

# Local Disaster Management Plan

Updated: 18 July 2023

## Foreword

This document, which has been developed by the Northern Peninsula Area Local Disaster Management Group, on behalf of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, and approved by Council Resolution at its meeting on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ describes the arrangements required under the Disaster Management Act 2003, outlining the disaster management system and specifying agreed roles and responsibilities. It also describes how the disaster management system works during an event.

The focus of the document is on using an 'all-hazards' functional approach, minimising impacts on disaster-affected communities, by ensuring a coordinated effort by all levels of government and non-government entities with responsibilities or capabilities in comprehensive disaster management.

This is a dynamic, risk-based document that will be kept up to date to match changes in legislation, or in the region's risk profile, and to reflect learning's from disaster events here and elsewhere.

As a community we are unable to prevent a disaster from happening, however, we are able to minimise the adverse effects a disaster has on a community (both economically and socially) through comprehensive planning and preparation and managing effective response and recovery.

Mayor Patricia Yusia  
Chairperson  
Northern Peninsula Area Local Disaster Management Group  
Dated:

## Endorsement

The preparation of this Local Disaster Management Plan has been undertaken in accordance with the *Disaster Management Act 2003 (the Act)*, to provide for effective disaster management in the local government area.

The plan is endorsed for distribution by the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council.

Kate Gallaway  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council  
Dated:

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## Administration and Governance

### Document Control

The Local Disaster Management Plan is a controlled document. The controller of the document is the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC). Any proposed amendments to this plan should be forwarded in writing to:

Local Disaster Coordinator  
Chief Executive Officer  
P.O. Box 6878  
Cairns  
Q 4870

The LDC may approve inconsequential amendments to this document. Any changes to the intent of the document must be endorsed by the Local Disaster Management Group and approved by Council.

A copy of each amendment is to be forwarded to those identified in the distribution list.  
On receipt, the amendment is to be inserted into the document and the Amendment Register updated and signed.

### Amendment Register

Amendment		Plan Updated	
No / Ref	Issue Date	Inserted by	Date
Version 1.0	August 2012	RCM Disaster Management Services	August 2012
Version 2.0	September 2013	Peter Ruddick	September 2013
Version 2.1	May 2016	Xavier Barker	May 2016
Version 2.2	May 2017	Xavier Barker	15 May 2017
Version 2.3	June 2018	Stephen Wilton	14 June 2018
Version 2.4	June 2019	Danny Sebasio	24 June 2019
Version 3.0	July 2020	Patricia Yusia	29 July 2020
Version 3.1	March 2021	Susan Law	09 March 2021
Version 3.2	June 2021	Kate Gallaway	17 June 2022
Version 3.2	June 2023	Kate Gallaway	

### Distribution

This plan is distributed in accordance with the distribution list at Annexure A.

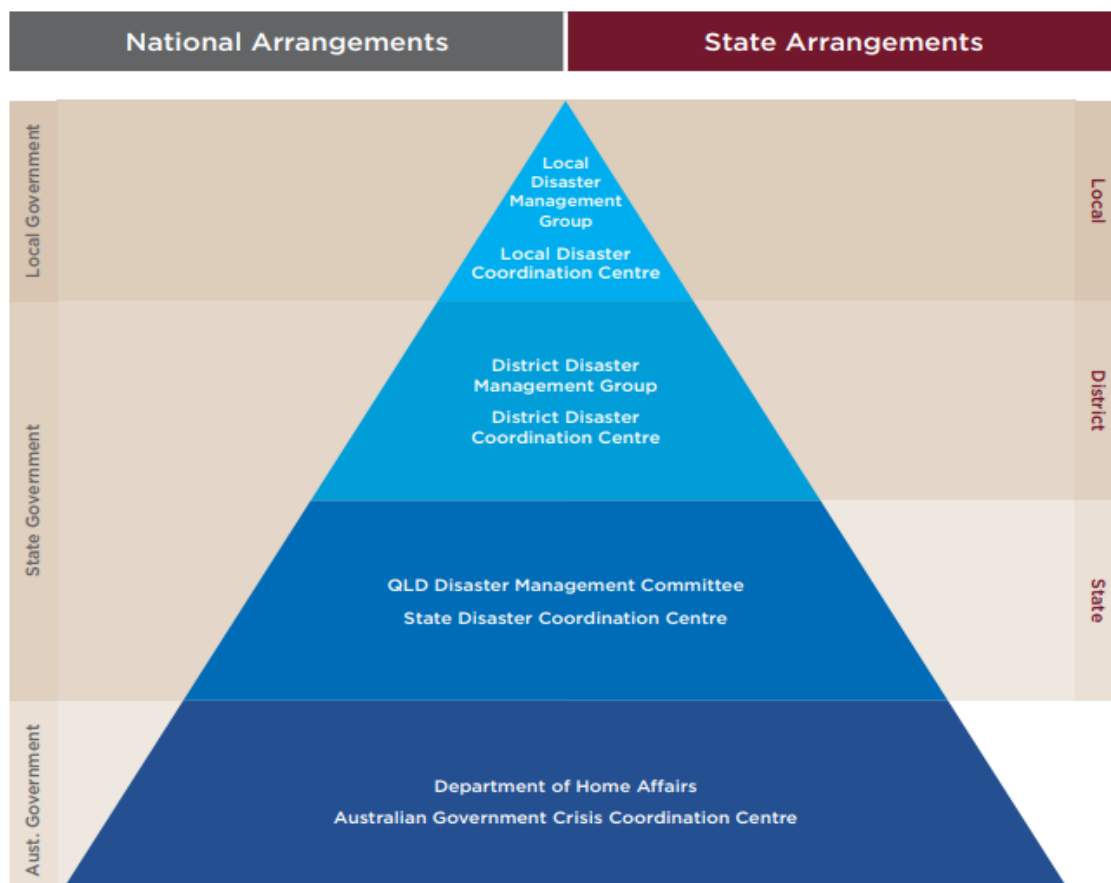
## The Disaster Management Structure in Queensland

The Disaster Management Act 2003 (the Act) provides the legislative basis for the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) including:

- Establishment of disaster management groups for the State, disaster districts and local government areas;
- Detailing planning requirements at each level;
- Maintaining the role and operations of the State Emergency Service (SES) and establishment of Emergency Service Units; and
- The conferring of powers on selected individuals and groups.

Queensland's whole-of-government disaster management arrangements are based upon partnerships between government, government owned corporations, non-government organisations, commerce and industry sectors, and the local community. These arrangements recognise each level of the QDMA must work collaboratively to ensure the effective coordination of planning, services, information and resources necessary for comprehensive disaster management. The QDMA is based on a four-tiered system, incorporating the three levels of government (Australian, State and Local), with an additional State government tier known as disaster districts.

### QLD DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



The principal structures comprising the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements are:

- Local and District disaster management groups and the QLD Disaster Management Committee are responsible for the planning, organisation, coordination and implementation of all measures to mitigate, prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.
- Local, district and State disaster coordination centres to support disaster management groups in coordinating information, resources and services necessary for disaster operations.



- State government functional lead agencies through which the disaster management functions and responsibilities of the State are managed and coordinated.
- State government hazard-specific primary agencies responsible for the preparation of plans for, and management of, specific hazards.

## Authority to Plan

This Plan has been developed by the Northern Peninsula Area Local Disaster Management Group, appointed by and on behalf of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council.

This plan details the arrangements within the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council to plan and coordinate capability in disaster management and disaster operations.

This Plan has been prepared under the provisions of s. 57 of the Act, which states:. “ . . . . .

*(1) A local government must prepare a plan (a **local disaster management plan**) for disaster management in the local government's area.*

*(2) The plan must include provision for the following—*

- a) the State group's strategic policy framework for disaster management for the State, and the local government's policies for disaster management;*
- b) the roles and responsibilities of entities involved in disaster operations and disaster management in the area;*
- c) the coordination of disaster operations and activities relating to disaster management performed by the entities mentioned in paragraph (b);*
- d) events that are likely to happen in the area;*
- e) strategies and priorities for disaster management for the area;*
- f) the matters stated in the disaster management guidelines as matters to be included in the plan;*
- g) other matters about disaster management in the area the local government considers appropriate.”*

## Purpose of the Plan

- The purpose of the Northern Peninsula Area Local Disaster Management Plan is to:
- Ensure the safety and sustainability of the local community
- Reduce or eliminate risk to the community and community infrastructure
- Inform disaster management responses at the District and State levels
- Be consistent with best practice disaster management issues
- Promote effective liaison between the Council and other agencies involved in disaster management
- Ensure compliance with the Disaster Management Act 2003.
- Ensure compliance with the Disaster Management Regulations 2014.

There are major differences between ‘Incident Management’ and ‘Disaster Management’.

**Incidents** can be managed via emergency services or other agencies, employing resources normally available to them. This includes traffic accidents, missing persons, etc. Incidents do not usually cause major community disruption. Single site response, Minor off-site co-ordination, Single agency responsibility, Resources available, Support available, Support agencies practiced, Day to day business, Core function, Short term effects

**Disasters** require a coordinated multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional response, and usually result in some sort of community dislocation or severe disruption. Multi-site response, Major off-site co-ordination , Multi agency responsibility , Multi-faceted problems , External resources required , External support required ,Government Dept involvement , Community affected , Long term effects

This document does not address Incident Management.

## Objectives

The objective of the Local Disaster Management Plan is to facilitate the implementation of effective and efficient disaster management strategies and arrangements including:

- The development, review and assessment of effective disaster management for the local government area, including arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster
- Compliance with the QLD Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) Strategic Policy Framework; the State Disaster Management Plan; the Local Disaster Management Guidelines, and any other Guidelines relevant to local level disaster management and disaster operations;
- The development, implementation and monitoring of priorities for disaster management for the local government area.

### **Strategic Policy Framework**

The Elements of the State Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework are:

- Research - *Disaster research may be broadly understood as a systematic inquiry, before and after a disaster, into a relevant disaster management problem.*
- Policy and Governance - *Policy and governance elements ensure clear direction of disaster management priorities, resource allocation and accountability, supported through sound business continuity, performance management reporting and corporate risk management processes.*
- Risk Assessment - *Disaster risk assessment is the process used to determine risk management priorities by evaluating and comparing the level of risk against predetermined standards or other criteria.*
- Mitigation - *Disaster mitigation is the means taken in advance of, or after, a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on communities, the economy, infrastructure and the environment.*
- Preparedness - *Disaster preparedness includes arrangements that ensure that a community is aware of and prepared for any disaster and, that should a disaster occur, all those resources and services which are needed to cope with the effects can be efficiently mobilised and deployed.*
- Response - *Disaster response includes the activities taken in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an event to ensure that its effects are minimised. Disaster response activities are undertaken during disaster operations.*
- Relief and Recovery - *Disaster relief is the provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs to persons affected by, or responding to, a disaster. Disaster relief activities are undertaken during disaster operations.*
- Post-Disaster Assessment - *Post-disaster assessment evaluates performance before, during and after a disaster event and the risks exposed by the event in order to improve future development of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation measures. Post-disaster assessment forms part of continuous improvement of the disaster management arrangements.*

The Framework's elements outline how a comprehensive, all hazards, all agencies approach including better prepared and resilient communities, will be applied in Queensland. The elements are consistent with national and international best practice disaster management.

A continuous improvement approach will be applied to the Framework through the application and practice of the elements. This will enable regular enhancement of the Queensland disaster management arrangements.

Disaster management and disaster operations in the Northern Peninsula Area Region are consistent with the Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework. This is achieved by:

- ensuring a comprehensive, all hazards, all agencies approach by achieving the right balance of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery
- 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, based on the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk management – Principles and guidelines
- recognising the commitment of stakeholders and the need for collaboration across all levels of government, community, industry, commerce, government owned corporations, private and volunteer organisations, and local communities in all aspects of disaster management
- emphasising building and maintaining sincere relationships, trust, teamwork, consultative decision-making and shared responsibilities among stakeholders promoting community resilience and economic sustainability through disaster risk reduction.

## **Scope**

This plan details the arrangements necessary to undertake disaster management within the Northern Peninsula Area Region. This includes the communities of Seisia, New Mapoon, Bamaga, Umagico and Injinoo

## **Disaster Management Priorities**

Disaster management priorities for the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council will ensure compliance with the disaster management legislation and will provide a sound legal grounding for disaster management within the Northern Peninsula Area Region:

The Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Corporate Plan 2018 - 2022 addresses disaster management in the following terms:

### **Theme 1- Infrastructure Services**

#### **Key Corporate Strategies**

Ensure a preparedness to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies and engage in planning activities aimed at minimising the impact of such disasters on the community.

### **Theme 2 – Community Wellbeing**

#### **Key Corporate Strategies**

To assist the community in developing resilience for managing disaster situations. This will include undertaking a disaster risk management process and developing a strategic policy framework for disaster management incorporating disaster mitigation, prevention, and preparation, response and recovery arrangement in partnership with the Local Disaster Management Group.

The Northern Peninsula Area Council 2010 - 2020 Community Plan identifies a number of issues which are addressed as a part of the hazard and risk assessment process undertaken in concert with the development and maintenance of this Local Disaster Management Plan. Such issues include Climate Change, Communications Capacity, and Airport Infrastructure, Volunteering, etc., all of which can impact on the resilience of the community.

## **Review and Renew Plan**

S. 59 of the Act allows Council to review or renew the plan as appropriate, but requires that the Plan be assessed for effectiveness on an annual basis.

### **Review of Local Disaster Management Plan**

The Local Disaster Management Plan should be reviewed by the Local Disaster Management Group on an annual basis.

### **Review of Risk Treatment Strategies**

The risk treatment strategies should be reviewed on a regular basis, preferably prior to the annual budgetary determinations by Council in relation to its annual Operation Plan.

### **Review of Operational and Recovery Sub Plans**

The Disaster Management Operational and Recovery Sub-Plans should be reviewed by the LDMG on an as needs basis.

If at any time during the year, it becomes apparent that an urgent amendment to or review of the planning documentation is required for operational effectiveness, then such review or amendment must be implemented expeditiously.

The Plan should also be reviewed as a result of any changes in legislation, guidelines or policy, and as a result of any changes recommended subsequent to the annual District Assessment.

The master contact list for all organisations/persons involved in the Council's disaster management arrangements should be updated at each LDMG meeting and will be held by the Local Disaster Coordinator.

## Local Disaster Management Group

### Establishment

The Northern Peninsula Area Local Disaster Management Group (the LDMG) is established in accordance with s. 29 of the Act.

