	Local Disaster Management Plan
LRC	Local Recovery Coordinator
MSQ	Maritime Safety Queensland
OIC	Officer in Charge

PPRR	Preparation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
PSPA	Public Safety Preservation Act 1986
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
QDMA	Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements
QDMC	Queensland Disaster Management Committee
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
QPS	Queensland Police Service
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
RFS	Rural Fire Service
SDCC	State Disaster Coordination Centre
SES	State Emergency Service
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning Signal
SitRep	Situation Report
The Act	Queensland <i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i>
VMR	Volunteer Marine Rescue (Coastguard)
WRIT	Whitsunday River Improvement Trust
XO	Executive Officer



Definitions

All hazards approach

The all hazards approach assumes that the functions and activities applicable to one hazard are most likely applicable to a range of hazards and consequently, a disaster management plan captures the functions and activities applicable to all hazards.

All agencies approach

All agencies should be involved to some extent in emergency management. The context of emergency management for specific agencies varies and may include:

- Protecting the community and environment from risks arising from the activities of the organisation.
- Ensuring the continuity of their business or service.
- Protecting their own interests and personnel.
- Protecting the community and environment from credible risks.

Command

Is the internal direction of members and resources of an agency in the performance of the organisation's agreed roles and tasks. Authority to command is established in legislation or by agreement within an organisation. Command relates to a particular organisation and operates vertically within it.

Control

Refers to having direct influence/power over resources applied to achieve a particular objective. Authority for control is generally established in legislation and carries with it the ability to control resources within an agency. Control operates horizontally across all agencies, functions and individuals.

Coordination

The bringing together of agencies and individuals to ensure effective Disaster Management before, during and after an event. It is primarily concerned with systematic acquisition and application of resources in accordance with priorities set by Disaster Management Groups. Coordination operates horizontally across organisations and agencies.

Community

A group with a commonality of association and generally defined by location, shared experience, or function. A social group which has a number of things in common, such as shared experience, locality, culture, heritage, language, ethnicity, pastimes, occupation, workplace, etc.

Consequence

The outcome or impact of an event and may be expressed qualitatively or quantitatively. There can be more than one consequence from an event. Consequences are generally described as the effects on people, society, the environment and the economy (Geoscience Australia).

Coordination Centre

A centre established as a centre of communication and coordination during disaster operations.

Declaration of disaster situation

The formal procedure to enable declared disaster powers under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (s64-s69) as required. Specific powers may be used to prevent or minimise loss of life, injury or damage.

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 Dashboard

Disaster Dashboard is a web based platform that provides comprehensive, centralised and real-time information for the public, media and external agencies to access before, during and after emergency and disaster events.

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

The *Disaster Management Act 2003*, described herein as The Act, provides the legislative basis for the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) in Queensland.

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 Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

The terms and conditions applicable to payments of financial assistance by the Commonwealth to any State, the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory, for the purposes of disaster relief and recovery. Under these arrangements, the state or territory government determines which areas receive assistance and what assistance is available to individuals and communities.

Disaster response capability (Local Government)

The ability to use Local Government resources, to effectively manage or help another entity to manage an emergency situation or a disaster in the local government's area.

Disaster Situation

A disaster situation declared under section 64(1) or 69 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

District Disaster Coordinator (DDC)

The role of the District Disaster Coordinator is to coordinate disaster operations in the disaster district for the district group.

Event

An event may be natural or caused by human acts or omissions. It can also mean any of the following:

- A cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, storm tide, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption or other natural happening
- An explosion or fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill, or a gas leak
- An infestation, plague, or epidemic
- A failure or, or disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure
- An attack against the State
- Another event similar to the above events.

Flash flooding

Flash flooding is generally defined as flooding that occurs within six hours of intense rainfall occurring. Flash flooding can occur in one of two ways:

1 Localised flooding

Localised flooding occurs when part of the storm water drainage system is blocked or capacity is exceeded. Possible effects include water damage to property and home and contents, backyard/front yard flooding and localised road flooding.

2 Creek flooding (rapid-onset floods)

Creek flooding is the result of intense localised rainfall and can occur in both undulating coastal and hinterland regions. Often occurring with little warning time, creek flooding can pose a significant risk to life and property, with fast flowing water and little time to respond to the rising water levels.

Hazard

A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2017).

Incident

Day to day occurrences, being an emergency or sudden event accidentally or deliberately caused which requires a response from one or more emergency response agencies by itself or in cooperation with other response agencies.

Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP)

A plan prepared under s57 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* that document arrangements to manage disaster planning and operations within the local government area of responsibility

Mitigation

Measures taken in advance of a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on communities, the economy, infrastructure and the environment.

Planning

Development of systems for co-ordinating disaster response and establishing priorities, duties, roles and responsibilities of different individuals and organisations, including actual state of preparedness.

Preparedness

Measures to ensure that, should an emergency occur, communities, resources, and services are capable of coping with the effects.

Prevention

Measures to eliminate or reduce the likelihood of an event occurring or, if an event occurs, to reduce the severity of the event.



Public Safety Preservation Act 1986

If at any time a commissioned officer of the Queensland Police Service is satisfied on reasonable grounds that an emergency situation has arisen or is likely to arise, the commissioned officer may declare that an emergency situation exists in respect of an area specified by the officer.

Recovery

The taking of appropriate measures to recover from an event, including the action taken to support disaster-affected communities in the reconstruction of infrastructure, the restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing, and the restoration of the environment.

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.

Relief

Efforts to meet the needs of persons affected by a disaster, to minimise further loss through the provision of immediate shelter and basic human needs.

Residual risk

The risk that remains in unmanaged form, even when effective disaster risk reduction measures are in place, and for which emergency response and recovery capacities must be maintained (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2017).

Resilience

A system or community's ability to rapidly accommodate and recover from the impacts of hazards, restore essential structures and desired functionality, and adapt to new circumstances.

Response

The taking of appropriate measures to respond to an event, including action taken and measures planned in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an event to ensure that its effects are minimised and that persons affected by the event are given immediate relief and support.

Resources

Includes people, personnel or staffing, food, any horse or animal, vehicle, vessel, aircraft, plant apparatus, implement, earthmoving equipment, construction equipment, or other equipment of any kind or any means of supplying want or need.

Risk

The concept of risk combines an understanding of the likelihood of a hazardous event occurring with an assessment of its impact represented by interactions between hazards, elements at risk and vulnerability (Geoscience Australia).

Risk identification

The process of finding, recognising and describing risks. Risk identification involves the identification of risk sources, events, their causes and their potential consequences. Risk identification can involve [the use of] historical data, theoretical analysis, informed and expert opinions and stakeholders' needs.

Risk Management

The systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of identifying, analysing, assessing, mitigating and monitoring risk.

River flooding (slow-onset floods)

River flooding results from widespread and prolonged rainfall over a major river's catchment area. Predominantly affecting the coastal floodplains, floods may last a couple of days to several weeks and represent a major impact on life and property. The time a flood peak arrives and the duration of flooding is defined by the area and slope of the river catchment as well as the length of the river.

Serious disruption

- Loss of human life, or injury or illness
- Widespread or severe property loss or damage
- Widespread or severe damage to the environment

Storm tide

Storm tides are associated with tropical storms and cyclones. Storm tide flooding comes from the ocean and is a result of combined high tides and heavy seas. Storm tides often coincide with periods of intense and prolonged rainfall and can impact on existing swollen river systems and low lying coastal areas. Storm tides can increase the severity, extent and length of any simultaneous river and creek flooding.

Vulnerability

The needs of vulnerable people (due to geographic location, medical or service needs, cultural background and language skills, age or disability) are specifically considered across all levels of planning.

Version control and distribution

Version Control

This document is subject to version control and the following table provides a history of this document.

The amendment register is relevant to the document version currently in force.

Version	Date	Prepared By	Page No.	Comments
2A	Oct 2010	G Gatton		Amendments to Part 1 to account for the changes to the <i>Disaster Management Act 2003</i> Reprint 1st November 2010
3A	Oct 2012	G Gatton		Amend to account to changes of Elected members title
4A	May 2013	G Gatton		Review Plan Contents and update Risk Management Register and Mitigation Treatment Strategies
4B	November 2013	S Tellegen		Finalise formatting review and update where required
5	Oct. 2019	A. Palmer		Reworded and reformatted into current planning principles and to include Risk Management Assessments

Amendment Register

Proposals for amendment or addition to the contents of the Whitsunday Disaster Management Plan are to be forwarded to:

Chief Executive Officer
 Whitsunday Regional Council
 PO Box 104
 PROSERPINE QLD 4800

To ensure the Whitsunday Disaster Management Plan remains current, holders of copies are asked to insert amendments into the plan as soon as they are received. When an amendment is inserted into the plan, the amendment is to be recorded in the amendment schedule below.

Amendment		Entered	
Number	Date	Signature	Date

Review of the Local Disaster Management Plan

A review of the plan in accordance with s59 of The Act may be conducted by the Local Disaster Coordinator (or delegate) following:

- a Activation of the plan because of a disaster event.
- b Exercises designed to practice or test aspects of the plan.
- c Alterations to the roles or responsibilities of any agency involved in the plan.
- d Changes to operational procedures.
- e External disasters or new technology which may suggest a review be carried out.
- f Following an assessment of the local plan by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department.
- g Following an assessment by the District Disaster Coordinator



Distribution List

Position and organisation	Copy	Comments
Local Disaster Management Group Chair and Deputy Chair	Electronic and hard copy	Copies as requested
Local Disaster Coordinator	Electronic and hard copy	
LDMG Members	Electronic copy	Copy for each member
District Disaster Management Group	Electronic copy	Copy sent to XO for distribution
District Disaster Coordinator and Executive Officer	Electronic and hard copy	Copies as requested
QFES (Emergency Management Coordinator)	Electronic and hard copy	
Local Disaster Coordination Centre	Hard copy	
Elected Members	Electronic copy	Copies are requested





1.0 Terms of Reference

1.1 General

The *Disaster Management Act 2003* requires that a Local Government must prepare a plan for Disaster Management in the Local Government's area. The plan must include provision for:

1. The State Group's strategic policy framework for Disaster Management for the State and the Local Government's policies for Disaster Management.
2. The roles and responsibilities of entities involved in Disaster Management and Disaster Operations in the area.
3. The coordination of Disaster Operations and activities relating to Disaster Management performed by the entities mentioned above.
4. Strategies and priorities for Disaster Management for the area.

This Local Disaster Management Plan is consistent with the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA), the Emergency Management Assurance Framework and the Queensland Government Strategic Policy Framework. There is adherence to the PPRR principles and research; policy and governance; risk assessment and mitigation. This plan also distinctly endorses and sponsors strong viable working relationships with the District and State Disaster Management Groups and all sectors within the Local Disaster Management Group where collaboration, cooperation and communications are paramount.

This plan and the associated management arrangements have been developed with a community focus.

1.2 Aim and purpose of this plan

The purpose of the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Plan is to comply with the requirements of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and to ensure community safety through the development of effective Disaster Management strategies in order to ensure effective co-ordination of available resources to assist communities to:

1. Mitigate wherever possible, the potential adverse effects of an event.
2. Prepare for managing the effects of an event.
3. Effectively respond to, and recover from, a disaster or an emergency situation.

The Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Plan has not been developed for the management of commonly occurring incidents which are within the capacity of the individual hazard specific primary agencies or major incidents which are within the capacity of the nominated lead agency with a threat specific role.

However, elements of the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Plan may be activated in support of and at the request of a lead agency responding to a major incident.

1.3 Key objectives

The key objectives of this Plan are to:

1. Ensure that a coordinated and effective system for disaster management exists for the Whitsunday Regional Council.
2. Detail specific strategies relating to disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
3. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the disaster management stakeholders to support the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group.
4. Ensure community education and awareness strategies are documented to ensure that the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.

1.4 Strategic Policy Framework

The Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group has adopted the following objectives that will underpin disaster management in the Whitsunday Regional Council area.

