



DISASTER
MANAGEMENT



LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Foreword by the Chair, Local Disaster Management Group

The Rockhampton Region is admired for its strength, resilience and ability to embrace and benefit from change. The Region is known for its relaxed lifestyle, outdoor living and natural beauty. The natural landscape that supports the community and economy to thrive also presents natural hazards so when disasters strike harm, loss and disruptions in our communities may result.

The Region is all too familiar with the impacts of natural disasters. They are considered a part of living here and from experience the Region can boast a strong level of resilience, adaptability and can show that lessons learned have been turned into actions to prepare and mitigate by individuals, businesses, organisations, Council and Government agencies.

No two events however are ever the same, and natural hazard risk assessments continue to show that those events we typically see as a threat to our community may not be the threats that pose the greatest risks moving forward. As such it is prudent that we all examine these scenarios and develop strategies to deal with these events.

The Queensland Disaster Management governance arrangements are based on shared responsibility, consultation, collaboration, coordination and communication. Those with a responsibility include all tiers of government, non-government organisations, not-for-profit organisations, disaster management groups, and others with legislated roles in disaster management. Rockhampton Regional Council is committed to ensuring our Region is prepared for any disaster. This is achieved through the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) and by delivering the Local Disaster Management Plan.

There exists a clear role in identifying and understanding the hazards and risks that could impact on the safety of our communities. Our role is to put in place mitigation, preparation, response and recovery strategies and arrangements within the ambit of our resources and responsibility.

The Rockhampton Region Local Disaster Management Group is both experienced and has resources to manage the impacts that will likely occur within the Region and will continue to develop its capabilities. The community also has shared responsibility in the disaster management arrangements. The group will work collaboratively to develop and deliver strategies to assist the community prepare themselves for future events, building resilience in the form of providing education and greater awareness and understanding risks and building capacity to undertake preparedness, response and recovery actions.

On behalf of the Rockhampton Region Local Disaster Management Group, I commend you for taking the time to read this Local Disaster Management Plan and trust that you will assist us in making our communities safe places to live, work and play.



Mayor Tony Williams

Chair

Rockhampton Region Local Disaster Management Group

Authority to Plan

This Plan has been prepared by the Rockhampton Region Local Disaster Management Group and with the authority of the Rockhampton Regional Council as required under section 57 and 58 of the Disaster Management Act 2003 (the Act).

This plan has been developed in accordance with the Disaster Management Act 2003 (DM Act) and the following documents to provide for effective disaster management in the Rockhampton Region:

- The Queensland Standard for Disaster Management (2021)
- The Queensland Strategic Policy Statement (2016)
- The Queensland State Disaster Management Plan (2023)
- Emergency Management Assurance Framework (2021)
- Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (2017)
- Rockhampton Region Emergency Risk Management Assessment (QERMF) (2021)

The plan is approved and recommended for distribution.



Peter Kofod
Local Disaster Coordinator
Rockhampton Regional Council
Local Disaster Management Group

13/01/2025



Mayor Anthony Williams
Chair
Rockhampton Regional Council
Local Disaster Management Group

14/01/2025



Evan Pardon
Chief Executive Officer
Rockhampton Regional Council

21/01/2025



Endorsed by the District Disaster Management Group
Glen Pointing
District Disaster Coordinator
Queensland Police Service
Rockhampton District Disaster Management Group

30/1/1/2025

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Amendment Control

AMENDMENT		PLAN UPDATED	
Version No.	Issue Date	Amendment content	Date inserted / Approved by Council
1.0	13/01/2022	LDMG endorsed on 13/01/2022	25/01/2022
2.0	10/01/2023	Minor Plan review. Warnings and Public Information grouped together. Community Education grouped together. Removal of duplicated information across other plans.	
2.1	11/04/2024	Amendments from consultation.	
3.0	16/12/2024	Minor Plan review. Addition of Climate Change section. Addition of Offers of Assistance. Amendment to agency names.	

Other than minor amendments, this document is not to be altered, amended, or changed in any way other than those amendments authorised by the Rockhampton Region Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG). Minor amendments to this plan, as defined in the LDMG Terms of Reference, can be made by the Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC). However, the LDMP is intended to be a live document to be regularly reviewed, assessed, and amended where necessary. As such, Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC) welcomes feedback from the region's residents, visitors and others regarding this Plan.

Any proposed amendments to this LDMP should be forwarded in writing to: Coordinator Disaster Management Rockhampton Regional Council PO Box 1860 Rockhampton QLD 4700.

Previous versions of the Plan are recorded on Council's document record management system.

Distribution and Availability

As per section 60 of the Act, the plan is available for inspection at City Hall, Bolsover Street, Rockhampton and on Council's Website.

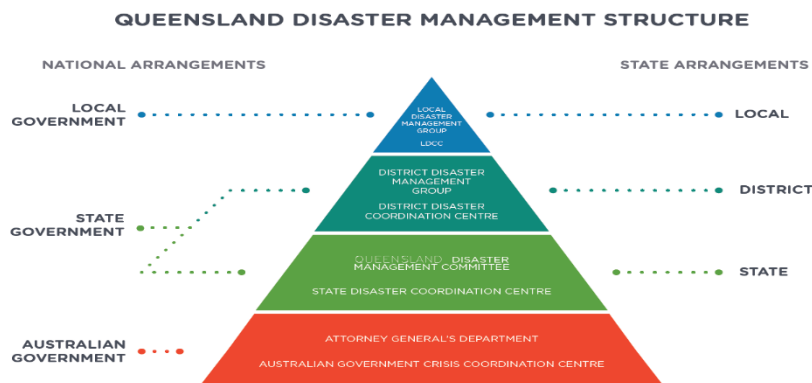
Review, Monitor and Assessment

The local government must review the effectiveness of the plan at least once every year. Each year the Plan is to be reviewed against the IGEM capacity assessment. The annual review of the Plan is to be prepared by the Coordinator Disaster Management, reviewed by the Local Disaster Coordinator, presented to the LDMG for review and consideration of roles, capacity, current contact details and endorsement before submitting the Plan to Council for adoption.

Assessment of the plan and response capability may be achieved through operational activation or by the conduct of exercises. In the absence of an operational activation, the LDMG will carry out at least one practical exercise per year.

Introduction

The Disaster Management Act 2003 (DMA) requires that a local government must prepare a plan for disaster management in the local government's area. The Plan must align with the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements, describe roles and responsibilities, consider the coordination of activities and management of events likely to happen in the area.



The Disaster Management Regulations (2014) establishes the Disaster Management Group membership and other matters.

Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is to enhance community safety through the development of effective disaster management strategies to ensure effective planning and coordination of available resources to assist communities to:

- mitigate wherever possible, the potential adverse effects of a disaster event.
- prepare for managing the effects of a disaster event; and
- effectively respond to, and recover from, a disaster event.

A disaster is 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 recover from the disruption. In the context of this plan, a serious disruption means —

- loss of human life, or illness or injury to humans; or
- widespread or severe property loss or damage; or
- widespread or severe damage to the environment.

The LDMP has not been developed for the management of:

- commonly occurring incidents which are within the capacity of the individual combat agencies; or
- major incidents which are within the capacity of the nominated lead agency with a threat specific role.

However, elements of the Plan may be activated in support of a lead agency responding to a major incident.

The decision-making authority for disaster management in the local government area rests with the Rockhampton Region Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG). Such authority involves the coordination of disaster operations and activities performed during all four stages of disaster management prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery agencies. It is the responsibility of the Chair of the LDMG and Rockhampton Regional Council to prepare for and make available its resources in the event of a disaster. Queensland's tiered disaster management arrangements, based on local, district and state levels, enable a progressive escalation of support and assistance through each tier as required. The Australian Government is also included in the arrangements as a fourth level, recognising that Queensland may need to seek federal support in times of disaster.

Overview

Rockhampton Region Context

Located in the heart of Central Queensland, the Rockhampton Region lies on the Tropic of Capricorn. It shares boundaries with Livingstone Shire to the north, the Pacific Ocean to the east, Gladstone Regional Council area and Banana Shire to the south and Central Highlands Regional Council to the west.

The LDMG area of responsibility covers three urban centres:

- Rockhampton,
- Gracemere and
- Mount Morgan.

In addition to these urban centres, smaller townships exist at:

- Bajool
- Bouldercombe
- Kabra
- Marmor
- Stanwell
- Gogango
- Westwood.

Rockhampton functions as the major service centre for business and employment, and the smaller townships provide an opportunity for people to live a productive and sustainable rural lifestyle, with easy access to the services of the larger urban centres.

Known for its relaxed lifestyle, outdoor living and natural beauty, the Rockhampton Region's population as of 2019 was 81,512, mostly located in the urban areas and is forecast to grow to 113,096 by 2036. To sustain such a population, the Region offers varied employment opportunities, with healthcare and social assistance representing the highest share of jobs. The Region is transforming into a major economic and lifestyle hub for the broader Central Queensland Region. The Region makes a vital contribution to the growth of Central Queensland, Queensland, and Australian economies, with approximately \$5.48 billion gross regional product as of 30 June 2021.

