Flinders Local Disaster Management Plan

Flinders River 2019

Foreword

Foreword from the chair of the Local Disaster Management Group

Like many regions across Australia, the Flinders Shire has faced its share of natural disasters in recent years, including flooding, severe storms, and the impact of Cyclone Yasi in 2011 and the 2019 Monsoonal floods. With the wet season occurring from November to April, our community remains vigilant, aware of the potential for severe weather, flooding, and isolation.

Thanks to proactive planning and preparation by the Flinders Shire Council and the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), we have been able to respond effectively to these challenges. The Local Disaster Management Plan formalizes our practices and assists the LDMG in preparing for and responding to events, serving as a crucial tool for both the group and the wider community.

To ensure continued readiness for disaster response, we conduct training and simulation exercises for the LDMG and emergency crews. We have also implemented the Guardian information management system to facilitate record-keeping and ensure efficient coordination during disaster events.

Public awareness campaigns are regularly conducted to inform residents and visitors about disaster risks and preparedness measures. Additionally, our Local Disaster Management Plan is reviewed regularly to ensure its relevance and compliance with legislation.

This plan serves as a valuable resource for the community to assist in personal planning and actions during disasters. Residents are reminded to take steps to protect themselves, such as stocking up on essential supplies in case of isolation and pre-arranging self-evacuation if authorities recommend it, as we do not have certified cyclone shelters.

During disaster events, updates are provided on local community radio ABC and Council's website, dashboard, and Facebook page. For assistance during a natural disaster, residents can contact the SES hotline at 132 500 or 000 in life-threatening emergencies.

As we look ahead to the 2024/2025 year, let us remain vigilant, prepared, and committed to the safety and well-being of our community.

Cr Nicole Flute

Acting Mayor, Flinders Shire Council

Endorsement

This Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) has been developed for the Flinders Local Government Area (LGA) and subsequently approved by the Flinders Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG). When the LDMG approves the LDMP, it is considered to be live.
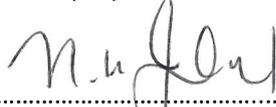
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Barbra Smith

Deputy Local Disaster Coordinator

Flinders Local Disaster Management Group

Date: 21/11/2024

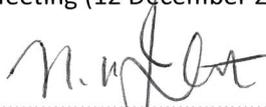..

Cr. Nicole (Niki) Flute

Acting Chair

Flinders Local Disaster Management Group

Date: 21/11/2024

The functions of the local government were advised in accordance with the Disaster Management Act 2003 (DM Act) (s80). This plan was formally adopted by the Flinders Shire Council at the Council Meeting (12 December 2024) through resolution.

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Cr. Nicole (Niki) Flute

Acting Mayor

Flinders Shire Council

Date: 21/11/2024

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Eddie Jackson

Chief Executive Officer

Flinders Shire Council

Date: 21/11/2024

Contents

Consultation

An initial draft will be developed and reviewed in consultation with the LDMG Chair, Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC), Disaster Management Officer (DMO) and Queensland Police Service (QPS, Emergency Management and Coordination Command (EMCC), Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC).

This plan will be further developed with consultation, review and feedback from the entire LDMG and associated Disaster Management (DM) stakeholders.

In accordance with the DM Act (s 59), the LDMP and any associated Sub Plans must be reviewed when the local government considers appropriate, such as but not limited to:

• A change in the LGA risk

• A change in the LGA community

• Direction from the LDMG or feedback from an external review/report

The local government must review the effectiveness of the plan at least annually, methods to achieve this can be such as but not limited to:

• A disaster event/s

• Scheduled exercise (desktop or physical)

• Workgroups

• Training

• Debriefs after disaster operations (Response or Recovery)

• Direction by the LDMG or external review

Document Control

The LDMP is a controlled document. The controller of the document is the Flinders Shire Council Chief Executive Officer (CEO) being the LDMG, LDC. Any proposed amendments to this plan are be forwarded in writing to the CEO/LDC unless advised otherwise:

Chief Executive Officer

Flinders Shire Council

P.O BOX 274

Hughenden Q 4821

Email: ceo@flinders@qld.gov.au

Approval of Amendments

The LDC may approve minor amendments to this document, such as grammatical or name changes. Any changes above minor amendments or involving process or intent of the document must be approved by the Flinders LDMG. This may require feedback from lead or primary agencies.

Amendment Table

This amendment table must record all changes above minor amendments.

Amendment		Plan Update		
No/ Ref	Issue Date	Inserted by	Action	Date
1.1	August 13		Adoption of new plan at August 2013 Council Meeting	August 2013
1.2	October 14	M Keating & W Preedy	Annual Review	
1.3	December 15	M Keating & W Preedy	Annual Review and update	Nov/Dec 2015
1.4	December 15	M Keating	Adoption of new plan at August 2015 council meeting	10/12/2015
1.5	August 2016	M Keating	Annual Review and update	August 2016
1.6	August 2016	M Keating	Adoption of new plan at September 2016 council meeting	September 2016
1.7	August 2016	M Keating	IGEM Review	2017
1.8	November 2017	M Keating	Annual review and update	August/September 2017
1.9	November 2018	M Keating	Update against new QLD Disaster Management guideline	November/ December 2018
1.10	November 2018	M Keating	Adoption of new plan at December council meeting	11 December 2018
1.11	June 2020	LDMG and Specialist advisors	Review	
1.12	December 2020	M Keating	Endorsement and Adoption at LDMG	2 December 2020
1.13	December 2020	M Keating	Endorsement and Adoption at LDMG	7 December 2020
1.14	December 2021	LDMG and Specialist advisors	Review	8 December 2021
1.15	November 2023	S Haydon/ EMC Andy Pethybridge	Reformat and Update	March 2024
1.16	March 2024	LDMG members	Consultation from LDMG members	24 March 2024
1.17	August 2024	B Smith	Finalise draft for Council adoption	24 September 2024

Distribution

This plan will be available on websites such as the Flinders Shire Council (www.flinders.qld.gov.au) and Queensland Government Disaster Management/Our Partners (www.disaster.qld.gov.au). A hard copy will be available through the LDC. The LDMG will be advised of the LDMP and any updates.

References

To assist with disaster management, the primary references are such as but not limited to:

• Queensland Disaster Management website – www.disaster.qld.gov.au

• Queensland Police website – www.police.qld.gov.au

• Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) website – www.qra.qld.gov.au

• Queensland Government Inspector-General Emergency Management – www.igem.qld.gov.au

• The following are available through the Queensland Disaster Management website:

− Disaster Management Act 2003

− Disaster Management Regulation 2014

− Queensland Disaster Management 2016 Strategic Policy Statement

− Interim Queensland State Disaster Management Plan 2024-25

    o Amendment Schedule Interim State Disaster Management Plan 2024-2025

− Queensland Recovery Plan (Sub Plan to the State Disaster Management Plan)

− Queensland Bushfire Plan (Sub Plan to the State Disaster Management Plan)

− Townsville District Disaster Management Plan

− Queensland Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guidelines

Authority to Plan and Policy

The Disaster Management Act 2003 (DM Act) and the Disaster Management Regulation 2014 (the Regulation) form the legislative basis for disaster management. The DM Act (s57) requires a plan for disaster management in the LGA. This plan is prepared in accordance with the disaster management authorising environment as detailed in **Figure 1**.

The documents are such as but not limited to:

Queensland Disaster Management 2016 Strategic Policy Statement in accordance with the DM Act (s18(a) and 49(2)(a)) forms the strategic policy framework for disaster management:

Objectives:

− Strive to safeguard people, property and the environment from disaster impacts.

− Empower and support local communities to manage disaster risks, respond to events and be more resilient.

Strategies:

−   Ensure disaster operation capabilities are responsive and effective.

−   Build capacity, skills and knowledge to enable adaptation to changing environments.

−   Effectively collaborate and share responsibilities for disaster management across all levels of government, industry and communities

−   Effectively communicate to engage all stakeholders in disaster management.

−   Incorporate risk-based planning into disaster management decision making.

−   Continuously improve disaster management through implementation of innovation, research and lessons learned.

• Interim Queensland State Disaster Management Plan 2024-25 , in accordance with the DM Act (s 49), supports the LDMP.

• District Disaster Management Plans, in accordance with the DM Act (s 53), supports the LDMP.

• Queensland Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guidelines, in accordance with the DM Act (s 63).