- Strive to reduce the impact effects of disaster events on people, property, infrastructure and the environment
- Encourage and support local communities to manage disaster risks, respond to events and to be more resilient
- Promote the concepts of a partnership between the Local Disaster Management Group and the community with community members taking responsibility for their own safety

1.5 Whitsunday Disaster Management Arrangements

Disaster management and disaster operations in the Whitsunday Regional Council local government area are consistent with the Disaster Management Strategic Policy and Council achieves this by:

- Ensuring a comprehensive, all hazards, all agencies approach;
- Supporting the mainstreaming of disaster preparedness and mitigation into relevant areas of activity of government, non-government, small business and corporations;



- Aligning disaster risk reduction, disaster mitigation, disaster resilience and climate change adaptation policy and actions with international and national reforms;
- Promoting a transparent, systematic and consistent approach to disaster risk assessment and management;
- Recognising the commitment of stakeholders and the need for collaboration across all levels of government, community, industry, commerce, government, private sector and volunteers
- Promoting community resilience, continuity and economic sustainability through disaster risk reduction.

1.6 Integration with council business planning procedures

The Council undertakes an annual review of the Disaster Management Plan and supporting plans. The Council, in adopting the annual budget and operational plan, allocates funds and resources to address the disaster management and disaster operations requirements outlined in this plan.

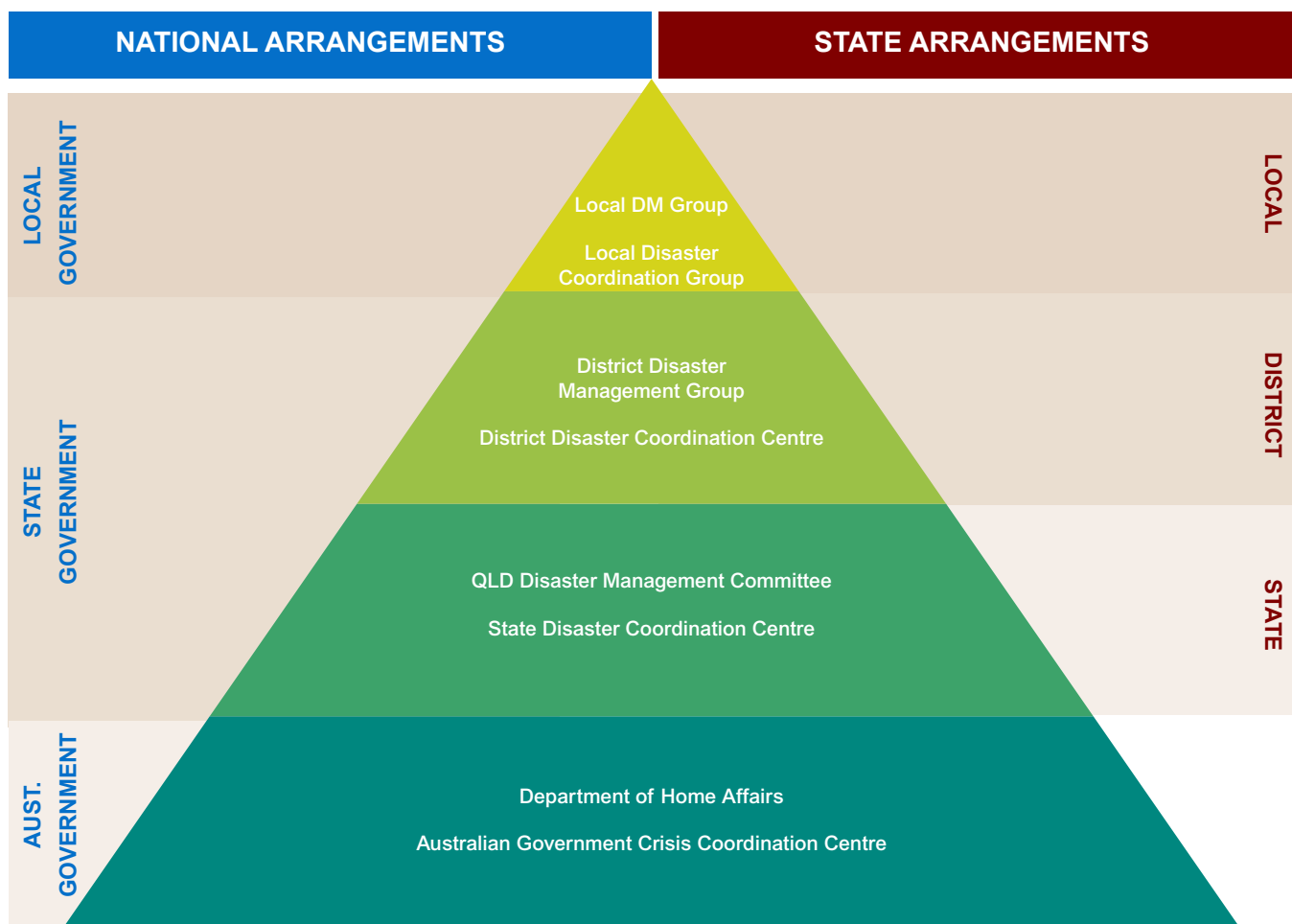


Figure 1: Queensland disaster management arrangements represent the disaster management framework in Queensland, which comprises local, district, and state levels.

1.7 Disaster management system in Queensland

Figure 1: Queensland disaster management arrangements represent the disaster management framework in Queensland, which comprises local, district, and state levels.

1.7.1 Queensland *Disaster Management Act 2003*

The *Queensland Disaster Management Act 2003* (The Act) provides for matters relating to Disaster Management in Queensland. This Local Plan has been prepared so that it is consistent and complies with The Act. The *Disaster Management Act 2003*, reprint current 3 July 2017 forms the legislative basis for disaster management activities within all levels of Government in Queensland. The Act allows for formal declaration of a disaster and activation of response mechanisms by Government at the State, District and Local levels.

See www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2003-091

1.7.2 Queensland Emergency Management Assurance Framework

This plan is consistent with the principles contained in the Queensland Emergency Management Assurance Framework and the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland. The state framework focuses on a comprehensive, all hazards approach with all levels and agencies of government working in partnership to reduce the effects of disasters and emergencies.

See www.igem.qld.gov.au/assurance-framework/Pages/default.aspx#standard



1.7.3 Queensland State Disaster Management Plan 2018

The Queensland State Disaster Management Plan 2018 (SDMP) outlines Disaster Management principles contained within the Act and guide disaster management in Queensland. These are:

- Comprehensive approach
- All hazards approach
- Local disaster management capability
- Support to the local level (LDMGs) by district disaster management groups (DDMGs) and the State group, the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC).

The plan identifies four priority areas that contribute to effective disaster management in Queensland:

1. Risk management
2. Planning
3. Local focus
4. Resilience

The Queensland State Disaster Management Plan 2018, describes the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) that implement the guiding principles and objectives of The Act along with the Emergency Management Assurance Framework ('the Framework').

See <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/cdmp/Documents/Queensland-State-Disaster-Management-Plan.pdf>

1.8 Local disaster management capability

Local disaster management capability is achieved through the Local Disaster Management Group and council's Disaster Management Unit. The Disaster Management Section provides liaison and networks across all agencies and builds capabilities through training provided by QFES to Local Disaster Management Group members and council staff.

Local level capability is recognised as the frontline of disaster management. Section 4A(c) of The Act provides that local governments should primarily be responsible for managing events in their local government area. District Disaster Management Groups and the Queensland Disaster Management Committee should provide local governments with appropriate resources and support to assist the local government carry out disaster operations.



2.0 Whitsunday Regional Council Profile

2.1 Geography

The Whitsunday Regional Council is located in Central Queensland and covers 2.3 million hectares. The council area is comprised of a mainland section and 74 offshore islands. The Whitsunday council has 514km of coastline. The mainland is traversed from south east to north west by the Leichhardt and Clarke Range which is part of the Great Dividing Range, and comprises dissected hills with steep slopes, sloping down to the coastal plains. The Conway Range is a small coastal mountain range which comprises hills and mountains with elevations reaching 820m at Mount Dryander and 561m at Mount High. The coastal mountain ranges and off shore islands are mostly formed from acid to intermediate volcanic rocks while inland ranges are formed from intrusive granites and sedimentary rocks. The south-western section of the Shire forms the northern extent of the Bowen basin where large deposits of coal are found.

The Whitsunday Regional Council are has a complex network of river systems and water storages. The main river basins in the region are the:

- Burdekin River,
- Bowen River
- Broken River
- Bogie River

- Suttor river
- Don river
- Proserpine River

The two main water storages in the region are the Burdekin dam on the northern boundary and the Proserpine dam closer to the coast. The Burdekin dam has a capacity of 1,860,000 megalitres and the Proserpine Dam 486,000 megalitres.

2.2 Climate

The Whitsunday Regional Council is located in Central Queensland between 20.40 and 19.40 degrees south of the equator. The climate of the Whitsunday includes the dry subtropics in the north and west of the Shire and sub-tropical humid climate in the south east of the Shire.

The average annual rainfall ranges from 2200mm per year in Conway in the east to less than 600mm per year in Mount Coolon. The average annual rainfall for Proserpine is 1490mm, Bowen is 850mm and Collinsville is 680mm a year (figures 2 ,3 and 4). In the coastal humid areas, frosts on the coastal flood plain may occur in some years. Further west in the dry tropics, frosts are more common.



Figure 1. Showing the location of the main river systems and river basins in the Whitsunday region (Source QLD Globe, 2017).



Proserpine Airport (033247) Annual Rainfall

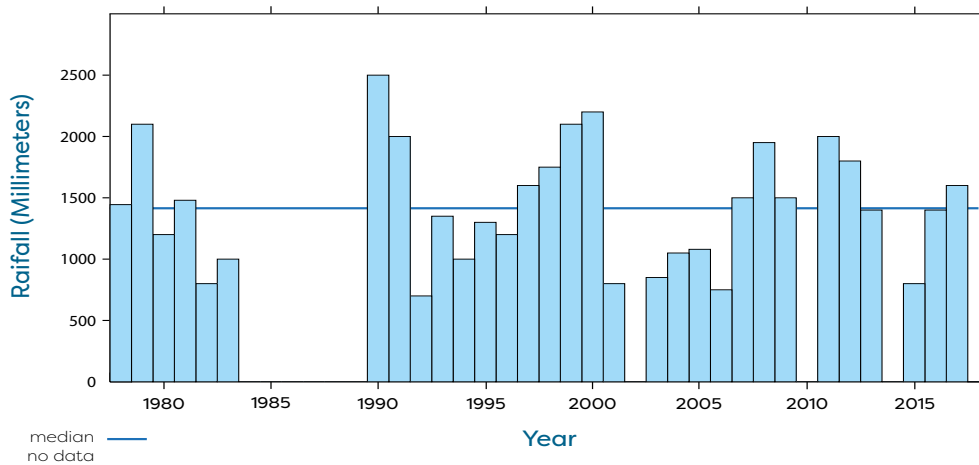


Figure 2. Proserpine annual rainfall

Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology
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Collinsville Post Office (033013) Annual Rainfall

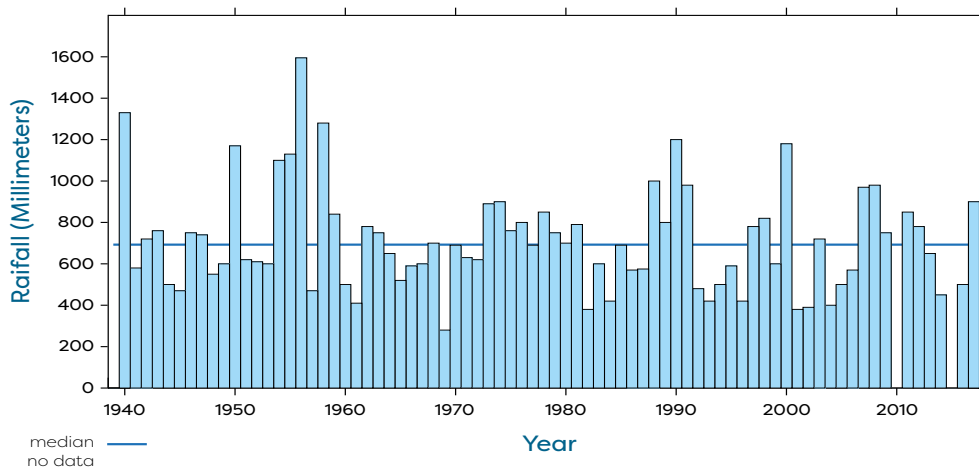


Figure 3. Collinsville annual rainfall

Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology
Copyright Commonwealth of Australia, 2018