The diversity of landscapes, lifestyles, economic opportunities, and communities contribute to this Region being one of the most diverse in all of Queensland. The individual characteristics of the 60 localities and suburbs have shaped the unique character of the Rockhampton Region.

Major features of the Region include the Rockhampton Airport, Rockhampton Museum of Art, CQ University, Stanwell Power Station, Gracemere Saleyards, Dreamtime Cultural Centre, Stockland shopping centre, Rockhampton Central Business District, Rockhampton Heritage Village, Rockhampton Botanic Gardens, Fitzroy River, national parks, Gracemere Industrial Area, and Mount Morgan.

The reliable water supply provided by the Fitzroy River (Australia's second largest catchment) supports current and future economic opportunities and lifestyle. The Fitzroy River is a dominant natural feature for the Region, as it moves from expansive areas of productive pastoral and agricultural land in the west through to the Fitzroy River delta in the east. The Region is well versed in flooding events when the river breaks its banks. These are considered a regular occurrence.

Research shows there are over 1,174 different types of plant species in the Rockhampton Region. Historically, most of the Region contained eucalyptus woodlands and open forests. There were also large areas of acacia-dominated vegetation, rainforests and scrubs, mangrove, and saltmarsh, together with small areas of melaleuca woodlands. Over time, more than half the local government

area has been cleared or partially cleared for a range of rural and urban land uses, particularly grazing on native pastures.

Across the Region remnant ecological areas now sees the predominance of Eucalypt open forest, Eucalypt woodlands to open forests, Wetlands, Mangroves and Saltmarshes. From a fire perspective, the breaking up of the landscape through clearing provides advantages for controlling forest fires. There is still however, a significant risk to the areas of steep terrain with remnant forested areas in proximity to urban areas, which requires the LDMG to continue to focus on bushfire risk now and into the future. The most vulnerable communities are the Mount Archer area (Mount Archer, Frenchville, Norman Gardens, Lakes Creek and Koongal) and the Mount Morgan area (Moongan, Leydens Hill, Baree, Waltherhall, The Mine, Struck Oil, Limestone, Nine Mile Creek, Walmul, Trotter Creek, Fletcher Creek, Wura, Oakey Creek, Boulder Creek localities), based on the bushfire prone land and development adjacent to it, with the consequences of bushfires within these areas identified as significant. Further details on the Region's community context are in the ABS Census Community Profiles and in Council's Corporate planning documents.

Current Climate

The Rockhampton climate can be classified as subtropical. The Region is situated on the Tropic of Capricorn and lies within the southeast trade wind belt. It is too far south to experience regular northwest monsoonal influences, and too far north to experience higher latitude cold fronts.

Rockhampton's historical average annual rainfall is a little over 800mm. Rainfall averages suggest a distinct wet and dry season, with the wet generally December to March, and the dry June to September. The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) state that typical daytime temperature ranges are 32° - 22° Celsius in the summer/wet season, and 23° - 9° Celsius in the winter/dry season. The prevailing winds are predominantly south-eastern, but during spring and summer, late afternoon northeast sea breezes give some relief from the higher temperatures. During winter and early spring, the high-pressure systems of the sub-tropical ridge can be far enough north to replace the southeast trade winds with south westerly winds behind the trough systems that split the high cells.

Rockhampton lies within the cyclone risk zone and the area is subject to summer thunderstorms. There is a high incidence of winter and early spring fogs. Minimum temperatures as low as zero degrees have been recorded during winter. Maximum temperatures in the low to mid 40s have been recorded from October to March, with the incidence of these projected to significantly increase due to climate change. These conditions present a bushfire risk period from August to November each year (prior to the typical wet season). Climate change is expected to exacerbate many known disaster risks and create new ones. For example, evidence suggests that climate change conditions predicted for the Region will see increased frequency of fires with greater intensity.

Climate Change

The Rockhampton Region is all too familiar with the impacts of extreme weather events. Yet the frequency, severity and duration of hazards is changing due to climate change. The Queensland 2023 State Disaster Risk Report recognises that Queensland is the most hazard-prone state in Australia and that climate change is already impacting the economy, environment, and society.

Climate change is exacerbating hazards and magnifying disaster risk. In Central Queensland, this is expected to result in higher annual average temperatures and an increase in the annual number of days over 35 degrees Celsius. Rainfall is projected to remain variable, with the increased incidence of extreme heat days likely to mean fire will be more extreme and difficult to control when it occurs. Increased heatwave risk will also affect health and wellbeing across the Region and lead to a range of social, economic, environmental and infrastructure impacts.

Climate Change Projections (2050)

Minimum differences between emission pathways

Projected climate change influence on climate variables in Rockhampton Regional Council region compared to 1986-2005 mean. Future Climate Dashboard (ensemble mean of 11 dynamically downscaled CMIP5 global climate models for medium and high emissions).

Projection confidence

*** high

** medium

* low

Temperature ***



▲ Mean, maximum and minimum daily temperatures in all seasons (Annual average increase of 1.5 – 1.9°C)

▲ Doubling of the number of days > 35°C

▼ Cold nights (<5°) and frosts

Sea level rise ***



▲ Sea level (0.23 – 0.26m above 1986-2005 level under medium and high emissions)

Rainfall* may change but direction of change is unclear



? Annual rainfall projected to decrease but large decreases or increases are possible

▲ Summer and winter rainfall*

▼ Spring and autumn rainfall*

▲ Intensity of heavy rainfall events**

Relative Humidity & evaporation **



▼ Decreased relative humidity in all seasons

▲ Evaporation

Tropical cyclones & mean wind speed *

(Note: The scale of weather systems generating extreme winds including tropical cyclones and thunderstorms are too small to be well simulated by Global Climate Models)



▲ Intensity of tropical cyclones (extreme winds may increase)

▼ Tropical cyclone frequency



? Minimal change in mean surface wind speed across all seasons (<5% change to historical average)

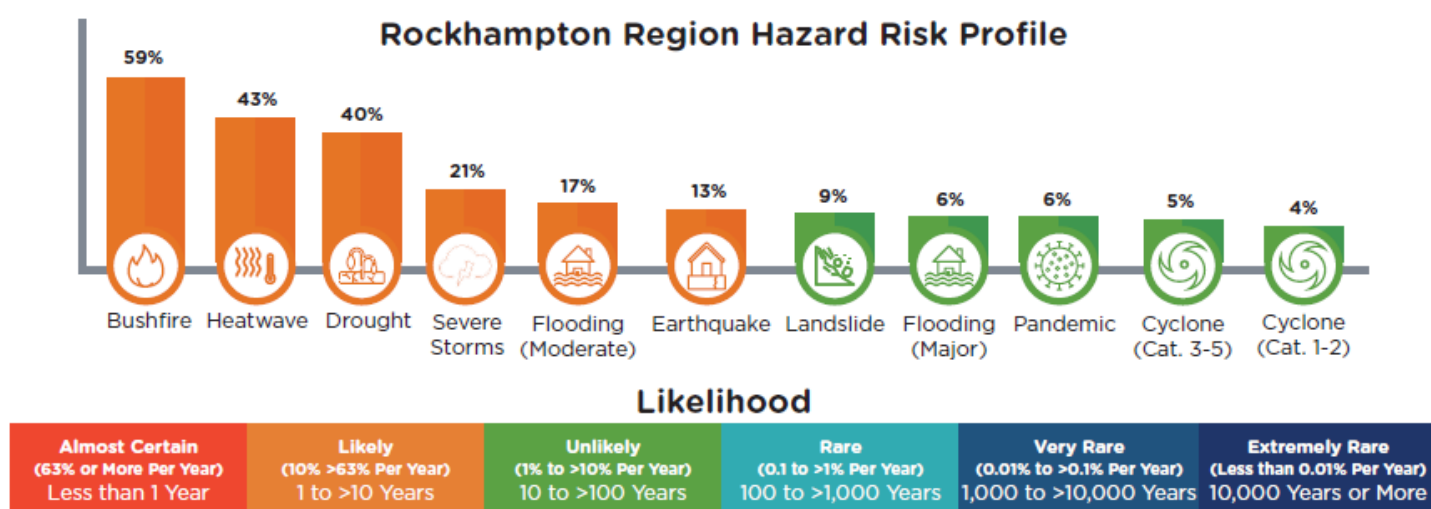
Excerpt from Council's Climate Risk Management Plan. The projected influence of climate change on the Rockhampton Region. Modelling can be further explored by visiting the Queensland Government's Future Climate Dashboard and associated Regional Impact Summary for Central Queensland.

Climate risk, the product of hazards combined with exposure and vulnerability, directly influences the resilience of households and communities. For this reason, it is integral disaster management considers climate change projections in the communication of risk and all aspects of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR).