• Inspector-General Emergency Management, Emergency Management Assurance Framework (EMAF), (www.igem.qld.gov.au) the disaster management standard in accordance with the DM Act (s16N(1)). This assists with entities responsible for disaster management in the State in relation to the undertaking of disaster management.
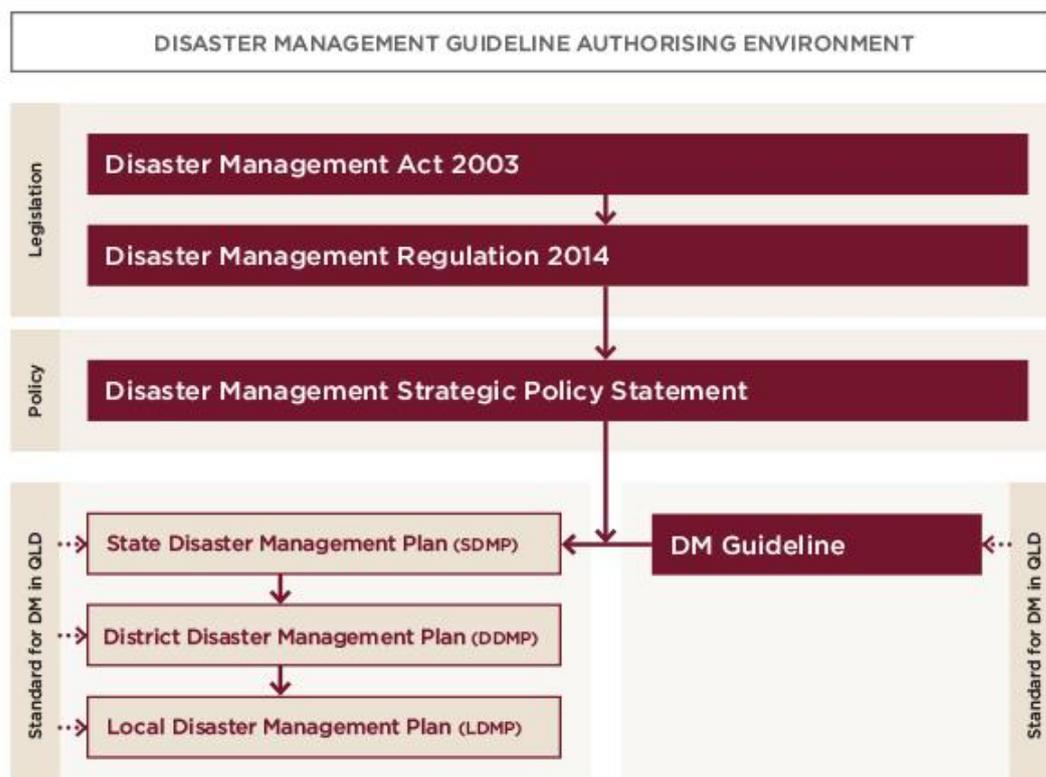
Figure 1 – Disaster management documents authorising environment

Emergency Management Assurance Framework (EMAF)

The LDMG considers the intent of the EMAF and the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland (the Standard) to optimise disaster management in the LGA. The EMAF incorporates the Standard, good practice attributes, assurance activities and principles. The standard incorporates shared responsibilities that are considered with indicators and accountabilities (governance, doctrine, people, enablers and continuous improvement) that strive to meet outcomes. The EMAF, the Standard and shared responsibilities with outcomes are detail in **Figure 2-4** respectively and further information is available at Queensland Government, Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) (www.igem.qld.gov.au).

Figure 2 - EMAF

Figure 3 – The Standard

Shared responsibilities

The shared responsibilities, and the outcomes that align to them are listed below. Details, including the accountabilities and their criteria and indicators for each outcome, can be found on the following pages.

Shared responsibilities		Outcomes
Managing risk	Outcome 1	There is a shared understanding of risks for all relevant hazards
	Outcome 2	Risk is managed to reduce the impact of disasters on the community
Planning and plans	Outcome 3	There is a shared understanding of how the impact of disasters will be managed and coordinated
	Outcome 4	Plans outline and detail how the impact of disasters on the community will be reduced
Community engagement	Outcome 5	Entities proactively and openly engage with communities
	Outcome 6	The community makes informed choices about disaster management, and acts on them
Capability integration	Outcome 7	Resources are prioritised and shared with those who need them, when they need them
	Outcome 8	Entities develop integrated capabilities and shared capacity to reduce the impact of disasters on the community
Operations	Outcome 9	Response operations minimise the negative impacts of an event on the community and provide the support needed for recovery
	Outcome 10	Relief operations minimise the negative impacts of an event on the community and provide the support needed for recovery
	Outcome 11	Recovery operations minimise the negative impacts of an event on the community and provide the support needed for recovery
Collaboration and coordination	Outcome 12	Entities proactively work together in a cooperative environment to achieve better results for the community
	Outcome 13	A collaborative culture exists within disaster management
Common language	Outcome 14	Common language is used by all entities within Queensland's disaster management arrangements

Figure 4 Shared responsibilities with outcomes

Purpose of Plan

This plan details the arrangements within the Flinders LGA to assist with the prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Prior to, during and after a likely or known disaster event/s. This will consider an all hazard approach. The disaster management with authorised, relevant and appropriate stakeholders is important with consideration of risks and application of relevant disaster management plans and support. The disaster operations are detailed in **Figure 5**, that includes response and recovery.
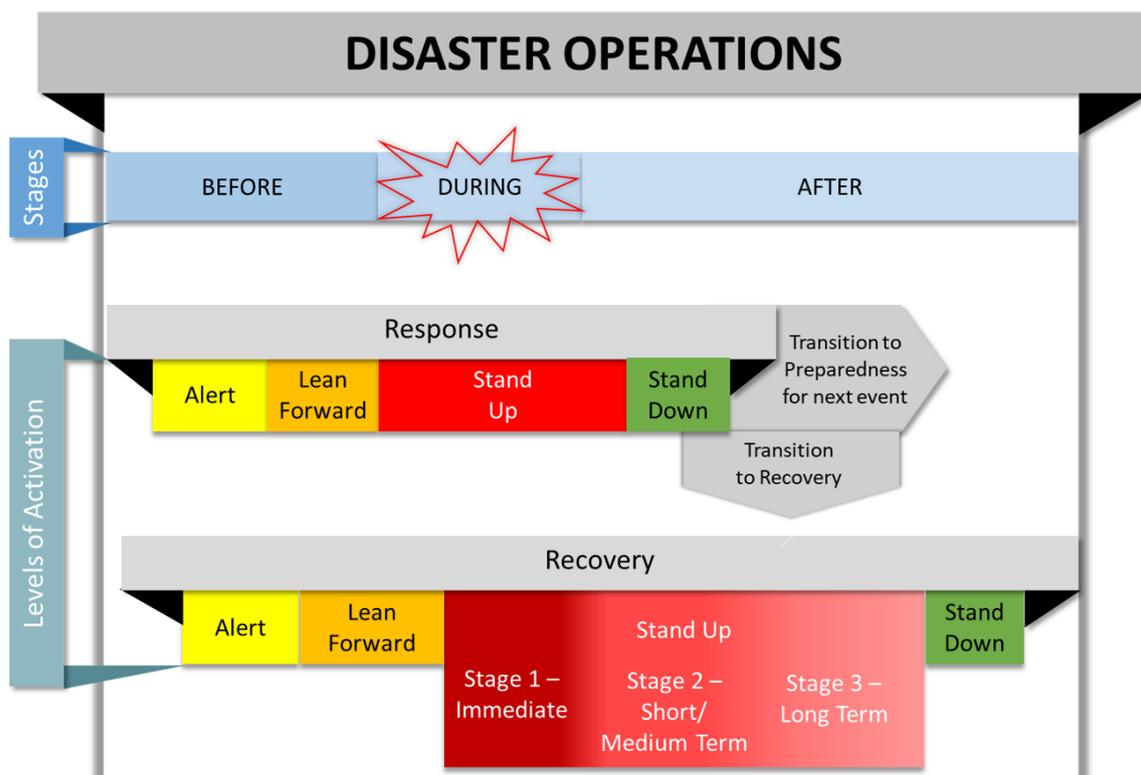
Figure 5 – Disaster Operations

Guiding Principles

All events, whether natural or caused by human activity, should be managed in accordance with any relevant disaster management policy.

Under section the DM Act (s4A), disaster management in Queensland is based on four principles:

• Comprehensive approach

• All hazards approach.

• Local disaster management capability.

• Support by the state group and district groups to local governments.

Comprehensive Approach

The comprehensive approach to disaster management as detailed in **Figure 6**, comprises four phases in the Queensland *Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guidelines*, known as PPRR Guidelines. They are a balance between reduction/mitigation of risk, enhancement of community resilience, whilst providing effective response and recovery capabilities:

• Prevention/Mitigation, such as a reduction of a known or expected risks.

• Preparedness, through training, exercises, workgroups and development of plans.

• Response, for an event that may involve triggers.

• Recovery as the result of an event if evidence indicates.

Figure 6 – Comprehensive approach

All Hazards Approach.

The all hazards approach assumes that the functions and activities used to manage one event are likely to be applicable to a range of events, whether natural or caused by human activity.

Hazard and Associated Primary Agencies.

It is important to understand the identified hazard, associated primary/lead agencies and respective plans, that are detailed in **Figure 7**.

Table 7.1 Identified Hazards, Primary Agencies and Relevant Plans

Hazard	Plan	Primary agency
Animal and plant disease	Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN)	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
	Australian Aquatic Veterinary Emergency Plan (AQUAVETPLAN)	
	Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan (PLANTPLAN)	
	Biosecurity Emergency Operations Manual	
Biological (human related)	State of Queensland Multi-Agency Response to Chemical, Biological & Radiological Incidents	Queensland Health
Radiological	State of Queensland Multi-Agency Response to Chemical, Biological & Radiological Incidents	Queensland Health
Bushfire	Wildfire Mitigation and Readiness Plans	Queensland Fire Department
Chemical	State of Queensland Multi-Agency Response to Chemical, Biological & Radiological Incidents	Queensland Fire Department
Heatwave	Heatwave Response Plan	Queensland Health
Pandemic	Pandemic Influenza Plan	Queensland Health
	Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza	
Ship Sourced Pollution	Queensland Coastal Contingency Action Plan (QCCAP)	Maritime Safety Queensland
Terrorism	Queensland Counter Terrorism Plan	Queensland Police Service

Figure 7 – Identified hazards and associated primary agencies

Disaster Management Roles and Responsibilities

The following roles and responsibilities have been provided by each organisation listed, these lead organisation are most relevant to the Flinders Shire as detailed in the Interim Queensland State Disaster Management Plan 2024-25.

