

5.4. QUEENSLAND DISASTER RESILIENCE FUND 2018-19 FUNDING SUBMISSIONS

REPORT AUTHORS

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DEPARTMENT

Infrastructure Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

1. Support a submission to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's *2018-19 Disaster Resilience Fund* for \$8,500 (GST Exc) for portable flood barriers;
2. Support a submission to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's *2018-19 Disaster Resilience Fund* for \$30,500 (GST Exc) for automated road warning signs for Barratt Creek Daintree;
3. Support a submission to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's *2018-19 Disaster Resilience Fund* for \$23,000 (GST Exc) to install automated rain gauges (two) in the catchments of the Upper Daintree River and the Bloomfield River;
4. Support a submission to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's *2018-19 Disaster Resilience Fund* for \$22,000 (GST Exc) to upgrade existing automated road warning signs at Anichs and Foxton Bridges Mossman;
5. Support a submission to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's *2018-19 Disaster Resilience Fund* for \$4,250 (GST Exc) for a portable two-way radio base;
6. Support a submission to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's *2018-19 Disaster Resilience Fund* for \$65,000 (GST Exc) for a flood camera and automated road warning signage at Junction Bridge, Mossman;
7. Support a submission to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's *2018-19 Disaster Resilience Fund* for \$42,000 (GST Exc) for portable Variable Message Signs (VMS);
8. Contribute 50% towards eligible project costs for any or all the above submissions, if successful with grant funding; and
9. Delegate authority under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to administer these matters.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF), administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA), supports local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations to deliver mitigation and resilience projects that strengthen their communities and better prepare against disasters.

The QDRF provides funding to deliver projects that align with Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework (the Framework) and Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (the Strategy).

Councils have been invited to submit applications for 2019-20 funding by 18 April 2019.

This report seeks Council's endorsement of proposed funding applications for seven projects with a 50% contribution from Council towards eligible project costs.

BACKGROUND

The first funding round of the four-year \$38 million Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) opened 26 February 2019, with \$9.5 million total funding available for the 2018-19 financial year.

The funding objectives are to support delivery of infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects that:

- are cost effective and evidence based;
- align with the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience objectives:
 - Queenslanders understand their disaster risk
 - Strengthened disaster risk management
 - Queenslanders are invested in disaster risk reduction
 - Continuous improvement in disaster preparedness, response and recovery
- Address identified state-risk priorities (including risk under the Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment 2017).

Successful projects will be announced at the end of June 2019 and successful applicants will have until 30 June 2021 to deliver approved projects.

COMMENT

Douglas Shire is subject to annual monsoon rains, king tides and an average annual rainfall exceeding 2,000mm.

So far this wet-season, Douglas Shire has experienced four significant weather events with some areas of the Shire receiving over 3,000mm of rain since December 2018.

Analysis of Council's Customer Request Management (CRM) System data, site inspections and community and staff feedback from the recent weather events identified hazard risks, needs and vulnerabilities; with projects designed to address the range of issues identified.

Projects approved will be allocated funding up to \$2 million, as a subsidy towards eligible project costs, with all applicants expected to make a financial contribution towards the eligible project costs.

While a specific percentage is not defined in the Guidelines, a QRA officer advised 40% - 60% was a suitable guide for an applicant's contribution. Eligible applicants demonstrating a limited capacity to self-fund a project, may be considered for a higher funding percentage.

The approximate eligible project costs for the seven projects put forward under this funding program total \$390,500 (GST Exc). Council will be seeking \$195,250 (50% funding) and will be required to contribute the other 50%.

PROPOSAL

That Council resolves to:

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9. Delegate authority under section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to administer these matters.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Under the Program Guidelines the projects would need to be completed by 30 June 2021.

The costs associated with the projects have not been allocated in the current or future budgets. If Council was successful with any or all applications, then a financial contribution will be required in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 financial years for the projects. An allowance for 50% in the Capital Works Program relating to disaster management.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Project risks will be mitigated through the systematic application of internal project management systems. Project management will be the responsibility of Council Officers, supported by other Council officers from finance, procurement and corporate communications.

The project managers will be responsible for ensure all conditions of the funding agreement are met.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: One of the key objectives of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience is Queenslanders are invested in disaster risk reduction with the community engaged and invested in efforts to reduce exposure to disaster risk and build resilience.

Rapid recovery from disasters is crucial in re-establishing the local economy and business activity.

Environmental: Disasters can have significant environmental impacts and environmental recovery is a key component of the disaster management system.

Social: Access to up-to-date risk information assists the community with being more informed and connected, assisting in preparing for and recovering from disasters.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:

Theme 4 - Engage, Plan, Partner

4.3.1 - Provide leadership in preparing for and responding to disasters through the coordination of the Local Disaster Management Group and appropriate resourcing.

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:

Asset-Owner Meeting the responsibilities associated with owning or being the custodian of assets such as infrastructure.

Part-Funder Sharing the cost of a program or activity with other organisations.

CONSULTATION

Internal: In developing the project and funding application, the following internal stakeholders were consulted: Management Team; Project Officers; Grants Officer.

External: Queensland Reconstruction Authority; Local Disaster Management Group, State Emergency Service, Queensland Police Service, Bureau of Meteorology.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The 2018-19 Resilience Funding Guidelines were developed in line with the Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework, which provides guidance on effective investment decision-making and prioritisation to support disaster resilience and mitigation across Queensland. The Framework was developed by QRA in close collaboration with government agencies, Local Government Association of Queensland, Australian Red Cross and Salvation Army, and endorsed by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning in February 2019.

At a local level, in March 2019 Council staff and the Mayor visited residents in Degarra and Daintree Village after the four weather events since December 2018 to obtain feedback on the communities' experiences in relation to disaster preparedness and recovery.

Council's Customer Response Management (CRM) requests and Social Media comments and posts were also analysed in determining community needs and projects for the funding submissions.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil