

Douglas Shire Council Plan on a Page



Endorsed by: Recovery Group
on 26 August 2019



Mayor
Julia Leu



CEO
Mark Stoermer

Recovery narrative

Recovery narrative

Council vision statement

Douglas is committed to ensuring our communities have a successful recovery and a resilient future.

Council values

- Collaboration - working together for a common & positive outcome.
- Professionalism – we will operate with accountability, openness, transparency and integrity.
- Excellence – the manner in which we operate ensures the highest possible outcome will be achieved.
- Engaging – providing equal opportunities for our communities through respect, support & leadership.
- Customer focus – we identify and meet the needs of all customers in a responsive and equitable manner.
- Safety and wellbeing – we are all committed to working safety and caring for each other's wellbeing.

Local Recovery Group

Established: 26/02/19

Chaired by: Mark Stoermer, CEO

Lines of Recovery

Human and Social, Economic, Environment, Infrastructure.

Key stakeholders

Lead state government agencies, community groups, non-government organisations/non-government associations, local businesses and trader associations, service providers and other invested parties.

Recovery themes

1. Response: ensure community safety.
2. Rebuilding: bring the community forward to a new normal.
3. Restoration: working together to repair and re-establish community linkages across the lines of recovery.
4. Resilience: embed the principle in all activities to mitigate, improve and build betterment for the community.

Impacts on all recovery objectives have been compounded by the four activated disasters occurring in the Shire over a three month period.

Recovery objectives

- ① Essential services - Power, water, waste, telecommunications – repaired and restored
- ② Displaced households – settled in temporary accommodation
- ③ Emergency funding (personal hardship etc.) – granted/approved
- ④ Community support – mechanisms implemented
- ⑤ Flood waste – removed and processed
- ⑥ Impact assessments – completed
- ⑦ Road transport network – coordinated restoration and betterment planning for the extensive road transport network for state and local controlled roads
- ⑧ Key transport routes – priority restoration to the key transport routes for communities, tourism and primary producers. [Captain Cook Highway, Mossman-Daintree Road, Mossman – Mount Molloy Road, Daintree Ferry Service, Cape Tribulation Road, Upper Daintree Road, Baird's Crossing, Stewart's Creek Road, Bloomfield Track, China Camp Road, CREB Track]
- ⑨ Environmental rehabilitation – [River and creek bank restoration and rehabilitation; silt removal]
- ⑩ Telecommunication infrastructure – long term repairs, improvements and improved resilience
- Weather/Disaster critical infrastructure - repaired and operational (Baird's Alert, Barratt's Creek Flood camera)
- ⑪ Flood resilience – develop and implement strategies for greater flood resilience – [Bloomfield River, Lower Daintree River, Mossman River]
- ⑫ Empower local businesses to improve their resilience to disasters
- ⑬ Restore confidence in the tourism market
- ⑭ Establishment of improved evacuation and response capabilities to at risk communities.

Recovery objectives

Damage and impacts

Damage and impacts

Human and Social

- 3 households destroyed/uninhabitable.
- 4 parks and public spaces were affected.
- Contents from 15 households damaged or destroyed.
- 2 Business premises contents damaged or destroyed.
- Some remote area residents was isolated due to rainfall.

Economic

- Loss of income/profits to businesses (large and small) reliant on tourism including service industries. Includes attractions and tours, accommodation, food, transport, cleaning and supplies.
- Loss of tourism spending is estimated at \$3.75M for the month following the event. Ongoing industry downturn has cost the region a further \$5million over the five-month period from March to July.
- Loss of tourism spending is estimated at \$3.75M for the month following the event.
- Ongoing impact on the tourism market shows 15% downturn on previous years due to media coverage and further events. Occupancy figures for July indicate some recovery since May with figures now 5% below the average number.
- Disruptions to transport routes for product freight to saleyards/market initially particularly affected the cattle producers in terms of delays road repairs.
- Localised disruptions to transport routes for tourists/tours.
- Initial loss of income/profits to small businesses – power outages, damage, staff isolation.

Environment

- Coastal erosion evident at the Pretty-, Oak-, Wonga-, Cow Bay- and Newell Beach fronts.
- Severe river and creek erosion in numerous catchments and localities between the Bloomfield River and Wangetti.
- Damage to a significant tree and surrounding area at Daintree Boat Ramp; silt, damage and debris at Daintree Ferry precinct.
- Accumulation of 15 tonnes of household waste.
- Initial sewage overflow from a number of Council pump stations.
- Loss and disposal of livestock.

- Sediment loads from river systems on to Barrier Reef.
- Boat ramp areas covered in silt and sand. Some loss of infrastructure.
- Generation of excessive leachate at Council's landfill.
- Overgrown lawns and parks.
- Numerous landslips on private and public lands.