### Membership

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council has appointed the following Executive and Core Members of the Local Disaster Management Group, in accordance with sections 33 & 34 of the Act

LDMG Executive Membership	
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Chair, LDMG - Mayor
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Deputy Chair, LDMG - Councillor
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Local Disaster Coordinator - CEO

*(It is the view of Council that the LDC appointee has the necessary experience or expertise to perform the function. The appointee has the authority and necessary delegations within Council to perform the role effectively.)*

LDMG Membership Core	
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Deputy CEO,
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Executive Manager Operations
QFES	Emergency Management Coordinator
Health	Director of Nursing
QAS	Officer in Charge
Qld Police	Officer in Charge
NPA Family & Community Services ATSI Corporation	CEO
SES	NPA Local Controller
QFES Rural	RFS First Officer
LDMG Membership Advisory	
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Airport Manager
Veolia Water	Service Manager
Ergon	Manager Power Station
DATSIP	Manager

*(It is the view of Council and their respective parent agencies that the members of the LDMG have the necessary experience or expertise to perform the function, and have the authority and necessary delegations within their organisations to perform the role effectively.)*

### Meeting Deputies

S. 40A of the Act provides for Meeting deputies for particular members

- 1) A member of a disaster management group may, with the approval of the chairperson of the group, appoint by signed notice another person as his or her deputy.
- 2) The deputy may attend a group meeting in the member's absence and exercise the member's functions and powers under this Act at the meeting.
- 3) A deputy attending a group meeting is to be counted in deciding if there is a quorum for the meeting.

### Advisors to the LDMG

The LDMG may invite participants from a range of entities, such as industry and community organisations to participate in the business of the group in an advisory capacity, as required, on a casual or ongoing basis

It is suggested the list of LDMG advisors is regularly reviewed to reflect current disaster management arrangements for the local government area. Whilst advisor input is considered by members in their decision making, meeting resolutions will only be carried by member consensus and advisors will not be included in the calculation of a quorum.

Where it is important that an advisor has full voting rights, the LDMG should consider whether to appoint the person as a member under s. 33 of the Act.

It is recommended that contact details for advisors are maintained, updated and treated the same as member details in order to be prepared for operational and post-operational activities.

Whilst advisor input is considered by members in their decision making, meeting resolutions will only be carried by member consensus and advisors will not be included in the calculation of a quorum.

### **LDMG Sub-Groups**

LDMGs may have cause to create sub-groups, whether permanent or temporary, to assist the group with its business. Examples of this may be a Local Recovery Group, an evacuation project team, a cyclone shelter operations management group or a sub-group formed to deal with a particular issue relating to that local government area.

In these circumstances, the creation of a sub-group must be passed as a LDMG meeting resolution. Terms of Reference should be established to give clear guidance on the establishment, role and function, required outcomes and conduct of business of the sub-group. All sub-groups should be required to provide the LDMG with regular updates at LDMG meetings.

It should also be noted that any decisions made or actions taken by or on behalf of these sub-groups should be endorsed by the LDMG during normal business, or during disaster operations by the LDMG or LDC, to ensure the validity of decisions under the Act.

### **Membership Records**

Each LDMG is required to maintain a register of its current members and advisors for reference during both general business and operational periods. As a minimum, details should consist of:

- full name;
- designated position title;
- department/organisation or agency name;
- work address;
- business and after hours telephone numbers (both landline and mobile); and
- email address.

Templates to collect and store LDMG member contact details, for agencies to advise the LDMG of a change to their member details and to develop a membership register are available on the DM Portal.

Membership records must be collected, stored and disposed of in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles contained in Schedule 3 of the Information Privacy Act 2009.

When the LDMG member register is altered, an updated copy should be provided to the relevant DDC. If the alteration relates to a member of the Executive Team of the LDMG, it is also important that the SDCC is advised to maintain currency of contact details in case of a disaster event.

### **Meeting Schedules and Processes**

In accordance with s. 38 of the Act, the LDMG may conduct its business, including its meetings, in a way it considers appropriate.

The Act prescribes the following requirements with regards to the conduct of meetings:

- Meetings must be held at least once every six months at times and places decided by the Chairperson (s. 39). Additional meetings may be held as required, but must be held if asked for in writing by at least one-half of LDMG members, or by the DDC.
- A quorum is required for meeting resolutions to be officiated (s. 40) equal to one-half of LDMG members plus one, or when one-half is not a whole number, the next highest whole number. An appointed deputy attending a meeting on behalf of a LDMG member is to be counted in the quorum (s. 40A). A template for recording attendance at LDMG meetings is available on the DM Portal.
- The Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson is to preside at meeting (s. 41). If both are absent the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson may appoint another member of the group to preside. If both offices are vacant the group will choose a member to preside.
- Meetings may be held, or members may take part using any technology that reasonably allows them to hear and take part in discussions (s. 42). Members participating through these means are taken to be present at the meeting.
- Resolutions may be passed at meetings, however are also considered valid if a majority of members give written agreement and notice of the resolution is given under the group's approved procedures (s. 42).
- Minutes of meetings must be kept (s. 43).

A variety of templates to assist LDMGs to manage business and meetings are available on the DM Portal.

### **Attendance**

If a member, or their appointed Deputy, continually does not attend LDMG meetings it is suggested that the LDMG Executive Team meet with the member to discuss the ongoing non-attendance at LDMG meetings. A formal record of LDMG member attendance should be maintained and this can be used to monitor member attendance across meetings.

A template to monitor progressive meeting attendance is available on the DM Portal.

### **Meeting Minutes**

The LDMG meeting minutes should provide a summary of key discussion points and resolutions and may be subject to public scrutiny under the Right to Information Act 2009. It should be noted in the minutes whether or not a quorum was established at the meeting. The meeting attendance sheet should then be attached to the back as an accurate account of who attended the meeting and whether the meeting had a quorum, thus making any resolutions or decisions valid.

An example of a LDMG meeting Minutes template is available on the DM Portal.

### **Flying minute**

A flying minute may be used to progress business of an urgent nature in the instance where convening a meeting of the LDMG is not practicable. The passing of resolutions via flying minute is allowed under s. 42 of the Act if a majority of members provide written agreement.

Templates for LDMG flying minute, LDMG briefing paper and LDMG agenda are available on the DM Portal.

### **Resolution statement**

In addition to meeting minutes, the LDMG Secretariat should produce a resolution statement to provide a running log of actions undertaken and an audit trail through to the acquittal of those resolutions. Once acquitted the resolution should be recorded on a resolution register.

An example of a LDMG Resolution Statement is available on the DM Portal.

### **Resolutions register**

For governance purposes, a register detailing each resolution passed by the LDMG and details of actions undertaken to acquit the resolution should be kept. This provides an easy reference document and a historical record of past LDMG resolutions.

An example of a LDMG Resolutions Register is available on the DM Portal.

### **Letterhead/Logo**

As LDMG business is conducted on behalf of the relevant local government or combined local governments, the relevant local government/s letterhead and logos should be used for all LDMG business.

### **Records Maintenance**

When managing LDMG records, the LDMG must comply with the requirements of the Public Records Act 2002 and records may be subjected to public scrutiny under the Right to Information Act 2009.

The Queensland State Archives General Retention and Disposal Schedule for Administrative Records outline the requirements for retaining documents in accordance with the Public Records Act 2002. The Schedule and further information for LDMGs, including managing records during disaster events, can be obtained at [www.archives.qld.gov.au](http://www.archives.qld.gov.au) in the section —Recordkeeping for Government

### **District Disaster Management Group Representative**

Section 24 of the Act requires the local government to nominate a representative to the District Disaster Management Group and advise the Executive Officer of the State and District Groups of the appointment. The Mayor, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council has been appointed to this position.

The role of Council's representative on the DDMG is to:

- Attend meetings of the DDMG
- Assist the chairperson to coordinate the prevention, preparation, response and recovery activities associated with the disaster event at the district level
- Commit the Council's resources, as required, in support of efforts to combat the disaster event.

### **Reporting**

#### **Agency Status Reports**

Written member status reports on behalf of member agencies are used to update other LDMG members on the status of the member agency's disaster management initiatives, projects, training, community awareness, disaster management plans, operations or contact information.

This information assists the LDMG to evaluate the status of the disaster management and disaster operations for the local government area. Member status reports are provided at LDMG meetings by exception

#### **Annual Reports**

The LDMG is required to complete a status report at the end of each financial year and provide the completed report to the District Disaster Coordinator, Cairns Disaster District. The report will be furnished in the format and at the time stipulated by the DDC.

This report will also be furnished to Council as an Annual Report of the activities of the Local Disaster Management Group.

The Local Disaster Coordinator is responsible for the development of the report.

### **Terms of Reference**



Aim: To outline the extent of Council's responsibility for and commitment to managing disaster events in the local government area.

The Northern Peninsula Area Local Disaster Management Group has the following functions for its area:

*[Disaster Management Act s.30(1)]*

- *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;*
- *To develop effective disaster management, and regularly review and assess the disaster management;*
- *To help the local government for its area to prepare a local disaster management plan;*
- *To identify, and provide advice to the relevant district group about, support services required by the local group to facilitate disaster management and disaster operations in the area;*
- *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;*
- *To manage disaster operations in the area under policies and procedures decided by the State group;*
- *To provide reports and make recommendations to the relevant district group about matters relating to disaster operations;*
- *To identify, and coordinate the use of, resources that may be used for disaster operations in the area;*
- *To establish and review communications systems in the group, and with the relevant district group and other local groups in the disaster district of the relevant district group, for use when a disaster happens;*
- *To ensure information about a disaster in the area is promptly given to the relevant district group;*
- *To perform other functions given to the group under this Act;*
- *To perform a function incidental to a function mentioned above.*

This Plan details the disaster management arrangements for all of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council area.

## **Roles and Responsibilities - LDMG Members**

ALL members of the LDMG have the following common roles and responsibilities:

- Attend LDMG activities with a full knowledge of their agency resources and services and the expectations of their agency;
- Are available and appropriately briefed to actively participate in LDMG activities to ensure that plans, projects and operations use the full potential of their agency or function, while recognising any limitations;
- Are appropriately positioned within their agency to be able to commit agency resources to LDMG normal business activities; and
- Have a deputy who is appropriately trained to take on their responsibilities should they be unavailable or to provide additional support during extended operations.

The Disaster Management Executive have specific responsibilities:-

<b>LDMG Position</b>	<b>Individual Responsibilities</b>
Chairperson	<i>Manage and coordinate the business of the group; Ensure, as far as practicable, that the group performs its functions; and Report regularly to the relevant district group and the Chief Executive of the department about the performance by the group of its functions. Preside at LDMG meetings.</i> <div style="text-align: right;"><i>DMA s.34A</i></div>
Deputy Chairperson	<i>Preside at LDMG meetings if the Chairperson is absent from the meeting</i>

Local Disaster Coordinator	<p><i>Coordinate disaster operations for the local group; Report regularly to the local group about disaster operations; and Ensure, as far as practicable, that any decisions of the local group about disaster operations are implemented.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>DMA s. 36</i></p>
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Organisation	Organisational Responsibilities (Local Level)
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	<p><i>To ensure it has a disaster response capability; To approve its local disaster management plan To ensure information about an event or a disaster in its area is promptly given to the district disaster coordinator for the disaster district in which its area is situated;</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>DMA s.80</i></p> <p>Maintenance of the Local Government function (via Local Government Business Continuity Contingency Planning) Maintenance of normal Local Government services to the community: Refuse disposal Public health Animal control Environmental protection Airport Development and maintenance of fire breaks as appropriate Dissemination of disaster-related information to the community, including information about the National Registration Inquiry System as part of their community education.</p>
Local Disaster Management Group	<p>Development of the comprehensive Local Disaster Management Planning strategies Design and maintenance of a public education/awareness program Design, maintenance and operation of a Local Disaster Coordination Centre, including the training of sufficient personnel to operate the Centre Coordination of support to response agencies Reconnaissance and impact assessment Provision of public information prior to, during and following disaster event impacts Recommendations re areas to be considered for directed evacuation Public advice re voluntary evacuation. Identification, resourcing, staffing and operation of Evacuation Centre(s) Provision of locally based community support services</p>
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (Emergency Management)	<p>Provide advice and support to the LDMG in relation to disaster management and disaster operations Assist with resupply operations Coordinate, support and manage the deployment of State Emergency Service resources Coordinate, support and manage the deployment of Helicopter Rescue resources</p>
Queensland Health	<p>Coordination of medical resources Public health advice and warnings to participating agencies and the community Psychological and counselling services for disaster affected persons Ongoing medical and health services required during the recovery period to preserve the general health of the community</p>
Queensland Ambulance Service	<p>Access, assess, treat and transport sick and/or injured persons Protect persons from injury or death, during rescue and other related activities Participate in search and rescue and evacuation operations Participate in Health Facility evacuations Collaborate with Queensland Health in mass casualty management systems</p>

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (Rural Fire)	<p>Primary agency for bushfire</p> <p>Primary agency for chemical / hazardous materials (HazMat) related incidents</p> <p>Provide rescue capability for persons trapped in any vessel, by height or in confined space</p> <p>Support the Queensland Hazardous Materials Incident Recovery Plan</p> <p>Support the Queensland Coastal Contingency Action Plan - Chemical Spill Response Plan (a supporting plan of the National Marine Chemical Spill Contingency Plan, and National Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan)</p> <p>Provide logistical and communications support to disasters within capabilities</p> <p>Lift assists and driving for QAS</p>
Queensland Police Service	<p>Primary agency responsibility for terrorism</p> <p>Preserve peace and good order</p> <p>Prevent crime</p> <p>Maintain any site as a possible crime scene</p> <p>Conduct traffic control, including assistance with road closures and maintenance of road blocks</p> <p>Coordinate evacuation operations</p> <p>Coordinate search and rescue operations</p> <p>Manage the registration of evacuees and associated inquiries in conjunction with the Australian Red Cross</p>
Ergon Energy	Maintenance of electrical power supply. Provision of appropriate safety advice
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (State Emergency Service)	<p><i>To perform rescue or similar operations in an emergency situation;</i></p> <p><i>To perform search operations in an emergency or similar situation;</i></p> <p><i>To perform other operations in an emergency situation to—</i></p> <p><i>(i) help injured persons; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) protect persons or property from danger or potential danger associated with the emergency;</i></p> <p><i>To perform other activities to help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or a disaster;</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>DMA s.82</i></p> <p>Road Crash Rescue</p> <p>Public Education</p> <p>Emergency repair/protection of damaged/vulnerable buildings</p> <p>Assistance with debris clearance</p> <p>First Aid</p> <p>Traffic Control</p> <p>Assistance with impact assessment</p> <p>Assistance with communications</p> <p>Assistance with lighting</p> <p>Lift assists and driving for QAS</p>

## Disaster Risk Assessment - Community Context

### Geography

The Northern Peninsula Area encompasses most of the north-western side of the tip of the Cape York Peninsula, and comprises the previous local government areas of Seisia, New Mapoon, Bamaga, Umagico and Injinoo. Total land area is 1030 km<sup>2</sup>.