Queensland Fire Department (QFD)

State disaster management groups membership: Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) assisting official; State Disaster Management Group (SDM Group) member; State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) member; State Bushfire Committee, chair

Responsibilities	Role
Relevant legislation: *Fire Services Act 1990* *Disaster Management Act 2003*	• Hazard lead and primary response agency for structural fire, bushfire, and hazardous materials emergencies
• Primary response agency for structural fire, bushfire and incidents involving chemicals and hazardous materials	• Responsible for relevant components of the Chemical, Biological and Radiological hazard (noting Queensland Health's involvement in the Biological and Radiological component)
	• Plays an important role in building safety, assessment, and compliance, which contributes to preparedness for disasters, e.g. earthquakes
• Protection of persons, property and the environment from fire and hazardous materials emergencies	• Fire and hazardous materials suppression and control • Protect persons trapped in a vehicle or building or otherwise endangered • Develop and distribute warnings relating to bushfire, structure fires and hazardous materials emergencies • Lead the AUS-1 Disaster Assistance Response Team for responding to disasters internationally and within Australia • Provide specialist rescue capability – including Urban Search and Rescue and Technical Rescue, Swiftwater Rescue
• Prevention of, and response to, fires and other emergencies	• Undertake and coordinate bushfire mitigation activities • Coordination of air operations • Management of permit to light system
• Declaration of State of Fire Emergency	• Invoking fire bans
• Support communities or other entities prepare for, respond to, and enhance resilience to, bushfires, disasters, and other events	• Community engagement • Promote fire prevention and fire control and safety and other procedures for fire and hazardous materials emergencies.
• Cooperate with other entities providing emergency services	• Coordination of pre-season briefings relating to bushfire • Support the response to severe weather and other disaster events • Undertake initial damage assessments following disaster events • Provide advice in relation to chemical analysis and atmospheric monitoring at relevant incidents • Provide mass and technical decontamination capability • Provide advice and support regarding disaster management and disaster operations as it relates to bushfires, structure fires and hazardous materials emergencies to disaster management groups
Emergency powers Queensland Fire Department utilises a range of powers to manage disasters and emergencies. These powers are contained within the *Fire Services Act 1990* • Fire officers as defined under the *Fire Services Act 1990* may also exercise declared disaster officer powers under s.77 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.	

Telstra

State disaster management groups membership: State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) invitee

Responsibilities	Role
	• Support all disaster management levels before, during and after disaster (e.g. information in relation to communications outages/repairs)

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Qld) Ltd (RSPCA)

State disaster management groups membership: State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) invitee

Responsibilities	Role
Relevant Legislation: *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* • Investigate and enforce compliance with the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*	• Provide situational awareness and operational intelligence in relation to animal welfare • Monitor the responsible care of animals, provide standards of care for animals, and protect animals from unjustifiable, unnecessary, or unreasonable pain • Collaborate with stakeholders with shared responsibilities to ensure effective prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies and priorities for disaster management within a community • Assist in identifying and addressing immediate, medium, and long-term animal welfare recovery needs to enhance the capacity of the local community to recover from a disaster

The Salvation Army

State disaster management groups membership: State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) invitee

Emergency Services	
Responsibilities	**Role**

• Standing offer arrangement (SOA) for Disaster Recovery: Human and Social Services	• Provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support to all members of the Australian community by meeting them at their point of need
	• Provide disaster affected people and emergency service workers with emergency catering services (response and relief)
	• Support evacuation centres, when requested, by activating Salvation Army Emergency Services Response volunteers and equipment to:
	   ○ provide/manage emergency catering (refreshments and meals)
	   ○ endeavour to identify safe and suitable food options
	• Provide a safe environment to take time out and be a reassuring presence
	• Support emergency response organisations when requested, by providing emergency catering options in the field
	• Support all levels of government as needed to provide advice, manage, or coordinate emergency catering in any setting
	• Collaborate with governments and key agencies to design recovery initiatives
	• Support Community Recovery initiatives where appropriate by activating our Disaster Recovery volunteers and key personnel
	• Consult and collaborate with local communities to identify needs and co-design initiatives to support physical, emotional, and spiritual support
	• Provide individuals and communities with support or referral pathways that will restore the essentials necessary to reclaim their wellbeing (recovery)
	• Work collaboratively with all agencies to identify suitable activities to support the overall event requirements

Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA)

	• Develop the Queensland Recovery Plan, coordinating recovery across all levels of government, FRRGs and the community
	• Conduct reconstruction monitoring during the recovery phase of a disaster
	• Lead in Queensland for the jointly funded Australian and Queensland Governments' Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and the Queensland funded State Disaster Relief Arrangements coordination
	• Provide the Secretariat function to the State Recovery and Resilience Group (SRRG)
Resilience QRA is the State's lead agency responsible for disaster resilience in Queensland: • s.10(1)(iv) coordinate the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for improving the resilience of communities for potential disasters through, for example, the betterment of the community • s.10(1)(e) administer, coordinate and distribute financial assistance for communities in relation to mitigating against, recovering from or improving resilience for disasters	**Resilience** • Drive and coordinate action to enhance the resilience of Queensland communities and encourage the embedding of resilience across all phases of disaster management • Administer, coordinate and distribute disaster resilience funding programs on behalf of Queensland • Develop and coordinate the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, which promotes a systems approach to resilience, and provides an overarching framework to guide how State agencies collaboratively deliver disaster resilience commitments and actions, based on local and regional needs, to strengthen community resilience • Develop Regional Resilience Strategies to ensure every region across Queensland is part of a locally led, regionally-coordinated and State-facilitated blueprint to strengthen disaster resilience • Review, maintain and update Local Resilience Action Plans to ensure there is a pipeline of projects for future investments in disaster resilience and mitigation activities
	Preparedness • Coordinate the Get Ready Queensland program to deliver year-round all hazards resilience building information and initiatives to help Queensland communities prepare for natural disasters • Administer the Get Ready Queensland funding program to help local governments to improve their community's resilience

Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA)

State disaster management groups membership: Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) assisting official; State Disaster Management Group (SDM Group) member; State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) member; State Recovery and Resilience Group (SRRG) Chair; Emergency Relief Working Group (ERWG) chair/member

Responsibilities	Role
Relevant legislation: *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011*	The QRA has roles in risk, recovery, resilience, and preparedness
Risk QRA is responsible for leading State-level hazard and risk functions, including carrying out risk assessments for potential disasters, and managing flood risks: • s.10(1)(a)(i) coordinate the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for carrying out risk assessments of potential disasters • s.10(1)(a)(ii): coordinate the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risks • s.10(1)(h) facilitate mitigating against potential disasters, including facilitating the development of a network of flood warning gauges that complies with best practice	**Risk** • Support community resilience through access to reliable hazard and risk information products and processes to support disaster risk reduction and management practice across Queensland • Collaborate with partners to ensure access to the scientifically-informed and reliable hazard and risk information needed to understand risk and make risk-informed decisions • Coordinate the emergency risk framework in Queensland, including the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for carrying out risk assessments of potential disasters • Produce the State Disaster Risk Report to inform risk assessments and disaster management plans • Coordinate and develop flood mitigation policy in Queensland • Develop and implement (with agencies and local governments) flood management plans, resilience strategies, flood risk, flood warning and flood communication initiatives to improve safety, build resilience and minimise the impacts of flooding events

Recovery
QRA is the lead agency responsible for disaster recovery in Queensland:
 	
• s.10(1)(a)(iii) Coordinate the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for ensuring Queensland and its communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of disasters
 	
• s.10(1)(b) Decide priorities for community infrastructure and community services needed for the protection, rebuilding and recovery of affected communities
 	
• s.10(1)(c) Work closely with affected communities to ensure each community's needs are recognised in the rebuilding and recovery of the communities and improving their resilience
 	
• s.10(1)(g) Ensure the protection, rebuilding and recovery of affected communities is:
    (i) effectively and efficiently carried out; and
    (ii) appropriate, having regard to the nature of the disaster
 	
• s.10(1)(d) Collect and collate information about community services, and community infrastructure and other property, damaged or otherwise affected by a disaster
 	
• s.10(1)(e) coordinate and distribute financial assistance for communities in relation to mitigating against, recovering from or improving resilience for disasters
	Recovery
	• Coordinate and develop disaster recovery policy in Queensland
	
	• Lead and coordinate recovery planning for specific disaster events
	
	• Develop event-specific State recovery and resilience plans as required to ensure the efficient and effective coordination of recovery and reconstruction following disasters
	
	• Facilitate jurisdictional liaison between the National Emergency Management Agency and relevant State government agencies on recovery funding and planning
	
	• Support the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator and State Recovery Coordinator to complete their recovery roles, and support the transition from response coordination to recovery coordination
	
	• Maintain the State Recovery Coordinator Guide and Register
	
	• Support local governments and local recovery groups to implement recovery efforts
	
	• Support District Disaster Management Groups and District Recovery Groups to plan for and implement recovery efforts
	
	• Provide advice and support in relation to recovery operations to disaster management groups (in collaboration with other State agencies)
	
	• Support the delivery of recovery and reconstruction projects
	
	• Work with relevant State agencies and local governments assisting with assessment, monitoring, and reporting associated with recovery, including the reconstruction of essential public assets
	
	• Coordinate and integrate efforts and communications between and across all Functional Recovery and Resilience Groups (FRRGs) to achieve whole of community outcomes/activities, and coordinate FRRG reporting