Bowen Australian Saltworks (033094) Annual Rainfall

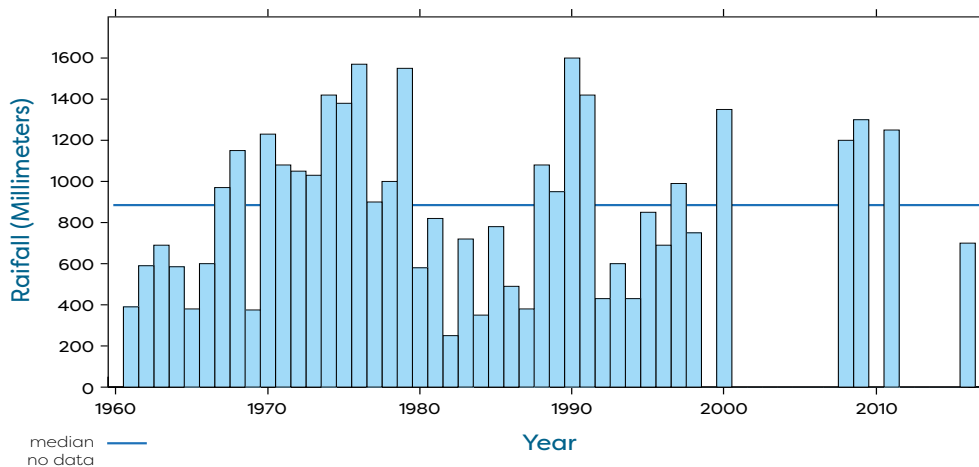


Figure 4. Bowen annual rainfall

Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology
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2.3 Environment

The Whitsunday region is world renowned for its natural assets. The Whitsundays have extensive fringing reef and out-reef ecosystems which are part of the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef. The coral reef system is one of the tourism assets for Queensland with over 700,000 visitors experiencing the Whitsunday's each year.

There are a large number of National Parks and protected areas in the Whitsunday region. The majority of the Whitsunday islands are declared national park areas. The largest mainland National park in Conway National Park which covers 22,500ha (Figure 5).

The geology and climate have a major influence over the vegetation communities in the region. The Whitsunday region has a range of rainforest communities including; subtropical notophyll rainforest, littoral rainforest and dry rainforests

(semi-evergreen or dry scrubs). Eucalypt woodlands and savanna dominate the western and northern section of the Whitsunday region (Figure 6). Approximately 40% of the Whitsunday region is uncleared or has remnant vegetation.

The dominant land use on the dry topic areas to the west and north of the Shire is cattle grazing. The dominant land uses along the coast is sugarcane (27,000ha under allocation) and horticulture (8,000ha under allocation).

Of the 514km of mainland coast line, 13km has adjacent urban development. Large areas of the coast line are inaccessible to the public by land. The most popular urban beaches include; Airlie Beach, Bowen foreshore and Queens Beach. Whitehaven beach is one of the most popular tourist destinations and is six kilometres long and located on Whitsunday Island.



Figure 5. Showing National Park and State forest areas in the Whitsunday region (Source QLD Globe, 2017).

2.4 Demography

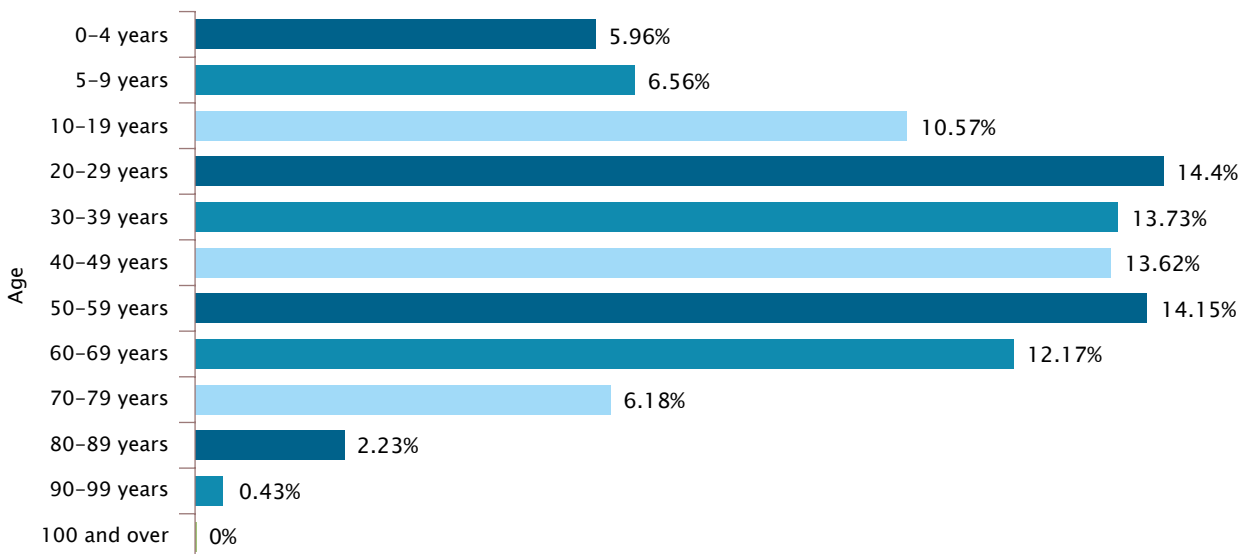
2.4.1 Current population

Data from the 2016 census shows that the resident population of the Whitsunday Regional Council local government area was 33782 compared to 31,426 in 2011.

2.4.2 Forecast population growth

Population projections published by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning indicate that the population of Whitsunday was expected to increase to about 35050 in 2018.

The region's population is expected to grow at an annual rate of 2.3 per cent over the next 20 years.





2.4.3 Tourist numbers

The Whitsunday Region attracted 885,000 overnight tourist visitors in 2018. On any one day, tourist numbers can be up to about 10,000. The main tourism season of August to January includes the early part of the tropical cyclone season (December to April) when community vulnerability to destructive winds, storm surge and flooding are at their highest.

This temporary population needs to be taken into account in planning for natural disasters, and to ensure that means of

rapidly raising their awareness and preparedness in the event of a natural disaster is included in disaster risk planning. Overseas visitors from non-English speaking backgrounds have special needs in this regard.

Tourism is concentrated in Airlie Beach, Cannonvale and Jubilee Pocket and a small number of the offshore islands (Hamilton Island, Hayman Island, Long Island, Daydream Island, and Hook Island).

2.4.4 Townships, communities and rural locations

Name	Population
Bowen	10377
Cannonvale	5716
Collinsville	1214
Conway Beach	80
Dingo Beach	169
Gumlu	181
Guthalungra	112
Hydeaway Bay	205
Jubilee Pocket	1817
Lethebrook	51
Mount Coolon	64
Mount Julian	492
Proserpine	3562
Scottville	259
Shute Harbour	122
Whitsunday Airlie Beach	1208



2.5 Community capacity

The Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group is proactive in its public education programs to assist the community in developing plans and implementing measures that contribute to prevention, preparedness, response to and recovery from disaster events.

The community has capacity within the following Council and Emergency Service Facilities within the Region to manage at least the initial impact of a disaster event:

- Whitsunday Regional Councils Engineering Services Department located at Proserpine, Cannonvale, Bowen and Collinsville.
- Whitsunday Regional Council Environmental Health Department located at Proserpine and Bowen.
- SES Facilities and personnel located at Proserpine, Cannonvale, Gloucester, and Bowen.
- Queensland Police Service facilities and personnel located at Proserpine, Cannonvale, Bowen and Collinsville.
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services facilities and personnel located at Airlie Beach, Proserpine, Bowen and Collinsville.
- Queensland Ambulance Service facilities and personnel located at Proserpine, Cannonvale, Hamilton Island, Bowen and Collinsville.
- Queensland Health facilities and personnel located at Proserpine Hospital, Bowen Hospital, Collinsville Hospital, together with Private Medical Practices located at Proserpine, Cannonvale, Airlie Beach and Bowen.
- Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group Recovery Group which is made up of recovery stakeholders and community organisations.

The above Government Agencies have the ability to request additional resources within their own organisations when it is determined the local resources have been fully utilised and exhausted.

The Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group has achieved the cooperation of the Island Resorts and Communities in developing their own Disaster Management Plans for their resorts and facilities thereby reducing the call for assistance during a disaster event.

2.6 Industry

Proserpine is the main administrative centre for the Regional Council and is the location of the Whitsunday Regional Council Main Office. The Proserpine Sugar Mill and many other small business and industry support not only the sugar industry but also the growing tourism industry. The traditional industries in the Proserpine region are principally sugar growing and milling and cattle grazing in the western sections.

Bowen to the north of Proserpine is a significant small crop farming community within the delta areas and cattle grazing in most of the outlying areas. Bowen is a base for a large commercial fishing fleet for the domestic and export markets. Industries supporting these activities have developed in Bowen.

Collinsville to the west of Bowen is a long established coal mining community with significant power generating solar farm nearby. Coal mined in the Bowen basin is transported by rail to Abbot Point coal loading facility for export.

2.7 Public building, public spaces and special events

Located through the Region are a number of public and private schools which are not only used for education purposes but also for public gatherings. These buildings are as follows:

- Proserpine State High and Primary School
- Bowen State High and Primary School
- St Catherine's Catholic School Proserpine
- St John Bosco Catholic Primary School Bowen
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School Bowen
- Whitsunday Christian School
- Cannonvale Primary School
- Queens Beach Primary School
- Collinsville State High and Primary School.

Sporting Complexes within the Shire include the Les Stagg Oval and the Junior Sporting Complex in Proserpine and the Whitsunday Sports Park at Airlie, Bowen Sports Ground and Showground, General Sports Complex Collinsville. PCYC's are established at Airlie and Bowen.

Shopping Centres which are subject to gatherings of people are the Centro Complex in Cannonvale, Whitsunday Shopping Centre in Cannonvale, Proserpine Business Centre Woolworths complex in Proserpine and the Bowen Plaza Shopping Centre and IGA Supermarket complex.



The Airlie Beach Lagoon is located on the foreshore of Airlie and is one of the biggest daily public crowd attractors in the Region. Annually the Airlie foreshore is the venue for the Reef Festival, Schoolies Week which attracts significant crowds for the duration of the event.

The redeveloped Bowen Foreshore attracts significant public use during normal working days and the Bowen Fishing Classic is held at this location over a 2 day period in September of each year and attracts significant locals and visitors to the location.

2.8 Key infrastructure

2.8.1 Health and Emergency Services

The Proserpine Hospital located in Herbert St Proserpine is the Primary hospital within the Region and has limited emergency response resources. In recent years, the Proserpine Hospital has treated about 3,000 patients annually. Regional hospital facilities are available in Mackay with smaller facilities at Bowen and Collinsville. A Community Health facility is located in Altman Avenue Cannonvale, Bowen and Collinsville. Aged care facilities are located in Proserpine, Bowen and Collinsville.

The following emergency service facilities are available:

- SES facilities located in Proserpine, Cannonvale, Gloucester and Bowen.
- Queensland Police Service facilities in Proserpine, Cannonvale, Bowen, Collinsville and Water Police at Able Point Marina.
- Queensland Ambulance Service facilities are available in Proserpine, Cannonvale, Hamilton Island, Bowen and Collinsville.
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services facilities are stationed in Proserpine, Airlie Beach, Bowen and Collinsville.
- Volunteer Marine Rescue Base is located at Altman Avenue, Cannonvale and the Bowen Harbour Marina.

2.8.2 Recovery centres

The Whitsunday Recovery Sub Plan identifies a number of buildings that may be utilised as Recovery Centres following the impact of a disaster event.

These buildings include Airlie Beach PCYC, Cannonvale TAFE College, Bowen PCYC and other specific sites. The Local Recovery Group will notify the locations of Recovery Centres when they are activated.

2.8.3 Cyclone shelters

Designated Cyclone Shelters have been provided by the Queensland Government at the Proserpine State Primary School and the Bowen State High School. These buildings will be operated by the Whitsunday Regional Council in accordance with the Policy and Procedures of the Operational Sub Plan “Proserpine Public Cyclone Shelter” and Operational Sub Plan “Bowen Public Cyclone Shelter”.

