



# Update: Degarra Community Preparedness Session 12 Nov 2025

## Degarra Meeting Hub (Project)

As part of the North Queensland Resilience Program (NQRP) funding, Council has received \$250,000 to **‘Construct a Resilience Meeting Hub’** in Degarra. The project scope is to plan, design and construct an open-air meeting space for the Degarra community, and explore a small lockable storage container to store Council resources.

Having access to a meeting space will assist with community engagement, awareness raising, and provide a **central location for a range of resilience building activities.**

Council continues to **work with community to find a suitable site** location for the construction of the Resilience Meeting Hub.

This project is not funded to construct a place of refuge in the event of a disaster.

### Site Options:

- Continue to assess suitability of existing Council owned and other land options.

### Proposed Structure

A permanent, low maintenance outdoor structure, designed for year-round community use and capable of withstanding local weather conditions.

### Key Inclusions (need to be within budget)

- Steel roof structure with integrated gutters to capture rainwater
- Rainwater tank (tbc litre capacity) for water storage
- Solar lighting
- BBQ unit – Power source gas or electric to be confirmed.
- Concrete slab base for durability
- Explore small lockable storage container to store Council resources
- Project Management Fees

\*Size: to be determined based on pricing and available budget



## Other Projects

- Council has commenced work with QRA on the **Far North Queensland Flood Mitigation Project (FNQFMP)**.
- Further work will occur on Bloomfield and Woobadda Creek Catchment including **bathymetry work** (depth across river). The issue of the **ballast at the Bloomfield bridge** will also be explored.
- Recommendations will be developed from the projects mentioned above, **exploring potential mitigation measures**.
- A **new River Level Gauge** has been installed at the Woobadda Bridge.
- **LiDAR flood-monitoring technology** will be installed at the causeway at Degarra to work out linkage between upstream flooding to downstream FOR EARLY WARNING.
- At the session, **Weather intelligence expert** Chris Nitopoulos (Nitso) from WeatherIQ **detailed the events leading up to the flooding** associated with Tropical Cyclone Jasper. A second recording provided tools and insights into local weather forecasting. **Videos** are at the bottom of the Disaster Management Unit page on Council's [website](#) OR via YouTube  
<https://youtu.be/oT93D-ncRi4>  
<https://youtu.be/u6OhVfd2kpc>

## Emotional Preparedness - New Funding - Arts & Wellbeing Workshops!

- David Younger wrapped up the session with an overview on how the rational decision-making part of our brains can be affected during stressful situations like disaster events, and what **we can do to prepare for these situations**. A resource from the Australian Psychological Society gives a deeper understanding on how we can prepare psychologically for natural disasters.
- **Psychological Preparedness handout provided in the session**  
<https://psychology.org.au/for-the-public/psychology/Topics/disasters/preparing-for-disasters> (see the information sheet tab).
- Council received verbal announcement from QRA for **Extraordinary Clean Up Funding**.
- **Arts & Wellbeing (planning) Workshop(s)** anticipated for early Feb 2026 for community members/creatives to explore and design projects, that continue to strengthen local connections and resilience, through art and wellbeing activities, register interest via [recovery@douglas.qld.gov.au](mailto:recovery@douglas.qld.gov.au)