

7.10. LOCAL RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN - ENDORSEMENT

REPORT AUTHOR	Recovery Manager
MANAGER	Manager Disaster Management Unit
DEPARTMENT	Disaster Management Unit

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the Douglas Shire Council Local Resilience Action Plan contained in attachment 1 and the submission for funding opportunities that arise for the endorsed projects.**
- 2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise any matters relating to grant applications associated with Local Resilience Plan projects.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Douglas Shire Council Local Resilience Action Plan is a key strategic document that identifies locally driven long term resilience projects that are designed to reduce disaster risk and strengthen recovery capacity across the shire.

The plan enables Council to proactively align priority projects with regional, state, national and international disaster resilience frameworks ensuring Council is strategically positioned to pursue funding as opportunities arise.

Endorsement of the Douglas Shire Council Local Resilience Action Plan enables Council to remain agile and funding ready.

BACKGROUND

A Local Resilience Action Plan is an essential tool that helps Council identify and prioritise projects specifically focused on building community resilience, reducing disaster risk, and ensure there is strategic alignment with regional, state, national and international resilience and disaster risk reduction strategies and frameworks:

- [Wet Tropics Regional Resilience Strategy | Queensland Reconstruction Authority](#)
- [Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience | Queensland Reconstruction Authority](#)
- [Disaster Risk Reduction | NEMA](#)
- [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 | UNDRR](#)

In 2022 councils participated in a co-design process to develop Local Resilience Action Plans identifying local needs with Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

The Douglas Shire Council Local Resilience Action Plan aims to support Council to be as proactive as possible to describe local resilience needs, and to build a forward program that can be matched to funding opportunities over time and as they emerge.

COMMENTS

At multiple disaster conferences this year Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has highlighted the importance of councils' Local Recovery and Resilience Action Plans in shaping funding decisions. Emphasis has extended to regular meetings between the Disaster Management Unit (DMU) and QRA over the past six months that the Douglas Shire Council Local Resilience Action Plan is one of the first documents QRA and the state government review when assessing project alignment and prioritising funding.

Council has not previously had a formalised process for reviewing the Douglas Shire Council Local Resilience Action Plan.

The newly established Douglas Recovery Resilience Group will review, update and prioritise disaster risk reduction and resilience projects within the Douglas Shire Council Local Resilience Action Plan at six monthly cycles for council endorsement, to ensure Council is positioned well to take advantage of funding opportunities when they arise.

PROPOSAL

That Council:

1. Endorse the Douglas Shire Council Local Resilience Action Plan contained in attachment 1 and the submission for funding opportunities that arise for the endorsed projects.
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise any matters relating to grant applications.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are currently no financial implications related to the endorsement of the Douglas Shire Council Local Resilience Action Plan or the application of funding opportunities that arise.

Initial resourcing for preliminary project development, planning and advocacy will be led by the Disaster Management Unit and administered by the Douglas Recovery Resilience Group.

Endorsing the Douglas Shire Council Local Resilience Action Plan allows Council to remain agile, funding ready and avoid missed funding opportunities.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Douglas Shire Council Local Resilience Action Plan outlines long term resilience building projects that directly support Council's disaster risk reduction obligations.

These projects address known vulnerabilities that if left unmitigated and without targeted investment increase likelihood of community isolation during disasters, delayed emergency response and communities experiencing recurrent disruptions which may impact their ability to recover from future events.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: These projects support economic resilience by enabling faster recovery of local business, tourism and supply from disasters.

Environmental: Environmental recovery is a critical pillar of the recovery process which has strong linkages to social recovery through protection and stewardship of the environment.

Social: Social resilience is enhanced by improving community safety, access to services and public confidence in preparedness tools and coordinated response and recovery.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Liveability

To deliver community activities to promote safe, healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities with an environmental conscious.

1.9 - In accordance with Queensland Disaster Management doctrine, continuously review and enhance Council's disaster management prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in collaboration with community and agencies.

Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

1.9.2 - Establish the Douglas Recovery and Resilience Group. Ensure recovery and resilience efforts are designed for, and maintain a focus on, a community-led and locally managed model.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Advocate Council makes representation on behalf of the community on important issues, funding opportunities, projects and programs. Council will use its influence to seek the best outcomes for the community.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Douglas Recovery Resilience Group

External: Queensland Reconstruction Authority

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Douglas Recovery Resilience Group is committed to ensuring that Douglas Shire communities have a resilient future, and that the Douglas Shire Council approaches recovery and resilience activities from an empathic and inclusive methodology in partnership with the community, external organisations, and agencies.