2.9 Essential services

2.9.1 Communications

The majority of the communication systems in the urban and rural areas comprise underground cables and telephone exchanges operated by Telstra. Telecommunication infrastructure also includes a number of mobile telephone towers which are operated by Telstra, Optus, Vodafone and other service providers.

2.9.2 Transport

Roads

The arterial road network servicing the population centres within the Region is the Bruce Highway which provides access to both the North and South of the Region. These roads are subject to significant flooding during normal wet season rainfall events and also during and following cyclonic events.

Rail

The North Coast Rail Line passes through the Region from Mackay in the South to the Burdekin in the north with Proserpine and Bowen being main transit and freight centres. This line is subject to inundation during times of extreme seasonal weather conditions and can remain non-operational for a considerable period of time. A significant rail link is established between the Bowen Coal basin and the coal loading facility at Abbot Point.

Air

The Region is serviced by two airports of commercial Jet capacity. The mainland airport is situated south of Proserpine with the second airport situated on Hamilton Island. A general aviation aerodrome (light aircraft) is located at Shute Harbour and at Bowen and Collinsville.

When and as weather conditions permit the two jet airports can be utilised as points for evacuation following an event or for re supply purposes. The general aviation aerodromes could be used for aircraft engaged in reconnaissance or people movements from the island resorts and isolated areas.



Sea

Sea access between the mainland and the Island resorts is provided by commercial operators through Council and commercially owned and operated transit facilities at Shute Harbour, Abell Point and Port of Airlie. These resources are key facilities necessary for the implementation of any evacuation plans necessary to remove disaster affected persons from resorts or to commence supply of medical assistance or resupply of goods to resorts to commence recovery operations.

2.9.3 Water supply

The Whitsunday Regional Council owns and operates a reticulated water supply system for Proserpine, Mount Julian and the Whitsunday area (which includes Cannonvale, Airlie, Jubilee Pocket and Shute Haven) and Bowen and Collinsville.

The primary water supply for Proserpine and Whitsunday is sourced by pumping from the sand bed of the Proserpine River upstream of the town and bore fields located at various sites. Water for Proserpine is pumped to low level storage in Proserpine and to high level reservoir by booster pump. Water for the Whitsunday area is pumped from the bore fields to a series of low level reservoirs and booster pumps between Proserpine and the Whitsunday area to a series of high level reservoirs. All pumping is dependent on electricity supply

The primary water supply for Bowen is sourced from sand beds in the Proserpine River downstream from the Peter Faust Dam (80%) and sand beds in the Don River (20%). The supply is pumped direct from the points of supply to high level reservoirs located within the Bowen and reticulated to all residences within the Bowen water area. All pumping is dependent on electricity supply.

The primary water supply for Collinsville is sourced from sand beds in the Don River by a pumping system to a holding facility and then gravity feed to a treatment plant. Following treatment the supply is pumped to reservoirs for reticulation to both Collinsville and Scottsville. All pumping and treatment is dependent on electricity supply.

2.9.4 Sewerage

Proserpine has a reticulated sewerage system, with the sewerage treatment plant located adjacent to the Proserpine River downstream of the Bruce Highway. The system has a series of eight pump stations from which rising mains deliver the sewerage to the treatment plant. Discharge from the plant is to the adjacent Proserpine River. The system is totally dependent on electricity supply.

The Town of Whitsunday also has a reticulated sewerage system which includes 17 pump stations and a series of raising mains which deliver sewerage to the treatment plant located at Cannonvale. Discharge from the plant is pumped to an ocean outfall system adjacent to Pigeon Island. The system is totally dependent on electrical supply.

Bowen has a reticulated sewerage system which includes 30 pump stations and rising mains delivering sewerage to the treatment plant located at Dalrymple Point. Discharge from the plant is to an approved ocean outfall and also to selected parks for irrigation. All pumping and treatment is dependant of supply of electricity.

Collinsville is serviced by a reticulated sewerage system which includes a series of pump stations of various capacities at selected locations. Treatment is undertaken at a plant between Collinsville and Scottsville. Discharge from this plant is to an approved location in Carpet Snake Creek and land distribution. All pumping, treatment and discharge is dependent on electricity supply for operation.

2.9.5 Power

Powerlink Queensland operates the electricity transmission infrastructure supplying power to the region from the Proserpine substation. Proserpine substation is supplied at 132 kilovolts from Collinsville North substation located adjacent to the decommissioned Collinsville Power Station. Collinsville North substation is supplied at 275kV by two substations, Strathmore and Nebo.

Ergon Energy is the operator of the local sub transmission and distribution network which provides power to consumers of the Whitsunday Regional Council area.

There is a limited back up supply available in Proserpine in the event of a major failure of Powerlink's transmission infrastructure. Contingent supply options are dependent on the nature of an asset failure and may include limited supply via Ergon's sub transmission network or localised generation connection at critical distribution nodes.

2.10 Hazardous sites

A number of sites that produce or store hazardous materials that by content of the storage and the location of the site have the potential to be a risk to the community exist. Those sites identified are as follows:

- Proserpine Cooperative Sugar Mill located in Faust St Proserpine
- Elgas Depot Anzac Rd Proserpine



3.0 Local Disaster Management Group

The Whitsunday Regional Council considers disaster management and disaster operations to be a joint responsibility held by all member agencies of the Local Disaster Management Group.

3.1 Establishment

In accordance with Section 29 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, Whitsunday Regional Council has established the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group.

3.2 Functions of the Group

- 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 planning and capability, 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 Disaster Management 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 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 the Disaster Management Act.
- l To perform a function incidental to a function mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (k).



3.3 Membership

See the following tables:

- *Table 1: LDMG membership as at October 2019*
- *Table 2: LDMG Advisors and invited observers as at October 2019.*

3.3.1 Table 1: LDMG membership as at October 2019

Organisation / Agency	Position
Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC)	Chairperson / Mayor
Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC)	Chief Executive Officer
Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC)	Local Disaster Coordinator
Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC)	Local Recovery Coordinator
Queensland Police Service (QPS)	Officer in Charge QPS Whitsunday
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)	Inspector, Manager Regional Development
Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)	Officer in Charge
Queensland Health	Director of Nursing / Facility Manager Proserpine Hospital
SunWater	Operations Manager, Northern Region
Ergon Energy	Customer Delivery Manager - Herbert
Telstra	Senior Account Executive
Maritime Safety Queensland	Area Manager Whitsunday
Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC)	Director of Engineering Services
Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC)	Public Information Manager

All members will nominate a deputy to ensure continuity and full agency representation. .





3.3.2 Table 2: LDMG Advisors and invited observers as at October 2019

Organisation / Agency	Position
North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation	Emergency Manager
Rural Fire Service	Area Director Mackay
Queensland Reconstruction Authority	Regional Liaison Officer
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)	Emergency Management Coordinator
Queensland Health	Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Manager
Queensland Police Service (QPS)	Executive Officer to the Mackay Disaster District
State Emergency Service	Local Controller - Whitsunday
State Emergency Service	Local Controller – Bowen
Department of Transport and Main Roads	District Director
Department of Communities, Disability Services, and Seniors	North Queensland Manager Procurement and Contract Management
Northern Queensland Primary Health Network	Area Manager

Other State Agencies, Whitsunday Regional Council Departments and Community Organisations will be called on to provide advice and support to the Group dependant on the nature of the event.

3.3.3 Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

The Mayor of the Whitsunday Regional Council is appointed as Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group. An elected representative (Councillor) is appointed as the Deputy Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group.

3.3.4 Local Disaster Coordinator

The Whitsunday Regional Council has appointed a council officer as the Local Disaster Coordinator of the Local Disaster Management Group.

The *Disaster Management Act 2003 (section 36)* prescribes the function of the Local Disaster Coordinator as:

- To coordinate disaster operations of the local group.
- To report regularly to the Local Disaster Management Group about disaster operations
- To ensure as far as practicable, that any strategic decision of the group about disaster operations are implemented.



3.4 Responsibilities of the Local Disaster Management Group members

Members of the Local Disaster Management Group are to be involved in the formulation of disaster management strategies and plans for the Whitsunday Regional Council local government area, through participation at full group meetings or through participation in sub-group meetings.

See the following tables:

- *Table 3: Responsibilities of LDMG members and advisors*
- *Table 4: LDMG Lead agency roles and responsibilities*

3.4.1 Table 3: Responsibilities of LDMG members and advisors

LDMG Role	LDMG Responsibility
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and coordinate the business of the group • Ensure the group performs its functions • Report regularly to the relevant district group and the Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services about the performance by the local group of its functions.
Deputy Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide advice and support to the Chair and LDMG. • To chair LDMG Meetings in the absence of the Chair. • To provide a link between the LDMG and council. • To participate in the issuing of public information and warnings.
Local Disaster Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate disaster operations for the local group • Report regularly to the local group about disaster operations • Ensure that any strategic decisions about disaster operations by the local group are implemented.
Deputy Local Disaster Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To undertake the functions of the LDC in the LDC's absence.
Local Recovery Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To coordinate the local recovery groups • To liaise with functional lead agency representatives and work with identified agencies and the community to develop the specific recovery strategy. • To provide advice and support to the Chair and recovery groups. • To activate the Disaster Recovery Plan when required.
Whitsunday Regional Council (Director Engineering Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide council response and recovery planning advice, and support to the Local Disaster and Recovery Coordinator. • To action council's emergency response.
Whitsunday Regional Council (Chief Executive Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide strategic policy and planning advice and secretariat support to the Local Group, Chair and Local Disaster Coordinator. • To ensure staff are rostered into the Local Disaster Coordination Centre.
Dept. Transport and Main Roads Representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison between the agency and the LDMG.
Media Liaison Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and dissemination of public information and warnings prior to and during an event.
Queensland Ambulance Service Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison between the agency and the LDMG.
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (Emergency Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide advice and support to the Chair and the LDC. • Liaison between the agency and the LDMG. • Link to the Qld Disaster Management System. • Policy advice about Qld Disaster Management system. • Assessment of the Local Plan. • Training delivery as per the QDMTF
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison between the agency and the LDMG.
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services - Rural Operations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison between the agency and the LDMG.
Queensland Police Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison between the agency and the LDMG.
Queensland Health (hospitals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide local context and coordination of health aspects of an incident to the local district with regards to the full spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. • Provide health emergency incident information to the LDCC for dissemination. • Provide liaison to the wider Health system through the Queensland Health Disaster management framework.
State Emergency Services (SES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison between the SES and the LDMG.



3.5 Table 4: LDMG agency roles and responsibilities

Agency	Roles and responsibilities
Local Disaster Management Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functions as allocated to the group under s30 of The Act. • Development of a comprehensive local disaster management plan • Design and maintenance of a public education/awareness program, which is delivered through Council and member agency resources. • Support for the coordination of response agencies through the Local Disaster Coordination Centre. • Provision of public information prior to, during and following disaster events. • Recommended areas to be considered for directed evacuation. • Public advice regarding voluntary evacuation.
Whitsunday Regional Council	<p>Perform the following roles and responsibilities in support of the Local Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management, support, policy advice and coordination of the business of the LDMG and its sub-groups, including the development and maintenance of disaster management plans and sub plans. • Identification, development, maintenance and operation of a LDCC at a primary location and maintenance of alternative locations. • Identification and delivery of training and staffing required to operate the LDCC. • Coordination of disaster operations by the LDC through the LDCC for the LDMG ensuring that strategic decisions of the LDMG are implemented. • Lead and coordinate recovery operations and provide immediate community support and recovery needs in conjunction with the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and relevant agencies and stakeholders, including the management and operation of evacuation centres. • Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster. • Issue of public information or warnings about disaster situations in accordance with Local Plan. • Provide advice and support to the DDC. <p>General Council responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and maintenance of prevention and mitigation strategies such as Land Use Planning and Capital Works programs. • Development and maintenance of a response plans where the Council is identified as the Lead Agency. • Identification and delivery of training and staffing required to operate the LDCC. • Development and maintenance of communications systems between response and recovery agencies and coordination centres. • Maintenance (including debris clearance) of local roads and bridges. • Collection and interpretation of information from rainfall and flooding telemetry systems, conjointly with the Bureau of Meteorology. • Maintenance of rainfall and flooding telemetry and warning systems. • Community awareness and education for risks for which Council is lead agency.
Queensland Ambulance Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide, operate and maintain ambulance services • Access, assess, treat and transport sick and injured persons • Protect persons from injury or death, during rescue and other related activities • Coordinate all volunteer first aid groups during major emergencies and disasters • Provide and support temporary health infrastructure where required • Collaborate with Retrieval Services Queensland in the provision of paramedics for rotary wing operations • Participate in search and rescue, evacuation and victim reception operations • Participate in health facility evacuations • Collaborate with Queensland Health in mass causality management systems • Provide disaster, urban search and rescue, chemical hazard, biological and radiological operations support with specialist logistic and specialist paramedics.

3.5 Table 4: LDMG agency roles and responsibilities (continued)

Agency	Roles and responsibilities
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary response agency for structural, bushfire, chemical/hazmat related incidents • Provide advice, chemical analysis and atmospheric monitoring at relevant incidents • Provide mass and technical decontamination capability • Provide rescue and search functions and perform other operations to help and protect injured persons from danger or potential danger • Distribute and develop (where primary agency) warnings to disaster management stakeholders and communities • Facilitate and authorise Emergency Alert campaigns to provide advice and warning to communities affected by disasters and emergency situations • Prepare guidelines to inform local governments and district and state groups of disaster management related matters • Establish and maintain arrangements between the state and the commonwealth about matters relating to effective disaster management • Ensure disaster management and disaster operations are consistent between plans, policies, standards and guidelines • Ensure that persons performing functions under the Disaster Management Act 2003 in relation to disaster operations are appropriately trained • Provide advice and support to the state group and local and district groups in relation to disaster management and disaster operations • Ensure the collaborative development of the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework and the state-wide risk assessment • Maintain situational awareness and reporting capability and capacity through the SDCC Watch Desk • Emergency supply acquisition and management of supplies and services in support of disaster operations • Resupply of essential goods (food and basic commodities) to temporarily isolated communities, properties and individuals • Ensure the capability and capacity of Disaster Assistance Response Teams to assist communities affected by disasters or emergency situations • Undertake damage assessments function (residential and commercial structures) as soon as practical post disaster/emergency situation and provide findings to disaster management stakeholders
Queensland Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead agency for response functions of public health, mental health and medical services, mass causality management, mass fatality management, including victim identification (with QPS) and emergency medical retrieval • Provide health emergency incident information • Primary agency for heatwave, pandemic, influenza, biological and radiological incidents
Queensland Police Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve peace and good order • Operational responsibility for first response to terrorism • State Search and Rescue authority and responsible for the coordination of search and rescue operations • Provide support to Local Disaster Management Groups • Manage the registration of evacuees and inquiries in partnership with Red Cross • Provide traffic management including assistance with road closures and maintenance of road blocks • Conduct coronial investigations • Provide a Disaster Victim identification capacity
Department of Transport and Main Roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Main Roads • Maritime Safety Qld 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information and advice on the impact of disruptive events on road, rail, aviation and maritime infrastructure • Assist with the safe movement of people resulting from mass evacuation • Maritime Safety Queensland, a branch of DTMR, is responsible for ensuring maritime safety for shipping and is the lead agency for dealing with ship-sourced pollution that impacts, or is likely to impact, Queensland coastal waters and the water of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and Torres Strait. The arrangement for mitigating the effects of ship-sourced pollution on Queensland's marine and coastal environment is described in the Queensland Coastal Contingency Action Plan. QCCAP is recognised as a hazard specific plan. • Enable an accessible transport system through reinstating road, rail and maritime infrastructure • Ensure the capability of logistics-related industries is appropriately applied to disaster response and recovery activities



3.6 Function lead agency

Roles and responsibilities	Agency
Animal Management	Council/Public Health Officer
Communication Technology	Council/ Information Officer
Dam Management	Sunwater
Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC)	Council/Local Disaster Coordinator
Electricity Supply	Ergon
Emergency Medical Care	Queensland Ambulance Service
Evacuation	Queensland Police Service
Evacuation Centre Management	Council/LDCC/Red Cross
Explosions and Chemical Hazards	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Fire Fighting	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Floodwater Rescue	State Emergency Service
Hazardous Materials	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Land Search	Queensland Police Service assisted by SES
Mapping	Council/Head of Information Technology
Marine Oil Spill	Department Transport and Main Roads (Maritime Safety Qld)
Medical Evacuation and Transport	Queensland Ambulance Service
Medical Services	Queensland Health
Pollution Control - Environment	Council
Public Health	Queensland Health
Pre- Hospital Care	Queensland Ambulance Service
Public Information	Council – Local Disaster Management Group Media Liaison Officer
Public Warnings	Lead Agency will depend upon Situation e.g. BoM for Severe Weather
Recovery Coordination	Local Recovery Coordinator
Rescue	Queensland Police Service
Rubbish/Debris Removal	Council
Safety of Damaged Buildings	Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC)
Search Coordination	Queensland Police Service
Security of Property/Scene	Queensland Police Service
Storm and Flood	State Emergency Service
Swift Water Rescue	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Telecommunications – Regional	Telstra and Optus
Terrorism	Queensland Police Service
Traffic Control	Queensland Police Service
Traffic Planning for Local Roads	Council
Transport of People	Council – may require assistance from DTMR through DDMG
Transport of Goods/Supplies/ Resources	Council – may require assistance from DTMR through DDMG
Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Water Supply/Sewerage	Council

3.7 Notice about membership of the Local Disaster Management Group

The Whitsunday Regional Council gives annual written notice of the members of the group to:

- The Executive Officer of the State Group
- The District Disaster Coordinator

3.8 Local Disaster Management Group activities

3.8.1 Meetings of the Local Disaster Management Group

The Local Disaster Management Group must meet at least once in every six months. However the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group has elected to meet up to seven times each year with meetings timed to take into account higher risk periods. Local sub groups will meet as required to develop sub plans for functions of the Local Disaster Management Group

During disaster and emergency situations a Local Disaster Management Group extraordinary meeting may be called and be held either in person or via teleconference to consider and discuss the situation.

For extraordinary meetings, notice of a meeting may be communicated by SMS, email or a telephone call to members as soon as it is determined that a meeting of the Local Disaster Management Group is required.

Minutes of each meeting will be prepared and retained as required by legislation. An Action Register will also be prepared and maintained to provide a running log of actions of the Local Disaster Management Group and as a reference document and historical document of past Local Disaster Management resolutions and actions.

Following each Local Disaster Management Group meeting contact lists for the group and associated sub-groups shall be updated. The revised contact listing will be sent to Local Disaster Management Group members with the minutes of the meeting for member's retention.



3.8.2 Building capacity

Disaster Operations

This Local Disaster Management Plan has detailed the agreed lead agencies for specific hazards with each agency having agency specific responsibilities for the initial response to a disaster event. It is their responsibility to plan for their response to a particular disaster event.

Each agency, particularly lead agencies, identifies in reports at meetings of the Local Disaster Management Group the status of their preparedness, and the extent of their response capability.

Each Local Disaster Management Group member agency is responsible for taking actions to establish and sustain its own disaster response capability including providing equipment and a suitable number of trained persons effectively deal with, or help another entity deal with, a disaster event.

The Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group experiences activations of the Group and the Local Disaster Coordination Centre for disaster events that impact the Local Government area. As well as activations for actual events, the Group conducts response exercises for a range of hazards and scenarios to assess the capacity of member agencies to respond to and recover from a disaster event.

Education and training

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has a responsibility to ensure that persons performing functions under The Act are appropriately trained. The Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework identifies the relevant courses that are to be undertaken by those persons. Each member agency is responsible for ensuring their staff have received the appropriate training for their roles.

The Local Disaster Coordinator will assist with reporting on attendance at relevant training for the Local Disaster Management Group members and the Local Disaster Coordination Centre team.



M: Mandatory NB: Needs Basis			Local Disaster Coordinator	Local Disaster Management Group Chair/Deputy Chair	Local Disaster Management Group Member & Advisors	Local Recovery Coordinator	Local Recovery Group member	Local Disaster Coordination Centre Staff	Local Disaster Coordination Centre Liaison Officer
Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements			M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Emergency Risk Management	Module1	Introduction to Emergency Risk Management	M	NB	NB	NB	NB		
Business Continuity Planning	Module 1	Introduction to Business Continuity Planning	M	NB	NB	M	NB		
Disaster Management Planning	Module 1	Introduction to Disaster Management Planning	M	NB	NB	M			
Exercise Management	Module 1	Introduction to Exercise Management	M	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB
Warning & Alert Systems	Module 1	Introduction to Warning & Alert Systems	M	NB	NB	NB		M	
	Module 2	Working With Warning & Alert Systems	NB					NB	
Community Engagement	Module 1	Introduction to Community Engagement	M	NB	NB	M	NB		
Disaster Coordination Centre	Module 1	Introduction to Disaster Coordination Centres	M	NB		M		M	M
	Module 2	Disaster Coordination Centre Functions	NB					M	NB
	Module 3	Establishment and Management of a Disaster Coordination Centre	NB					NB	NB
	Module 4	Briefing & Debriefing	NB			NB		NB	NB
Evacuation	Module 1	Introduction to Evacuation	M	NB	M			NB	NB
	Module 2	Evacuation Planning	NB						
Evacuation Centre Management	Module 1	Introduction to Evacuation Centre Management	M	NB	NB	NB		NB	
	Module 2	Working in an Evacuation Centre	NB			NB			
	Module 3	Managing an Evacuation Centre	NB			NB			
Disaster Relieve and Recovery Funding Arrangements	Module 1	Introduction to Disaster Relieve & Recovery Funding Arrangements	M	M	NB	M		NB	M
	Module 2	Working with Disaster Relief and Recovery Funding Arrangements	NB			NB		NB	
Recovery	Module 1	Introduction to Recovery	M	NB	M	M	M		NB
	Module 2	Working in Recovery	NB			M	M		
Resupply	Module 1	Introduction to Resupply	M	NB	NB	NB		NB	NB
	Module 2	Working in Resupply Operations	NB					NB	NB
Group/Committee Member Inductions (as appropriate to group/committee and level)				M	M				
Disaster/Recovery Coordinator inductions (as appropriate to level and role)			M			M			

Exercises

The Local Disaster Management Group will conduct exercises to practice/test the knowledge and ability of the agencies of the disaster management system to coordinate disaster operations for a potential disaster scenario. These exercises will enhance capacity and confidence of the people that participate in them. The conduct of an exercise is one way in which the Local Disaster Management Group can undertake a review of the local plan.

Post disaster assessment

The Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group will undertake a review of operational activities during a disaster as a key component of developing capacity and the improvement of disaster management arrangements.

The post-disaster assessments (also known as after-action reviews) will be conducted to:

- Assess disaster operations undertaken for a given disaster including actions, decisions or processes
- Document those processes that worked well and identify a course of action to ensure that they are captured and updated in relevant plans for use in the next operation
- Assess capability and consider where additional planning, training and/or exercises may enhance capability.

The review of operations is conducted through two forms of debrief:

1. Hot debrief which is a debrief undertaken immediately after operations are complete, giving participants the opportunity to share learning points while the experience is still very fresh in their minds.
2. Post event debrief, or cold debrief, is a debrief held days or weeks after an operation, when participants have had an opportunity to take a considered view of the effectiveness of the operation. A post disaster assessment report is to be completed in partnership with disaster management stakeholders to provide an overview of the learnings identified following an event and importantly recommendations for improving disaster management.

Following a post disaster assessment, the Local Disaster Management Group may need to consider issues for resolution or may need to refer an issue to the District Disaster Management Group for advice or resolution. All post disaster review reports will be forwarded to the District Disaster Coordinator as part of standard reporting procedure.

3.8.3 Building resilience

A disaster resilient community means businesses, community services sector, government agencies, communities and the individual know the risks and hazards faced. A resilient community understands how they should respond, and has the ability to adapt to a new 'normal' as quickly as possible in the aftermath of a disaster event.

A disaster resilient community is one that collaborates and works together to understand the risks and manage those risks together. Ensuring disaster resilience is the shared and collaborative responsibility of all levels of government, non-government sector, business, community, and the individual.