Cape York is at the very northern tip of Australia. It is a narrow peninsula with the Coral Sea to the east, the Arafura Sea and Gulf of Carpentaria to the west, and the Torres Strait to the north. The Region is approximately 1,000 kilometres north-west of Cairns by road.

Seisia is the main port for the NPA and Bamaga is the commercial and administrative centre for government services.

## Climate and Weather

The Northern Peninsula Area Region has a tropical climate with hot, moist summers and warm, dry winters. Rainfall is highly seasonal, with most rain occurring during the period January to March.

The following data was recorded at Horn Island, the closest permanent weather station, some 34 kilometres from Bamaga, and is indicative of the local conditions in the NPA:

TEMPERATURE (1995-2011)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mean maximum temperature (°C)	30.8	30.4	30.5	30.4	29.9	29.3	28.8	29.0	30.1	31.0	31.9	31.7
Highest temperature (°C)	36.7	35.4	34.8	33.9	32.0	32.4	30.9	31.7	35.8	35.2	35.0	37.9
Lowest maximum temperature (°C)	25.5	26.0	26.3	26.7	26.0	26.0	26.6	26.7	27.6	26.4	26.5	27.2
Mean number of days ≥ 30 °C	22.8	18.1	19.7	20.8	15.2	6.2	2.5	3.5	14.2	24.7	25.5	25.3
Mean number of days ≥ 35 °C	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
Mean minimum temperature (°C)	25.1	25.0	25.0	25.2	24.7	23.9	23.0	22.9	23.8	24.8	25.7	25.7
Lowest temperature (°C)	22.4	21.1	22.2	21.3	17.7	18.4	16.0	15.3	16.1	18.4	19.9	20.3
Highest minimum temperature (°C)	28.1	28.1	29.2	28.0	27.3	26.5	26.2	26.8	27.0	27.8	29.8	29.0

RAINFALL (1995-2011)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Mean rainfall (mm)	385.0	474.8	341.6	243.2	67.0	15.4	8.1	5.8	6.6	10.8	51.6	203.3	1765.1
Highest rainfall (mm)	701.6	878.6	530.0	726.2	318.0	45.8	40.8	19.8	70.6	65.8	201.8	707.2	2683.8
Lowest rainfall (mm)	93.2	193.6	122.8	3.8	0.6	2.2	1.8	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	1244.2

## Population

### Current Population

At the 2016 Census, the estimated resident population of Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Local Government Area is 2,796 persons. 37% of persons in the region were aged 0 to 14 years, 59% were aged 15 to 64 years and 4% were aged 65 years and over. 87 per cent of the population is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

### Projected Population *(Adapted from the 2010-2020 Northern Peninsula Area Community Plan)*

The overall population growth rate for the NPA is expected to be around 1.4 %, which is less than the Australian average, and may be attributable to people moving away from the NPA because of a lack of employment opportunities. The projections show that the overall population of the NPA will have increased by around 40% in the next 20 years.

	Recorded	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	2004-2009 (ABS)
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Growth Rate
<b>Bamaga</b>	1048	1146	1253	1370	1497	1.80%
<b>Injinoo</b>	339	356	374	394	414	1.00%*
<b>New Mapoon</b>	308	342	379	421	467	2.10%
<b>Umagico</b>	298	313	329	346	364	1.00%*
<b>Seisia</b>	180	207	237	272	313	2.80%
<b>NPA Total</b>	<b>2173</b>	<b>2364</b>	<b>2573</b>	<b>2802</b>	<b>3054</b>	<b>1.40%</b>

#### **Unemployment Level** (Information from Queensland Treasury (Office of Economic & Statistical Research))

The number of unemployed persons aged 15 years and over in the Northern Peninsula Area in 2016 was 201. This represented an unemployment rate of 14.1%.

#### **Internet Access**

At the 2016 census, 75% of people in the Northern Peninsula Area were identified as having a home internet connection.

#### **Access to Private Vehicles**

At the 2016 census, approximately 28% of residential properties in the Northern Peninsula Area were identified as not having a motor vehicle.

#### **Building Stock**

At the time of the 2016 Census there were 617 occupied private dwellings counted in Northern Peninsula Area, with 92% being rented properties.

The majority of buildings in the Northern Peninsula Area are low-set, timber or masonry/concrete construction with iron roofing. There are also a number of raised residences.

A significant percentage of the building stock is over 30 years old and was constructed prior to the introduction of improved wind-rated building codes. Light industry facilities where they exist usually have steel frames and iron roofing and cladding.

#### **Community Capacity / Preparedness**

Council and the various member agencies of the Local Disaster Management Group provide community awareness information in relation to potential hazards and how the community and individuals should respond.

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council is the major employer in the region, but has limited resources and personnel to contribute considerably to the response demands of any disastrous event.

There is a limited emergency services response capacity, commensurate with the remote environment. This includes Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire & Emergency Service, (Rural Fire and SES volunteers), Queensland Ambulance Service and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard.

Normal emergency services support systems are available from external areas to supplement local resources, but because of isolation by distance, and by impassable roads in the wet season, assistance will often be limited to what can be supplied via aerial transportation.

The relatively limited medical facilities and response capacity would require urgent external assistance for any serious multi-casualty events, such as a major transportation incident.

Significant external assistance would also be required to assist in the facilitation of the community's recovery from a major event.

In disastrous or catastrophic circumstances, there is the potential for those members of the community who have a disaster or emergency response role to be themselves impacted by the event, rendering them unable to perform their allocated role. In these circumstances, outside response assistance will be required from the disaster management system, and that assistance will be obtained as per the graphic on page 69 of this document.

## **Industry**

Most employed people in the area either work for the Council or for My Pathways – there are few private businesses and few industries.

There is a meatworks, some indigenous specialist art and craft activity, some tourism ventures, in accommodation and charter businesses, retail premises and more recently a local building program, employing local residents in the building of new homes in the NPA.

## **Critical Infrastructure**

### **Transport (Roads)**

Most of the roads within the residential part of the Region are sealed. The Peninsula Development Road, the main arterial route to the south is not sealed, and closes on an annual basis as a result of flooding in the wet season, becoming impassable sometimes for months at a time.

This becomes a major issue should the Region be impacted by a major event such as a tropical cyclone accompanied by a storm surge, resulting in significant damage to the community. Access to external assistance is restricted to what can be brought into the community via air transport in the first instance, and later on by sea-going barge from Cairns.

### **Transport (Air)**

The only airport for the region is the Northern Peninsula Area Airport, on Airport Road, some 10 kilometres southeast of the community of Bamaga. The airport is owned and operated by the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council. Regular daily commuter services operate between NPA and Cairns, to points beyond. The current carrier employs DHC-8 turbo-prop aircraft, with a capacity of 36 passengers plus crew.

The airport is located at 10 56.558 S 142 27.010 E, and has a single sealed runway, which measures 1833 x 30 m. There is a limited amount of Jet A1 fuel available at the airport. (See the Sub Plan: Transport & Logistics for further details)

Northern Peninsula Area Airport is regulated by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, and maintains an Aerodrome Emergency Plan under the provisions of CASA Regulations.

### **Transport (Marine)**

There is a port facility at Seisia, which is the terminal for passenger ferry services from Thursday Island. It also caters for a twice-weekly supply barge from Cairns, which is the primary source of supplies for the community.

## **Essential Services**

### **Power**

The Northern Peninsula Area is not connected to the Queensland state electricity grid. The Ergon Energy Bamaga power station services the communities of Bamaga, Injinoo, New Mapoon, Umagico and Seisia.

Electricity supply is distributed via the overhead reticulation throughout the communities. The power station consists of 3 x 1.5 megawatt generators and 1x 650 kilowatt generator. Diesel storage at the Bamaga station consists of 8 x 55,000 litre storage tanks in a fuel farm with maximum diesel fuel storage of 424,000 litres.

## **Telecommunications**

### **Telephone System**

There is an efficient landline telephone system, but even with recent improvements in mobile telephony systems, coverage in the region is very limited.

Satellite telephones are fitted in two of the vehicles operated by the ranger program operated by the Council and the Apudthama Land Trust.

### **Television, Broadcast Radio and Internet**

The whole area is covered by broadcast radio, via ABC and commercial providers. The area is reasonably well served by free to air broadcast television, and subscription satellite television is becoming more popular.

ADSL internet connection is available, with wireless service restricted to the limited areas covered by the 4G mobile telephone network. Rollout of NBN has commenced in 2017 via SkyMuster.

### **Broadcast Radio Stations**

A Council-owned local radio station is operated on frequency FM 91.9 from studios in Bamaga. Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services (RIBS) provides the equipment, periodic maintenance and remote support for technical issues. The approximate reception range is 50 km.

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
RIBS	Bamaga	91.9 FM
ABC Local Radio	Thursday Island	1062 AM

The Department of Community Safety has entered into Memoranda of Understanding with both the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) and Commercial Radio Australia (CRA), where radio stations will broadcast emergency messages in relation to disaster events

### **2-Way Radio Communications Systems**

The area has a significant radio communication capacity. Council has coverage of the entire Region, as do Police, Fire, Ambulance and the State Emergency Service.

Standby power is available for most repeater sites. All emergency services and Queensland Health have radio communications with areas outside the Region, if required.

There is also a UHF CB radio repeater system on Thursday Island which provides intermittent coverage of most of the Region

## **Water Supply**

Trility Water provides services, operations and maintenance of raw water supply, filtration, treatment and fluoridation, delivery, water quality services for monitoring and compliance, demand management and strategic asset management planning to the NPA.

These services cover the infrastructure in the area which includes the Jardine River Pump Station and pipelines, water treatment facilities and distribution systems to the five individual communities of the NPA.

The intake structure (on the Jardine River) is located approximately 15km from Bamaga Water Treatment Plant. The Northern Peninsula Area depends largely on the Jardine River for its water supplies. The water quality in the river varies depending on the season.

From the Jardine River Pump Station, the water is pumped along two parallel pipelines approximately 15km to the 15 ML raw water storage at the water treatment plant. The plant is fully automatic in operation, including start-up, shutdown and monitoring procedures.

High lift pumps then transport the water to the storage tanks at each of the five communities (2 x 1.6 ML and 4 x 2 ML) before passing through the approximately 35km of reticulation system to the individual customers.

## **Sewerage**

The majority of dwellings in the NPA are sewerage, with a small proportion using septic tanks.

NPA's wastewater services encompass:

- Collection of wastewater from approximately 484 dwellings in the NPA
- Transport of wastewater to the three treatment plants in the NPA
- Treatment of wastewater
- Disposal of treated effluent.

There are three sewerage schemes, all of which are conventional gravity-flow:

- The Injinoo-Umagico scheme, with treatment at the Injinoo Sewage Treatment Plant
- The New Mapoon scheme, with treatment at the New Mapoon Sewage Treatment Plant
- The Seisia-Bamaga scheme, with treatment at the Bamaga Sewage Treatment Plant

## **Emergency Services**

### **Queensland Police Service**

QPS provide a full-time permanent staff of ten personnel. Given leave provisions, etc. it could reasonably be expected that 6 or 7 officers would be in the community at any given time.

### **Queensland Ambulance Service**

QAS provide full-time staff and 1 cadet of two personnel for 24/7 coverage of the NPA

### **Queensland Fire and Emergency Service**

QFES operate a volunteer Rural Fire Service in the NPA, currently manned by 12 volunteers. This meets the number required under QFES policy in relation to the threat context for the area. Usually available to respond.

The SES Unit has six qualified Road Crash Rescue personnel, and a total of 13 registered members are usually available to respond to activations.

### **Australian Volunteer Coast Guard**

AVCG operates an offshore rescue boat, and recent efforts have been successful in revitalising the membership in order to be able to provide a voluntary rescue service.

### **Volunteer Emergency Services – All Services**

Numbers are limited in all emergency services, both permanent and volunteer, as is the norm for remote areas, and would need to be supplemented expeditiously in the event of a major incident or disaster occurring in the area.

All voluntary agencies rely on the participation of 'temporary' residents of the NPA, such as police officers, teachers and other government employees to maintain their capacity. Because there is



an average two year turnaround of government personnel, it is difficult for the voluntary agencies to maintain continuity of membership, and continuity of skills maintenance.

## **Medical**

### **Bamaga Hospital**

The hospital has a capacity of ten inpatient beds and four emergency beds. Outpatients' services are provided daily, along with emergency care, general medicine, and antenatal services.

The hospital provides a 24/7 service, but for 14.5 hours a day generally operates with only 1 RN on duty and another on call. The staffing establishment allows for two doctors to be employed at the hospital, but this is not always the case. A significant emergency would rely on other staff being recalled to duty. Normally there is another 4-5 registered nursing staff on the roster. This limits the hospital's ability to respond and its ability to support QAS off site. Some weekends and out of hours the only doctor on call is a medical officer from Thursday Island.

Two of the senior staff have private satellite telephones, the hospital is equipped with a QAS two-way radio, and the facility has two separate video conferencing terminals.

In an event involving multiple serious casualties the hospital might have the physical space to cope but may not have enough staff or equipment. If the need was to stabilise and then medivac promptly there would be potential for good clinical outcomes, but the inability to transfer seriously injured people to other health facilities quickly may compromise clinical outcomes.

### **Mortuary Capacity**

Bamaga Hospital 4

### **Primary Health Centres**

There is a Queensland Health Primary Health Care Centre in each of the five communities within the Northern Peninsula Area. These centres provide Community Health; Family Support; Quality Lifestyle; Environmental Health; Diabetic Educator and Child Health Services.

### **Community Service Organisations**

There are several community service organisations within the Northern Peninsula Area, providing such services as:

- Counselling
- Support, information, advocacy
- Referrals
- Community education and awareness
- Crisis care for women and children escaping domestic and family violence

## **Hazardous Sites**

There are no designated Major Hazard Facilities( under the Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act 2001) within the boundary of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council.

There are, however, a number of sites where dangerous goods are stored in significant quantities:

- Bulk fuel depots;
- Retail fuel outlets;
- Swimming Pool complex;
- Bulk LPG gas suppliers;

Although it is considered that an incident involving an emergency response to any of these sites would be adequately managed by the statutory emergency services with the resources normally available to them, the activation of part (or parts) of the Local Disaster Management Plan may assist the responding agencies.

Such activities may include: Evacuation; Evacuation Centre Management.

## **Proposed Future Development**

Future development proposals are taken into consideration during hazard and risk assessments of the Region. There are currently a number of housing developments either under way or in the planning stages.

Council has also submitted a list of projects to the Major Infrastructure Program that is jointly funded by the Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning, and the Torres Strait Regional Authority, asking for funds for roads, drainage, sewerage, subdivision and coastal protection infrastructure, as well as planning studies.

## **Neighbouring relationships**

### **The Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029**

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council is a signatory, along with Torres Strait Regional Authority, Torres Shire Council and Torres Strait Island Regional Council in a document combining the efforts of all organisations to undertake integrated regional planning to ensure that opportunities and resources are maximized to secure the future of the region and provide adequate, appropriate and coordinated service delivery.