Rockhampton Region Emergency Risk Management Assessment 2021

The LDMG collaborated to review the Region’s natural risks utilising the updated Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework (QERMF). The study built on the work of previous assessments, considered climate and State risk assessments, and involved significant consultation with LDMG advisors, disaster management groups, emergency services and the community. The assessment revealed that the Region has shown it is resilient and well-rehearsed when it comes to events traditionally seen in Central Queensland. The assessment found that as the climate changes, the region is likely to be exposed to new threats.

At different times throughout the year the Region is at potential risk from a range of hazards. By undertaking this assessment, it has resulted in an improved understanding of our local hazards, their likelihood of occurring in a one-year period, the vulnerability of exposed elements, and ongoing consideration of the effectiveness of mitigation measures in place. For the LDMG’s consideration, the Region is at risk of bushfire, heatwave, drought, severe storm, flooding (moderate and major), earthquake, landslide, pandemic, and cyclone.



Concurrently as the risk assessment was carried out, a regional bushfire management study was undertaken. Both the bushfire study and risk assessment resulted in actions identified to mitigate risk for the LDMG to implement.

Critical Infrastructure and Hazardous Sites

A list of critical infrastructure, essential services, hazardous sites and referable dams is maintained and is to be reviewed as part of the annual review of the risk assessment and plan.

History of Natural Disasters

Rockhampton has regularly been impacted by moderate and major floods. A major flood in 1918 reached a height of 10.1 metres. It is the highest recorded flood. Flooding and community disruptions followed tropical cyclones Debbie (2017), Marcia (2015), and Oswald (2013). Heavy rainfall, flash flooding, and major landslides resulting in significant damage to road networks and restricted community access resulted. The region experienced significant bushfire events in 2009, 2018 and 2019. During the 2009 and 2018 events homes were lost, while in 2018 the entire township of Gracemere was required to evacuate as fires were burning in the localities of Kabra and Stanwell. Gracemere has a resident population of approximately 8400 persons. In 2020, Covid-19 pandemic was declared which posed challenges for disaster response and recovery. Plans and procedures were put in place to enable critical services to continue despite imposed restrictions.

Local Disaster Management Plan

Aims

To enable the LDMG's management of disaster risk and build community resilience through prevention, preparedness, response and recovery initiatives.

Objectives

The objective of the LDMP is to facilitate the implementation of effective and efficient disaster management practices that are in line with the Queensland Disaster Management Governance Arrangements.

Outcome: A greater shared understanding of risk. The LDMP and the LDMG seek to improve community safety and build community resilience through risk management - the identification, evaluation and mitigation of risks that might impact vulnerable elements of the community, and through planning for relevant threat response and recovery. This includes an increased awareness of the magnification of risk and emergence of new risks attributable to climate change.

Outcome: Shared responsibility. The LDMP, through considering potential threats, likely vulnerabilities and then describing responsibilities and corresponding roles, aims to enable robust planning to collaborate, coordinate, integrate capability when planning, delivering mitigation and preparedness activities, during operations, and for community engagement into its activities.

Outcome: Comprehensive planning. The LDMP seeks to foster and enable strategies and activities that contribute toward building resilience in the Rockhampton Region. The Plan is to provide direction for the development, implementation, review and assessment of proactive planning, preparation (mitigation, education), response, and recovery initiatives.

Strategic Intent

The Queensland Disaster Management Governance Arrangements are based on shared responsibility, consultation, collaboration, coordination, and communication. Those with a responsibility include all tiers of government, non-government organisations, not-for-profit organisations, disaster management groups, others with legislated roles in disaster management and the community. Effective disaster management will occur when whole-of-government disaster management arrangements are based upon partnerships between the state and local governments. These partnerships recognise that each level of the disaster management arrangements must work collaboratively to ensure the effective coordination of planning, services, information, and resources necessary for comprehensive disaster management.

Four principles guide the arrangements: a comprehensive approach, an all-hazards approach, that there is local disaster management capability and support at the local level by district and state management groups. Plans are to be scalable, comprehensive, interoperable, value driven and adaptable.

The arrangements are flexible and scalable, enabling escalation of support and assistance through the local, district, state and federal government arrangements as required. They are premised on an all-hazards approach – using the same arrangements to respond to any event, be it a natural or non-natural disaster. They are also underpinned by the comprehensive approach – prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Through leadership, public safety, partnership, and performance there will be continual improvement, a greater understanding of the potential risks, effective risk management, and improved ways to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The arrangements seek to foster the demonstration of leadership through a commitment to building a shared responsibility in strategic planning and decision making. Strong partnerships across the sector will work well when roles and responsibilities are clear and promote true collaboration.

Within the arrangements, it is local governments that are the focus for managing disasters within their respective communities. State and district levels are to provide additional resources, support, assistance, and expertise as required.

Resilience within disaster management refers to a system or community's ability to rapidly accommodate and recover from the impacts of hazards, restore essential structures and desired functionality, and adapt to new circumstances. The pillars of resilience are human and social, built environment, infrastructure, the economy and natural environment. The importance of the interconnectedness of the pillars (functions) of resilience should be acknowledged. The pillars influence and are influenced by each other. We are disaster resilient when resilience becomes business as usual, we build safe and connected communities, when all residents including those with vulnerabilities are supported, we deliver resilient infrastructure, stimulate economic growth, ensure sustainable management of natural resources, and enable responsible development.

There is a shared responsibility for managing risk, effectively communicating, planning, and developing plans, for engaging the community and managing operations. The local group is to ensure operations are responsive and effective and that strategies build capacity and understanding.

Leadership is shown through a commitment to investment and practices that can be sustained and when disaster management is integrated into core business and strategic and operational plans. It is shown when risks are managed to reduce impacts on the community and response, relief and recovery operations minimise the negative impacts of an event on the community and provide the support needed for recovery. It is shown when there is an attitude proactively sharing information and communicating, promoting continuous improvement and when lessons identified, and insights gained are shared and implemented.

Delivery

The objectives of this plan will be achieved by the following strategic principles – and be outcomes focused:

1. Prevention
 - a. Increase adherence to and introduction of systems and regulations that reduce disaster risks.
 - b. Investigate and implement (where appropriate) strategies/initiatives to eliminate or reduce the impact of the effects of hazards on the community through risk management processes.
2. Preparedness
 - a. Increase community safety through public awareness, information, and education.
 - b. Encourage an all agencies, all hazards ethos through the workings of the LDMG.
 - c. Develop capability within and between stakeholders in the form of sharing understanding of risk, undertaking training and exercising, upskilling and cross training.
 - d. Identify agency and collaborative capacity in resources to maximise response.
 - e. Develop contingency plans to address response and recovery issues.
 - f. Establish and maintain working relationships with other agencies to increase disaster management capability.
3. Response
 - a. Efficiently and effectively co-ordinate the response to an event in conjunction with other emergency response agencies (commitment to an all-agencies approach).
 - b. Minimise the impact on the community from a disaster event.
 - c. Coordinated, timely, multi-hazard and multi-agency, start at the right time and support transitions between response, relief and recovery improve the community's ability to cope with future events.

4. Recovery

- a. Adequately provide welfare post event.
- b. Ensure the recovery priorities of the community are met in collaboration with other member agencies of recovery groups.
- c. Recovery should include lessons learnt and the focus on resilience building.

The Rockhampton Regional Council is committed to ensuring that the Region's disaster management arrangements comply with the provisions of the arrangement.

Disaster Management Priorities

The priorities of this LDMP are as follows:

- Manage risk including consideration of current and future climate risk. The plans and the risk treatments are based on an all-hazards comprehensive risk management approach across the Prevention, Preparation, Response and Recovery stages.
- Use the results from the risk assessment and evaluation to prioritise and implement (where appropriate) measures that:
 - are preventative and preparatory to mitigate the risk where possible, lessen the likelihood of an event occurring or lessen the impact on the community, resources, and services of the Rockhampton region.
 - ensure response capabilities, to act before, during and after an event, to the full potential of local resources.
 - assist the disaster-affected community to recover from an event in the social, emotional, and physical wellbeing, economic, environmental and infrastructure areas of the region.
- Communicate the risks, recommended PPRR (Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery) actions and local arrangements to the whole of the community to enable the members to improve their capacity to withstand a disastrous event.
- Align with the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements, ensuring effective disaster management and operations for the Region.
- Evaluate the relevance of, and where necessary implement State recommendations including Inspector General Emergency Management (IGEM), and Commission of Inquiry recommendations.

Within these priorities is the accepted responsibility to ensure the risk-based approach is updated and continually reviewed to address any changes to the Region and/or overriding legislation and principles. The group is committed to the following actions:

- Develop and maintain a LDMG membership who are appropriately qualified, and able to contribute to meeting the functions of the LDMG.
- Develop and maintain an effective recovery and resilience framework to build resilience in all environments.
- Review and implement local sub committees to meet identified hazards.
- Write, review and exercise local plans to ensure effective disaster management.
- Develop and maintain effective local community communication strategies.
- Evaluate the relevance of, and where necessary implement State recommendations including Inspector General Emergency Management (IGEM), and Commission of Inquiry recommendation.

Rockhampton Regional Council Disaster Management Policy

RRC has adopted a Disaster Management Policy which fosters the ownership of disaster management in all departments within the Council. This in turn supports the actions of the LDMG and objectives of this LDMP.

Strategic and Town Planning Development

In approving development applications, RRC ensures the proposed development is not adversely impacted by natural hazards, such as flooding, bushfire and landslide via planning controls contained in the existing planning schemes and by the application of relevant parts of the building codes, legislation and regulation that ensure buildings and infrastructure are constructed to standards that minimise damage to property and people in a disaster event. The levels of risk to people, property and critical infrastructure are minimised by a risk-based land use planning approach. This is achieved by allocating existing and future land uses and infrastructure in appropriate locations that can function to an acceptable level of risk during a disaster event. This may be through a variety of mechanisms such as:

- Development applications are triggered by an overlay map (showing hazard areas such as flood, bushfire and steep land)
- Setting location, design, construction and operating standards (setting habitable floor levels in buildings and locating essential community infrastructure above a defined flood event)
- Restricting intensification and land uses in mapped hazard areas (zoning land in flood prone areas as open space and parks)
- Development must account for population density when planning evacuations and ensure accessible routes for both access and egress, as more areas may become unreachable due to the widening impacts of climate change-induced disasters.

Community Awareness and Public Education

Community awareness and education programs are important elements within communities to bolster a responsive and self-managed approach during emergencies or disasters.

Rockhampton Regional Council, in collaboration with the Local Disaster Management Group, provide ongoing public awareness for Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) through the RRC Community Disaster Management Education Officer, the Council's website, Facebook page, and the Emergency Dashboard. The Disaster Management Act section 30 outlines the functions of a local disaster management group as:

- Ensuring the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse impacts of an event; and
- Preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.

Awareness and education programs are implemented through various initiatives and activities by the Council, partner agencies, and the LDMG. These include:

- Social media and marketing campaigns
- Participation at community events
- Workshops with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups, aged care and disability service providers or users
- Presentations to local school groups
- Networking within various community organisations and groups.

These programs are supported by materials and resources that:

- Explain specific local hazards or risks
- Provide practical information and guidance on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery
- Encourage the community to "Get Ready" by developing their own household emergency plan.

Local Disaster Management Group

The DMA section 29 stipulates that a local government must establish a LDMG for the local government's area (LGA). The group is to develop effective disaster management and regularly assess arrangements. The group is to assist the local government to prepare a disaster risk assessment, identify and coordinate resources for disaster operations in the area, identify and provide advice to the district group about residual risk and prepare and review the LDMP. The group is to ensure the community is aware of mitigating the adverse effects of an event and preparing for responding to and recovering from an event.

More information about functions, membership, and responsibilities of the LDMG can be found in the Terms of Reference which are publicly available.

Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recovery

Prevention

1. Prevention refers to the regulatory and physical measures taken to ensure that emergencies are prevented, or their effects mitigated.
2. Prevention measures can be both structural and non-structural and include engineering works, planning controls and land use planning, warning systems and regulations.
3. State Planning Policy sets out the State's interest in ensuring that the natural hazards of flood, bushfire and landslide are adequately considered when making decisions about development. These interests are also reflected in local government planning schemes.
4. Rockhampton Regional Council has undertaken risk assessment studies to enquire into the management of natural hazards. The implementation of the mitigation strategies outlined in those studies is considered a preventative measure and will assist in mitigating the impact of the hazard.
5. Responsible agencies incorporate identified risk treatment options and/or strategies into their corporate planning processes for recognition and implementation.

Risk Management

The LDMG is responsible for the management of risk and to reduce impact, increase community safety and build resilience. The Rockhampton Region LDMG Emergency Risk Management Assessment (2021) has been undertaken using the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework.

No natural disaster is ever the same as its predecessor, and recent times have shown that the risks facing our community are changing faster than ever. To mitigate and prepare for these changing risks we need to understand them.

The results of the study contain a clear and up to date assessment of the natural hazards that could impact our community. They detail how exposed we are and the strengths and mitigation strategies that we already have in place. Importantly, this document shows that those events we typically see as a threat to our community – such as cyclones and flooding – may not be the threats that pose the greatest risks moving forward. Already over the past few years we have seen an increase in the severity and frequency of bushfires, something we haven't often faced historically, and over the next few years these events are likely to become even more extreme and complex. As we adapt to new threats, it is more essential than ever that we look to precisely understand the risks we're facing, and what we need to do to prepare. This risk assessment will inform the actions taken at Council as well as by the Rockhampton Region Local Disaster Management Group and emergency services organisations across our Region.

Building Codes, Legislation and Regulations

The application of National Construction Codes Series (Building Codes of Australia) and building use regulations aim to ensure that buildings and infrastructure are designed and constructed to standards that minimise damage and injury in an event (up to the design event), and that the building or infrastructure is used for the purpose in which it was intended. Standards and codes should be referred to and enforced particularly for the design and construction of major infrastructure and components of essential services.

The application of certain types of legislation, for example the Australian Dangerous Goods Code, Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road & Rail, and Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011, which outlines the safe storage and transport of hazardous materials particularly in built up areas, aim to prevent incidents occurring that would endanger the community.

There are various laws and regulations that govern the building, development and land management process. The following provides an overview but not limited to, various pieces of legislation that govern the building industry.

Public Information, Community Warnings and Alert Systems

Effective warning systems are an essential preventative strategy that aims to convey information to the community relating to the approaching disaster event. Warnings to the community from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Queensland Fire Department (QFD), Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Council, are transmitted via the electronic media and radio as required. Current warning systems in use for disaster management purposes are detailed in relevant sub plans.

Warning systems and information require the establishment and refining of procedures regarding their use, and the inclusion of such systems in public education and awareness programs to inform the community of such systems. Typically, these include the following:

- Standard Emergency Warning System (SEWS)
- emergency alerts
- media releases and
- social media and website updates.

Details of these systems and how they will be utilised when required are in the Communication sub plan.

At a local level, the release of information to the community regarding the emergency and associated threats will be the responsibility of the Chairperson of the Local Disaster Management Group or their delegate. This may be done in conjunction with representatives of lead agencies and/or support agencies.

In accordance with the LDCC Sub Plan, once the LDCC has been activated, the Local Disaster Coordinator is to appoint a media liaison officer who will be responsible for:

- notifying the media of the public telephone number for seeking assistance
- arranging all media briefings and
- dealing with enquiries from media representatives.

Should evacuation of an at-risk area be required, the lead agency in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service (and other agencies deemed necessary or appropriate by the lead agency) and where possible in consultation with the Chair of the LDMG, will be responsible for advising the public of the need for evacuation.

In events where local government is the lead agency, the Chair of the LDMG shall be involved in making public announcements and providing press releases.

In events where local government is not the lead agency, public announcements and communication should be endorsed by the LDMG and/or LDC prior to release by the agency or the above process.

Consideration must be given to special needs groups such as hearing impaired and people of non-English-speaking background when releasing relevant information and warning.

Preparedness

Preparedness is having “arrangements or plans to deal with a threat situation or a disaster, that is, the mobilisation of the disaster response structure and resources”.

Preparedness is also about measures that seek to reduce harm caused by a hazard by reducing the community vulnerability and includes measures such as:

- establishing or refining procedures regarding early warning systems, and a public education plan to inform the community of these systems.
- training relevant response personnel on operational implementation.
- considering and planning for the finances and capital required in the event of activating the disaster management plan.
- establishing emergency communication procedures.
- community awareness programs.
- effective information management.
- an up-to-date local disaster management plan; and
- developing, testing, and exercising plans.

The LDMG will encourage an all agency, all hazard ethos within the Group, with all members of the LDMG being encouraged to take this approach, by providing advice and guidance to the LDMG on specific hazards.

The LDMG will identify and review resources annually to maximise response capability. Additionally, the LDMG may establish and maintain relationships with lead and support agencies, local community groups, local volunteer service groups, the District Disaster Management Group and the State Emergency Service, (Rockhampton Regional Council SES Unit) to build an ethos of ownership and partnership with the members of the Groups to increase its overall disaster management capability.

The LDMG will identify, prepare and develop operational guidelines for emergency evacuation centres and community recovery centres, with annual reviews.

The LDMG will establish an emergency communication capability and document procedures for its use in an operational plan (emergency use only).

A key element of preparedness is the availability of:

- members of the LDMG trained in their role and responsibilities;
- trained staff to operate the LDCC; and
- appropriate resources.

The communities within the Region are well known for their resilience and through community engagement and surveys reported they have a level of preparation in place. Residents also reported that while they have taken some steps to plan and prepare, they recognise that there are further actions they need to take.

The Rockhampton Regional Council has developed a community engagement and education strategy to support the LDMG achieve this function. The strategy assists to ensure community education is tailored to the community need, addresses the priority risks and community vulnerabilities.

Sub Plans

A sub plan is a document describing roles, responsibilities and arrangements for performance of a key response or recovery function.