Infrastructure

- Power disconnected to 250 homes – full power restored in four (4) days.
- Telecommunications disrupted and offline for 2.5 days in Daintree Village area.
- Two (2) water and sewerage treatment plants affected.
- One (1) river height monitoring stations and one (1) flood camera station damaged.

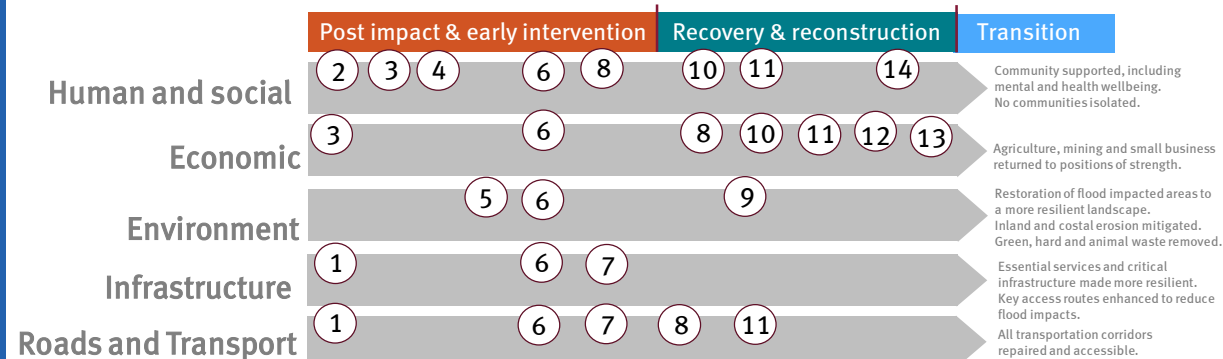
Roads and Transport

- All townships, outlying areas and key transport routes were isolated for varying lengths of time due to flooding, bridge/ floodway damage including, but not limited to:
 - Daintree Village, Stewarts Creek Valley, Upper Daintree, Degarra, Lower Daintree, communities north of Daintree River, Wonga, Newell, Whyanbeel, Bamboo Creek, Mossman, Mowbray and Port Douglas.
- Major Road damage/landslips have occurred on the Cape Tribulation Road, Bloomfield Track, Banabilla Road, Upper Daintree Road, China Camp Road, Ponzo Road. A total of 32 roads and the CREB track was closed.
- Four (4) roads have restricted access.
- Access to two (2) grazing properties and Bairds ALERT river gauge station was temporarily inaccessible.
- Due to flooding two crossings cut for 72 hours.
- 80% of roads assessed. Saturation assessment will require long-term monitoring.
- Damaged bridges along key roads included: Stewarts Creek, Lees, Noah Creek, Spring and Diggers bridges.
- Daintree River Ferry channel was compromised due to siltation of channel.
- Civil works crews have suspended normal duties for eight (8) weeks to mitigate impacts.

Lines of recovery

Lines of recovery

19/3/19



Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance (DRFA)

Disaster relief measure	Activation date
• Counter Disaster Operations	30/01/2019
• Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets	30/01/2019
• Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme (3)	31/01/2019
• Emergency Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) (3)	31/01/2019
• Disaster Assistance (Small Business) Loans	06/02/2019
• Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Small Business	06/02/2019
• Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans	06/02/2019
• Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Primary Producers	06/02/2019
• Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers	06/02/2019
• Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Not-for-profit organisations	06/02/2019
• Disaster Assistance (Not-for profit Organisations) Loans	06/02/2019
• Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers	07/02/2019
• Flood Recovery Exceptional Assistance (Cat C and D)	11/02/2019
• Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets	19/02/2019

The Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) and Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme activation for Douglas is limited to the areas of Daintree, Upper Daintree, Lower Daintree, Stewart Creek Valley and Degarra.

Recovery Plan tasks

- Provide community support and ensuring access to community support services and networks.
- Coordinate restoration of essential services and identify opportunities for improving resilience including telecommunications.
- Develop strategies to minimise impact on the tourism sector and stimulate activity including messaging to be prepared for visitors. September holidays have been identified as the next key tourism period.
- Coordinate restoration of essential public assets, parks, beaches and key public areas.
- Prioritise clean-up and restoration of road assets to connect communities, enable tourism and allow access to markets for primary producers.
- Council supports TPDD to strengthen preparedness activities for the tourism sector through the FNQ & NQ Monsoon Trough Category C Flexible Funding Grants Program.
- Facilitate assistance, access to funds and loans for the business- and agriculture sector.
- Provide accurate, timely and relevant information and updates on the recovery process. This includes prioritised activities and actions for residents, businesses, visitors and government organisations.
- Prioritise repairs to critical infrastructure such as river gauges, weather systems, flood cameras and access roads.
- Assess and monitor environmental impacts and seek opportunities to rehabilitate.