The document outlines the joint intention to address a number of disaster-related issues, including the development of an effective and decisive response to the impact of climate change, including mitigating the impact of tidal inundation and erosion on our communities and natural environment.

### **Torres Cape Indigenous Cape Alliance**

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council is an active member of TCICA.

The Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance represents 11 of Queensland's 16 Indigenous local governments, as well as Torres Shire Council, Cook Shire Council and Weipa Town Authority.

## **Hazards**

Past determinations of the Local Disaster Management Group have identified the following hazards as being relevant in the Northern Peninsula Area Region.

### **Tropical Cyclones**

Information from the Bureau of Meteorology suggests that there have been eight tropical cyclones within a 200 km range of the NPA since 1906. The Bureau has no record of any damage to any of the NPA communities as a result of cyclonic activity.

The area does feel the brunt of cyclonic winds from tropical cyclones further south in the Gulf of Carpentaria, but there is no record of any damage incurred.

### **Flooding**

Flooding is not of significant concern in the Northern Peninsula Area Region.

There is a history of flash flooding in the New Mapoon and Injinoo areas, and there have been instances of minor broader flooding in the past, but nothing which would result in community dislocation or the interruption of services for any extended period.

The biggest issue for the communities of the NPA, with other Cape York communities is the annual flooding of the Peninsula Development Road.

Pavement saturation will be extreme due to the absence of water proofing seal coat and usage needs to be either restricted to light vehicles or the roads remains closed until conditions improve.

## **Severe Storms**

The Northern Peninsula Area Region is subject to severe storms. Storm events can include wind, rain and hail and usually occur between October and March, although they may occasionally occur outside that time frame. Storms can affect all parts of the council area.

Whilst it is possible for the area to experience cyclonic winds, these are infrequent, with most severe winds experienced being due to frontal events or local wind shear associated with severe thunderstorms.

The most intense rainfalls occur during thunderstorms. Heavy rain may cause building damage by water penetration particularly when accompanied by wind damage to roofs, and by overflowing of roof water systems and stormwater pipes which may in turn cause localised erosion.

Increases in extreme storm events as a result of climate change are expected to cause more flash flooding, affecting infrastructure, including water, sewerage and stormwater, transport and communications.

## **Climate Change**

Although climate change of itself is not a hazard, it has the capacity to significantly influence the likelihood and consequences of a number of natural hazards addressed in this document.

### **Impacts of climate change on the Cape York region**

(adapted from *Climate Change in the Cape York Region* - Queensland Office of Climate Change)

Projections for the Cape York region include a slight decline in rainfall with increasing temperature and evaporation, in conjunction with more extreme climate events and sea-level rise. The temperature projections for inaction on climate change suggest a temperature increase well outside the range of temperatures ever experienced over the last 50 years. The projections for temperature and number of hot days are all in the same direction - increasing.

Extreme storm events such as cyclones pose a significant risk to the communities of Cape York. A high proportion of Cape York's population reside in close proximity to the coast, greatly increasing the likely consequence of cyclones. The riskiest areas are those closest to the coast, which can incur flash flooding, wind damage and considerable structural damage from falling trees, affecting industry, infrastructure and roads.

For extensive agriculture, the combination of high rainfall (exceeding 1400 mm per year) and soils that contain very low concentrations of most nutrients essential for plant growth gives rise to low beef productivity in the Cape York region.

Climate change will bring further challenges for this industry, for example:

- Higher temperatures are likely to exacerbate existing problems of poor pasture quality.
- Increased thermal stress of animals is very likely, particularly away from the coastline. This can reduce animal production, reproductive performance and increase mortality.
- Tropical weeds may increase in abundance and distribution.
- Overall it is likely that pastures may decline in quality, with potential for more woody and weed species causing lower animal production.

Sea-level rise will pose a particular challenge for the coastlines and communities of Cape York. During inundation incidents, when a disruption of the water supply may occur, the short-term risk of communicable disease transmission increases. Coastal erosion and storm surges also threaten infrastructure vital to emergency rescues.

Malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases are likely to be affected by changing temperatures, humidity and rainfall. A key concern for those inhabiting the Torres Strait and far north Queensland is the contamination of the local mosquito population by infected people entering the region or wind-born mosquitoes bringing the disease from Papua New Guinea.

## Temperature extremes

Global Climate Models indicate that increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere will increase the likelihood of a record high temperature in a given region. Under a high emissions scenario in 2070 for Weipa (the closest centre to the Northern Peninsula Area referred to in climate change projections, and only 200 km away from the NPA) the number of hot days above 35 °C is projected to increase from 55 days to 189 days.

## Cyclones and sea-level rise

*Risks from Climate Change to Indigenous Communities in the Tropical North of Australia*  
Commonwealth Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

Projections of sea surface temperatures near tropical north Australia indicate an increase of approximately 0.7°C by 2030 and by approximately 1.7°C by 2070. Sea level rise in the tropical north of Australia is expected to be similar to the global average of at least 79 cm by 2100. Sea level rise will have the most significant impact in the short to medium term when it is combined with extreme events such as king tides and storm surges.

Some studies indicate an increase in the proportion of tropical cyclones in the more intense categories, but a possible decrease in the total number.

## Overview of climate projections

<b>Annual and seasonal temperature</b> Annual mean temperature (the average of all daily temperatures within a given year) is projected to increase by 0.8 °C. There is little variation in projections across the seasons. There is little variation in projections across the seasons.	<b>Annual and seasonal temperature</b> Annual temperature will increase by 1.0 °C and 1.7 °C under the low and high emissions scenarios respectively. There is little variation in projections across the seasons.	<b>Annual and seasonal temperature</b> Annual temperature is projected to increase by 1.4 °C and 2.7 °C under the low and high emissions scenarios respectively. There is little variation in projections across the seasons.
<b>Annual and seasonal rainfall</b> No change in the annual rainfall (the total rainfall received within a given year) is projected. The largest seasonal decrease of three per cent (-3 mm) is projected for spring.	<b>Annual and seasonal rainfall</b> Annual rainfall will decrease by one per cent (-9 mm) under both high and low emissions scenarios. The largest seasonal decrease of 12 per cent (-10 mm) under the high emissions scenario is projected for spring.	<b>Annual and seasonal rainfall</b> Annual rainfall is projected to decrease by one per cent (-14 mm) for each emissions scenario. The largest seasonal decrease under a high emissions scenario of 10 per cent (-10 mm) is projected for spring.
<b>Annual and seasonal potential evaporation</b> Across all seasons the annual 'best estimate' increase is projected to be around three per cent (66 mm), with some models projecting up to a five per cent increase in autumn (23 mm), summer (26 mm) and winter (25 mm).	<b>Annual and seasonal potential evaporation</b> Under a high emissions scenario an increase in annual potential evaporation of up to nine per cent (199 mm) is projected with the best estimate being six per cent (133 mm). Autumn, summer and winter are projected to have the greatest increases up to 10 per cent (46 mm, 53 mm and 49 mm respectively).	<b>Annual and seasonal potential evaporation</b> Under a high emissions scenario, annual potential evaporation is projected to increase by as much as 14 per cent (310 mm). Autumn, summer and winter are projected to be the seasons most impacted with increases up to 17 per cent (79 mm, 90 mm and 84 mm respectively) in some models.

## Response to Climate Change in the Northern Peninsula Area

The potential impact of climate change on the frequency and intensity of severe weather events will be factored into the annual reviews of the disaster risk reduction strategies as enumerated in the Local Disaster Management Plan.

- The risk of bushfire is predicted to rise as result of the hotter, drier conditions associated with climate change.
- Due to the impact of climate change there will be an increase in the number of high fire danger days.
- An informed public can add significantly to the protection of life and property during bushfire.
- Using the food and accommodation providers and Council's offices as vehicles to promote awareness and preparedness in the tourist population will also assist in this area, as the time when tourists frequent the Northern Peninsula Area is also the peak fire season.

The risk of increased frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, floods or severe storms will be addressed by the Local Disaster Management Group via community awareness campaigns approaching the storm/cyclone season annually. The community awareness campaigns will operate in concert with the regular information provided at that time by Emergency Management Queensland.

### **Wildfire**

A "Bushfire Risk Analysis for Northern Peninsula Area Council", produced by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service in June 2008 indicates a generally low to moderate risk of wildfire in the Region. There are a number of very small areas of high risk in the northernmost areas of the Region.

Fires are common in the period from March to November, and regularly come close to populated areas. Although there is a risk of wildfire throughout the Northern Peninsula Area, it is not considered to be of a level of severity which would necessitate the activation of the disaster management system to coordinate a response in relation to an outbreak.

### **Structural or Industrial Fire**

There may be physical, public health or environmental risks as a result of a fire at any of the following facilities:

- Fuel depot at the Northern Peninsula Area Airport < 40,000 litres of avgas
- Refuel truck 14000
- BP fuel depot, Seisia < 30,000 litres of ULP and <25,000 litres of diesel
- BP Bamaga <25,000 litres of ULP and <45,000 litres of diesel; 3 x 190 kg bottles of LPG
- Ampol, Injinoo <10,000 litres of ULP and <15,000 litres of diesel
- SeaSwift compound <9,000 litres of ULP in portable fuel storage containers
- Ergon power station, Bamaga < 424,000 litres of diesel.

### **Hazardous Materials Events**

No large Hazardous Material/Dangerous Goods Storage sites have been identified in the NPA that fall under the definition as per the Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act 2001.

The lack of heavy industry in the Northern Peninsula Area means that there are few hazardous materials either stored or being transported through the Region, with the obvious exception of petrol and diesel fuel.

Hazardous materials are transported into the Northern Peninsula Area via sea transport and offloaded at the wharf facilities in Seisia.

Transportation and storage regulations, individual company policies and procedures and emergency services contingency response plans are in place to safeguard the population and the environment from accidental exposure to any hazardous chemicals, but their presence in and transportation through residential areas is nevertheless a risk to the community. Response to a serious event involving significant chemical hazards would require mobilisation of resources from outside the Region.

Oil spills and spills of other noxious substances at sea are not coordinated by the Queensland disaster management system, but are managed under national arrangements - *The National Plan*

*to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and other Noxious and Hazardous Substances*, which is managed by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Maritime Safety Queensland.

## **Epidemic / Pandemic**

The risk of an outbreak of disease throughout the population of the Northern Peninsula Area could cause the health system to be taxed to its limits and may involve the isolation and quarantine of large numbers of people for a protracted period.

The prospect of a severe influenza pandemic is real. An influenza pandemic is a disease outbreak that occurs worldwide when:

- a new strain of influenza virus emerges to which no-one is immune;
- the virus causes disease in humans; and
- the virus is easily spread between humans.

In the absence of immunity, a new influenza strain can rapidly spread across the globe, causing epidemics or pandemics, infecting large numbers of people with fatal results.

In 2020 The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, is an ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID 19), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS CoV 2).] The outbreak was first identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020, and a pandemic on 11 March. As of 5 July 2020, more than 11.3 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported in more than 188 countries and territories, resulting in more than 531,000 deaths; more than 6.11 million people have recovered.

The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact, most often via small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing, and talking. The droplets usually fall to the ground or onto surfaces rather than travelling through air over long distances. However, research as of June 2020 has shown that speech-generated droplets may remain airborne for tens of minutes. Less commonly, people may become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching their face. It is most contagious during the first three days after the onset of symptoms, although spread is possible before symptoms appear, and from people who do not show symptoms.

Common symptoms include fever, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath, and loss of sense of smell. Complications may include pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome. The time from exposure to onset of symptoms is typically around five days but may range from two to fourteen days. There is no known vaccine or specific antiviral treatment. Primary treatment is symptomatic and supportive therapy.

Recommended preventive measures include hand washing, covering one's mouth when coughing, maintaining distance from other people, wearing a face mask in public settings, and monitoring and self-isolation for people who suspect they are infected. Authorities worldwide have responded by implementing travel restrictions, lockdowns, workplace hazard controls, and facility closures. Many places have also worked to increase testing capacity and trace contacts of infected persons.

The pandemic has caused global social and economic disruption, including the largest global recession since the Great Depression. It has led to the postponement or cancellation of sporting, religious, political, and cultural events, widespread supply shortages exacerbated by panic buying, and decreased emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases. Schools, universities, and colleges have been closed either on a nationwide or local basis in 172 countries, affecting approximately 98.5 percent of the world's student population. Misinformation about the virus has circulated through social media and mass media. There have been incidents of xenophobia and discrimination against Chinese people and against those perceived as being Chinese or as being from areas with high infection rates.

The Influenza Pandemic 2009 H1N1 (commonly known as swine flu) provided an example of how quickly a pandemic can travel across the world, and affect millions of people.

The influenza strain that is still causing some concern is named H5N1 (also known as avian influenza or bird flu). Since avian influenza broke out in late 2003, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that should the virus mutate and be easily transferred from human to human, the world could be facing an influenza pandemic with significant consequences.

The outbreak of an epidemic or pandemic would outstretch the medical resources of the region, and given that the impacted area may very well be at a state-wide level, there would be minimal likelihood of external assistance.

Other diseases of concern include dengue fever which is a viral infection transmitted by the mosquito. Dengue is not endemic (i.e. naturally occurring in north Queensland). The dengue mosquito is common in north Queensland and outbreaks can occur when the virus is transmitted to the local mosquito population in north Queensland by infected international travellers or residents returning home from overseas.

Dengue is endemic in over 100 countries worldwide and is found primarily in urban settings in the tropics. Between 50 and 100 million cases of dengue are reported around the world each year and over 2.5 billion people are at risk of infection. Several hundred thousand dengue cases each year result in dengue haemorrhagic fever which usually affects children under 15 years of age. The average fatality rate with dengue haemorrhagic fever is 5%

### **Emergency Animal Disease**

Animal pests and diseases are a major threat to Australia's livestock and poultry industries and an outbreak could impact on our access to export markets and undermine livelihoods.

Australia is currently free of the world's worst animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and avian influenza H5N1, but has been recently impacted by other diseases, such as Equine Influenza.

Far North Queensland was affected by papaya fruit fly from 1995 to 1998. This affected a large range of fruit and vegetable crops. Over 700 growers were affected within a 15,000 square kilometre quarantine area. The incursion cost Queensland industry around \$110 million in lost trade, control, treatment and eradication. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), through the Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy maintains a system of fruit fly traps across northern Australia.

Screw-worm flies could cost close to \$500 million a year nationally in lost production and control measures if they entered Australia. They would have a devastating effect on northern livestock production.

The social, economic and environmental consequences of a Foot and Mouth Disease worst-case scenario outbreak involves key beef and lamb export markets being closed for an extended period. The Productivity Commission estimates that the cost of a Foot and Mouth Disease incursion under this scenario would be between \$8 billion and \$13 billion of gross domestic product and its consequences would be felt nationally for nearly 10 years after the event. It would be crippling for the livestock industry. Although regarded as a low risk, it is possible that an outbreak of an emergency animal disease could be intentional.