Building an understanding of risk and enhancing community capacity through community education by means of participation in community education initiatives, will continue to be a priority for the Local Disaster Management Group in building resilience.

3.8.4 Reporting

The formal written report to the District Disaster Management Group will be provided in the form of the Disaster Management Status Report on the template format as per the Disaster Management Guidelines. This comprehensive report will be provided on an annual basis, shortly prior to the District Disaster Management Groups requirement to report to the State Group.

In order for the District Disaster Coordinator to be appraised of current information, Whitsunday Regional Council will provide update reports at District Disaster Management Group meetings.





4.0 Community awareness and public information and warning systems

4.1 Community awareness

The Whitsunday Regional Council understands that communities are empowered through timely and accurate public information and assists in the coordination of key messaging that will allow the community to make informed decisions.

Because preparedness and awareness activities are critical in assisting to minimise the consequences of a disaster event on the community, the Whitsunday Regional Council has built awareness through a number of initiatives.

- Whitsunday Disaster Dashboard and Council website
- Disaster and emergency community awareness brochures displayed and available in council offices and libraries.
- Preparedness articles in local papers and council newsletters.
- QFES advertising, presentations and website material and fire and bushfire awareness program.
- Information sessions to various organisations and community groups lead by the Whitsunday Regional Council's Disaster Management Unit
- BOM weather warnings and website material.

The Local Disaster Management Group, in association with QFES will undertake to develop and promote the following key educational and awareness tools for distribution across the Whitsunday Region as part of the State Government's Get Ready campaign:

- Household Emergency Plans
- Household Emergency Checklists
- Business Emergency Plans
- Business Emergency Checklists

The aim of these plans will be to:

- Encourage people and businesses to prepare themselves, their properties and their clients for disasters events.
- Improve target audiences' safety awareness levels and safety behaviours during a disaster or emergency.
- Encourage people to be aware of, and assist their neighbours before, during and in the aftermath of a disaster

4.2 Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change predictions indicate that the Whitsunday Region may experience more frequent heatwaves, more frequent storm tide events, increased likelihood of wildfires and more intense periods of heavy rains and severe storms.

The Whitsunday Regional Council acknowledges and plans for:

- Risk reduction initiatives informed by current evidence
- Local engagement with the community to inform them of adaptation to climate change
- A shared responsibility with the community to develop capacity to adapt to climate change

When considering climate change adaptation measures, the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group will refer to the Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy which can be located at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf/file/0017/67301/qld-climate-adaptation-strategy.pdf>

4.3 Public warnings

All warnings to the public and bulletins issued by the Local Disaster Management Group are to be authorised and issued to the media by the Chairman or delegate through the Media Liaison Officer.

Media releases will be made utilising Mackay, Whitsunday and Townsville based television and radio networks and Proserpine, Whitsunday and Bowen based newspapers. Notices informing the public about places of contact for displaced persons, restricted areas and provision of community services will be broadcast by radio and television.

The process and procedure for formatting and issuing Public Warnings during operations for a disaster event are detailed in Operational Sub Plan "Public Information and Warnings".

The media liaison officer will reference the Australian Government's Emergency Warnings Choosing Your Words document when preparing emergency public information. This is a national reference document on how to construct emergency warnings for the Australian community.

See <https://www.ag.gov.au/Publications/Pages/Emergency-warnings-choosing-your-words.aspx>

4.4 Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS)

The signal used for the SEWS is the existing Bureau of Meteorology tropical cyclone warning signal.

SEWS is intended for use as an alert signal to be played on public media to draw listeners' attention to a following emergency warning. It is meant to attract listener's attention to the fact that they should take notice of the emergency message.

Responsibility for the management of SEWS in Queensland rests with the Executive Officer of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC), in coordination with the Queensland Regional Director of the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) for meteorological purposes.

4.5 Emergency Alert

Emergency Alerts will be requested by the Local Disaster Coordinator and are managed through the State Disaster Coordination Centre Watch Desk.

Emergency Alert (EA) uses a telephone warning system to send alerts via landline telephones based on location of the handset, and to mobile phones, based on billing address.

EA provides the capability to send warning messages to individuals within a particular area. Each use of the system is known as a Campaign.

EA is not an opt-in system, and will work across all networks and carriers. EA is designed to alert receivers about an emergency situation and direct them to other sources of information, further directions or warnings.



4.6 Community Engagement

Ongoing public awareness campaigns are conducted by the Local Disaster Management Group, Whitsunday Regional Council and the State Emergency Services Local Group. Included in the program are Get Ready Week and Cyclone Saturday.

4.7 Social media

The Whitsunday Regional Council uses social media such as Facebook to enhance community awareness and to encourage preparedness and resilience. The use of these social media platforms in times of a disaster event may include:

- Disaster preparedness
- Community alerting
- Linking the community to other sources of authoritative information
- Myth busting and reinforcing point of truth information

4.8 Websites

The Whitsunday Disaster Dashboard website will provide public information about the disaster situation or potential emergency situation. The Media Liaison Officer, in conjunction with the council's web administrator, is responsible for editing and lodging the contents of any routine updates or situation reports on the council website and disaster dashboard. The council web administrator is to ensure these sites have the capacity to sustain high levels of site visit traffic.

The Media Liaison Officer is also responsible for the drafting of any messages to be lodged on the website and dashboard advising the community of imminent threats, changes to threat states, recommended actions and precautions. These messages are to be reviewed by the Local Disaster Management Group Chair, or the LDC, prior to lodgement on the sites, to ensure consistency.

See
<http://www.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au/140/Disaster-Management>
<http://disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au/>
<https://www.facebook.com/WhitsundayDisasterandEmergencyInformation/>



5.0 Disaster risk assessment

5.1 Hazards

The following is a list of all of the credible hazards that may impact the area within the boundaries of the Whitsunday Regional Council.

5.1.1 Tropical cyclone (Including destructive winds, storm surge and flooding)

Tropical Cyclones together with their associated destructive winds, storm surge and flooding, may threaten or impact on the coastline of the Region. The potential for structural and crop damage, flooding and storm surge inundation is high.

5.1.2 Flooding (Including floods not associated with tropical cyclones)

In addition to flooding as a result of a cyclonic impact the river and creek systems within the Region can be subject to significant flood events as a result of monsoonal weather patterns resulting in prolonged periods of heavy rainfalls.

Flooding within the Proserpine/Whitsunday area does not usually impact directly on or effect dwellings within the residential areas however some dwellings in rural areas may be affected.

The Don River flood plain commences approximately 17km inland from the mouth. The two principle streams are the Don River and Euri Creek. Flood warning lead times are about 3 to 9 hours due to rapid stream rises and velocities. Serious flooding can occur in the Queens Beach and Bowen Delta areas and dwellings are at risk.

Flooding of most of the rivers and creeks will result in inundation of most of the main and arterial road network within the Region for a considerable time dependant on the duration of the event. This results in isolation within communities and isolation from major centres to the north and south of the Region.

5.1.3 Severe storms (Wind, hail and lightning resulting from non-cyclonic storms)

Severe thunderstorms during the summer months can result in hail, lightning damage to the electricity network, in addition to strong winds and intense rainfall. As well as flooding, intense rainfall can result in landslips. Thunderstorm duration is much shorter than that of cyclones, but they occur more frequently.

5.1.4 Landslides (Triggered by intense rainfall)

Councils GIS has mapped areas of land in the Airlie, Cannonvale and Dingo Beach/Hideaway as being in areas of concern. These areas receive rainfall amounts which are sufficient in intensity to trigger landslides.

Council has experienced landslides in the Hydeaway Bay area and there are instances of soil movement following storm events and rocks falling down slopes onto roads. Research within the Bowen planning area has not indicated any reason for concern to believe that landslides will be of any significance to the urban areas of Bowen and Collinsville.

5.1.5 Bushfires

In the mainland area of the Whitsunday Regional Council there are significant areas of medium bushfire hazard and some areas of high bushfire hazard adjacent to existing residential areas. Due to the expanding of development into these areas the likelihood of effecting people and property has increased.

The bushfire season in this area extends from mid to late winter to early summer with the period of greatest danger being in late winter/early spring when the winter has been dry following a wet summer in which there has been abundant growth.

5.1.6 Earthquake (Including tsunami impacts)

Earthquake hazard in the Whitsunday Region is moderate in Australian terms, but low in global terms. An assessment of earthquake hazards undertaken by Queensland University suggested that the Mackay to Cairns region may be one of the one of the highest hazard areas in Queensland, but seismic records are not sufficient to confirm this.

5.1.7 Pandemic

An outbreak of an infectious disease anywhere in Australia would have immediate impacts to the local tourism and agricultural industries within the Region until controlled. An outbreak in the area would have been catastrophic in its effect on each and every person within the Region. Federal Government entry regulations are in place to detect and act on such an event.

5.1.8 Terrorism

The Region has not experienced an act of terrorism but the possibility of an event occurring in the future is real due to activities undertaken and facilities within our boundaries. There are several locations within the Region where such an attack could be implemented with the desired results.

5.1.9 Dam failure

The Whitsunday Region has three (3) 'referable dams' within the Region's boundaries that may have an effect on the Region as determined by the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, Section 341 as follows:-

- Peter Faust Dam
- Eungella Dam
- Burdekin Falls Dam

Lake Proserpine to the west of the town of Proserpine is in existence as a result of the Peter Faust Dam constructed on the Proserpine River at the location known as the Gorge. This is the only referable dam that may pose a significant risk to the resident population within the Region.

The earth embankment dam wall will retain a considerable volume in the lake at full capacity. A sunny day dam break caused by structural failure of the wall as a result of seismic activity or like occurrence would result in a significant area of land downstream of the wall being inundated with the likelihood of numerous fatalities and general widespread destruction of property. Although unlikely, such an occurrence would have a severe impact on the community.

5.1.10 Pollution of the sea by oil

The coastal waters off the shore line of the Region are subject to significant coastal shipping activities by vessels containing cargo consisting of many products including petroleum products. The vessels follow designated shipping lanes which are in close alignment to the reef and islands.

An incident resulting in a vessel grounding on a reef and discharging a petroleum product into the waters would immediately impact on the reef, surrounding islands and mainland foreshores.

The result of such an incident would have a significant and possibly long term environmental impact on the reef, beaches, shorelines, estuary systems and mangrove habitat which in turn would affect the function and economy of the tourism industry.





5.2 Disaster risk assessment (Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework)

5.2.1 Likelihood Table

Likelihood Table		
Historical Likelihood	Likelihood Level	Definition
Has occurred 3 or more times in the last year or at least each year over the last 5 years	Almost Certain	Almost certain to occur in most cases
Has occurred twice in the last 5 years	Likely	Likely chance of occurring in most cases
Has occurred twice in the last 10 years	Possible	Might occur in most cases
May occur, and has occurred once in the last 20 years	Unlikely	Not expected to occur in most cases
May only occur in exceptional circumstances or has occurred only once in the last 50 years or more	Rare	Will only occur in exceptional circumstances and has not occurred in most cases

Source: Page 21 – QERMF Handbook

<https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/dmg/st/Documents/H1102-QFES-Risk-Assessment-Process-Handbook.pdf>