ATTACHMENTS

Douglas Shire Council LRAP OCM Aug 2025

1. Douglas Shire Council LRAP OCM Aug 2025 [**7.10.1** - 3 pages]

Local Resilience Actions							
Line of Resilience - Wet Tropics Regional Resilience Strategy	Strategic Pathway - Wet Tropics Regional Resilience Strategy	Action	Asset / Value Type	Action Type	Contribution to Resilience	Applicable Hazard, Trend, Stress or Shock Addressed	Issue / Resilience Need Addressed
Towns and Infrastructure	Understand how our settlements create disaster management issues	Improve stormwater drainage in Wonga to prevent flooding of roads and residences as identified in the 2023 Wonga Beach Flood Study and Drainage Assessment flood study	Drainage and Storm Water Network	Hazard Mitigation (Built environment)	Disaster resilience	Flood	The implementation of Option 3 provides a reduction to the flood inundation across a range of events. The number of inundated buildings will be reduced by 20 and 12 in the 20% and 1% AEP respectively.
Towns and Infrastructure	Understand how our settlements create disaster management issues	Development of a Douglas Shire property level flood information portal to ensure the broader benefits of flood studies and risk assessments are realised, through dissemination to public, private, and government stakeholders, including support to flood emergency responses.	Disaster Resilience and Sustainability	Risk Assessment	Disaster resilience	Flood	The Portal wil assist residents to understand, be better informed and better prepared for flood-related disasters by having access to up-to-date place-based flood risk information.
Resilience Society	Support the unique disaster management approach required in the Wet Tropics	Establishment of a purpose-built Disaster Coordination, Community Recovery and Resilience Centre (DCCRRC) in a safe, accessible location separate from day-to-day council operations. The facility will be multi-functional, enabling multi agency incident management, response coordination, training, resilience-building, and community recovery.	Disaster Resilience and Sustainability	New Infrastructure	Disaster resilience	All hazards	Ability to effectively enhance disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience across the Douglas Shire and broader Far North Queensland region. The facility will allow the LDMG to effectively execute disaster management responsibilities during events

Background (supporting justification, origins of the issue, supporting policy positions etc.)	How Addressed (opportunities and discussion)	Benefits (Specific)
Local government drainage networks are critical infrastructure integral to community function. They can be prone to interruptions during smaller weather events but have the capacity to impact communities quite significantly such as isolating residences from school collection and people from jobs or homes. Severe localised flooding can also cause damage to assets and private property, and expose people to risk of crossing flooded roads or floodways. Wonga Beach is a low lying beachside community that is increasingly experiencing flooding and inundation of residences in recent events, including intense short period rainfall.	The flood mapping and drainage assessment study in Wonga Beach has identified various options to reduce flooding and inundation of residences in the township. The implementation of Option 3 provides a reduction to the flood inundation across a range of events. The number of inundated buildings will be reduced by 20 and 12 in the 20% and 1% AEP respectively.	A reduction in flooding and a reduction in the inundation of residences across a range of events.
Council has a mix of recently completed level 2 flood models. The portal will allow residents to access flood modelling for their property and develop an understanding of the flood risk for the property. The portal will also provide information on future development including the applicable Q100 floor height.	Improved flood modelling will help understand the risk of flooding to help better prepare for and respond to flood events. The initiative will deliver online portals, accessed through Councils' website and Disaster Dashboard that will enable any member of the public within the local government area to enter their address and obtain key information about flooding at their property. Council's existing flood modelling and planned modelling and reviews will be incorporated into the portal.	1. Increased understanding of flood risk. 2. Improve long term planning to better respond to flood risk.
Currently the local council chambers functions as the Local Disaster & Coordination Centre (LDCC). For disasters or hazards with operational periods (e.g. pandemic, biosecurity threats, ongoing isolation from flood waters) this is not be suitable. The facility will house Council's Disaster Management Unit, and allow access for other emergency services, volunteers, and community groups to undertake training and education —helping to foster a strong, well-prepared and resilient community. The facility will form a recovery hub for the government departments, agencies and non government organisations following a disaster. Council have land identified and concept plans developed.	Disaster coordination through the planning, preparedness, response and the recovery phases is maximised through provision of all facilities and equipment required to undertake successful disaster management on a local or regional basis at all stages of an event.	The centre will be designed to serve as the Douglas Shire disaster coordination and response centre. It will provide essential community space dedicated to recovery, resilience education, training, and long-term disaster planning. The centre will be self-sufficient and able to function during disasters, demonstrating a significant shift in our capabilities and technology 1. Ensure seamless and efficient disaster management 2. Ensure DM bodies can undertake all required and necessary actions during and event unhindered 3. Provide a Recovery Hub for communities 4. Business continuity for local government

Primary Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience Objective	Funding Type	Estimated Budget
1 - We understand the potential disaster risks we face	Capital Expenditure	\$1,354,000
1 - We understand the potential disaster risks we face	Both	\$150,000
4 - We continually improve how we prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters	Capital Expenditure	\$5,775,817