### **Emergency Plant Disease**

Australia's agricultural industries are fortunate to experience a relative freedom from many pests that adversely affect plant industries worldwide. Maintaining this pest and disease freedom is vital for the ongoing productivity, sustainability and quality of Australia's agricultural industries. The introduction of pests can cause serious production losses to plant industries, jeopardise exports of plants and plant material, and have a significant impact on the environment and economy.

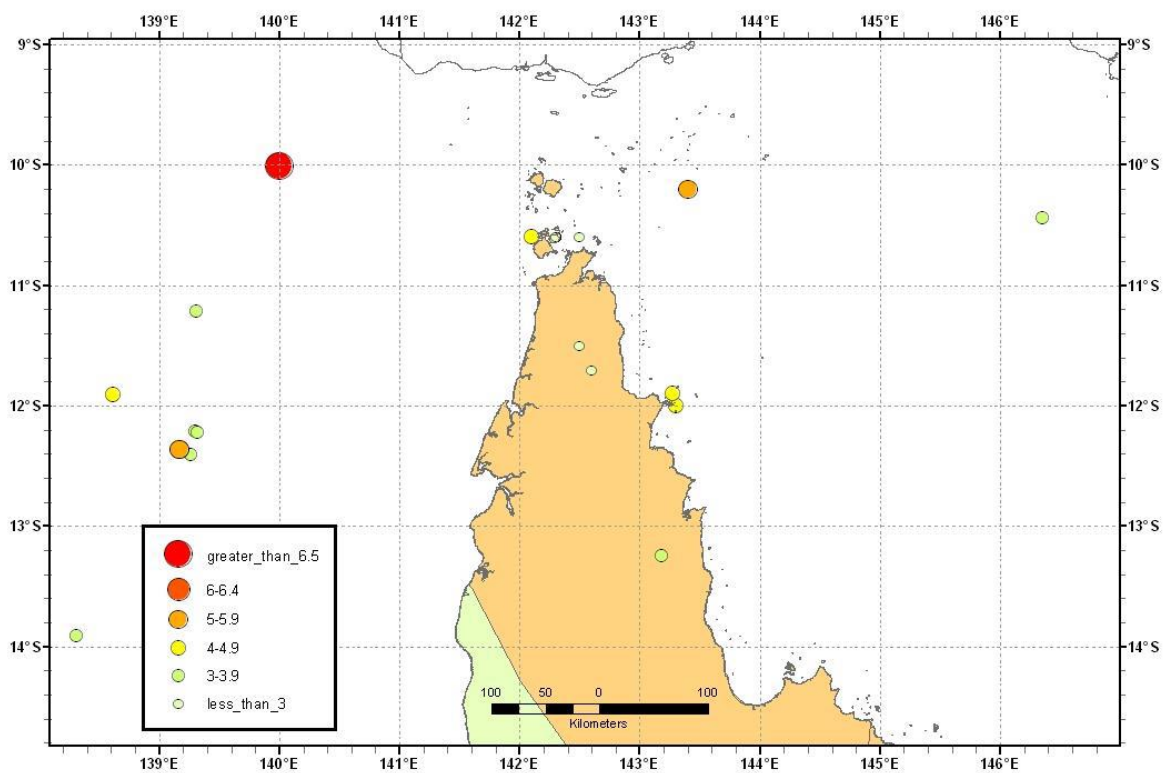
Australia's geographic isolation and lack of shared borders have in the past, provided a degree of natural protection from exotic threats. Australia's national quarantine system also helps prevent the introduction of pests, diseases and weeds that can harm agricultural industries and the environment.

### **Earthquakes**

Earthquakes have not in the immediate past been a major threat in the Northern Peninsula Area. *Recent* historical data exists in relation to tremors, but none has caused any great concern. Notwithstanding, the existence of even a slightly volatile seismic environment acts as a prompt for maintaining situational awareness of the threat, and its possible consequences.

The following table represents a sample of the *recorded* earthquakes to occur in or within the near vicinity of the Northern Peninsula Area

Date	Magnitude (Richter Scale)	Location
1910	6.8	Arafura Sea - 250 km WNW of Thursday Island
1924	5.8	Torres Strait - 130 km NE of Thursday Island
1998	5.2	Gulf of Carpentaria - 385 km SW of Thursday Island
1960	4.9	Gulf of Carpentaria - 415 km SW of Thursday Island
1972	4.9	Cape York - 85 km WSW of Lockhart River
2007	4.8	Coral Sea - 70 km NE of Lockhart River
1921	4.5	Gulf of Carpentaria - 540 km SW of Thursday Island
1990	4.5	Cape York - 180 km SE of Thursday Island
1920	4.4	Torres Strait - 130 km NE of Thursday Island
1907	4.3	Torres Strait - 6 km W of Friday Island
1923	4.0	Cape York - 200 km SE of Thursday Island
1994	3.5	Arafura Sea - 345 km WSW of Thursday Island
1912	2.2	Torres Strait - 137 km ENE of Thursday Island
1932	2.0	Torres Strait - 30 km E of Thursday Island



## Major Infrastructure Failure

One of the most serious issues facing disaster managers in the 21st century is society's dependence upon technology. The same technology which makes life easier for all, and which everyone takes for granted when it is functioning as planned, has the potential to fail, for a variety of reasons, with potentially devastating consequences.

There is the potential for a "ripple effect", where the failure of one essential service may lead to progressive failures of other essential services – eg loss of power would lead to loss of communications, loss of reticulated water supply, loss of sewage treatment capability, etc.

All forms of electronic communication would be affected, affecting such diverse areas as banking and commerce (no automatic teller machines or EFTPOS availability) the transport sector (airline bookings, radar, air traffic control), television, the internet and telephone systems in all businesses and government offices (all spheres of government).



It is important to note that it is probable that the problem will not only affect this area, but would probably have state-wide and possibly national consequences, resulting in a lack of external support capacity.

### **Major Transportation Event**

The potential for a major event involving the transport system is real. There are commercial flights into Bamaga Airport from Cairns on a daily basis, with passenger loads of up to 36 plus crew. Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, as the owner/operator of the airport has developed an Aerodrome Emergency Plan in accordance with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Regulations.

A regular passenger ferry service operates between Thursday Island and Seisia. A significant marine event would severely stretch the capacity of the community to respond.

The Peninsula Development Road is the main arterial route between the NPA and the south, and carries significant traffic numbers of all classes, including heavy transports (road trains), passenger coaches and private vehicles.

Any type of transportation incident involving multiple casualties would significantly stretch the emergency services capacity within the Region.

### **Terrorist Act**

It is possible that a terrorist act may occur in the region, but it is more likely that such an act could occur elsewhere, but have an effect in the Northern Peninsula Area.

The response to a terrorist event will be managed under separate arrangements, but any community consequences resulting from the event may well be managed using parts of this Plan, such as Evacuation, Evacuation Centre Management, Community Support or Recovery Sub-Plans.

## Risk Assessment

In May 2012, members of the Northern Peninsula Area Local Disaster Management Group, along with various community members came together to undertake a hazard and risk analysis of disaster events and their potential impact on the Northern Peninsula Area. The process took into consideration previous risk management studies of the five communities which now comprise the amalgamated local government area, and the potential impact of climate change on the risks.

A risk assessment process (based on the premise of AS/NZS ISO3100:2009 and the Department of Emergency Services document: the '*Guide to Disaster Risk Management in Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities*') was applied to the hazards identified as potentially having an impact on the people, the environment, the economy, public administration, social setting and infrastructure of the Northern Peninsula Area.

This process identified the risks emanating from each hazard, using Likelihood Descriptors, Risk Descriptors and a Qualitative Analysis Matrix.

### Likelihood Table

How often could it happen?	
A	Could happen at least once a year
B	Could happen in each generation
C	Could happen in my lifetime
D	Could happen, but probably not in my lifetime
E	Not much chance that it would ever happen

### Consequence Table

What might be the result?		
1	Slight	Nobody hurt, houses and possession OK, low cost, most services working normally.
2	Small	A few people need slight first aid treatment, some pets lost, a few personal possessions damaged, slight house damage, a few people may need to move to other houses until the hazard passes, occasional disruption to some services, nearly all things can be handled by the community and council.
3.	Medium	Some people need medical treatment for injuries, a few houses have damage that can be fixed within the community, some services fail, council enterprises stop working normally, numbers of people are worried.
4	Large	A few lives may be lost, many serious injuries, numbers of houses badly damaged, many people homeless, large costs, damage to culture and traditions, many Community services not working, evacuation likely, external help needed.
5	Huge	The community cannot work properly, many lives lost and many serious injuries, most houses and other buildings wrecked or badly damaged, major failures of community services, huge costs, people scared and really worried, fear for traditional community survival, evacuation probable, people may leave the community for good, long term counselling of the community members needed, massive recovery effort needed. Almost all recovery resources must come from outside the community.

## Qualitative Risk Matrix

Consequence Likelihood	Slight 1	Small 2	Medium 3	Large 4	Huge 5
A Each year at least	H	H	E	E	E
B Each generation	M	H	H	E	E
C In my lifetime	L	M	H	E	E
D Not in my lifetime, but likely	L	L	M	H	E
E Not much chance	L	L	M	H	H

The 'likelihood' of the risk was based upon the chances of the event actually happening. To decide upon the Level of Risk, the pre-determined levels of likelihood and consequence were combined, using the above table.

For example, if a risk was decided to be 'In my lifetime' and the consequences of that risk are "Minor", then use of the table shows that the Level of Risk is "Low".

If a risk was decided to be 'In my lifetime' and the consequences of that risk are "Major", then use of the table shows that the Level of Risk is "High"

## Risk Register

The identified risks are recorded in a Community Risk Register (see Annex B) and are reviewed by Council for any necessary attention.

The recommended risk treatment strategies are recorded in the same Annex

As mentioned earlier in this document, the hazard and risk assessment and risk treatment options should be reviewed annually.

## Capacity Building

### Community Awareness

Part of the role of the Local Disaster Management Group is 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; (DMA s.30(e)).

To that end, the LDMG will undertake a continual community awareness program, encompassing the following activities:

- Community awareness via the coordination and facilitation of school visits from member organisations of the LDMG
- Provision of a community awareness and preparedness campaign to highlight the emergency animal and plant disease risk in the area

- Provision of a community awareness and preparedness campaign to highlight the severe weather risk in Northern Peninsula Area and to encourage individual members of the community and business owners to have their own disaster/emergency plans in place
- Provision of a community awareness and preparedness campaign to highlight the public health risk from a human epidemic/pandemic in the area and to encourage individual migratory action.
- Community awareness activities will be reported on at each meeting of the LDMG, and will be included in the LDMG Annual Report.
- The current version of this document will be available at Council's customer service centres and on the NPARC web page.

## **Training**

In accordance with the provisions of the QLD Disaster Management Training Framework Version 6.0 the following members of the LDMG are required to undertake disaster management training:

### **Chair and Deputy Chair of the LDMG**

#### **Induction**

Local Disaster Management Group Member Induction

#### **Core Training Courses**

Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements  
Disaster Funding Arrangements

### **Local Disaster Coordinator**

#### **Induction**

Local Disaster Management Group Member Induction  
Local Disaster Coordinator Induction

#### **Core Training Courses**

Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements  
Disaster Management Planning – Module 1  
Disaster Coordination Centre - Module 1  
Introduction to Evacuation  
Recovery - Modules 1 and 2  
Resupply  
Warnings and Alert Systems  
Disaster Funding Arrangements  
Introduction to Emergency Risk Management  
Introduction to Lessons Management

### **LDMG Members**

#### **Induction**

Local Disaster Management Group Member Induction

#### **Core Training Courses**

Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements  
Disaster Management Planning

### **Local Disaster Coordination Centre Staff**

#### **Core Training Courses**

Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements  
Disaster Coordination Centre - Modules

### **Local Disaster Coordination Centre Liaison Officers**

## **Core Training Courses**

Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements  
Disaster Coordination Centre - Modules 1 and 2

## **Local Recovery Coordinator**

### **Induction**

Local Recovery Coordinator Induction

## **Core Training Courses**

Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements  
Recovery Modules 1, 2 and 3

## **Certification of Training**

Participants who successfully complete a course or induction under the Framework will be issued with a Certificate of Achievement and their details will be entered into the Disaster Management Training Database which is maintained by QFES.

The database will be used to report on the completion of training by stakeholders in accordance with their training requirements under the Framework.

The Local Disaster Coordinator will be responsible for training management within the Northern Peninsula Area LDMG, and will ensure that a training register encompassing all involved personnel is commenced and maintained.

Details of training issues (training conducted, training gaps identified, etc.) will be included in the annual report of the LDMG

## **Exercises**

A disaster management exercise is *a scenario-driven activity used primarily to train personnel and test capabilities*. It is low-risk and involves varying degrees of simulation or 'pretending'.

Exercises may be conducted internally, at the instigation of the Local Disaster Coordinator, and with the assistance of personnel from Queensland Fire and Emergency Service. Exercises may also be conducted on a district-wide basis, involving a number of different Local Disaster Management Groups, and managed externally, either by the DDMG or by the State Disaster Coordination Centre in Brisbane.

## **Discussion Exercises**

### **Orientation Seminar**

The 'walk through' - especially for inductees

### **Agency Presentation**

Prepare an agency specific action plan and present it in plenary.

### **'Hypothetical'**

Responses may be prepared in groups, in plenary, or under the guidance of a facilitator who maintains the pace and asks probing questions (the 'hypothetical'). A cost effective and highly efficient exercise method that might be conducted in conjunction with a field exercise as part of a series.

## **Table Top Exercise**

Indoor discussion exercises. May feature a model of the area on which a prepared scenario is played out, or simply using a projected map. The model or map is used to illustrate the deployment of resources, but no resources are actually deployed

## **Field Exercises**

### **Operational Exercise**

An exercise in which emergency management organisations and agencies take action in a simulated situation, with deployment of personnel and other resources, to achieve maximum realism. It is conducted on the ground, in real time but under controlled conditions, as though it were a real emergency. A full scale (or Field) exercise might be characterised by some, or all, of: noise, realism, stress, heat and real time. This is resource and cost intensive.

### **Evaluating the exercise**

In determining whether an exercise achieved its original aim, it is important to evaluate to what extent the exercise objectives were met and how the exercise was conducted generally. At the conclusion of an exercise it is also important that debriefs are conducted to capture issues and areas for improvement.

It is recommended that the LDMG consider the use of hot debriefs, conducted immediately following participants' involvement in the exercise; and a more detailed After Action Review conducted within a few days of the exercise, to allow participants time to provide a more considered view of the exercise.

When feedback is being collected it is important to consider issues and action items in two separate categories:

Exercise design and conduct – issues and feedback relating to the exercise format, design and conduct. This feedback will help to inform the design and conduct of future exercises.