5.2.2 Vulnerability Table

Process 1, Step 3 & Process 2, Step 2 – Definitions of vulnerability	
Extreme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery from loss of essential infrastructure would be prolonged and complicated; the community is totally dependent upon the service with no "back up" operational infrastructure to service the community (e.g. water treatment plant, electricity and communications). Repair / rebuild of essential infrastructure would take longer than one year (to previous service levels). Access / resupply to or evacuation from the area / community / site is via one route (e.g. one road or bridge that floods with no possibility of air access). The topographic features of the area / community / site have a direct relationship to a hazard (e.g. the area is highly concentrated with old housing that is low lying or is located in highly concentrated bushland). The area / community / site is typified by significant numbers of vulnerable populations. These may include: medically dependent people (e.g. home haemodialysis), elderly or young residents (e.g. over 65 years or less than five years old), people from non-English speaking background and the unemployed. The area / community / site has one health support service (e.g. hospital that has very limited capacity and no availability of specialised health professionals).
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery from loss of essential infrastructure would be possible, however only in the long term for secondary "back up" operational infrastructure to service the community (e.g. water treatment plant, electricity and communications). Repair / rebuild of essential infrastructure would take longer than several months (to previous service levels). Access / resupply to or evacuation from the area / community / site is via very limited routes (e.g. air access only via one airfield or cleared areas for helicopter access). The topographic features of the area / community / site are prone to a hazard (e.g. the area is typified by old housing that is low lying or is located in dense bushland). The area / community / site is typified by large numbers of vulnerable populations. These may include: medically dependent people (e.g. home haemodialysis), elderly or young residents (e.g. over 65 years or less than 5 years old), people from non-English speaking background and the unemployed. The area / community / site has limited health support service (e.g. hospitals has limited capacity and very limited availability of specialised health professionals).
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery from loss of essential infrastructure is simple but requires time for secondary "back up" operational infrastructure to service the community (e.g. water treatment plant, electricity and communications). Repair / rebuild of essential infrastructure would take longer than several weeks (to previous service levels). Access / resupply to or evacuation from the area / community / site is via limited routes (e.g. there is one airfield and one access roads). The topographic features of the area / community / site are conducive to a hazard (e.g. the area is somewhat typified by old housing in some low lying areas or dense bushland). The area / community / site contains some vulnerable populations. These may include: medically dependent people (e.g. home haemodialysis), elderly or young residents (e.g. over 65 years or less than 5 years old), people from non-English speaking background and the unemployed. The area / community / site has some health support services available (e.g. more than one hospital or medical facility with limited capacity and a limited number of specialised health professionals).
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery from loss of essential infrastructure achievable in short term for secondary "back up" operational infrastructure to service the community (e.g. water treatment plant, electricity and communications). Repair / rebuild of essential infrastructure would take less than one week (to previous service levels). Access / resupply to or evacuation from the area / community / site is via several routes (e.g. there are several airfields and several access roads). The topographic features of the area / community / site are somewhat conducive to a hazard (e.g. the area has negligible old housing located in low lying areas or dense bushland). The area / community / site contains limited numbers of vulnerable populations. These may include: medically dependent people (e.g. home haemodialysis), elderly or young residents (e.g. over 65 years or less than 5 years old), people from non-English speaking background and the unemployed. The area / community / site has several health support services available (e.g. several hospitals with the capacity to cope with surge and several specialised health professionals on duty or on call).
Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery from loss of essential infrastructure achievable within one day with a secondary "back up" operational infrastructure that would service the community (e.g. water treatment plant, electricity and communications). Repair / rebuild of essential infrastructure would require less than one day (to previous service levels). Access / resupply to or evacuation from the area / community / site is via multiple routes (e.g. there are several airfields and several access roads in and out of the area). The topographic features of the area / community / site are not conducive to a hazard (e.g. the area has no old housing located in low lying areas or housing located in dense bushland). The area / community / site contains little to no numbers of vulnerable populations. These may include: medically dependent people (e.g. home haemodialysis), elderly or young residents (e.g. over 65 years or less than 5 years old), people from non-English speaking background and the unemployed. The area / community / site has multiple major and specialised health support services available (e.g. multiple large specialised hospitals with the capacity to cope with surge and multiple specialised health professionals on duty or on call).
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control or mitigation measures already in place or planned against the manifestation of a hazard will reduce the overall level of vulnerability. The information in relation to control or mitigation measures is gained through consultation with relevant stakeholders. Analysis of "Vulnerable Populations" should consider the natural resilience – or "coping capacity" – of communities. Analysis of "Vulnerable Populations" should consider the perception of the community towards the hazard. Is there an over- or under-estimation of the perceived risk? This may be due to media bias, previous experience or other contributing factors.

The categories and descriptions within the Vulnerability Table (Appendix 1) are based on research from a range of sources including:

- Geoscience Australia (Geoscience Australia, 2007)
- ISO 31000 Handbook 167: 2006 Security Risk Management (Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand) Standard Committee, 2006).

Source page 37 QERMF Handbook

<https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/dmg/st/Documents/IH1102-QFES-Risk-Assessment-Process-Handbook.pdf>



5.2.3 Whitsunday LDMP Risk assessment

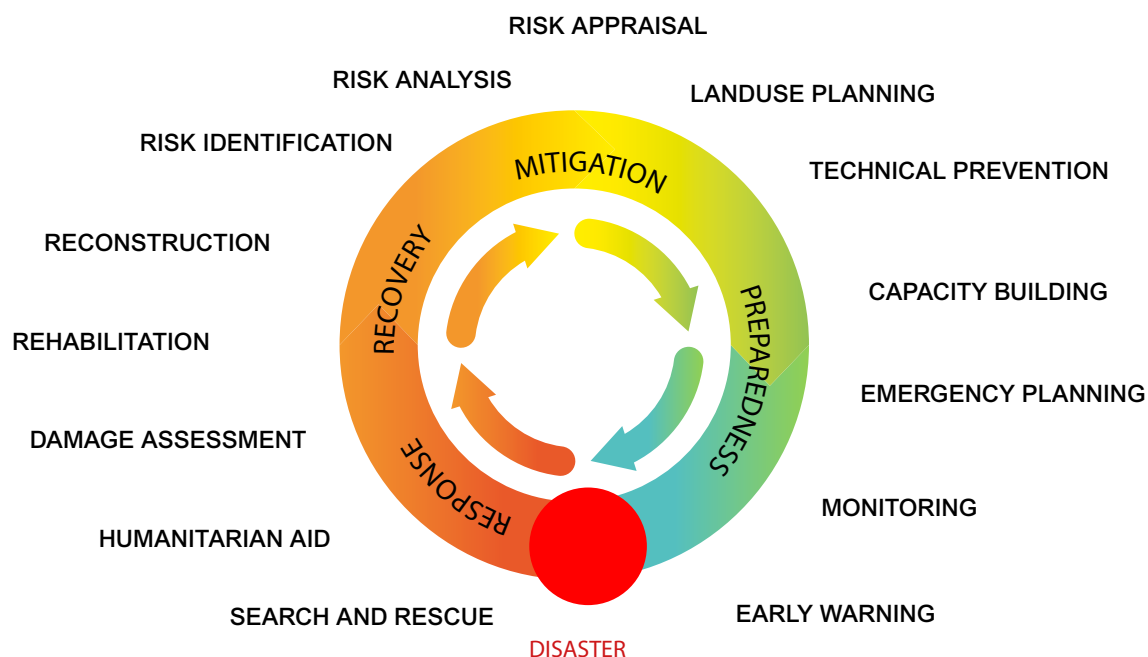
The following table summarises the information contained in the spreadsheets developed by the Whitsunday Regional Council and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services using the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework methodologies

Risk assessment using the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework methodology.

Natural Hazards	Likelihood	Potential community impact (Vulnerability)
Bushfire	Likely	Power, rail, population centres near bushland, areas of significance – Moderate. Communications, transport, urban population centres – Low.
Heatwave	Almost Certain	Vulnerable People and Areas of Environmental Significance – Extreme. Local Ecosystems, Fishing, Forestry, Vulnerable People in remote areas – High. Emergency Services, Public Health and Infrastructure – Moderate.
Severe Tropical Cyclone (Category 3-5)	Likely	Agriculture, aged care, marine infrastructure – High. Power, community infrastructure, population centres, tourism – Moderate.
Flood event	Likely	Population centres, road access, power supply, agricultural industry – Moderate. Localised and Riverine flood history in Whitsunday area.
Earthquake (similar to 5.6M Newcastle earthquake event)	Rare	Building Stock – Extreme. Power, water supply, dams, communications, road, airports, maritime infrastructure, vulnerable people – High. Places of refuge and areas of significance – Moderate.
Landslip	Possible	History of landslip in the area due to heavy rainfall. Population centres on slopes of 15% or greater – High.

Tsunami – is considered rare but possible for Queensland (*Queensland Tsunami State Risk Assessment*). Tsunami studies have not yet been completed for Whitsunday Regional Council area.

Complete details of the risk assessments for the Whitsunday Regional Council area are contained in the Disaster Risk Management Sub Plan.



5.3 Management of residual risks

The Whitsunday Regional Council recognises that by using the risk assessment process provided by QFES, there will be instances when the Local Disaster Management Group identifies areas of residual risk, which will in turn require the application of suitable treatment options.

The following methodology will be used to manage residual risk:

- Recognition that the Queensland Disaster Management System provides for District and State assistance in the sharing of residual risk if required.
- All disaster activations will be analysed to determine residual risk issues and to determine relevant actions.
- All disaster training exercises will be analysed to determine residual risk issues and to determine relevant actions.
- The Whitsunday Regional Council will have in place Council to Council Assistance arrangements with neighbouring Council areas, to assist with potential resourcing issues faced in the response and recovery phases of a disaster.
- The Local Disaster Management Group will identify if there is a need for Community Sub-groups to be established.
- Residual risk issues identified by any Local Disaster Management Group member will be discussed at the Local Disaster Management Group meeting to determine the possible risk and consequence and to determine suitable strategies to address the identified issues.

5.4 Land use management initiatives

The Whitsunday Regional Council has proactively included in the Planning Schemes processes and procedures which ensure that all assessable developments which occur with the Region have addressed a number of issues to prevent and mitigate from the adverse impacts of natural disasters likely to affect the Region.

The Planning Schemes requires all Developments to assess the proposal against specific criteria to determine compliance with those criteria and where non-compliance is identified the development is to investigate and determine mitigation measures to achieve compliance. Any development application which cannot comply is refused.

The lists of elements against which applications are assessed are as follows:

- Landslip Analysis
- Storm Tide Inundation
- Q100 Flood Inundation
- Bushfire Mapping
- EPA Erosion Prone Zone

Council has taken the initiative in relation to riverine flooding an commissioned the determination of a Q100 Flood Contour on Major Streams and Creeks within the developing residential areas of the Region which effectively prevent development within the Q100 Contour.





6.0 Disaster activation

6.1 Activation

The Chair of the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group or his delegate has the responsibility for activating the Local Disaster Management Plan and the Local Disaster Coordination Centre and will normally occur:

- a As a response to a worsening disaster situation or potential effects of an adverse disaster event.
- b Because of other circumstances, where no warning is possible, at the request of the responsible control authority.

Activation of the Disaster Management Plan will be in accordance with Operational Sub Plan “Activation of LDMG.” and the operation of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre will be in accordance with the Operational Sub Plan “Activation of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre”.

Timely activation of the Local Disaster Management Group is critical for an effective large-scale response to an event. The decision to activate is dependent upon a number of factors

including the perceived level of threat. Early activation of the Local Disaster Management Group and early establishment of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre is essential for events that cannot be managed by a single agency but the level of activation and staffing must be scalable commensurate with the event.

The Local Disaster Management Group Chair and Local Disaster Coordinator are responsible for:

- Activation of the Local Disaster Management Group; and
- Activation of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre.

The table below shows the movement of the Local Disaster Management Group through the escalation phases. The scenario and intelligence around the event will determine the level of activation and activities within those levels. They may not necessarily be sequential particularly for rapid onset events.

6.1.1 Levels of activation

Status	Description
Alert	A heightened level of vigilance due to the possibility of an event in the area of responsibility. No action is required; however someone capable of assessing the potential of the threat should monitor the situation.
Lean forward	An operation state characterised by a heightened level of situational awareness of a disaster event (whether current or impending) and a state of operational readiness. LDCC may be put on stand by and prepared but not activated.
Stand up	An operational state where resources are mobilised, personnel are activated and operational activities commenced. LDCC is activated.
Stand down	Transition from responding to an event back to normal core business and/or continuance recovery operations. There is no longer a requirement to respond to the event and the threat is no longer present.