Daintree Resident: "The Telecommunication Company who manages the tower in the Village needs to ensure this never happens again. We remember the 1996 flood well and at no stage were we without the telephone. I remember telephoning my mother in Melbourne while standing knee deep in water. Today we have all this wonderful equipment and they can not supply a simple telephone connection".

Recovery reporting at 26/08/2019

Human and Social

- All parks and public spaces open.
- Remediation works underway on significant (Raintree) tree at Daintree Village River Precinct.
- In Douglas 20 short term financial assistance grants (via Red Cross/CWA) were facilitated.
- DCDSS have assisted 190 people (97 approved applications) via 4 grants (EHA, EHCG, SAG and ESSRS) to the value of \$94,245.

Economic

- Council is carrying \$3,37M in emergent recovery costs, which impacts on day to day spending.
- Tourism Port Douglas Daintree (TPDD) Recovery activity Expedia campaign - \$15,000 generating \$640,000 in flights and accommodation over the four week period, 1,300 room nights.
- TPDD funded digital activity including flight promotions and competitions to stimulate awareness and visitation - \$5,500.
- Media familiarisation to boost messaging held in early March \$2,800.
- Regional radio promotion for business messaging for Daintree \$1,500.
- Heavy focus on messaging to consumer and industry channels through e-comms.
- Lobbying regional and state bodies for inclusion in recovery efforts.
- TTNQ partnered with TEQ and the regional tourism organisations for Townsville and Whitsundays to roll out activity under the \$1M recovery funding. This resulted in the TODAY Show broadcasting from Port Douglas in early April 2019. The total spend for three broadcasts (Cairns, Airlie Beach and Townsville) and the Port Douglas weather crosses was >\$100,000. Further activity was rolled out with Ignite Travel and Flight Centre under the funding, boosting numbers for winter travel.
- Grant application submitted with support from TTNQ for a Disaster Recovery Resilience programme for \$25,000 in funding.
- NQ Livestock Industry Recovery Taskforce visited Mayor and Councillors in May.
- On 23/08/2019 the QRIDA have assisted 58 Primary Producers in Douglas with \$2,78M in Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant funding.

Environment

- Beach front at Four Mile Beach cleaned of debris.
- Clean-up of Daintree Boat Ramp area and Ferry precinct is ongoing.
- Beach nourishment of Newell foreshore completed.
- DES sourcing funding and project delivery of riparian work throughout Shire including the farming properties.
- 15 tonnes household waste removed.

- Trucking of leachate to Council's Wastewater Treatment Plant ongoing today > 5 Million Litres moved.
- Damage to landfill cap repaired.
- All known cattle rounded up from islands, beaches and mangrove areas and returned to owners.

Infrastructure (including roads and bridges)

- Power reconnected to all homes – full power restored in four days.
- From 19 February to 21 August Council has been actively applying for DRFA and Betterment Funding to address damages caused to infrastructure and assets.
- Specifications have been obtained to purchase a 3-phase mobile generator to deploy to remote communities. This generator will be added to Council's Fleet Register.
- All (five) water and sewerage treatment plants repaired and fully operational.
- Bairds Crossing repaired and opened in early August, allowing access to Bairds Alert River Gauge, Upper Daintree.
- Temporary river height monitoring station in place (Bairds Alert Upper Daintree). Re-installation of permanent gauge is dependent on riverbank repairs.
- One flood camera repaired and operational.
- All townships, outlying areas and key transport are now accessible although some have restricted access due to damage and/or repair work underway.
- DRFA Category D: Coastal Recovery Program funding submitted for five damaged sites: Cow Bay Beach, Wonga Beach, Oak Beach, Pretty Beach and Port Douglas.
- After ten months the CREB Track was reopened in August 2019.
- Speed and/or lane restrictions remain on a number of roads.
- Five inundated bridges have all been reopened.
- Four significant landslides have occurred to four separate roads. Dozens of other minor slips occurred.
- Preliminary damage assessments completed. Only saturation damage submission outstanding. Council submitted QRA funding. Five submissions pending assessment. Roads packages to go to tender shortly.
- Geotechnical investigations commenced on three major landslips. Rectification of Alexandra Range 85% complete. Concept designs completed for all slips. Progressing to detailed design phase.
- Upper Daintree preliminary works complete. Geotechnical investigations commenced.
- Funding applications approved for additional rain gauges, road closure signage and two-way portable radio base.
- Two projects (bore water standby and rooftop catchment) in the process of being licensed to address Daintree Intake blockages.
- Disaster Dashboard has been improved. Quote obtained to update to the Disaster Dashboard IMS.

LEGEND

- Human/Social – Inundation
- Infrastructure – Roads/Transport
- Infrastructure
- Human/Social – Reports of damage
- Environment