Achievement of exercise objectives – the exercise evaluation process should examine to what extent the exercise objectives were achieved. Any gaps or issues identified during this process can be reported as 'findings'. Tabling these findings allows for the development of appropriate treatment options designed to address identified gaps and issues. Exercise findings and treatment options should then be captured in a wider Post-Exercise Report.

Details of exercises (activities conducted, training gaps identified, etc.) will be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of the LDMG.

## Post Disaster Assessment

### Post-Disaster Operational Review

#### Debriefing

Debriefing is a valuable tool in the ongoing improvement of disaster management. Effectively undertaken, debriefing will identify areas of concern in the existing planning or response arrangements, as well as identifying areas of appropriate activity.

There are two different levels of debriefing activity, for two distinct purposes.

- Hot Debrief
- Post-Event Operational Debrief

#### Hot Debrief

This 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.

Multiple hot debriefs during protracted operations may be appropriate to identify significant issues and provide prompt solutions for immediate implementation - in protracted operations, hot debriefs are to be conducted daily. Debriefs are to be conducted by the Local Disaster Coordinator.

#### Post-Event Operational Debrief

Post event debrief is a more formalised debrief of the event by the Local Disaster Management Group, conducted days or weeks after an operation, when participants have had an opportunity to take a considered view of the effectiveness of the operation.

Ideally this debrief should occur after each participating agency has had the opportunity to have a single agency debrief of the activity.

The LDMG may consider having the debrief facilitated by an independent person or organisation.

An effective debrief will:

- seek constructive information from those being debriefed
- analyse the operation to determine what went right, what went wrong and why without trying to apportion blame
- acknowledge good performance
- focus on improving planning and procedures
- record relevant information to enable reports to be compiled;

The debrief should address:

- What happened during the event
- Areas which were handled well
- Areas where the coordination or the response could be improved
- Identified areas for amendment of plans, procedures, or training programs

The required amendment to documentation should be included in the regularly programmed review of the Local Disaster Management Plan.

A Post Event Operational Review Report should be completed in association with the DDC, and any perceived gaps in capacity or process should be addressed in the ongoing disaster management program.

## Response Strategy

### Warning Notification and Dissemination

Warnings are issued from a number of sources in connection with a number of hazardous situations:

Severe Weather Event	Bureau of Meteorology
Hazardous Materials Incident	Queensland Police Service or Queensland Fire and Emergency Service.
Public Health	Queensland Health, Trillity Water or Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Officers (water/wastewater/environmental health)
Major Infrastructure Failure	The owner of the facility - eg Trillity Water, Ergon, etc.
Wildfires	Queensland Fire & Emergency Service (Rural)
Animal or Plant Disease	Biosecurity Queensland
Space Debris Re-entry	Queensland Fire & Emergency Service
Potential Terrorism Threat	Queensland Police Service

Many of these warnings are disseminated directly to members of the public via mass media communications systems.

It is the role of the Local Disaster Management Group to ensure that the community is in the best position to receive the information contained in the warnings, and to have the best possible situational awareness to enable them to take appropriate action in relation to any event by which they may be affected.

Further details are addressed in the Public Information & Warning Sub Plan

### Activation

The Chairperson of the LDMG is responsible for the decision to activate the LDMG, in consultation with the Local Disaster Coordinator as required.

Should the Chairperson be unavailable, the Deputy Chairperson of the LDMG is responsible for the decision. Should neither of the above members of Council be available, the decision may be taken by the Local Disaster Coordinator, who will advise the Chair, LDMG as soon as is practicable.

The four levels of activation are:

#### Alert

A heightened level of vigilance due to the possibility of an event in the area of responsibility. Some action may be required however the situation should be monitored by someone capable of assessing the potential of the threat.

#### Lean Forward

An operational state prior to 'stand up' characterised by a heightened level of situational awareness of a disaster event (either current or impending) and a state of operational readiness. Disaster coordination centres are on standby; prepared but not activated.

#### Stand Up

The operational state following 'lean forward' whereby resources are mobilised, personnel are activated and operational activities commenced. Disaster coordination centres are activated.

#### Stand down

Transition from responding to an event back to normal core business and/or recovery operations. The event no longer requires a coordinated response.



## ACTIVATION RESPONSE MODEL

Level of activation	Definition
Alert	A heightened level of vigilance and preparedness due to the possibility of an event in the area of responsibility. Some action may be required and the situation should be monitored by staff capable of assessing and preparing for the potential hazard.
Lean Forward	An operational state prior to 'Stand Up', characterised by a heightened level of situational awareness of a disaster event (either current or impending) and a state of operational readiness. Disaster coordination centres are on standby – prepared but not activated.
Stand Up	The operational state following 'Lean Forward' where resources are mobilised, personnel are activated and operational activities commenced. Disaster coordination centres are activated.
Stand Down	Transition from responding to an event back to normal core business and/or recovery operations. The event no longer requires a coordinated operational response.

### Local Disaster Coordination Centre

The Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Local Disaster Coordination Centre is situated in the boardroom of the Bamaga office of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Lot 180 Adidi Street, Bamaga. This facility is supported by a Generator.

The reserve disaster coordination centre for the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council is the Council Office in Mapoon.

Details of the capacities and operations of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre are included in the Disaster Coordination Centre Sub-Plan.

### Concept of Operations for Response

#### Operational Reporting

Agency Situation Reports will be submitted at intervals as determined by the LDC from the member agencies of the Local Disaster Management Group in order to ensure that the Disaster Coordination Centre maintains complete situational awareness.

LDMG Situation Reports will be submitted on a regular basis to the DDC, Cairns.

Such reports will be required at times stipulated by the DDC Cairns, and will be in the format as prescribed in the LDCC Sub-Plan.

#### Financial Management

There is a need for Council and other responding agencies to manage specific internal financial arrangements in support of a disaster event, and the eventual financial claiming process to recoup funds.

This area has been addressed via the development of an advisory Financial Management Sub-Plan which addresses a number of issues in relation to disaster financial arrangements.

There are two sets of financial arrangements which, if activated by the Minister, provide financial support to Queensland communities impacted by a disaster event through the reimbursement of eligible expenditure:

#### State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA)

The intent of the SDRA is to assist in the relief of communities whose social wellbeing has been severely affected by a disaster event (natural or non-natural). The SDRA is State funded, and therefore not subject to the Australian government imposed event eligibility provisions or activation threshold. As a consequence, SDRA is able to address a wider range of disaster events and circumstances where personal hardship exists.

## **Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DRFA)**

The intent of the DRFA is to assist the relief and recovery of communities whose social, financial and economic wellbeing has been severely affected by a disaster event. The arrangements provide a cost sharing formula between the State and Australian Government and include a range of pre-agreed relief measures.

Eligible disasters under DRFA include: Cyclone, Flood, Landslide, Meteor Strike, Storm, Bushfire, Storm Surge, Terrorist Event, Tsunami, Tornado and Earthquake. Drought, frost, heatwave, epidemic events relating from poor environmental planning, commercial development or personal intervention are not eligible events under DRFA.

To claim for expenditure reimbursement under SDRA or DRFA arrangements, the relevant arrangements must be activated;

- the relevant relief measures must be activated and the expenditure must meet the eligibility requirements of that measure; and
- documentary support for all eligible expenditure detailed in the claim must be provided by the claimant.

## **Media Management**

A Public Information and Warnings Sub-Plan has been developed to provide for the effective collection, monitoring, management and dissemination of accurate, useful and timely information and warnings to the public during and after disaster events.

## **Accessing Support and Allocation of Resources**

While the Northern Peninsula Area LDMG has available to it the combined resources of all of its member agencies to apply to the response to an event, there will be times when the resources available will be either insufficient or inappropriate.

Where the LDMG requires logistics support and/or resources to meet operational requirements that are beyond local capacity and capability, the LDMG should formally seek assistance through a Request for Assistance forwarded to the DDCC.

The DDCC will provide the resource as requested, and the LDMG will be responsible for the management of that resource at local level.

Resources in this context may include human resources, encompassing response personnel and disaster coordination personnel. It should be noted, however that the management of the response to the event will always remain the responsibility of the LDMG.

## **Disaster Declaration**

Where there is a requirement for a person or a class of persons to exercise the additional powers available under the provisions of s.77 of the Act, the District Disaster Coordinator may with the approval of the Minister, declare a disaster situation for the Disaster District or a part of the Disaster District (and, by extension the Northern Peninsula Area Region or a part of the Region).

The District Disaster Coordinator should take reasonable steps to consult with Council prior to any declaration.

There is also provision for the Premier of Queensland and the Minister for Emergency Services to declare a Disaster Situation for the State or a part of the State.

The chairperson of the State Disaster Management Group or the District Disaster Coordinator only may authorise the exercise of additional powers.

The declaration of a disaster situation does not affect Council's responsibilities in relation to the coordination of the response to and recovery from the disaster event.

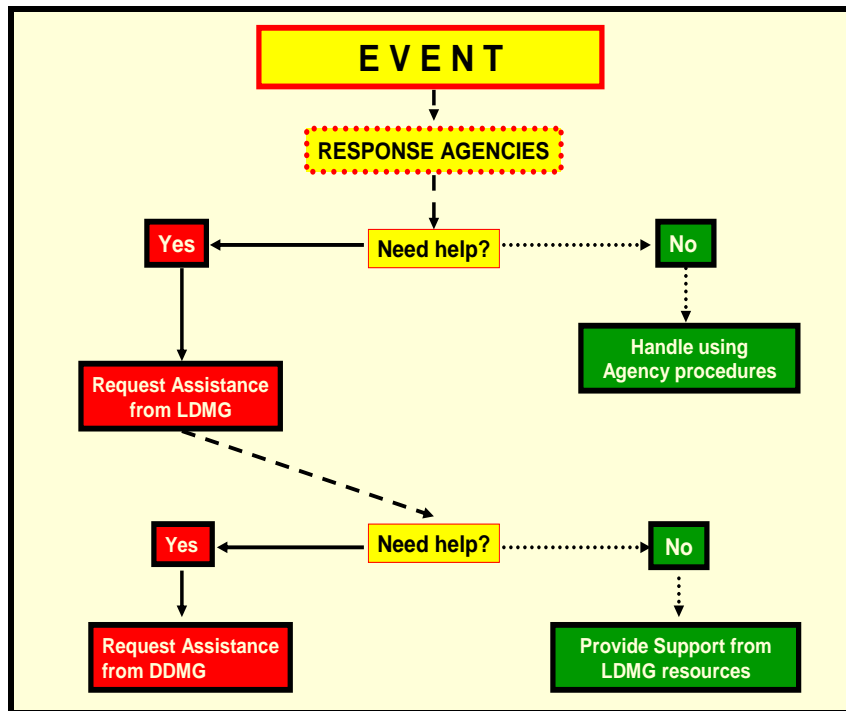
## **Resupply**

The LDMG is responsible for the management of and community education and awareness in relation to the resupply of isolated communities and isolated rural properties.

Further details are addressed in the Resupply Operations Sub-Plan

### Disaster Management Response and Support

The following table depicts the disaster management response (and support) system in operation at local level:



## Hazard Specific Arrangements

The Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements include plans and procedures for specific hazards such as influenza pandemic, animal and plant disease, terrorism and bushfire. Primary agencies are allocated responsibility to prepare for and respond to the specific hazard based on their legislated and/or technical capability and authority. The broader arrangements may be activated to provide coordinated support to the hazard specific arrangements.

The State Disaster Management Plan identifies a number of Specific Hazards which are subject of special planning.

Details of the associated State and National Plans, along with the identified Primary Agency responsible for the development and implementation of these plans are included in the following table.

### Hazard Primary Agency State & National Plans

Specific Hazard	Primary Agency	State and National Plans
Biological (human related)	Queensland Health	State of Queensland Multi-agency Response to Chemical, Biological, Radiological Incidents
Bushfire	Queensland Fire and Emergency Service	Wildfire Mitigation and Readiness Plans (Regional)
Chemical	Queensland Fire and Emergency Service	State of Queensland Multi-agency Response to Chemical, Biological, Radiological Incidents
Influenza Pandemic	Queensland Health	Queensland Pandemic Influenza Plan National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic
Radiological	Queensland Health	State of Queensland Multi-agency Response to Chemical, Biological, Radiological Incidents
Terrorism	Queensland Police Service	Queensland Counter-Terrorism Plan National Counter-Terrorism Plan

## Recovery Strategy

Disaster recovery is the coordinated process of supporting individuals and the community in the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure, restoration of the economy and of the environment, and support for the emotional, social and physical wellbeing of those affected following a disaster event.

The recovery phase of disaster management also involves disaster relief in the provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs to persons affected by, or responding to, a disaster. For this reason, the timely, coordinated establishment of disaster recovery strategies is equally as important as, and should be activated in conjunction with, an effective disaster response.

Examples of recovery strategies include:

- providing relief measures to assist persons affected by the event who do not have resources to provide for their own personal wellbeing
- restoring essential infrastructure in the area or areas affected by the event
- restoring the natural and built environment in areas affected by the event
- providing personal support to individuals affected by the event, including temporary hospital accommodation, emergency medical supplies, material assistance and counselling services;
- building back in a better or more resilient manner
- involving the community in decision making about community enhancement and resilience to minimise future impacts from hazard; and/or supporting community development activities and economic renewal to restore capacity and resilience.

### Functions of Recovery.

The Queensland Recovery Guidelines outline the Queensland government functional lead agency for each of the four functions of recovery. These agencies can support local government during disaster

recovery. The service components of the function are not necessarily delivered by the lead agency. The lead agency works with multiple private and public sector partners working directly with the community and individual families and businesses to effect recovery.

Note: Functional lead agency: Department of State Development Infrastructure and Planning.

### **Economic Recovery**

Renewal and growth of:  
individuals and households (employment, income, insurance claims)  
private and government business enterprises and industry  
assets, production and flow of goods and services to and from the affected area.

Full roles and responsibilities are found at the Queensland Recovery Guidelines:

Note: Functional lead agency: Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

### **Environmental Recovery**

Restoration and regeneration of:  
biodiversity (species and plants) and ecosystems, natural resources  
environmental infrastructure, Amenity/aesthetics (e.g. scenic lookouts)  
culturally significant sites, Heritage structures  
management of: Environmental health, Waste, Contamination and pollution,  
Hazardous Materials.

Full roles and responsibilities are found in the Queensland Recovery Guidelines.

Note: Functional lead agency: Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

### **Human-Social Recovery**

Provision of:  
personal support and information  
public safety and education  
emergency accommodation  
immediate financial assistance  
uninsured household loss and damage  
recovery of: physical health emotional, psychological, spiritual, cultural and social wellbeing

Full roles and responsibilities are found at the Queensland Recovery Guidelines:

Note: Functional lead agency: Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

### **Roads and Transport Recovery.**

repair and reconstruction of public roads  
repair and reconstruction of aviation services  
repair and reconstruction of maritime services

## **Buildings Recovery**

repair and reconstruction of public buildings and residences  
temporary accommodation solutions  
coordination and oversight of private, commercial, industrial building and rural building repair, reconstruction and recovery.