6.1.2 Activation triggers

	Triggers	Actions	Communications
Alert	Awareness of a hazard that has the potential to affect the local government area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazard & risks identified Information sharing with warning agency LDC contacts QFES (EMC) Initial advice to all stakeholders 	Chair, LDC, EMC on mobile remotely
Lean Forward	<p>There is a likelihood that threat may affect local government area</p> <p>Threat is quantified but may not yet be imminent</p> <p>Need for public awareness</p> <p>LDMG is now to manage the event</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMC and LDC analyse predictions Chair and LDC on watching brief Confirm level & potential of threat Check all contact details Commence cost capturing Conduct LDMG meeting Council staff prepare for operations Determine trigger point to stand up Prepare LDCC & staff for operations LDC advises DDC of lean forward establishes regular contact Information & warning initiated 	<p>Chair, LDC and LDMG members on mobile and monitoring email remotely</p> <p>Reporting by LDC to DDC & SDCC</p>
Stand Up	<p>Threat is imminent</p> <p>Community will be or has been impacted</p> <p>Need for coordination in LDCC</p> <p>Requests for support received by LDMG agencies or to the LDCC</p> <p>The response requires coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting of LDMG members LDCC activated Rosters for LDCC implemented Commence operational plans Local government shifts to disaster operations LDMG takes full control Core group of LDMG located in LDCC Commence SITREPs to DDMG DDMG advised of potential requests for support 	<p>LDCC contact through established land lines and generic email addresses</p> <p>Chair, LDC and LDMG members present at LDCC, on established land lines and/or mobiles, monitoring emails</p>
Stand Down	<p>No requirement for coordinated response</p> <p>Community has returned to normal function</p> <p>Recovery taking place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final checks for outstanding requests Implement transition to recovery Debrief of staff in LDCC Debrief with LDMG members Consolidate financial records Hand over to Recovery Chairperson for reporting Final situation report sent to DDMG 	LDMG members not involved in recovery operations resume standard business and after hours contact arrangements

The Whitsunday Disaster Management Plan has not been developed for the management of commonly occurring incidents which are within the capacity of individual agencies.

However, elements of the Whitsunday Disaster Management Plan and/or the Operation of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre may be activated in support of a lead agency responding to a major incident. The District Disaster Coordinator is to be advised of the extent and purpose of activation.



6.2 Response capability

The Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group has a well-developed response capability with access to people and resources through its member agencies. These resources include:

- Community support volunteers from agencies such as Australian Red Cross
- Equipment and plant obtained through the Local Disaster Coordination Centre including arrangements in place with commercial providers
- Queensland Ambulance response and equipment resources
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services response and equipment resources
- Queensland Police Service response and equipment resources
- Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors provision of emergency financial and community assistance
- State Emergency Service response and equipment resources
- Whitsunday Regional Council response and equipment resources
- Bowen and Proserpine hospitals response and capacity

6.3 Local Disaster Coordination Centre

The nature and location of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre for any given event will be decided by the Local Disaster Coordinator in consultation with the Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group.

The Primary Local Disaster Coordination Centre is situated in the Whitsunday Water Administration building, Proserpine. The Area can be quickly transformed from its every day function to operational status. Group Members and Operating Staff attend the Centre upon notification by the Local Disaster Coordinator.

6.3.1 Alternative locations

The nominated alternate location for the Local Disaster Coordination Centre in the event that the primary centre not useable is the Council offices in Bowen.

6.3.2 The functions of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre are to:

- Coordinate disaster operations
- Operationalise the decisions made by the LDMG
- Gather intelligence and undertake the necessary forward planning to respond to the event
- Coordinate the allocation of resources in support of agencies involved in response and recovery operations
- Provide advice or make requests of any additional resources to the DDMG
- Coordinate the allocation of resources or any additional resources provided by or requested from the DDMG
- Collect, collate and disseminate information on the disaster event and disaster operations to the community and the relevant authorities.

6.3.3 Guardian Information Management System

The Local Disaster Coordination Centre is the host site for and operates the Guardian Electronic Information Management System. All agencies and support staff with a role in the Local Disaster Coordination Centre are proficient in the operation of the system.

6.4 Damage assessment

The Local Disaster Management Group has the responsibility for planning, formatting and conducting a damage assessment following the impact of a disaster event. This assessment is to gather information on the magnitude of the event, and the extent of its impact on the population, critical infrastructure and community infrastructure.

Each member of the Local Disaster Management Group is to deploy their resources to undertake an assessment of damage to their organisation.

Initial impact assessment reports are to be presented to the Local Disaster Coordinator and Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group for discussion with the Group and determining actions to be implemented or requested.

6.5 Requests for assistance (RFA)

When resources under the management of the Local Disaster Management Group member agencies are exhausted or overwhelmed or a specific technical resource or capability is not able to be located or available, the Local Disaster Coordinator is to contact the District Disaster Coordinator so that resources can be accessed or made available. All requests for assistance shall go through the Local Disaster Coordinator via the “request for assistance” process.

The Local Disaster Coordinator will be proactive in informing the District Disaster Coordinator if it is likely that requests for additional resources are to be made so that in turn the District Disaster Coordinator can also be proactive in its planning for requests for additional resources from within the region, or if these are not available, from the State.

6.6 Media Management

Upon commencement of disaster operations, the LDC, in conjunction with Council’s communications team, develop information for release to the public and methods of dissemination. The methods of communications may include:

- Facebook
- Disaster Dashboard
- Radio/television;
- Newspapers;
- Notice boards;
- Door knocking;
- Emergency services public address vehicles;
- Telephones (Texts, Messages, Emergency Alerts)
- Internet and websites.

6.6.1 Spokespersons

The actual task of speaking about or providing information to the community regarding the disaster situation and associated threats, will be undertaken by the Mayor of the Whitsunday Regional Council with the support of the Media Liaison Officer.

6.7 Declaration of a Disaster Situation

A District Disaster Coordinator may, with the approval of the Minister, declare a disaster situation for the Mackay Disaster District in whole or in part.

It is important to note that the declaration of a disaster situation relates to the situational requirement for additional powers and is not linked to the activation of the Local Disaster Management Group or the activation of financial assistance arrangements. All three actions are independent processes and are not interlinked or conditional.

The activation of disaster management arrangements, the Local Disaster Management Plan, or the Local Disaster Coordination Centre confers neither special powers nor funding and it is not necessary for a declaration of a disaster situation to be made to activate the disaster management arrangements.

6.8 Operational sub plans (Functions)

The following Operational Sub Plans have been developed in support of the disaster management arrangements outlined in this Plan. The Operational Plans are included in separate documents titled Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group Operational Sub Plans.

1. Activation of Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group
2. Roles and Responsibilities of Participating Agencies
3. Activation of Local Disaster Coordination Centre
4. Financial Management of Local Disaster Coordination Centre
5. Damage Assessment
6. Public Works and Engineering
7. Evacuation
8. Evacuation Centre Management
9. Recovery
10. Environmental Health Disaster Plan (Public Health)
11. Public Information And Warnings
12. Resupply
13. Logistics
14. Transport
15. Proserpine Public Cyclone Shelter
16. Bowen Public Cyclone Shelter
17. Waste Management Plan Cyclone Preparation and Response



7.0 Recovery

The transition from response to recovery will be carefully managed and **carried out under the guidance of the Whitsunday Recovery Operational Plan.**

7.1 Local Recovery Group Chairperson

The Whitsunday Regional Council has appointed an elected member of Council as Chairperson of the Local Recovery Group. The role of the Local Recovery Group Chairperson is to liaise with the chair of the Local Disaster Management Group on recovery related tasks, coordinate the required recovery elements and develop a Recovery Action Plan.

7.2 Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC)

The Whitsunday Regional Council may appoint a Local Recovery Coordinator during the response phase of the event. The role of the Local Recovery Coordinator is to operationalise any recovery effort decided by the Local Recovery Group.

7.3 Initiating recovery

The Whitsunday Recovery Operational Plan is activated during the response phase of the event and the provision of relief is coordinated by the Local Recovery Chairperson. The Local Recovery Chairperson will establish recovery groups as necessary and manage the recovery process in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Recovery Operational Plan.

Discussions between the Chairperson of the Local Disaster Management Group, the Local Recovery Group Chairperson and the District Disaster Coordinator may result in some recovery processes being managed at District level for very large-scale disaster events. Council will nominate representatives to the district recovery groups.

7.4. Local Recovery Groups

Local Recovery Groups may be established by the Local Recovery Chairperson depending on the initial needs assessment and the anticipated recovery operations. All recovery arrangements will be established in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Recovery Operational Plan.

The Local Recovery Groups that will be most suited to the Whitsunday Regional Council area are Human/Social, Economic, Environmental and a combining of the Building and Roads and Transport Groups into an Infrastructure Group. The recovery group is to have a QRA advisor on the group and a DRFA specialist from council.

7.5. Public information

Regular dissemination of information to the community throughout the recovery process will be carried out concerning the following:

How to access assistance and support programs

Where Recovery Centre are located

How to access recovery information on line and on Councils Disaster Dashboard

7.6. Queensland Reconstruction Authority

The Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group will liaise closely with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to ensure the effective and efficient coordination of recovery and reconstruction efforts following a disaster event.

Discussions will also be held with QRA regarding claims for State Disaster Relief Arrangements and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

7.7. Community Capability & Capacity

Disaster response and recovery is a complex area of endeavour, and its success is entirely dependent upon the resilience and continuing engagement of the affected community. Recovery can be a long and challenging process that needs to recognise community diversity. Quick action is both crucial and expected, whilst resources may be compromised.

Affected individuals and communities have diverse needs, wants and expectations. Demands are immediate, evolve rapidly and disaster effects and interventions may create long term legacies. In saying that, Recovery can provide an opportunity to improve and enhance social and natural environments, infrastructure and economies and contributing to a more resilient community. Successful recovery relies on understanding the context, recognise complexity. use community-led approaches and coordination of all activities, communicate effectively and acknowledging and building capacity.

To prepare for response and recovery events in the future the Whitsunday Regional Council is committed to building resilience within our community and implement the lessons we have identified through our recovery processes by adhering to the following.

- Capacity building for communities and for organisations to identify and address local community needs
- Facilitating partnerships that result in better services and service integration
- Developing strategies to increase awareness of access to services
- Supporting organisations in the delivery of services to individuals and organisations.

7.8 Community Assistance

7.8.1 Humanitarian

Australian Red Cross has launched a new and improved service to help register, find and reunite family, friends and loved ones during a disaster.

Red Cross support volunteers help people to cope emotionally and practically during and after an emergency by providing useful practical information and advice and assisting people to access services.

Emergency response in some states includes assisting with immediate emergency housing and food needs by providing

a meal and hotel for the night for a family who has just lost everything in a single house fire, through to helping manage evacuation centres during larger-scale emergencies.

For more information visit <https://register.redcross.org.au/>

7.8.2 Volunteering

The Emergency Volunteering Crew is a volunteer referral service created and managed by Volunteering Queensland.

This organisation links people who want to help out before and after disasters with organisations across the community who need helping hands. They also make sure people with the required skills, availability and locality are referred into the areas of the community that need help the most. You can offer to help by registering with Emergency Volunteering CREW at any time.

For more information visit <https://volunteeringqld.org.au/>

7.8.3 Financial

The Queensland Government's Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors is committed to providing both immediate and ongoing support to people and communities that have been affected by a disaster.

Some of the financial assistance available include:-

- Immediate financial assistance
- Essential Households Contents Grant
- Structural Assistance Grant
- Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Grant

For more information visit <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/>





7.8.3 GIVIT

Whitsunday Regional Council has secured the assistance of Australian charity GIVIT to manage the donations of goods and services to support vulnerable members of our local community.

An online not-for-profit organisation GIVIT's donation portal www.givit.org.au connects those who have with those in need. It enables everyday Australians to see exactly what is urgently required by residents doing it tough within our region. GIVIT currently supports more than 1,000 of Australia's most trusted charities by sourcing quality urgently needed items direct from the public.

By registering with GIVIT, local charities, not-for-profits and community organisations working directly with marginalised, disadvantaged, and vulnerable people, those in need can tap into a national giving network and access free quality donated items.

The public can donate new or 'as new' quality items via GIVIT into a virtual warehouse, removing the need for charities to sort, store or collect items until they are really needed. Since GIVIT was established in 2009, more than 210,000 urgent requests for goods and services have been matched with the resources of community and corporate donors.

For more information visit <https://www.givit.org.au/>

7.8.4 Emergency and Temporary Accommodation

The Queensland Government through the Department of Housing and Public Works offer a range of services to help with accommodation options after a disaster event.

If you require emergency and temporary accommodation assistance, it is important to register your details and needs with the Department of Housing and Public works as soon as possible after the disaster event.

For more information, please see <https://www.qld.gov.au/housing/emergency-temporaryaccommodation/emergency-accommodation>