The following sub plans have been endorsed by the LDMG:

- Local Disaster Coordination Centre Sub Plan
- Financial Management Sub Plan
- Communication Sub Plan
- Severe Storm, Tropical Cyclone, East Coast Low Threat Specific Sub Plan
- Fitzroy River Flood Threat Specific Sub Plan
- Bushfire Preparedness and Response Threat Specific Sub Plan
- Community Health Threat Sub Plan
- Evacuation Planning Sub Plan
- Evacuation Centre Management Sub Plan
- Recovery Sub Plan

The Sub Plans are approved by the LDMG under the provisions of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and reviewed regularly as a major component of preparedness.

Disaster Coordination Centre Arrangements

The LDMG is responsible to the DDMG for the efficiency of local government operational coordination arrangements. As such, the LDMG is responsible for the provision of a Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) in accordance with the sub-plan.

Training and Exercises

The Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements bring together a number of agencies to work in a coordinated manner to assist communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Disaster management training is important to ensure that all agencies can seamlessly integrate within the region's disaster management arrangements and contribute to an effective and coordinated response.

The LDMG encourages and in conjunction with the Emergency Management Coordinator, provides appropriate training and exercises of relevant member agencies such as:

- training the members of the LDMG in relation to the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements.
- training the Rockhampton Regional Council and nominated agency liaison officers in the operation of the LDCC including the training in Guardian software.
- training the region's disaster management agencies (including Rockhampton Regional Council, emergency services, community agencies and volunteer organisations) in disaster management concepts and operations; and
- exercises to test local disaster management plans and arrangements and develop local capacity to respond to and recover from disaster events.

Current Capacity and Operational Limitations

The LDMG recognises that response agencies need appropriate levels of equipment to be able to perform their functions effectively and efficiently.

Whilst the group recognises that agencies are responsible for raising and maintaining their own equipment, the group will:

- support applications from the Rockhampton Region's disaster management agencies for funding through grant programs.

- advocate for increases in State and Federal government funding towards local disaster management equipment initiatives.
- encourage agencies to support each other with equipment needs through strategies such as funding support and memoranda of understanding.

A measurement of the LDMG response capability may be achieved through operational activation of the LDMG or by the conduct of exercises (tabletop, field etc.) that test all or parts of the LDMP. Exercise findings or after-action reports will be tabled at the next LDMG meeting for treatment options to be considered.

Additionally, at LDMG meetings, agencies are required to provide status reports and pre-season reports. They should advise of pre-season preparations and any needs they have coming into the relevant disaster threat season to maximise their capability to respond to an event.

The LDMG's response capability is achieved through:

- support and resourcing of the Rockhampton Regional Council State Emergency Service Unit.
- Council's workforce.
- the capabilities of the various lead and support agencies as detailed in the various role, responsibility and capability tables within this Plan; and
- Agency reporting and notifying of their potential trigger points from business as usual to exceeding their capacity which should be outlined within agency Business Continuity Plans and shared with the LDMG.

Council currently supports Rockhampton Regional Council State Emergency Service Unit via:

- employment of a full-time paid SES Local Controller;
- funding through its budget;
- equipment; and
- access to Council assets.

Groups which form the Rockhampton Regional Council State Emergency Service Unit are located in Rockhampton, Mount Morgan, and Gracemere.

Emergency Planning

The LDMG recognises the importance of planning for disaster events, and actively promotes this amongst the region's disaster management agencies.

When preparing emergency plans, the LDMG will:

- utilise recognised emergency risk management principles.
- adopt a comprehensive, all agencies approach to disaster management.
- consider community preparedness; and
- consult extensively with lead and supporting agencies, and community stakeholders as appropriate.

The LDMG is responsible for maintaining this Plan. In maintaining this Plan, the group expects that all member agencies will be actively involved in the review process required under the DMA.

Lead Agency Sub Plans

The LDMG expects that lead agencies will prepare and maintain written emergency plans that:

- control hazards for which they are responsible; and
- manage the delivery of disaster management functions for which they are responsible.

Lead agencies are responsible for reviewing and updating relevant sub plans for which they are responsible at least annually and presenting enhancements to the LDMG for consideration.

Community Emergency Plans

The LDMG encourages community groups, businesses, developers, and others to prepare emergency and business continuity plans.

The group especially encourages organisations that care for vulnerable sectors of the community (e.g., aged care facilities) to prepare emergency plans. This is in recognition that disaster management is a shared responsibility between all entities.

Response

The principal purpose of emergency response is the preservation of life, property and the environment. Response is defined as the “actions taken in anticipation of, during and immediately after an emergency, to ensure its effects are minimised and that people affected are given immediate relief and support”.

It includes:

- timely activation of the LDMG & LDCC;
- utilising all available resources to ensure timely and reliable information is provided to the community; and
- coordinating resources to respond to the disaster event.

The disaster arrangements stipulate that local government should primarily be responsible for managing events in its local government area. Under section 30 of the DMA, functions of a LDMG include:

- managing disaster operations in the Rockhampton Regional Council area under policies and procedures decided by the State Disaster Management Group; and
- identifying and coordinating the use of resources that may be used for disaster operations in the area.

Disaster operations are defined as activities undertaken before, during or after an event that happen 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 the event.

The LDMG recognises that the response to a disaster event:

- needs to incorporate all those actions that help reduce loss of human life, illness or injury to humans, property loss or damage, or damage to the environment, to a particular and specific disaster event, and
- may commence prior to the impact of an event, if advance warning is given and known, and
- concludes once the risks of loss of human life, illness or injury, property loss or damage, or damage to the environment are reduced to an acceptable level as deemed by the LDMG, or
- concludes when agencies have the internal capacity and capability to manage all anticipated requests, through the LDMG.

Response Capability

The LDMG has a strong response capability in that it is well equipped, well-staffed and has a reliable assembly of resources including access to:

- Rockhampton Regional Council response and equipment resources.
- Queensland Ambulance Service response and equipment resources.
- Queensland Fire Department response and equipment resources.
- Queensland Police Service response and equipment resources.
- State Emergency Service response and equipment resources.
- equipment (including heavy equipment) and plant within Council and through commercial

providers, which is accessible through the LDCC.

- Personal Protective Equipment held by lead agencies; and
- volunteers of the many community organisations within the region.

Agencies listed have appropriate resources to deliver their agreed roles and responsibilities.

Organisation for control

The LDMG recognises that the control of the disaster response is the responsibility of the relevant lead agency. Support required by the lead agency, upon implementation of this LDMP will be coordinated by the LDC through the LDCC.

Coordination of Disaster Operations

The responsibility of the functional coordination of disaster operation sits with the appointed LDC. The LDC has the following functions under s.36 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*:

- to coordinate disaster operations for the local group.
- to report regularly to the local group about disaster operations; and
- to ensure, as far as practicable, that any strategic decisions of the local group about disaster operations are implemented.

To achieve this, the LDCC is prepared and able to be activated to aid the LDC in the coordination of disaster operations.

Declaration of Disaster Situation

The District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) may, with the approval of the Minister, declare a disaster situation for a district or part of it under s.64 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*. There are conditions that must be met first and a disaster declaration provides extra powers to particular officers to perform actions, give directions and control movements within the declared area. Section 75 describes that an ambulance officer, fire officer, health officer and police officer can be authorised to exercise declared disaster powers for the disaster situation as authorised by either the chairperson of the State Group or the relevant district disaster coordinator. Additionally, s.77 details the general powers that can be exercised by these people. To facilitate the declaration of a disaster, the chair of the LDMG will seek to consult with the DDC to provide support and appropriate awareness of the event.

Threat Escalation

The LDMG, and all lead and support agencies must be aware of the potential for the threat being addressed to escalate to a point where the resources of the lead and/or support agency are insufficient to adequately respond, in which case the lead agency shall advise the LDMG of the situation and of the additional resources required.

The LDMG may then request additional resources via the DDMG. The Chairperson of the LDMG has responsibility for activating the LDMG and the LDCC and determining the stage of activation required. Activation of the LDCC is to be as per the sub plan.

Operational Assessment

Agency Liaison Officers (ALOs) from relevant agencies/organisations may be required to attend the LDCC. These officers are experienced and have sufficient authority to commit their organisations resources in support of the LDMG/LDCC operations.

During activation of the LDCC, agency liaison officers will establish communication with their parent agency field personnel via their control centres in order to provide accurate information to the LDCC

in regard to their agency's operational needs in the field.

Mobilisation of Resources

Upon the decision by the Chair of the LDMG to mount an operation and/or activate the LDCC in response to a disaster or emergency event the Local Disaster Coordinator will advise the members of the LDMG.

The extent of resources required will depend on the type and size of the event/disaster; therefore, it is not possible to state that the local government has sufficient resources in the event of a disaster.

Should available resources prove to be insufficient the LDMG will request assistance from the District Disaster Coordinator through the submission of Request for Assistance form.

Each voluntary group, service agency or organisation is to operate and command its own resources (material and manpower) providing regular updates through the LDCC and LDMG and will be allocated tasks of those resources by the LDMG and/or LDCC through their liaison officer or delegate.

Resupply Operations

Within the Rockhampton region, resupply operations may need to be carried out to certain areas in various types of disasters. Community awareness and public education is used to inform residents of the preparations they should be making prior to an event if the preparations are not completed in time, or the event is longer than anticipated, then resupply operations are instigated.

Support from External Agencies

In the event of activation of the LDMP and LDCC, communication will be established with the District Disaster Management Group via the District Disaster Coordinator or their nominated representative.

Communication will be by telephone, email, face to face and the provision of:

- regular status reports (frequency as determined by DDMG).
- LDMG representation at DDMG meetings.
- participation in DDMG telephone conferences.
- submission of "requests for assistance" as required/determined by LDMG; and
- establishment of electronic (email) communication where possible between LDMG & DDMG as well as the previous points.

The type and level of support to be provided by external agencies would depend on the type of event. However, due to current access problems to Rockhampton and surrounds when flooding occurs it is envisaged that there could be requests for fuel, food, medical supplies and water resupply. The potential also exists for specialist external assistance to be required for rescue of persons (i.e., isolated due to floodwaters, swift water rescue, urban search and rescue). These are just some examples.

Following Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements, once a group's resources within the local government's area are exhausted a request is sent upwards to the next level. Should available resources at the local government area level prove to be insufficient; the LDMG will request assistance from the District Disaster Coordinator through the submission of Request for Assistance. Requests can then be escalated from District to State and finally Commonwealth support can be requested should State resources be exhausted or not available.

Functional Arrangements

Lead Agency

A lead agency is the agency in control of the management of a disaster function when this LDMP is activated. This includes giving directions and tasks to supporting agencies, allowing access into various zones and determining the need for evacuation. Control relates to managing “what should be done, when and by whom”. Control operates vertically across agencies that are contributing to the management of the particular hazard.

Being in control does not mean that the lead agency supplies all the resources to deliver a function or combat a threat. A lead agency will be supported by other agencies that have an agreed role to support the delivery of the disaster management function or combat that particular threat.

Control does not extend to commanding the resources (personnel and equipment) of other agencies. Each agency is responsible for commanding their own assets.

Lead agency status is usually bestowed by legislation, common law, regulations, or by endorsement of the LDMG. Lead agency threat specific plans are normally activated by a threat specific regional representative on the LDMG.

Support Agency

A support agency supports the lead agency in the delivery of a disaster management function through actions or the provision of personnel and equipment.

While under the control of a lead agency, support agencies retain responsibility for commanding their resources and ensuring that their own standard operating procedures are correctly implemented.

Coordination

When this LDMP is activated, the LDMG is responsible for the overall coordination of disaster events. The Group is to ensure that information and resources are acquired and distributed where needed and when needed.

During a disaster, a number of lead agencies may be in operation at the same time. For example, a disaster may involve the management of a number of threats, and the delivery of a number of disaster management functions (such as evacuation, shelter management and community support).

Coordination is about ensuring lead and support agencies have the resources and information needed to carry out their agreed roles. Under this plan, the LDMG is responsible for ensuring coordination of the response to an event including coordination of resources, information, intelligence, communication and all agencies involved.

Coordination operates horizontally across agencies but does not extend to the control of threats or functions or to the command of agency resources.

Post Impact Assessment & Needs Assessment

The purpose of post impact assessment is to provide emergency or disaster managers with a source of comprehensive, standardised information on the impact of a hazard. This information can be used to set priorities and make management decisions relating to the response to an emergency event and initial recovery planning.

Needs assessments deal with the type, amount and priorities of assistance needed by an affected community after a disaster or emergency. For more information about Post Impact Assessment and Needs Assessment refer to the Local Recovery Plan.

Operational Reporting

Incident Action Plan (IAP)

During the activation of the LDMG and LDCC at the beginning of each shift a brief will be provided by the LDC to all LDMG members and the LDCC staff. The direction of the actions and strategies of that shift will be guided by this LDMP, and they will also provide details to the Planning Officer and the LDC for the IAP to be developed for the oncoming shift. This document is kept within the Guardian system and is highlighted for all staff in the LDCC to refer to during their shift. It is then saved for future reference and the Guardian copy is updated.

Situation Report (SitRep)

During disaster operations it is important to keep all relevant organisations informed, primarily the District Disaster Management Group. Sitreps are used to ensure the accurate capture of all information from the various areas of the operations to inform decision makers regarding response activities, forward planning and to communicate the current and forecast situation of the event. All LDMG members are required to contribute to the report utilising Council's disaster management incident management system Guardian IMS.

Hot Briefs and Post Event Briefs

A hot brief is held either at the end of operations or intermittently through protracted events. It allows the review of what has happened within disaster operations, sharing lessons learnt, identify issues that have occurred and any solutions that were found. These can be implemented as soon as discussed and the current processes are reviewed. Furthermore, a post event brief can be held a few days or up to a week after the completion of the operations. This allows participants to think over their involvement and the effectiveness of the operation.

Post Operations Reporting

Incorporating the details provided during the briefs, compiling the SitReps and IAPs and looking at the statistic reports that can be exported from Guardian regarding the number of jobs, tasked agencies, etc., provided the information required to complete a Post Disaster Assessment. This is additional to the Impact and Needs assessments and other reports compiled during and after an event.

Providing Support Outside of Rockhampton Region

Upon request by the DDC, the Chair of the LDMG, or delegate, may activate the LDMG and this plan for the purposes of providing support to disaster- affected communities outside of the Rockhampton Region. This may also include Council to Council requests (C2C).

Financial Planning

The LDC is to provide guidance to the Council in relation to planning, operational finances and the capital required to activate the LDMG and LDCC to the appropriate operational level of readiness. Council's financial management policy and procedures will govern all financial delegations and authorisations to expend funds, recording of expenditure etc. Lead and Support Agencies should also record all costs associated with a disaster response in accordance with their respective organisational financial management policies and procedures. Details are contained in the sub plan.

Offers of Assistance

During disaster events, the wider community and businesses provide support to those affected through financial contributions, goods, and services. Depending on the scale of the event, these will be coordinated through GIVIT which enables community organisations to effectively manage donations. All offers of assistance will be managed in accordance with the Queensland Policy for Offers of Assistance and the DM Guideline.

Information Management

All information (incoming and outgoing) relating to the management and response to an event must be communicated through the LDCC as detailed in the LDCC sub plan. The use of the incident management software in the LDCC makes the management of information much more efficient and is invaluable as an operational and tasking log. Recording requirements are set out as tasks and all actions taken within the Centre are captured within the program. Individual running logs are also to be maintained.

Document Management

Once a disaster event begins all participating agencies are responsible for the management of all documents such as, but not limited to, records of inspections of preparedness, activities of officers and response records. Council's records management system will also create a specific folder for a disaster event which will allow all employees who are not using Guardian to have a place to record any relevant documentation.

Recovery

Disaster recovery is the coordinated process of supporting disaster-affected communities' psychosocial, and physical well-being; reconstruction of physical infrastructure; and economic and environmental restoration. Being 'recovered' is being able to lead a life that individuals and communities value living, even if it is different from before the disaster event.

Recovery is the coordinated process by all agencies involved in recovery. Recovery is a complex and protracted process, to assist with overall and effective coordination, aspects of recovery are conceptually grouped into five interconnected functions, namely:

- Human-social (including psychosocial recovery).
- Building.
- Transport.
- Economic (including financial and political considerations and business continuity); and
- Environmental.

Local recovery services should, to the extent possible, be managed at the local level. Usually, recovery planning and operations will commence as soon as possible after a disaster. For this purpose, a recovery sub-plan has been developed which outlines local recovery arrangements.

The Local Recovery Plan identifies roles in the recovery process and responsibilities of recovery groups and stakeholders. The local recovery group is responsible for advising the LDMG of recovery processes and coordinating recovery operations for communities impacted by emergency or disaster events within the Council area. The LDMG can request additional recovery support from District and State recovery groups when local services are expected to reach capacity.

The aim of emergency recovery is to enable and encourage affected individuals and communities to participate in their own recovery while supported by recovery agencies. Empowering communities to create or support their own solutions in consultation with local government and recovery partners can improve overall social cohesion and deliver sustainable recovery outcomes.

For more information about recovery, refer to the Local Recovery Plan.

Roles and Responsibilities

Reflecting the State Disaster Management Plan the following tables describe the roles and responsibilities and functions of agencies specific to the Rockhampton LDMG.

Rockhampton Region Local Disaster Management Group	
<p>Lead Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disaster Coordination ▪ Plan Management ▪ Risk Assessment ▪ Community Preparedness ▪ Activation ▪ Operational Planning ▪ Transport ▪ Public Information and Warnings ▪ Impact Assessment ▪ Evacuation Management ▪ Recovery 	<p>Support Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mass Casualty/ fatality ▪ Public Health ▪ Dam Failure
<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Functions as allocated to the group under section 30 of the DMA. ▪ 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 and disaster operations in the area. ▪ Develop effective disaster management and regularly review and assess the LDMP. ▪ Assist RRC to prepare the Local Disaster Management Plan and Sub Plans. ▪ Identify, and provide advice to the DDMG about support services required to facilitate disaster management and disaster operations in the area. ▪ Identify, analyse and evaluate relevant risks of disasters/events to the community. ▪ Implement risk-based mitigation measures aimed at decreasing or eliminating impacts to the community. ▪ Support members in sourcing funding/assistance for DM activities. ▪ Development of comprehensive local disaster management planning strategies. ▪ Identify, and coordinate the use of resources that may be used for disaster operations in the area. ▪ Regularly review and revise LDMP and Sub Plans to ensure operational readiness. ▪ Coordinate and support community education/awareness programs delivered through member agency resources. ▪ Coordination of support to response agencies. ▪ Reconnaissance and impact assessment. ▪ Provision of public information prior to, during and following disaster events. ▪ Recommended areas/locations to be considered for authorised evacuation. ▪ Public advice re voluntary evacuation. ▪ Identification, resourcing, staffing, management and operation of evacuation centres. ▪ Coordinate locally based community support services. ▪ Design, maintenance, and operation of a local disaster coordination centre, including the training of sufficient personnel to operate the centre. ▪ Coordination of recovery support services. ▪ Coordination of volunteers to assist owners in clean-up of private dwellings. 	

Rockhampton Regional Council

Groups

- LDMG Core Member
- Recovery Sub-Group Member & Chair
- Evacuation Sub-Group Member

Lead Agency

- Local Disaster Coordination
- Coordination of Disaster Management Training
- Evacuation Centre / Shelter Management
- Recovery
- Severe Storm, Cyclone & East Coast Lows
- Fitzroy River Flood
- Public Works and Engineering
- Earthquake
- Landslip
- Contaminated Water Supply (FRW)
- Water & Sewage Failure (FRW)

Support Functions

- Evacuation Management
- Exotic Animal/Plant Disease
- Explosion
- Fire (Bushfire/Urban Fire)
- Hazardous Material Incident
- Heatwave
- Power Outage
- Major Transport Accident (Road/Air Rail)
- Public Health Epidemics
- Terrorism
- Marine pollution
- Impact Assessment
- Dam Failure

Roles and Responsibilities

- Establishment and Operation of the LDMG.
- Provide Chair and deputy Chair for LDMG.
- Provide Local Disaster Coordinator and Local Recovery Coordinator.
- Provide information, advice & updates to LDMG as required.
- Executive Staffing of the LDMG.
- Establishment and Operation of the LDCC.
- Provide liaison officers to the RRC LDCC.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Conduct annual exercise to test/review LDMP and ensure staff are trained in disaster management.
- Identify and implement training requirements for disaster coordination centre volunteers and other disaster management staff.
- Prioritise and maintain essential Council services to the community.
- Local public warning and advice.
- Support the Rockhampton SES unit in accordance with the DMA and MOU.
- Provide information, advice & updates on Council infrastructure and services to LDMG.
- Coordinate/facilitate community recovery.
- Provide and maintain systems and staff for LDCC.

Rockhampton Region State Emergency Service

Groups

- LDMG Core Member
- Recovery Sub-Group Member
- Evacuation Sub-Group Member

Lead Agency

- Nil

Support Functions

- Cyclone and Storm
- Fitzroy River Flood
- Evacuation Management
- Search and Rescue
- Contaminated Water Supply
- Dam Failure
- Earthquake
- Exotic Animal/ Plant Disease
- Explosion
- Fire (Wildfire & Urban)
- Hazardous Material Incident
- Landslip
- Power Outages
- Major Transport Incident (Road/Air/Rail)
- Public Health
- Terrorism
- Marine pollution
- Impact assessment
- Damage Assessment

Roles and Responsibilities

- Recruitment, training and management of SES volunteers.
- Provide information, advice & updates to LDMG as required.
- Provide liaison officers to the RRC LDCC.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Support search and rescue operations for missing or injured persons (QPS to coordinate).
- Flood boat operations.
- Storm event preparation and response including tarping damaged roofs, sandbagging and chainsaw operations (cutting & removing fallen trees or trees at risk of falling).
- Support to emergency services agencies/services as required.
- Support community education/awareness programs.
- Assist in the provision of traffic control and crowd management as required.
- Perform activities to raise the profile of the SES.
- Assist in Recovery Operations.
- Supply and erect the State's Flood Barrier.
- Support resupply operations.

Queensland Ambulance Service

Groups

- LDMG Core Member
- Recovery Sub-Group Member
- Evacuation Sub-Group Member

Lead Agency

- Mass Casualty/Fatality

Support Functions

- Evacuation Management
- Search and Rescue
- Cyclone & Storm
- Fitzroy River Flood
- Dam Failure
- Earthquake
- Explosion
- Fire (Wildfire & Urban)
- Hazardous Material Incident
- Impact Assessment

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to LDMG as required.
- Provide liaison officers to the RRC LDCC.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Pre-hospital assessment, treatment and transportation of injured persons.
- Assistance with evacuation (medical).
- Provision of advice regarding medical special needs sectors of the community.
- Initial triage, treatment and transport of casualties.
- Coordinate volunteer first aid groups assisting in the response.
- Support search and rescue and hazardous materials response operations as required.
- Coordinate and collaborate with Qld Health for mass casualty management.

Queensland Health

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member

Lead Agency

- Public Health
- Mass Casualty Management
- Mass Fatality Management
- Heatwave
- Community Health (Pandemic)

Support Functions

- Contaminated Water Supply
- Cyclone & Storm
- Earthquake
- Exotic animal/ Plant Disease
- Fire (Wildfire & Urban)
- Fitzroy River Flood
- Hazardous Material Incident
- Major Transport Accident (Road/Air/Rail)
- Impact Assessment

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to LDMG as required.
- Provide liaison officers to the RRC LDCC if requested.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Public health advice and warnings.
- Psychological and counselling services.
- Coordination of medical resources.
- Clinically coordinate aeromedical transport and emergency medical retrieval (with QAS).
- Clinical response to mass casualty management (with QAS).
- Forensic and scientific health services to mass fatality management and terrorism (with QPS).
- Recovery mental health support to affected communities (with DCDSS).

Queensland Police Service (Policing & Emergency Management (EM))

Groups

- LDMG Core Member (Policing)
- LDMG Advisory Member (EM)
- Recovery Sub-Group Member (Policing)
- Evacuation Sub-Group Member & Chair (Policing)

Lead Agency

- Evacuation Management
- Major Transport Accident (Road/Air/ Rail)
- Terrorism
- Aviation disaster

Support Functions

- Cyclone & Storm
- Search & Rescue
- Dam Failure
- Earthquake
- Fitzroy River Flood
- Hazardous Material Incident
- Impact Assessment

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to LDMG as required.
- Provide liaison officers to the RRC LDCC (Policing).
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Maintaining Law and Order (Policing).
- Coordinate search and rescue operations for missing or injured persons (Policing).
- Law enforcement support to emergency services agencies/services as required (Policing).
- Operational responsibility for first response to terrorism (Policing).
- Provision of traffic control, road closures and crowd management as required (Policing).
- Assist in Recovery Operations (Policing).
- Support Resupply Operations (Policing).
- Advice in relation to preparation and maintenance of disaster management plans and guidelines (EM).
- Provide advice and support regarding disaster management and disaster operations (EM).
- Provision of training in accordance with the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework (EM).
- Coordination of pre-season briefings (EM).
- Participate in regional disaster risk assessments (EM).
- Advice in relation to Emergency Alert campaigns to communities affected by disasters (EM).
- Provide support officers to the RRC LDCC if requested (EM).
- Support community education/awareness programs (EM).

Queensland Fire Department (including Rural Fire Service Queensland)

Groups

- LDMG Core Member
- Recovery Sub-Group Member
- Evacuation Sub-Group Member & Chair

Lead Agency

- Fire (Wildfire & Urban)
- Hazardous Materials
- Resupply
- Emergency Alerts and SEWS
- Damage Assessment
- Explosion

Support Functions

- Cyclone & Storm
- Fitzroy River Flood
- Dam Failure
- Earthquake
- Exotic Animal/ Plant Disease
- Landslip
- Major Transport Accident (Road/Air/Rail)
- Marine Pollution
- Terrorism
- Infrastructure Failure
- Impact Assessment

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to LDMG as required.
- Provide liaison officers to the RRC LDCC.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Provide urban firefighting capability.
- Provide bushfire firefighting capability.
- Provide urban search and rescue capability.
- Provide swift water rescue capability.
- Provide Hazardous materials response capability.
- Provide rapid damage assessment for residential and commercial structures.
- Provide road crash rescue response.
- Support recovery operations.
- Coordinate resupply operations.
- Coordinate aerial support.

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member

Lead Agency

- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
- Recovery

Support Functions

- Impact Assessment
- Damage Assessment

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to LDMG as required.
- Provide support to the RRC LDCC if requested.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Advice in relation to preparation and maintenance of disaster management plans and guidelines.
- Coordinate and administer DRFA and SDRA.
- Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans.

Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional & Rural Development

Groups

- Nil

Lead Agency

- Nil

Support Functions

- Recovery

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to LDMG as required.
- Manage bushfire mitigation measures and incidents on Unallocated State Land.
- Manage impacts on or from Queensland's abandoned mines.

Department of Primary Industries (including Biosecurity Qld)

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member
- Recovery Sub-Group Member

Lead Agency

- Exotic animal/ Plant Disease
- Biosecurity

Support Functions

- Impact Assessment
- Fitzroy River Flood
- Fire (Wildfire/Bushfire)

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to LDMG as required.
- Provide liaison officers to the RRC LDCC if requested.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Co-ordination of resources in response to exotic animal disease outbreaks.
- Detection of source of infection and disinfection/disinfestation activities.
- Control of movement of animals, animal products, vehicles.
- Slaughter and disposal of animals and infective agents.
- Administering of relief measures for agricultural recovery operations.
- Public advice and information.
- Coordinate resupply for livestock (Fodder Drops).
- Support recovery operations.

Department of Education

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member

Lead Agency

- Nil

Support Functions

- Recovery

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to LDMG as required.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Provision of School buildings for shelters, places of refuge and evacuation centres when requested.
- Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans.

Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (Qld Parks & Wildlife Service)

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member

Lead Agency

- Fire management (parks & forests)

Support Functions

- Cyclone & Storm
- Wildfire (Bushfire)
- Impact Assessment
- Recovery

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to LDMG as required.
- Provide support to the RRC LDCC if requested.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Maintain a firefighting capability.
- Manage bushfire mitigation measures and incidents on national parks, conservation parks and state forests in accordance with the Queensland Bushfire Plan.
- Coordinating closures, evacuations (with QPS) and reopening of national parks, conservation parks, state forests and department owned visitor attractions.
- Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans.

Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member
- Recovery Sub-Group Member

Lead Agency

- Dam Safety Regulation
- Water Supply Regulation

Support Functions

- Recovery
- Fitzroy River Flood

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to the LDMG as required.
- Coordinate and/or provide human and social recovery information and resources to support LDMG Recovery Hubs.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Enable access to information and/or coordinated government and non-government human and social recovery services.
- Facilitate the matching of donated goods and offers of assistance to identified human and social recovery need.
- Enable access to emergency and temporary accommodation assistance.
- Administer SDRA and DRFA personal hardship measures for eligible individuals.
- Manage the deployment of the Queensland Government Community Recovery Ready Reserve workforce.
- Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans.
- Assist with volunteer management.
- Provide information and advice on the issues of dam safety and drinking water supply (continuity and/or safety) as required.
- Ensure emergency action plans are in place for referable dams to ensure appropriate action is taken in event of incidents or failures of dams.
- Management of DRDMW Rain / River gauge network.

Department of Transport and Main Roads (including Maritime Safety Queensland)

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member

Lead Agency

- Public Works
- Transport
- Major Transport Accident (Road/Air/ Rail)

Support Functions

- Maritime Emergency
- Marine pollution
- Exotic animal/ Plant Disease
- Biosecurity
- Earthquake
- Fitzroy River Flood
- Landslip

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates regarding the impact of the event on road, rail and maritime infrastructure to LDMG as required.
- Provide Liaison Officer to the RRC LDCC if requested.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Managing all issues relating to State Controlled Road network.
- Implementation of safe vehicle detour routes for state-controlled roads when required.
- Assist with the safe movement of people resulting from mass evacuation.
- Ensuring maritime safety for shipping (MSQ).
- Managing ship-sourced pollution that impacts Queensland coastal waters (MSQ).
- Maritime response/recovery to severe weather events -Tropical Cyclones and floods (MSQ).
- Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans.

Queensland Corrective Services

Groups

LDMG Advisory Member

Lead Agency

Nil

Support Functions

Fitzroy River Flood

Roles and Responsibilities

- Deployment and coordination of low risk prisoners from Etna Creek Correctional Centre to assist response and recovery operations.

Bureau of Meteorology

Groups

- Nil

Lead Agency

- Nil

Support Functions

- Fitzroy River Flood
- Cyclone & Storm
- Heatwave

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to the LDMG as required.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Provide weather forecasts, warnings and long-term outlooks that affect the safety, prosperity and resilience of the region.
- Collect, coordinate and distribute environmental observation data in support of advice, warnings and briefings.
- Provide seasonal climate outlooks for forward planning.
- Management of BOM Rain / River gauge network.

Telstra	
Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDMG Advisory Member 	
Lead Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telecommunications outage 	Support Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact Assessment
Roles and Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information, advice & updates to the LDMG as required. Provide support to the RRC LDCC if requested. Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster. Restore any service interruptions to the Telstra network across the region. Deploy emergency telecommunications equipment into impacted communities to deliver temporary services following a natural disaster event. Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans. 	

Energy Queensland (Ergon Energy)	
Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDMG Advisory Member 	
Lead Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power Outage Infrastructure damage (power) 	Support Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact Assessment
Roles and Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information, advice & updates to the LDMG as required. Provide Liaison Officer to the RRC LDCC if requested. Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster. Restore any supply interruptions to the electricity distribution network across the region. De-energising and Re-energising of network supply for safety reasons. Deploy mobile generators and support equipment into impacted communities to deliver temporary supply following a natural disaster event. Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans. Electrical safety advice for consumers. 	

NBN	
Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDMG Advisory Member 	
Lead Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telecommunications outage 	Support Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact Assessment
Roles and Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information, advice & updates to the LDMG as required. Provide support to the RRC LDCC if requested. Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster. Restore any service interruptions to the NBN network across the region. Deploy emergency telecommunications equipment into impacted communities to deliver temporary services following a natural disaster event. Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans. 	

Australian Red Cross

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member
- Recovery Sub-Group Member
- Evacuation Sub-Group Member

Lead Agency

- Evacuation Centre Management

Support Functions

- Evacuation Centre Management
- Recovery
- Impact Assessment

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to the LDMG as required.
- Provide support to the RRC LDCC if requested.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Provide psychosocial support training services to emergency responders.
- Provide psychosocial support services to impacted communities.
- Support Management and operations of Evacuation Centres.
- Support welfare of displaced persons.
- Undertake registration of evacuees and displaced persons on behalf of QPS, utilising Register Find. Reunite.
- Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans.

Salvation Army

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member
- Recovery Sub-Group Member
- Evacuation Sub-Group Member

Lead Agency

- Nil

Support Functions

- Evacuation Centre Management
- Recovery

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to the LDMG as required.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Assist with psychosocial support services to impacted communities.
- Support operations of Evacuation Centres through provision of emergency catering.
- Support emergency service organisations through provision of emergency catering.
- Support welfare of displaced persons.
- Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans.

St John Ambulance Service

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member
- Recovery Sub-Group Member
- Evacuation Sub-Group Member

Lead Agency

- Nil

Support Functions

- Evacuation Centre Management
- Recovery

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to the LDMG as required.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Support operations of Evacuation Centres through the provision of First Aid services.
- Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans.
- Assist QAS as required with first aid treatment & transport of injured persons.
- Assist with First Aid of SES while undertaking recovery operations.

Chaplain Watch

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member
- Recovery Sub-Group Member
- Evacuation Sub-Group Member

Lead Agency

- Nil

Support Functions

- Evacuation Centre Management
- Recovery

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to the LDMG as required.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Support operations of Evacuation Centres through the provision of First Aid services.
- Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans.
- Assist QAS as required with first aid treatment.
- Provision of psychosocial first aid.
- Provision of faith service.

Volunteering Queensland

Groups

- LDMG Advisory Member
- Recovery Sub-Group Member

Lead Agency

- Nil

Support Functions

- Recovery
- Evacuation Centre Management

Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide information, advice & updates to the LDMG as required.
- Assist the community to prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster.
- Registration and referral of spontaneous volunteers.
- Support the development of recovery sub-plans and event specific recovery plans.

Annexure A- Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ALO	Agency Liaison Officer
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
C2C	Council to Council
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
CQ	Central Queensland
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
DM	Disaster Management
DMA	Disaster Management Act (2003)
DMR	Disaster Management Regulations (2014)
FRW	Fitzroy River Water
Guardian IMS	Guardian Incident Management System
IAPs	Incident Action Plans
IGEM	Inspector-General Emergency Management
LDC	Local Disaster Coordinator
LDCC	Local Disaster Coordination Centre
LDMG	Rockhampton Region Local Disaster Management Group
LDMP	Local Disaster Management Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
NBN	National Broadband Network
PPRR	Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
QERMF	Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework
QFD	Queensland Fire Department
QPS	Queensland Police Service
Region	the area under the management of Rockhampton Regional Council
RRC	Rockhampton Regional Council
SES	State Emergency Service
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning System
Sitrep	Situation Report