Full roles and responsibilities are found in the Queensland Recovery Guidelines:

Note: Functional lead agency: Buildings: Department of Housing and Public Works.

Provision of: transportation infrastructure (road, marine) repair, reconstruction and recovery.

Functional lead agency: Transport and Roads: Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR)

Provision of: systems, services (energy, communications) and other essential services repair, reconstruction and recovery.

Functional lead agency: Utilities: Ergon, Telstra,

Provision of: water supply & sewage repair, reconstruction and recovery.

Functional lead agency: Local government and water supply providers

## **Recovery Strategy Governance arrangements**

The LDMG may establish a Local Recovery Group (LRG) and appoint a Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC) to plan for and manage the recovery phase of disaster management for their local government area on behalf of the LDMG. This group will work with the functional lead agencies to plan for and coordinate recovery operations. Further information on the functions of a LRC is available in section 4.5.4 of the Queensland Recovery Guidelines.

An example of the structure, role and responsibilities of a LRG is available in the Queensland Recovery Guidelines. The LRG is required, in accordance with s4.7 of these Queensland Recovery Guidelines, to conform to governance requirements for LDMG sub-groups.

## **Recovery Plan**

The LDMG will consider the inclusion and development of a Recovery Sub-Plan as part of the LDMP. The recovery strategy contained within the LDMP shall be flexible and scalable to allow for adaptation to different types and sizes of disaster events, as required.

The recovery strategy may:

- address all four functions of recovery (human-social, economic, roads and transport, building environment) and how they will be coordinated during disaster operations
- define broad parameters for effective recovery operations within the local government area
- identify constraints for recovery operations within the local government area
- outline the process for the development of operational and action plans during recovery operations
- identify mechanisms for coordinating and managing offers of assistance and volunteers in order to match needs with offers.

These arrangements may include administrative requirements such as SITREPs, financial requirements, decision making and endorsement. Plans should also identify the scope of possible disaster recovery operations and the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the process for short, medium and long term recovery requirements.

The Recovery Sub-Plan shall address the requirements to coordinate the process of supporting affected communities in the reconstruction of physical infrastructure, restoration of the economy and of the environment, and support for the emotional, social and physical wellbeing of those affected by disaster events.

Contents of the Recovery Sub-Plan may include the establishment and governance of LRG, activation of LRG; appointment of LRC; community engagement and communication; economic recovery action plan; environmental recovery action plan; human-social recovery action plan; infrastructure recovery action plan; and debrief and evaluation.

As outlined in the 'Activation of Response Arrangements' section of the Queensland Local Disaster Management Guidelines, the QDMA are activated using an escalation model based on the following levels:

**Alert**  
**Lean forward**  
**Stand up**  
**Stand down.**

Local recovery arrangements should be activated to 'alert' once the 'response' phase has reached the 'lean forward' level of activation and should continue to follow the response phase through the levels of activation. Depending on the nature, location and size of the event, recovery operations may be managed at either the local level, or through a combination of local and district arrangements.

Local groups should consider how the DDMG and functional lead agencies will work together to accomplish recovery operations for an affected area.

## Recovery Activation Matrix

Status	Triggers	Actions	Communications
<b>Alert</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response phase at 'lean forward' level of activation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointment of LRC as appropriate.</li> <li>Potential actions and risks identified.</li> <li>Information sharing commences.</li> <li>LRC in contact with LDCC/LDC.</li> <li>Initial advice to all recovery stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LRC and LRG members on mobile remotely.</li> </ul>
<b>Lean Forward (Stand By)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response phase at 'stand up' level of activation.</li> <li>Immediate relief arrangements are required during response phase.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of response arrangements.</li> <li>Analysis of hazard impact or potential impact.</li> <li>Relief and recovery planning commences.</li> <li>Deployments for immediate relief commenced by recovery functional agencies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LRC and LRG members on mobile and monitoring email remotely.</li> <li>Ad hoc reporting.</li> </ul>
<b>Stand Up (Activate)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate relief arrangements continue.</li> <li>Response phase moves to 'stand down' level of activation. Medium term recovery commences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LRG activated at LDCC or alternate location.</li> <li>Recovery plan activated.</li> <li>Deployments for immediate relief response.</li> <li>Action plans for four functions of recovery activated as required.</li> <li>Community information strategy employed.</li> <li>Participate in response debrief.</li> <li>Transition arrangements from 'response and recovery' to 'recovery' activated including handover from LDC to LRC.</li> <li>Action plans for four functions of recovery continue.</li> <li>Community information strategies continue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LRC and LRG members present at LDCC or alternate location, on established land lines and/or mobiles, monitoring emails.</li> <li>LRC and LRG members involved in medium term recovery continue as required.</li> <li>Regular reporting to LDMG/LDC.</li> </ul>
<b>Stand Down</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LRG arrangements are finalised.</li> <li>Communities return to normal activities with ongoing support as required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidate financial records.</li> <li>Reporting requirements finalised.</li> <li>Participate in recovery debrief.</li> <li>Participate in post event debrief.</li> <li>Post event review and evaluation.</li> <li>Long term recovery arrangements transferred to functional lead agencies.</li> <li>Return to core business.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LRC and LRG members resume standard business and after hours contact arrangements.</li> <li>Functional lead agencies report to LRC/LRG as required.</li> </ul>



## Local Disaster Management Sub Plans

Sub Plans have been developed for a number of disaster management functions, and are included as Annexes to this document:

- A1 Activation of the LDMG
- A2 Community Support
- A3 Disaster Coordination Centre
- A4 Disaster Recovery (**Not yet Drafted**)
- A5 Evacuation
- A6 Financial Management (**not yet Drafted**)
- A7 Initial Impact & Needs Assessment
- A8 Public Health
- A9 Public Information & Warnings
- A10 Public Works & Engineering (**Not yet Drafted**)
- A11 Resupply Operations
- A12 Transport & Logistics(**Not yet Drafted**)
- A13 NPA Pandemic Plan

## Definitions

Advisor	A person invited to participate in the business of a disaster management group in an advisory capacity on an as-required basis.
Alert	A heightened level of vigilance due to the possibility of an event in the area of responsibility. Some action may be required however the situation should be monitored by someone capable of assessing the potential of the threat.
Chair	The person appointed by the local government as the Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group.
Chief Executive	The chief executive of the department, as referred to in the Disaster Management Act 2003, is currently the Commissioner of QFES.
Community	A group of people with a commonality of association and generally defined by location, shared experience, or function.
Community Resilience	The adaptive capacity of its members to respond to and influence the consequences of disasters to continue an acceptable level in functioning and structure (Adapted from the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; 2002 and The Community Resilience Manual, Canada, 2000)
Coordination	The bringing together of organisations to ensure effective disaster management before, during and after an event. It is primarily concerned with systematic acquisition and application of resources (people, material, equipment, etc.) in accordance with priorities set by disaster management groups. Coordination operations horizontally across organisations and agencies.
Coordination centre	A facility established at State, district or local level as a centre of communication and coordination during times of disaster operations.
Deputy Chair	The person appointed by the local government as the Deputy Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group.
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 to recover from the disruption (Disaster Management Act 2003).
Disaster District	Part of the state prescribed under a regulation as a disaster district.
District Disaster Coordinator	A person appointed under the Disaster Management Act 2003 who is responsible for the coordination of disaster operations in the disaster district for the District Disaster Management Group.
District Disaster Management Group	The group established under the Disaster Management Act 2003 to provide coordinated State government support and resources to Local Disaster Management Groups.
District Disaster Management Plan	A plan prepared under the Disaster Management Act 2003 that document planning and resource management to counter the effects of a disaster within the disaster district.
Disaster management	Arrangements about managing the potential adverse effects of an event, including, for example, arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering a disaster (Disaster Management Act 2003)
Disaster management functions	The services essential to managing the impacts and consequences of an event.
Disaster mitigation	The taking of preventative measures to reduce the likelihood of an event occurring or, if an event occurs, to reduce the severity of the event (Disaster Management Act 2003)
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 an event (Disaster Management Act 2003)
Disaster preparedness	The taking of preparatory measures to ensure that, if an event occurs, communities, resources and services are able to cope with the effects of the event (Disaster Management Act 2003)

Disaster research	May be broadly understood as a systematic inquiry, before and after a disaster, into a relevant disaster management problem (COAG, Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements: 2002)
Disaster 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 (Disaster Management Act 2003)
Disaster response capability	The ability to provide equipment and a suitable number of persons, using the resources available to the local government, to effectively deal with, or help another entity to deal with, an emergency situation or a disaster in the local government's area (Disaster Management Act 2003)
Disaster response operations	The phase of disaster operations that relates to responding to a disaster (Disaster Management Act 2003)
Disaster recovery	The taking of appropriate measures to recovery from an event, including 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 (Disaster Management Act 2003)
Disaster recovery operations	The phase of disaster operations that relates to recovering from a disaster (Disaster Management Act 2003 )
Disaster relief	The provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs of persons affected by, or responding to, an emergency (COAG, Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements: 2002)
Disaster risk assessment	The process used to determine risk management priorities by evaluating and comparing the level of risk against predetermined standards, target risk levels or other criteria (COAG, Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements: 2002).
Event	Any of the following: (a) A cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, storm tide, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption or other natural happening; (b) An explosion or fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill, or a gas leak; (c) An infestation, plague or epidemic; (d) A failure of, or disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure; (e) An attack against the State; (f) Another event similar to an event mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (e). An event may be natural or caused by human acts or omissions (Disaster Management Act 2003)
Executive Officer DDMG	A person appointed to the position of Executive Officer to the District Disaster Management Group by the Commissioner, Queensland Police Service
Executive Team	The Chair, Deputy Chair and Local Disaster Coordinator of a local group
Functional Lead Agency	An agency allocated responsibility to prepare for and provide a disaster management function and lead organisations that provide support roles. Local Disaster Management Interim Guidelines – Final Draft August 2011
Guidelines	Guidelines are developed under s63 of the Disaster Management Act 2003 to inform the QDMC, DDMGs and local governments about the preparation of disaster management plans, matters to be included in disaster management plans and other appropriate matters about the operation of a DDMG or LDMG.
Hazard	A source of potential harm, or a situation with a potential to cause loss (Emergency Management Australia, 2004)

Lean forward	An operational state prior to 'stand up' characterised by a heightened level of situational awareness of a disaster event (either current or impending) and a state of operational readiness. Disaster coordination centres are on standby; prepared but not activated.
Local Disaster Coordinator	A person appointed under the Disaster Management Act 2003 who is responsible for the coordination of disaster operations for the Local Disaster Management Group.
Local Disaster Management Group	The group established under the Disaster Management Act 2003 to manage disaster planning and operations on behalf of the local government.
Local Disaster Management Plan	A plan that documents arrangements to manage disaster planning and operations within the local government area of responsibility.
Post-disaster assessment	Addresses performance during and the risks revealed by a disaster event in order to improve future development of mitigation measures. Post-disaster assessment forms part of continuous improvement of the whole system (Adapted from COAG, Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming mitigation, relief and recovery arrangements: 2002)
Primary Agency	An agency allocated responsibility to prepare for and respond to a specific hazard based on their legislated and/or technical capability and authority.
Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements	Whole-of-government arrangements to ensure the collaborative and effective coordination of planning, services, information and resources for comprehensive disaster management
Recovery	The taking of preventative measures to recover from an event, including 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 (Disaster Management Act 2003)
Relief	The provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs of persons affected by, or responding to, an emergency. (EMA: Australian Emergency Management Glossary)
Residual risk	The risk remaining after risk treatment. Residual risk can contain unidentified risk. Residual risk can also be known as 'retained risk' (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and guidelines)
Risk	The effect of uncertainty on objectives (ISO Guide 73:2009 Risk management – Vocabulary)
Risk identification	The process of finding, recognising and describing risks (ISO Guide 73:2009 Risk management – Vocabulary)
Risk management	The systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of identifying, analysing, evaluating, treating and monitoring risk (Australian Emergency Management Glossary)
Risk management process	The systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the activities of communicating, consulting, establishing the context, and identifying, analysing, evaluating, treating, monitoring and reviewing risk (ISO Guide 73:2009 Risk management - Vocabulary)
Risk reduction	Risk treatments that deal with negative consequences (ISO Guide 73:2009 Risk management – Vocabulary)
Risk register	A listing of risk statements describing sources of risk and elements at risk with assigned consequences, likelihoods and levels of risk.
Risk treatment	A process to modify risk. Risk treatment can involve avoiding the risk by deciding not to start or continue with the activity that gives rise to the risk; taking or increasing the risk in order to pursue an opportunity; removing the risk source; changing the likelihood; changing the consequences; sharing the risk with another party or parties; and retaining the risk by informed decision (ISO Guide 73:2009 Risk management – Vocabulary)

Serious disruption	Serious disruption means: a. loss of human life, or illness or injury to humans; b. widespread or severe property loss or damage; or c. widespread or severe damage to the environment (Disaster Management Act 2003)
Stand down	Transition from responding to an event back to normal core business and/or recovery operations. There is no longer a requirement to respond to the event and the threat is no longer present.
Stand up	The operational state following 'lean forward' whereby resources are mobilised, personnel are activated and operational activities commenced. Disaster coordination centres are activated.
State Disaster Coordinator	A person appointed under the Disaster Management Act 2003 who is responsible for the coordination of disaster response operations for the State Disaster Management Group.
State Disaster Management Plan	A planning tool for disaster managers which provides an overview of Queensland's disaster management arrangements, including agency roles and responsibilities.
State Recovery Coordinator	A person appointed under the Disaster Management Act 2003 who is responsible for the coordination of disaster recovery operations for the State Disaster Management Group.
Vulnerability	The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact

## Acronyms & Abbreviations

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
DCS	Department of Community Safety
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DDCC	District Disaster Coordination Centre
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
DM	Disaster Management
HazMat	Hazardous materials (in the context of emergency response)
LDC	Local Disaster Coordinator
LDCC	Local Disaster Coordination Centre
LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group
LDMP	Local Disaster Management Plan
LRC	Local Recovery Coordinator
LRG	Local Recovery Group
NDRP	Natural Disaster Resilience Program
DRFA	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
NPARC	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
PPRR	Prevention, preparedness, response and recovery
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Service
QFES (RFS)	Queensland Fire and Emergency Service Rural Fire Service
QPS	Queensland Police Service
QDMA	Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements
QRA	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
RIBS	Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services
SDCC	State Disaster Coordination Centre
SDRA	State Disaster Relief Arrangements
SES	State Emergency Service
SITREP	Situation report

## Annexes

### Annex A - Distribution List

Organisation	Hard Copy	Electronic Copy
<b><u>Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council</u></b>		
Mayor (Chairperson, LDMG)	1	1
Deputy Mayor (D/Chairperson, LDMG)	1	1
Other Elected Representatives		4
CEO (Local Disaster Coordinator)		1
D/CEO (D/Local Disaster Coordinator)		1
Executive Manager Operations		1
Library		1
NPARC Website upload		1
District Disaster Coordinator, Cairns Disaster District	1	1
Emergency Management Coordinator, QFES	1	1
Local Controller, SES		1
First Officer, Rural Fire Service		1
Officer in Charge, Queensland Police Service, Bamaga		1
Officer in Charge, Queensland Ambulance Service, Bamaga		1
Director of Nursing, Bamaga Hospital		1
CEO, NPA Family & Community Services		1
Principal, Northern Peninsula State College		1
Service Manager, Trillity Water		1
DATSIP Manager		1

## Annex B - Risk Register

Hazard	Important Community Item	Risk No.	Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Risk treatment	Recommended	Responsible Agency	Timeline
All Events	Disaster Response Capacity	1	There is a risk that emergency services response to any disaster event will be severely compromised as a result of insufficient communications capacity.	A	1	E	Instigate the resumption of discussions with Telstra and/or Optus in relation to the provision of appropriate mobile telephone coverage for the NPA	Y	NPARC	Immediate
Events happening outside the community	Infrastructure	2	There is a risk that an influx of people as evacuees from outside the area would severely stretch the existing community infrastructure, particularly medical, accommodation, water and sewerage services	C	3	H	Cultural connotations - accept the risk only if the incoming people are extended family from one of the Torres Strait Islands	Y	NPARC LDMG	As required
							Identify possible accommodation for displaced persons as a part of the development of the Evacuation and Community Support planning process	Y	LDMG	August 2012
Disease Pandemic	People	3	There is a risk that people will be affected by a disease pandemic, causing death or severe illness	C	2	H	Public awareness campaign, including specific information for schoolchildren	Y	Qld Health	As Required
	Medical Services	4	There is a risk that medical services will be severely stretched by a disease pandemic	C			Ensure that contingency planning maintained to address potential staffing shortages	Y	Qld Health	As Required
	Economy	5	There is a risk that as a result of becoming ill from a pandemic disease, people will not be able to attend their place of employment	C	1	L	Investigate teleworking as appropriate	Y	All employers	As Required
	People	6	There is a risk that the community may be quarantined in isolation for an extended period.	C	3	H	Ensure social distancing of personnel involved in the receipt and distribution of incoming stores and supplies	Y	Sea Swift Skytrans NPARC	As Required
Emergency Animal Disease	Animals	7	There is a risk that animals could be affected by a number of emergency animal diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, screw-worm fly, Hendra virus, lissa virus	C	3	H	Maintain quarantine initiatives	Y	AQIS	Ongoing
							Maintain the quarantine fence in good order	Y	AQIS	Ongoing
							Investigate the removal of cattle grids from NPA roads	Y	NPARC	Immediate
							Maintain community awareness initiatives	Y	AQIS	Ongoing
							Development and maintenance of a Pest Management Plan	Y	NPARC	Ongoing
Infrastructure Failure - Power	Infrastructure	8	There is a risk of a loss of power for an extended period	B	3	E	Investigate the possibility of solar, wind or tide-generated power as an alternative to or in addition to the current diesel-powered generation system	Y	NPARC	Ongoing
	People	9	There is a risk that the lack of power would result in failure of refrigeration, possibly leading to unsafe food issues	B	3	E	Community awareness campaign in relation to safe food handling and storage	Y	NPARC EHW	As Required
	Infrastructure	10	There is a risk that the lack of power would result in failure of the water treatment and reticulation system, with associated flow-on risks to fire fighting capacity because of lack of water	B	4	E	Provision of appropriate portable generators	Y	QFRS Rural	Immediate
							Identify above-ground water sources	Y	QFRS Rural	Ongoing
							Ensure that QFRS Rural has sufficient pumping capacity to source water from creeks, etc.	Y	NPARC	Ongoing
							Ensure that council water trucks are available to assist as required	Y	NPARC	As Required
		11	There is a risk that the lack of power would result in failure of the sewerage treatment and pumping system	B	3	H	Provision of appropriate portable generators	Y	NPARC	Ongoing
							Develop a public health sub plan, to include community awareness material in relation to safe drinking water	Y	NPARC	Ongoing
		12	There is a risk that the lack of power would result in failure of the telephone system, with associated flow-on to the fax, internet and eftpos systems	B	3	H	Lobby Telstra to ensure that there is back-up power available to the current repeater tower(s)	Y	NPARC	Immediate
							Ensure that there is access to the telecommunications tower generator to maintain fuel supplies	Y	NPARC Telstra	Ongoing
		13	There is a risk that the lack of power would result in failure of radio and television transmission systems, resulting in diminished capacity to inform the community in relation to the event	B	1	M	Develop/maintain a system of community notice boards in prominent positions in each of the communities	Y	NPARC	Ongoing
							Investigate the development/maintenance of a disaster warden system, similar to Neighbourhood Watch to act as an information conduit to and from the community	Y	NPARC LDMG	Ongoing
							Encourage service stations to install portable generator-driven pumping capacity as a part of normal business continuity planning	Y	LDMG	Ongoing
	People	14	There is a risk that the lack of power would result in failure of fuel pumping capacity at service stations	B	1	M	Maintain data in relation to above ground (gravity-fed) fuel supplies	Y	NPARC LDMG	Ongoing
	People	15	There is a risk that the lack of power would result in the loss of electrical lighting cooking appliances, with associated flow-on risk of fires	B	3	H	Community awareness campaign concentrating on fire safety in the home	Y	QFRS Rural	Ongoing
Cyclone	Infrastructure	16	There is a risk of inundation by storm surge	D	5	E	Obtain up to date storm surge data and mapping	Y	NPARC LDMG	Ongoing
							Develop appropriate evacuation planning processes	Y	NPARC LDMG	August 2012
							Develop appropriate community awareness planning processes	Y	NPARC LDMG	Ongoing
	People	17	There is a risk of death or injury from flying debris	C	4	E	Community awareness campaign in relation to safety in cyclones	Y	NPARC LDMG	Ongoing
							Concerted campaign to have residents clean up their yards of anything which may become a missile during cyclonic winds	Y	NPARC LDMG	Ongoing
							Development of a local law requiring building sites to be clear of any loose material which may become a missile during cyclonic winds	Y	NPARC	Immediate
		18	There is a risk of death by drowning	C	4	E	Community awareness campaign in relation to safety in cyclones	Y	NPARC LDMG	Ongoing
		19	There is a risk of death by electrocution	C	4	E				
							Community awareness campaign in relation to safety in cyclones	Y	NPARC LDMG Ergon Energy	Ongoing



		20	There is a risk of social and mental distress in the community	C	3	H	Development of a Community Support sub plan, to include the provision of community support services, including counselling	Y	NPAFCS	August 2012	
		21	There is a risk of looting	C	2	M	Provision of security patrols	Y	Queensland Police	As Required	
		22	There is a risk of break and enters of evacuated homes	C	2	M	Provision of security to evacuated areas	Y	Queensland Police	As Required	
	Infrastructure	23	There is a risk of damage to homes	C	3	H	Homes built prior to 1982 to be retrofitted to meet the new wind load bearing standards	Y	NPARC	Immediate	
							All other homes to be checked for structural integrity and capacity to withstand relevant wind loads	Y			
		24	There is a risk of damage to business properties	C	3	H	Buildings to be checked for structural integrity and capacity to withstand relevant wind loads	Y	Building Owners	Immediate	
		25	There is a risk of damage to Council and government properties	C	3	H	Buildings to be checked for structural integrity and capacity to withstand relevant wind loads	Y	NPARC Dept Housing & Public Works	Immediate	
	26	There is a risk of damage to roads	C	3	H	Ensure that all road construction/repairs/maintenance is completed prior to the onset of the wet season	Y	NPARC DTMR	Annually		
	Cyclone	Environment	27	There is a risk of severe coastal erosion	C	3	H	Investigate the construction of sea walls as appropriate	Y	NPARC	Immediate
			28	There is a risk to severe damage to vegetation	C	3	H	Promote the planting of deep-rooted and/or low-growing plants, while removing plants/trees susceptible to being blown over	Y	NPARC	Ongoing
Flood	People	29	There is a risk of death by drowning	D	4	H	Community awareness of the dangers of entering floodwaters	Y	NPARC	Annually	
						Promote swimming lessons for children	Y	Ed Qld	Ongoing		
	Infrastructure	30	There is a risk that the roads will be closed for longer periods than usual	D	1	L	Maintenance of the Council web page to ensure that tourists are aware of road conditions	Y	NPARC	Ongoing	
		31	There is a risk of damage to buildings	D	1	L	Review town planning and development arrangements to ensure that housing is only permitted in areas not susceptible to flooding	Y	NPARC	Ongoing	
		32	There is a risk of damage to water and sewerage infrastructure	D	3	M	Ensure that pumping and treatment equipment is situated above potential flood level	Y	SunWater	Ongoing	
		33	There is a risk of damage to roads	D	3	M	Ensure that roads are maintained to the optimum possible level	Y	NPARC	Ongoing	
	Culture	34	There is a risk of damage to cemeteries	D	4	H	Investigate potential locations for additional cemetery space in areas not susceptible to high water table inundation of graves	Y	NPARC	Ongoing	
		35	There is a risk of damage to sites of cultural significance	D	4	H	Commence and maintain a register of sites of cultural significance, including GPS data, for the information of disaster response personnel from outside the community	Y	NPARC Traditional Owners	Ongoing	
Bushfire Hazardous Chemical Event	People	36	There is a risk of death or injury to fire-fighters	D	4	H	Provision of appropriate training for Rural Fire Service volunteers	Y	QFRS	Ongoing	
							Provision of appropriate personal protective equipment for Rural Fire Service volunteers				
							Provision of appropriate communications				
		37	There is a risk of death or injury to members of the community	D	4	H	Provision of a community awareness and preparedness campaign to highlight the fire risk in the community and to encourage individual migratory action	Y	QFRS LDMG	Ongoing	
	Infrastructure	38	There is a risk of damage to buildings and infrastructure	D	2	L	Fuel load reduction burning	Y	QFRS NPARC	Ongoing	
							Development and maintenance of fire breaks	Y	QFRS NPARC	Annually	
							Provision of a community awareness and preparedness campaign to highlight the fire risk in the community and to encourage individual migratory action	Y	QFRS LDMG NPARC	Annually	
	People	39	There is a risk of death or injury as a result of an event involving the delivery, decanting, transportation, storage or application of hazardous chemicals, which include various fuels, acids and gases.	C	2	L	Continual operator training and vehicle and equipment maintenance in accordance with legislative requirements	Y	Sea Swift Service station operators	Ongoing	
	Environment	40	There is a risk of damage to the environment as a result of an event involving hazardous chemicals	D	2	L	Provision of bund walls as required at relevant locations	Y	Facility Owners	Ongoing	
Infrastructure	41	There is a risk of damage to buildings by fire as a result of an event involving hazardous chemicals	D	2	L	Provision of safety training and fire suppression equipment	Y	Facility Owners	Ongoing		
						Continual operator training and vehicle and equipment maintenance in accordance with legislative requirements					
Multi Casualty Events	Infrastructure	42	There is a risk that medical and ambulance/rescue services will be severely stretched by a multi casualty event	A	4	E	Investigate the formation of Ambulance First Responder Groups within the broader community	Y	QAS	Ongoing	
							Provision of community first aid courses				
							Provision of specific training to other emergency services personnel;				
		43	There is a risk that there will be insufficient space for the storage of deceased persons following a multi casualty event	A	3	E	Identification of potential alternative storage locations, eg transport freezer containers	Y	QPS	Ongoing	
People	44	There is a risk of a major event involving a tourist coach on the Peninsula Development Road resulting in death or serious injury	A	3	E	Ensure that the potential event is subject of a combined emergency services exercise, to identify specific response and resource capacity issues	Y	QPS QAS	Annually		

		45	There is a risk of a major event involving one of the Thursday Island passenger ferries resulting in death or serious injury	C	3	H	Ensure that the potential event is subject of a combined emergency services exercise, to identify specific response and resource capacity issues	Y	SES QFRS AVCG	Annually
		46	There is a risk of a major event involving a regular air transport passenger flight resulting in death or serious injury	C	3	H	Aerodrome Emergency Plan in place	Y	NPARC	Ongoing
Emergency Plant Disease	Environment	47	There is a risk that plants may be subject to emergency plant disease such as back sigatoka in banana plants	A	1	L	Develop and maintain a Pest Management Plan	Y	NPARC	Ongoing
		48	There is a risk of an infestation of noxious weeds such as parthenium weed which reduces the reliability of improved pasture establishment and reduces pasture production potential	A	1	L				
Noxious Weed Infestation	Environment	49	There is a risk that an infestation of noxious weeds will affect the growth and sustainability of native plants	A	1	L	Develop and maintain a Pest Management Plan	Y	NPARC	Ongoing
		50	There is a risk that an infestation of noxious weeds will promote other pest species such as feral pigs	A	1	L				

## Annex C – Residual Risks

### Residual Risks

Residual risks are the risks which remain after the Local Disaster Management Group has applied the risk mitigation strategies within their capacity, but those strategies have not sufficiently reduced or eliminated the risk.

Residual risks are listed for the information of the District Disaster Management Group, in order that they may consider mitigation strategies not available to the Local Disaster Management Group.

The following table lists the Residual Risks existing within the Northern Peninsula Area LDMG that are transferred to the Cairns District Disaster Management Group:

Hazard	Vulnerable sector	Risk	Residual Risk
Cyclone Cat 1-3	People, infrastructure, environment	There is a risk that emergency services response to any disaster event will be severely compromised as a result of insufficient response capacity, limited infrastructure, resources and isolation.	The Northern Peninsula Area has a limited response capacity, because of its size, dispersed population and isolation.  There are permanent Police and basic medical facilities present in most communities, but these have very limited resources.  State Emergency Service and Rural Fire Service have a small presence. A limited capacity exists to handle minor events; but any medium or large scale impacts will require an expeditious deployment of external emergency services resources therefore this risk will be transferred to the DDMG.
Cyclone Cat 4+	People, infrastructure, environment		
Flood	People, infrastructure, environment		
Storm Surge (Cyclonic)	People, infrastructure, environment		
Bushfire	People, infrastructure, environment		
Earthquake	People, infrastructure, environment		
Tsunami	People, infrastructure, environment		
Terrorist	People, infrastructure		
Hazardous Materials	People, infrastructure, environment		
Marine Oil Spill	Environment		
Disease Pandemic	People		
Shipping/ Boating Accidents	People		

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