Queensland Police Service (QPS)

State Emergency Service (SES)

Relevant Legislation:

s7 *State Emergency Service Act 2024*

- Perform rescue or similar operations in an emergency situation
- Perform search operations in an emergency or similar situation
- Perform activities in response to a severe weather event
- Perform other activities to help communities or other entities prepare for, respond to, recover from, and enhance resilience to, an event or a disaster
- Provide services, and give help reasonably requested, in an emergency or another situation, as required of a member of the SES under any Act or law or the reasonable expectations of the community

- Help injured persons, as well as protect persons, property or the environment from danger or potential danger in emergency situations. This includes operations for road crashes, vertical rescue, or assistance to other entities responding to an emergency
- Assist in searches for missing persons or evidence
- Provide storm and water damage operations to support residents and critical community services
- Conduct operational preparedness and resilience activities with community and agencies such as community engagement, exercises, agency liaison and joint planning
- Support multi-agency response and recovery activities within SES capability
- Provide operational support in emergencies and public events including, but not limited to, welfare, evacuations and evacuation centres support, cyclone shelter support, public event support, fire ground support, air base operations and management (bushfire), traffic management, communications, resupply, incident management, or lighting

Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ)

Relevant Legislation:

Marine Rescue Queensland 2024 Act

- Perform marine search and rescue operations
- Provide marine assistance to persons or vessels in difficulty
- Provide other marine assistance to any entity in the performance of its functions and to the community if the assistance is reasonably requested and another entity is not reasonably able to assist
- Support other entities providing emergency services to help communities respond to and recover from an event or a disaster
- Provide services or assistance by a member of MRQ if required under any Act or law or the reasonable expectations of the community

- Provide marine search and rescue services to the boating public in Queensland

Queensland Police Service (QPS)

State disaster management group membership: Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) assisting official; State Disaster Management Group (SDM Group) member, State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) chair, State Recovery and Resilience Group (SRRG) member; Emergency Relief Working Group (ERWG) chair/member

Responsibilities	Role

Relevant Legislation:
 	
Disaster Management Act 2003
 	
Police Service Administration Act 1990
 	
s2.3 The functions of the police service are the following—
 	
(a) the preservation of peace and good order—
 	
  (i) in all areas of the State; and
 	
(b) the protection of all communities in the State;
 	
(e) the upholding of the law generally;
 	
(g) the provision of the services, and the rendering of help reasonably sought, in an emergency or otherwise, as are—
 	
  (i) required of officers under any Act or law or the reasonable expectations of the community; or
 	
  (ii) reasonably sought of officers by members of the community;
 	
Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000
 	
Coroners Act 2003
 	
s.15 Help in investigation
 	
(2) The duty of a police officer to help a coroner is stated in the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, section 794.*
 	
Marine Rescue Queensland 2024 Act
 	
Functions of Commissioner
 	
s.9 The commissioner's functions relating to MRQ are—
 	
(c) the giving of directions and guidance to the MRQ chief officer, MRQ unit commanders, MRQ coordinators and other MRQ members; and
 	
(d) the performance of any other function relating to MRQ that is given to the commissioner under this or another Act.
 	
State Emergency Service Act 2024
 	
Functions of Commissioner and related matters
 	
s. 9 The commissioner's functions relating to the State Emergency Service (SES) are—
 	
(e) the giving of directions and guidance to the SES chief officer, local controllers, SES commanders and SES members; and
 	
(f) the performance of any other function relating to the SES that is given to the commissioner under this Act or another Act.
	• Administer of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and *Disaster Management Regulation 2014*
	
	• Exercise the functions and powers of the Police Commissioner in accordance with any relevant legislation
	
	• Exercise the functions and powers of the State Disaster Coordinator in accordance with the *Disaster Management Act 2003*
	
	• Provide executive support to the QDMC, SDM Group and SDCG
	
	• Provide the chair and executive support to district disaster management groups
	
	• Provide advice and support regarding disaster management and disaster operations to disaster management groups
	
	• Establish and maintain arrangements between the State and the Commonwealth about matters relating to effective disaster management
	
	• Prepare and maintain the State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) and the *Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline*
	
	• Manage the Queensland *Disaster Management Training Framework* (QDMTF)
	
	• Develop the program cycle of disaster management exercises
	
	• Gazette Disaster Management Declarations
	
	• Manage the Disaster Management Website
	
	• Support stakeholder application of the Australian Warning System
	
	• Issue warnings including Emergency Alert
	
	• Maintain operational readiness of the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC)
	
	• Activate, coordinate and command the operation of the SDCC
	
	• Operational responsibility for first response to terrorism
	
	• Resupply of essential goods to isolated communities, properties and individuals in partnership with Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs)
	
	• Manage the registration of directed evacuees and work in partnership with LDMGs and Australian Red Cross
	
	• Provide aircraft assets to Whole of Government disaster response via the QGAIR including:
	  ○ supplying coordinators to the State Disaster Coordination Centre aviation cell to support all aircraft deployments
	  ○ deployment of assets
	
	• Preserve peace and good order
	
	• Traffic management including assistance with road closures and maintenance of road blocks
	
	• State Search and Rescue authority and responsible for coordination of search and rescue operations
	
	• Disaster Victim Identification

Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM)

State disaster management groups membership: Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) observer; State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) observer; State Recovery and Resilience Group (SRRG) observer.

Responsibilities	Role
Relevant Legislation: s.16C *Disaster Management Act 2003* a. To regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by the State, including the *Queensland* State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) and its implementation b. To regularly review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management by district groups and local groups, including district and local disaster management plans c. Regularly review and assess cooperation between entities responsible for disaster management in the State, including whether the disaster management systems and procedures employed by those entities are compatible and consistent d. To make disaster management standards e. To regularly review and assess disaster management standards f. To review, assess and report on performance by entities responsible for disaster management in the State against the disaster management standards g. To work with entities performing emergency services, departments, and the community to identify and improve disaster management capabilities, including volunteer capabilities h. Monitor compliance by departments with their disaster management responsibilities i. Identify opportunities for cooperative partnerships to improve disaster management outcomes j. Report to, and advise, the Minister about issues relating to the functions mentioned in (a) to (i)	• The office is managed by the Inspector-General of Emergency Management in accordance with the *Disaster Management Act 2003* • Conduct reviews as directed by the Minister responsible for the *Disaster Management Act 2003* • Conduct capability and thematic reviews against *the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland* • Enable confidence in Queensland's emergency management arrangements • Monitor, evaluate, and report on the progress of implementation of Queensland Government action plans arising from recommendations contained in Office of Inspector-General of Emergency Management reviews. • Conduct annual assessments of local and district disaster management plans • Provide independent and valued assurance and insights that enhance Queensland's disaster management arrangements • Establish the outcomes to be achieved for all entities involved in disaster management, providing the parameters within which disaster management should be conducted across Queensland • Ensure the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland (the Standard) remains contemporary, through undertaking regular reviews of the standard(s) as deemed necessary by the Inspector-General to ensure relevancy • Work collaboratively with lead entities to report on progress and finalise recommendations and activities based on the information and evidence supplied by entities • Facilitate and support lessons management activities to promote a culture of learning and continuous improvement • Implement the Queensland Disaster Management Research Framework • Work with entities performing emergency services, departments, and the community to identify and improve disaster management capabilities • Facilitate strategic connections and conversations within and across the disaster management sector, researcher sector, industry, and the community • Coordinate and deliver regular meetings of the Research Advisory Panel, which provides clear, unambiguous, and strategic direction to support, develop, implement and incorporate research into a culture of learning and continuous improvement, through partnerships, to improve disaster management outcomes • Make any enquiries deemed necessary in respect to performing and delivering on the functions above, and may ask the public sector unit to give the Inspector-General of Emergency Management the information within a stated reasonable time.

NBN Co

State disaster management groups membership: State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) invitee

Responsibilities	Role

	• Build and operate a wholesale broadband access network and provides services to retail phone and internet providers
	
	• Provide a variety of broadband services including:
	   o Fibre to the premises (FTTP)
	   o Fibre to the node (FTTN)
	   o Fibre to the basement (FTTB)
	   o Hybrid fibre co-axial (HFC)
	   o Fixed wireless
	   o Sky Muster Satellite
	
	• During emergency events:
	   o Provide a liaison officer function to the State Disaster Coordination Centre to provide information and advice on the impacts of emergency events on telecommunication services
	   o Contribute to the telecommunications situation reports
	   o Facilitate actions within and across the telecommunication sector in response to the emergency event
	
	Note:
	   o Telecommunication providers manage their own emergency response arrangements and supply issues
	   o Carriers may seek assistance from government through the provision of situational information to gain access to impacted areas

Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities, and the Arts (DTATSIPCA)

State disaster management groups membership: Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) assisting official; State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) member; State Recovery and Resilience Group (SRRG) member; Human and Social Recovery and Resilience Functional Group, chair; Emergency Relief Working Group (ERWG) member

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Responsibilities	Role
	• Support the coordination of Human Social Recovery services for First Nations people • Provide information and updates specific to First Nations People in impacted areas

Communities

Responsibilities	Role
Relevant Legislation: *Disaster Management Act 2003* • State and District Disaster Human and Social Recovery Plans • Provision of practical information • Referral to support services • Access to financial assistance through grant applications • The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) provide a cost sharing formula between the Queensland and Australian Governments on a range of pre-agreed relief and recovery measures. • State funding for non-DRFA eligible disasters are administered under the State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA), a wholly State funded program that may be activated for all hazards to provide assistance to alleviate personal hardship and distress	• Provide and act as key contact point for non-government organisation contracts and services during and post disaster events • Provide the Personal Hardship and Assistance Scheme (PHAS) and Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme (ESSRS) • Coordinate business case development for submission to National Emergency Management Agency for post disaster recovery social services supports for communities affected by disaster • Coordinate and administer response post disaster to support social services recovery and resilience in affected communities, including activation of DRFA category A, B, C & D measures • Coordinate the recruitment of the Community Recovery Ready Reserve workforce to assist with critical incident response and recovery

The Arts

Responsibilities	Role
Relevant Legislation: *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (WHS Act)*	• Coordinate response and recovery services for the Arts property portfolio, including Arts Statutory Bodies • Lead agency for the delivery of the Arts Queensland Crisis Plan • Chair of the Queensland Cultural Centre Crisis Management Group, Crisis Communications Team, and Incident Management Team

Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)

State disaster management groups membership: Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) observer; State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) invitee; State Recovery and Resilience Group, invitee

Responsibilities	Role
	• Represent the collective interests of Queensland councils and facilitate connections between disaster management lead agencies, State departments, non-government organisations, and local governments • Coordinate the Council to Council (C2C) program

Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR)

State disaster management groups membership: Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) assisting official; State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) member; State Recovery and Resilience Group (SRRG) member; Roads and Transport Functional Recovery and Resilience Group, chair; Emergency Relief Working Group (ERWG) member

Transport

Responsibilities	Role

Relevant Legislation:
 	
The *Maritime Safety Queensland Act 2002* establishes Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) to provide professional, specialist advice to, and undertake particular functions of, the Chief Executive in relation to marine safety, ship sourced pollution, and related matters. MSQ has power to do anything necessary or convenient to be done for the performance of MSQ's functions:
 	
   o *Maritime Safety Queensland Act 2002*
   o *Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995* and *Regulation 2008*
   o *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* and *Regulation 2016*
	• Provide information and advice regarding the impact of the event on road, rail, and maritime infrastructure
	
	• Assist with the safe movement of people resulting from mass evacuation
	
	• Enable an accessible transport network through reinstating road, rail, and maritime infrastructure. Rail infrastructure reinstatement remains the responsibility of Queensland Rail or private rail infrastructure owners
	
	• MSQ, a branch of TMR, is responsible for ensuring maritime safety for shipping and is the lead for dealing with ship-sourced pollution that impacts, or is likely to impact, Queensland coastal waters and the waters of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and Torres Strait. The arrangements for mitigating the effects of ship-sourced pollution on Queensland's marine and coastal environment are described in the Queensland Coastal Contingency Action Plan (QCCAP)
	
	• Maritime response/recovery to severe weather events including Tropical Cyclones and floods

Digital Economy

Responsibilities	Role
	• Hazard lead for cyber security • Functional lead for the coordination of Information Communication Technology and telecommunications advice • Backend financial transactional processing on behalf of response and recovery agencies

Powerlink

State disaster management groups membership: State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) invitee

Responsibilities	Role
Relevant Legislation: *Electricity Act (1994)* *The National Electricity Rules and Law* • As an electricity network provider, Powerlink manages its own emergency response arrangements, and support is provided through the SDCC when required	• Operate the electricity transmission network in accordance with the *Electricity Act (1994)*, *the National Electricity Rules and Law*, the conditions of Powerlink's transmission licence, and other relevant State legislation • Work with DEC, Energy Queensland and Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to ensure that electricity demand and electricity supply in Queensland (and any shortfalls) are managed appropriately as part of the National Electricity Market (NEM), including acting as the Queensland jurisdictional contact for the NEM power system emergency management procedures overseen by AEMO for very significant disruptions • Inform on timelines for restoration on the transmission network • Manage emergencies under an all hazards approach such that the safety of the public, employees and contractors and the minimisation of potential environmental harm and damage to assets is prioritised • Work with State, district and local disaster management groups where required to manage the consequences of a disruption to Powerlink's transmission network and provide timely and accurate information • Powerlink has its own field staff predominantly in South East Queensland, with others operating out of Townsville and Gladstone. It contracts Energy Queensland to provide field response in the rest of State, with operations directed from Powerlink's office in Brisbane. Powerlink has a range of equipment to support rapid restoration of the network, including temporary transmission towers and has agreements with aerial service providers to deploy equipment and personnel at short notice across the State for damage assessment and event response

Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)

State disaster management groups membership: Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) assisting official; State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) member

Responsibilities	Role
Relevant Legislation: *Ambulance Act 1991* Functions s.3, *Ambulance Act 1991*: 1) to provide, operate and maintain ambulance services 2) for ambulance services provided during rescue and other related activities—to protect persons from injury or death, whether or not the persons are sick or injured 3) to provide transport for persons requiring attention at medical or health care facilities 4) to participate with other emergency services in counter-disaster planning 5) to coordinate all volunteer first aid groups for major emergencies or disasters 6) to adopt and put into effect all necessary measures (including systems of planning, management and quality control) to best ensure the efficient and economic operation and use of its resources in providing ambulance services 7) to provide casualty room services 8) to refer a person to another health service 9) to provide community and workplace education in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and other related matters, to the extent that the service's personnel and equipment can reasonably be deployed or used for the purpose 10) to identify and market products and services incidental to its other functions 11) to collaborate with Hospital and Health Services to manage the interaction between the services provided by Queensland Ambulance Service and health services provided by Hospital and Health Services 12) (l) to perform other functions given to the service under this Act or another Act; and to perform functions incidental to its other functions	• Provide, operate, and maintain ambulance service delivery during disasters and other related activities • Provide transport for persons requiring attention at medical or health care facilities • Participate with other emergency services in counter disaster planning including collaboration with Hospital and Health Services and active membership of State, District and Local Disaster Groups • Coordinate all volunteer first aid groups during a disaster

Queensland Health (QHealth)

State disaster management groups membership: Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) assisting official; State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) member

Queensland Health

Responsibilities	Role

Related legislation: *Public Health Act 2005*
 Food Act 2006
 Radiation Safety Act 1999
 Medicines and Poisons Act 2019
 Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014
 National Health Security Act 2007
 	
 • Primary agency for heatwave, pandemic, biological and radiological incidents
 • Maintain critical health services to impacted communities
 • Lead agency for response functions of public health, mental health, medical services, mass causality management, mass fatality management and emergency medical retrieval.
    o Coordination of aeromedical transport and emergency medical retrieval (with QAS)
    o Clinical response to mass casualty management (with QAS providing pre-hospital response)
    o Provision of forensic and scientific health services to mass fatality management and terrorism (with QPS)
    o Provision of mental health support to affected communities
 • Provide health-related information to the public and disaster management stakeholders, including public health messaging
 • Provide public health and environment health advice and support, including risk assessment advice, to local government, industry, and other agencies
 • Work across the health sector (including primary health, community, and private providers) and with residential aged care facilities to maintain services to the community
 • Conduct communicable diseases surveillance and epidemiological investigation
	• Coordinate and manage the health aspects of a disaster or emergency incident across the full spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery, including clinical care, public health, mental health, forensic support, and health related messaging to the community

Australian Red Cross (ARC)

State disaster management groups membership: State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) invitee

Emergency Services

Responsibilities	Role
Evacuation Management: • Manage Register.Find.Reunite., which assists in locating individuals and responding to enquiries regarding people who may be in a disaster affected area	• Manage the registration of evacuees in partnership with Queensland Police Service

Support Functions:
• Reconnect family, friends and loved ones during disasters
• Outreach planning and coordination
• Immediate shelter guidance and management, including Meet & Greet, Registration and Intake, Personal Support and Evacuation Centre Management (which are underpinned by the application of psychological first aid concepts and principles)
• Conduct a range of psychosocial support (PSS) activities - in line with International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) trauma-informed best practices - to individuals and communities during and after a disaster, including:
 	
   o providing psychological first aid (PFA) in disaster affected communities
   o conducting information sessions and facilitating workshops in PFA, stress management/self-care
   o participating in community meetings to provide PSS
 	
• Contribute to recovery planning
• Distribution of publications/resources to community members
• Foster collaboration between State disaster relief efforts and key corporate partners
• Support the timely and efficient mobilisation of resources by Australian Red Cross and key corporate partners, including supplies and technical expertise, to assist the State disaster response and recovery operations
• Participate in groups/committees/planning
	• Australian Red Cross provides a people-centered approach to disaster management, delivering PSS and assisting efforts to ensure people's basic needs are met in the immediate aftermath of an emergency
	• Deliver services as per agreements/specifications/plans
	• Memorandum of Understanding with certain Local Government Areas to manage/ support evacuation centres on behalf of the local council
	• Standing Offer Arrangement for Human and Social Recovery Services as part of Disaster Relief and Recovery

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)

State disaster management groups membership: Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) external representative; State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) invitee

Responsibilities	Role
Relevant Legislation: *Meteorology Act 1955* • Provide forecasts, weather warnings and long-term outlooks on environmental phenomena that affect the safety, prosperity, and resilience of Australians	• Collect, coordinate, and distribute environmental observation data in support of advice, warnings, and briefings • Provide seasonal climate outlooks for forward planning

Local Disaster Management Capability

Local knowledge and networks ensure that local level capability and contextualisation is recognised as the frontline for disaster management. Section 4A(c) of the Act states that local governments are primarily responsible for managing events in their LGA. This is managed through the Flinders LDMG. The current capability in the Flinders LGA that is likely to assist in disasters are:

Council:

− Conducts community engagement through council authorised website that have been proven and established communication links.
− Maintain currency of Council's Disaster Dashboard is the one source of truth for information updates on disaster management (https://flindersdashboard.qitplus.com/)

- A list of plant and equipment that may be required is available through Flinders Shire Councils Financial Management System. This list is reviewed at least annually and during an event availability is confirmed.
- Preferred suppliers list is reviewed at least annually and details the likely local capability such as helicopter support. This is available through Flinders Shire Councils Records Management System. The Records Officer or Chief Executive Officer are the contact and can be contacted on (07) 4741 2900 or 0428 411 684 out of hours.
- Finance department to provide capability for the Disaster Funding support through QRA.
- Flood warning network as per **figure 8** and Flood Camera Map as per **figure 9**.

QPS:

- EMC and SES hosted under QPS

- Qty 5 with QPS powers, qty 1 administrative support, qty 2 vehicle with surge capacity from Charters Towers or Mount Isa.

Emergency Management & Coordination Command (EMCC) and Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC)

State Emergency Service (SES):

- Local Controller supported with vehicle and trailer.

- Ability to accommodate general SES services.

- A flood boat capability is available locally.

- Further resources can be requested if local resources are unavailable through calling 132 500.

QAS:

- Qty 2 registered paramedics (roster system) one paramedic on duty or call per shift, qty 2 vehicles

Queensland Fire Department (QFD):

- Includes operations of Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) and Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ)

Fire and Rescue Service (FRS):

- Qty 3 personnel

- Qty 1 Alpha appliance (fire truck)

- Ability to attend all incidents a standard type 3 appliance, fire truck.

- If required Swift Water Rescue capability may be allocated from Townsville or Mount Isa.

- Chemical (HAZMAT) support may be available from Mounts Isa or Townsville.

Rural Fire Service (RFS):

−   Qty 24 brigades, (22 Primary Producer Brigades).

−   Qty 2 primary station (Prairie and Torrens Creek)

−   Qty 124 slip on units

−   Qty 3 trailers

−   Qty 2 appliance (truck)

−   Qty 302 volunteers

−   Qty 24 Fire Wardens (4 currently serviced by Chief Fire Warden Sarah McCarron)

Hughenden Multi-Purpose Health Service (HMPHS:

−   14 bed facility (6 bed long term, 8 acute beds)

−   Medical Superintendent on call

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF):

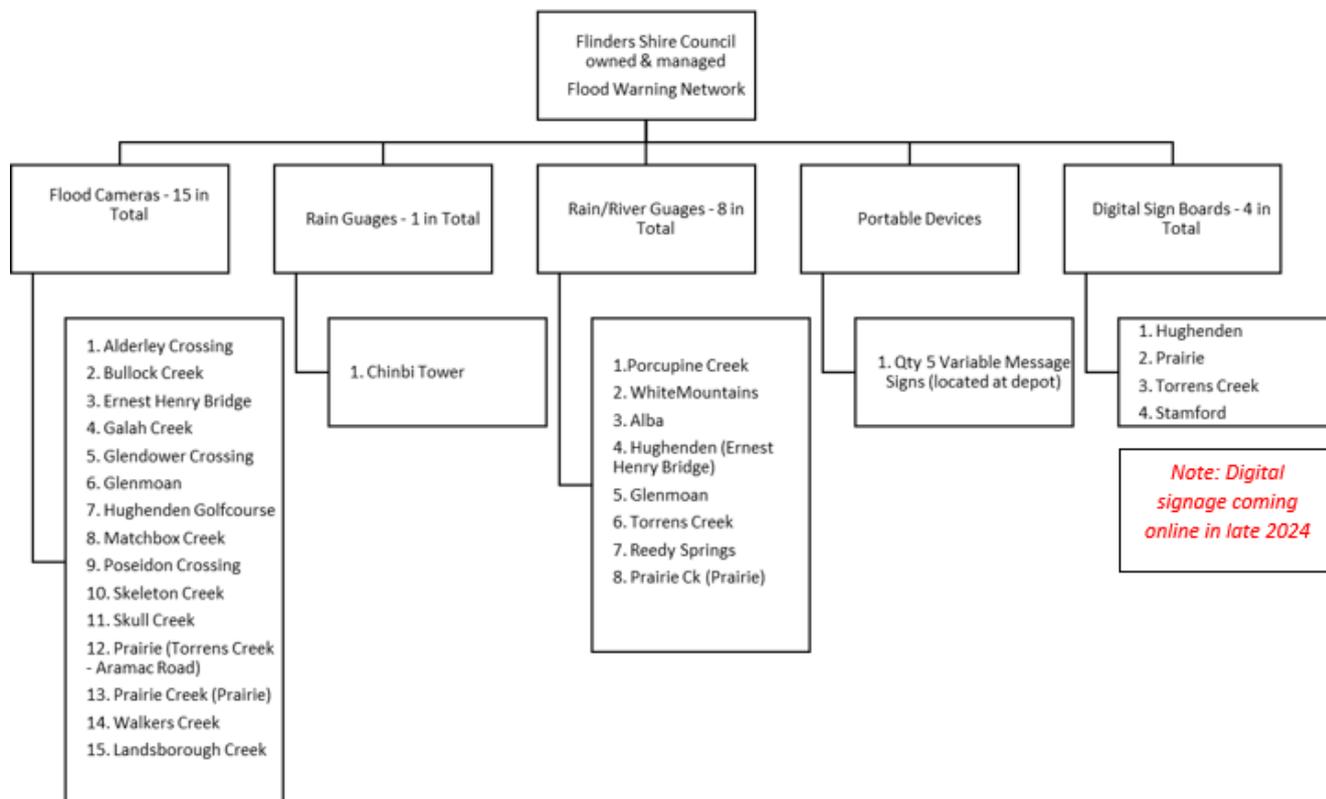−   No local staff, Qty 2 staff available from Charters Towers and Cairns
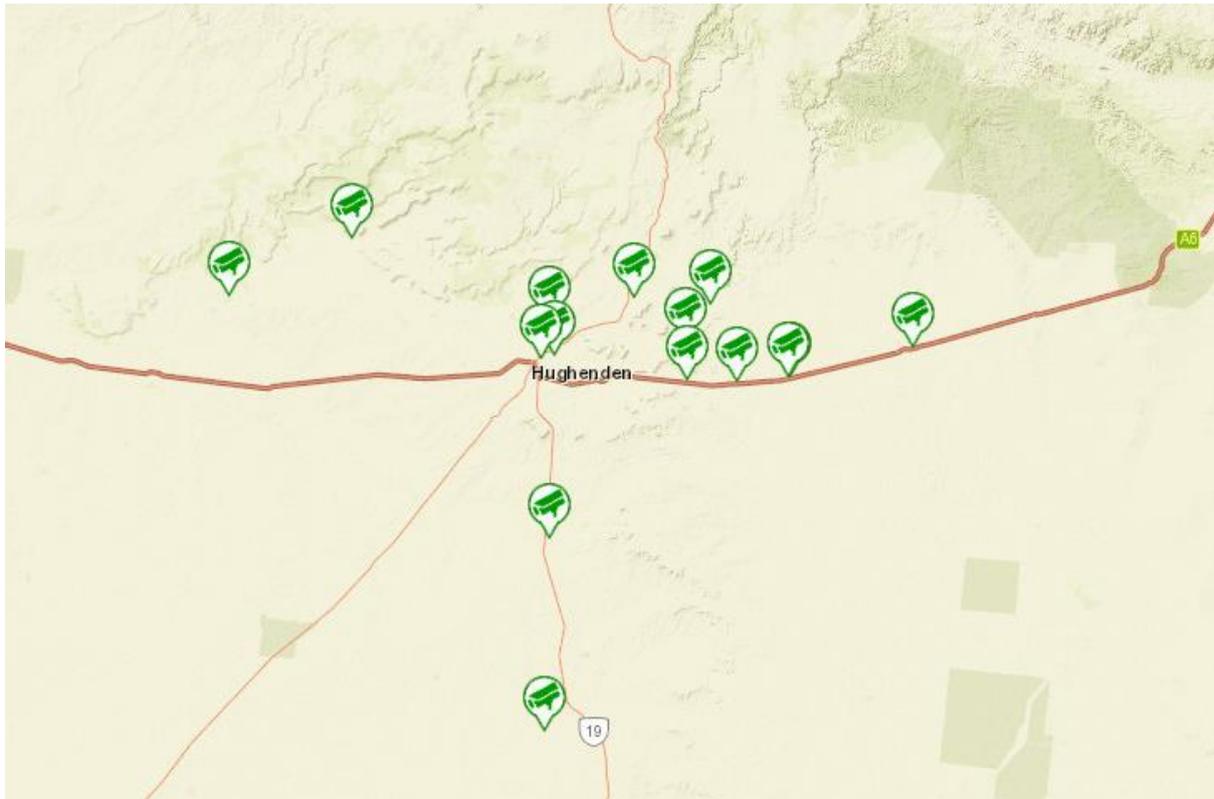

Figure 8 – Flood Warning Network

Figure 9 - Flinders flood cameras

Support by District and State Groups

To ensure the LDMG can effectively conduct disaster operations, the Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) as detailed in **Figure 10**, are employed. The DM Act establishes a DDMG for each district, to provide support to LDMG, when required. The Flinders LDMG is part of the Townsville Disaster District. The Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) may provide additional support and assistance when required or requested by a DDMG and/or LGA/LDMG. Federal support may also be implemented, such as support from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) under Defence Assistance to Civil Community (DACC) protocols. Further information is available in the Defence Assistance to Civil Community (DACC) Categories Reference Guide – RG.1.210.
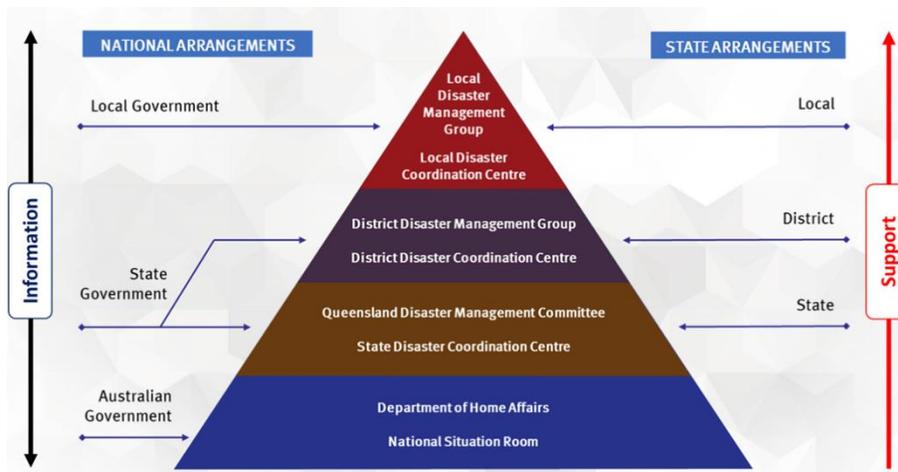

Figure 10 – QDMA

Request For Assistance (RFA)

When all local resources have been exhausted a Request For Assistance (RFA) may be submitted to the DDMG/DDCC in accordance with the Request for Assistance Reference Guide – RG.1.196 and the RFA process detailed in **Figure 11**. The Reference Guides and process are available on the Queensland Disaster Management website (www.disaster.qld.gov.au).
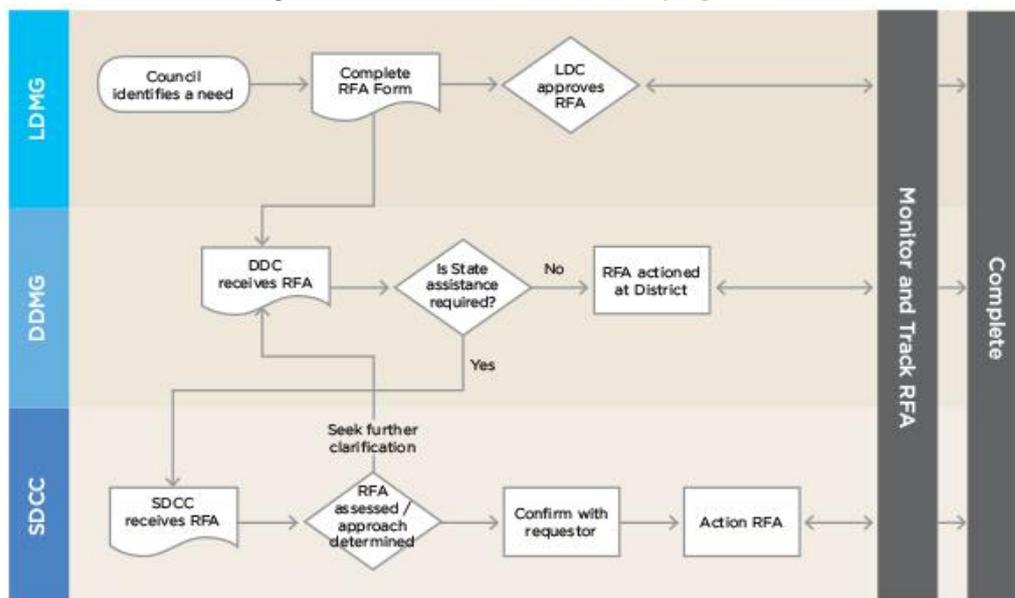

Figure 11 – RFA Process

LDMG

Membership for the LDMG is detailed in the Regulation and DM Act. The Local Disaster Management Group Responsibilities Manual – M.1.030, is available on the Queensland Disaster Management website (www.disaster.qld.gov.au) that details the responsibilities and process for membership appointment to the LDMG. DDMG Membership is in accordance with the DDMG Responsibilities Manual, with Flinders nomination being the Chair and Deputy Chair or as otherwise determined - District Disaster Management group Members Responsibilities Manual – M.1.040.

The membership categories are as follows:

- Members (Chair, LDC, members), that have voting rights and legislative quorum requirements being one-half of members plus one the Regulation (s13).

- Advisors, that provide specific advice to the LDMG members, do not have voting rights or are required for quorum.

- Deputies, that may be required to conduct a role for a position as an alternate when the primary membership is not possible, for members they may be required to vote and fulfil quorum requirements as detailed in the Regulation (s 14).

- Essential service providers can be requested in accordance with the DM Act (s48A), such as but not limited to gas, electricity, telecommunications, water, sewerage. Essential service providers as consultants, have no voting right or quorum requirement.

It is recommended the membership be reviewed for currency and optimisation against LGA risks. Disaster management training compliance and timely membership amendments are recommended at times such as but not limited to:

• Quarterly review

• On identification of a new hazards or event

• When directed/advised (Chair, LDC and/or EMCC, EMC)

LDMG Membership is determined by the Chair with advice from the LDC and EMCC, EMC. After the members are approved by the Chair, they are updated in the Disaster Management (DM) Learning Management System (LMS) by the EMC. The contact details are managed by the LDC and secretary in accordance with the Queensland Information privacy Act 2009. The LDMG has representation on the Townsville DDMG. Flinders DDMG Member is the Chair of the LDMG. The Deputy DDMG Member is the Deputy Chair of the LDMG, unless advised otherwise. The Flinders LDMG/LGA is part of the Townsville Disaster District as detailed in **Figure 11**. The Townsville Disaster District comprises of Hinchinbrook, Palm Island, Townsville, Burdekin, Charters Towers, Flinders and Richmond.

Meeting Frequency

The LDMG must meet as often as necessary to maintain adequate operations; however, at least once every 6 months in accordance with the Regulation (s12(1)). The disaster management activities calendar in **Figure 12**, may provide likely tasks over the year to assist with planning and operational tasks. Further information for the LDMG formation, members and functions is detailed in **Figure 13**. The LDMG can use the Council record system to control all records during a disaster and information is managed in accordance with Flinders Shire Council document management procedures. This ensures that document protection, confidentiality and disposal of information is adequately managed within policy and the Queensland Information Privacy Act 2009.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

PREVENTION

Key activities
Reporting, Assessing,
Planning, Training &
Exercising

PREPAREDNESS

Key activities
Reviewing, Planning,
Training, Exercising, Cabinet
Submission & Community
Awareness

RESPONSE

Key activities
Responding, Recovering,
Meetings & Reporting

RECOVERY

Key activities
Post Event Series
i.e. Meetings
Assurance Activities
Review & Assess
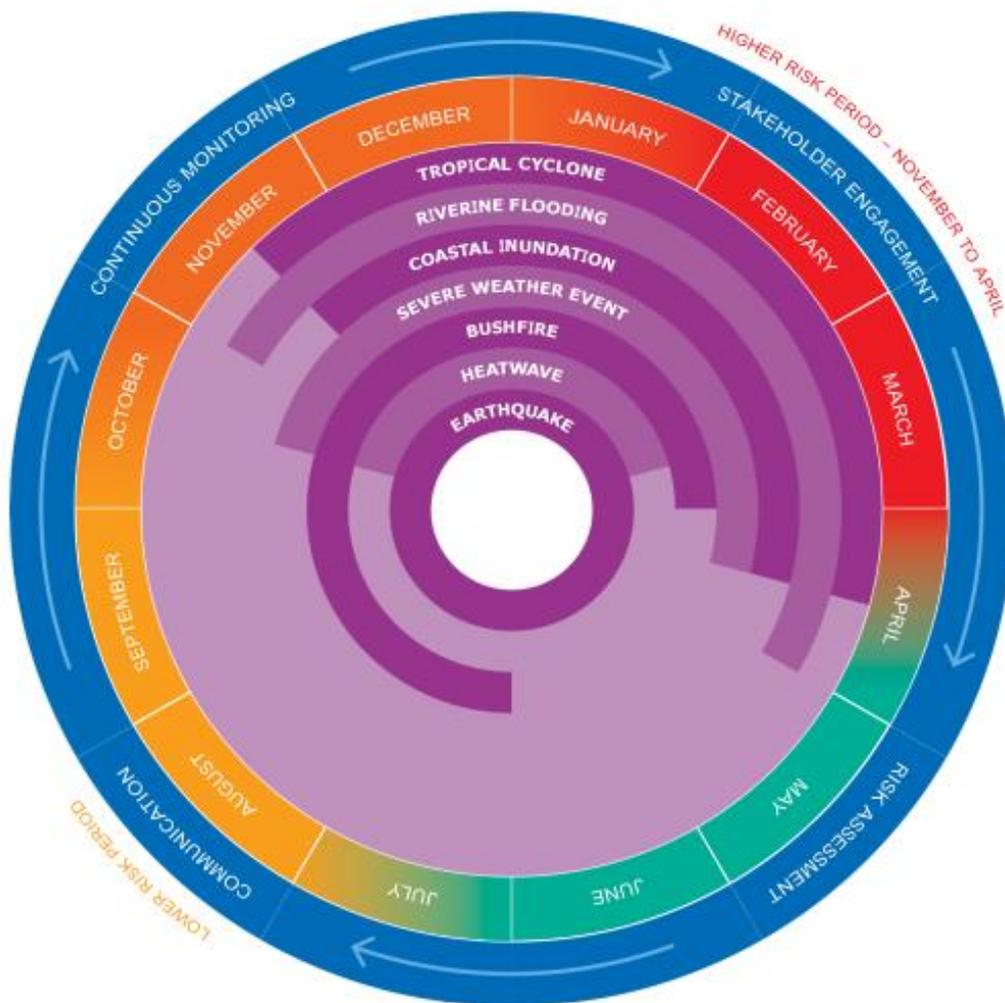
*Note: This diagram provides an indication only of some Queensland Disaster Management key activities performed during a 12 month period. These activities are conducted within the PPRR Methodology and may occur throughout the year. Response activities have been applied to the period November to April, this is supported by the Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment.

Disaster management activities calendar

Figure 12 – Disaster Management Activities Calendar

Group	Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG)
Formation	A local government must establish an LDMG for the local government's area in accordance with the *Disaster Management Act 2003*. Local government areas are indicated in Schedule 1 of the **Disaster Management Regulation 2014[7]**.
Members	• chaired by a councillor of the local government • members may be appointed by the relevant local government • members are to be appointed only if the relevant local government is satisfied the person has the necessary expertise or experience • the LDMG must include at least one person nominated by the Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (CQFES).
Functions	• Chair must appoint a Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) to manage disaster operations for the area • Chair may appoint a Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC) in consultation with the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRPPC) to manage recovery at the local level, ideally not the same person as the LDC • Chair manages and coordinates the business of the group and ensures it performs its functions • ensure consistency between local disaster management operations and the **Queensland Disaster Management 2016 Strategic Policy Statement[3]** and other policies and procedures decided by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) • develop effective disaster management, and regularly review and assess disaster management • assist local government to prepare a disaster risk assessment and a Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) • identify and coordinate resources for disaster operations in the area • identify and provide advice to the district group about residual risks and support services required by the local group to facilitate disaster management and disaster operations • ensure community awareness about mitigating the adverse effect of an event and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster • establish and review communications to ensure their effectiveness for use when a disaster happens • establish, when necessary, a recovery group.
Communications	To the relevant district group: • information about a disaster or recommendations on disaster operations • advice on residual risks and support services required by the local group • written notice of group members annually.

Figure 13 – LDMG formation, members and functions

Membership

LDMG Membership is determined by the Chair with advice from the LDC and EMC. After the members are approved by the Chair, they are updated in the Disaster Management (DM) Learning Management System (LMS) by the EMC. The contact details are managed by the LDC and secretary in accordance with the Queensland Information privacy Act 2009.

The LDMG has representation on the Townsville DDMG. This Flinders DDMG Member is the Chair of the LDMG. The Deputy DDMG Member is the Deputy Chair of the LDMG, unless advised otherwise. The Flinders LDMG/LGA is part of the Townsville Disaster District as detailed in **Figure 14**. The Townsville Disaster District comprises of Hinchinbrook, Palm Island, Townsville, Burdekin, Charters Towers, Flinders and Richmond. In addition to the Townsville Disaster District, Hughenden has Etheridge, Barcaldine, Charters Towers, Richmond and Winton LGA on the Flinders LGA border.
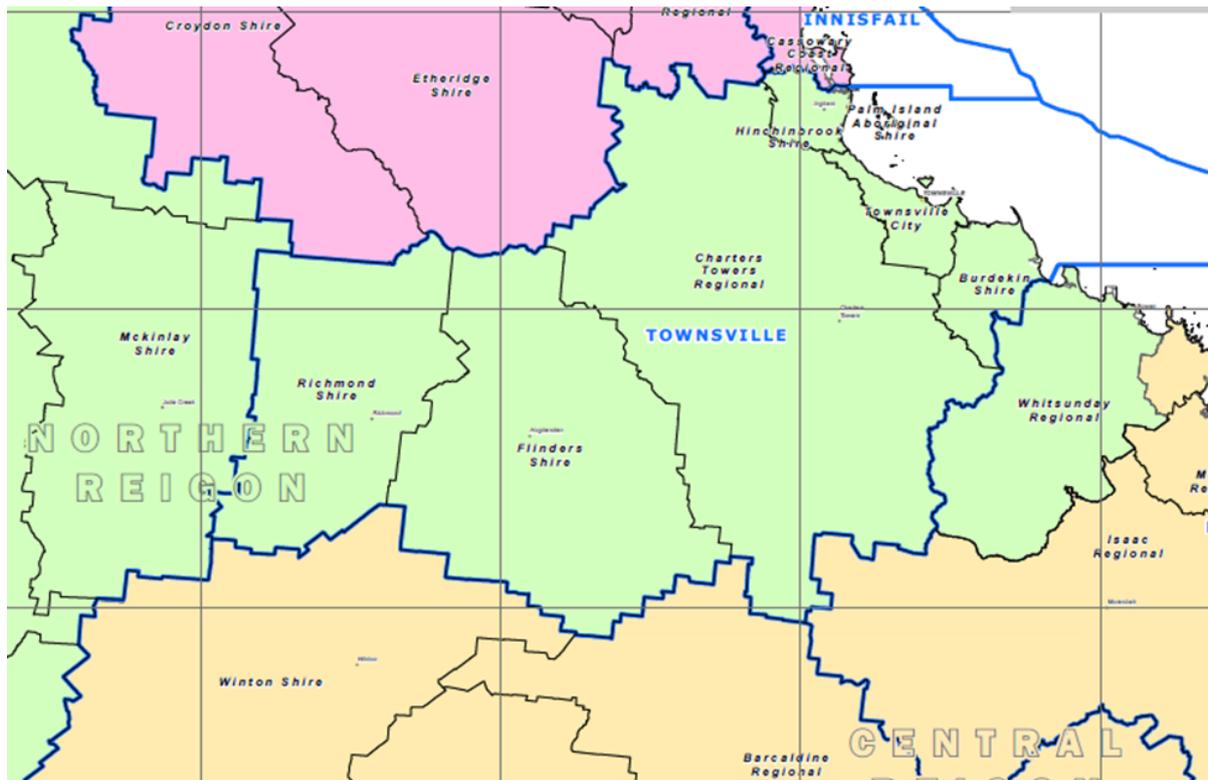
Figure 14 – Townville disaster district

Meeting Location

The frequency of meetings will be coordinated by the Chair/LDC, generally broadcasted by the Disaster Management officer. Meetings can be conducted in person, online or telephone conference to meet the operational and legislative requirements.

The location for LDMG meetings will be:

• Primary location – Flinders Shire Council Chambers (Above Library) Cnr of Brodie and Gray Street, Hughenden

• Alternate location– Flinders Shire Council Boardroom at 34 Gray St, Hughenden.

• As directed in the event the primary and alternate are not available.

Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC)

When disaster related tasks and work in the LGA has increased, a LDCC may be established. This will be on direction of the Chair or LDC. The building locations will be the same as the LDMG meetings with any adjustments confirmed by the Chair or LDC. The LDCC intent is to operationalise the functions of the LDMG and provide control, coordination and situational awareness back to the LDMG.

The operational capabilities likely within the LDCC are:

• Receive and manage information from the community and associated other sources.

• Coordinate local resources and information.

• Identify tasks where extra resources are needed.

• Disseminate information and Request for Assistance (RFA) to the District Disaster Coordination Centre (DDCC).

• Tasks as define by the LDMG, planning, implementation of strategies and activities.

Reporting

The expected LDMG and LRG reporting is detailed in **Figure 15.** Additional reports may be requested.

Report	Submitted to	Frequency	Format
LDMG meeting minutes	LDMG/DDCC	Following each meeting	Minutes
LDMG Report	DDCC/EMC	Annually	As requested
LDMG Membership	DDMC/EMC	Annually	As requested
Situation Reports	DDMG/EMC	As negotiated	As requested
Activation Report	DDMC/EMCC	As required	As requested
LRG Minutes	LRG and/or DCDDS	After specific meeting	As requested, EMCC may assist.
LDMG status	DDC/QDMC/EMCC	End of each financial year	As requested, EMCC may assist
Disaster Management Plan Assessment	IGEM	Annually, generally by 31 Aug	As requested
Exercise Report	LDMG	Tabled at next LDMG meeting when possible	As requested

Figure 15 – LDMG and LRG reports

Continuous Improvement

The LDMG has a culture of continuous improvement from learnings, good practice and innovation. This is achieved through the Queensland Disaster Management, Lesson Management Framework. The Lessons Management principles, process for developing and sharing lessons are detailed in **Figure 16 and 17** respectively. Further information is available on Queensland Government Inspector-General Emergency Management website (www.igem.qld.gov.au).

Workgroups

A workgroup may be conducted to review strategies for identified areas of interest in disaster management. Processes that provide analysis such as but not limited to the following may assist:

• Strength (internal, positive factors), Weakness (internal, negative factors), Opportunities (external positive factors) and Threats (external, negative factors) (SWOT).

• People, Process, Organisation, Support, Technology and Training (PPOSTT) process.

Debriefs

A debrief must be conducted after a response or recovery event. This can be a hot debrief immediately after or a more formal post event debrief such as days to months afterwards. The outcomes of the debrief can assist with lessons management. An After Action Review (AAR) is another method that may assist.

Evaluations

The disaster management stakeholders and/or community may be involved with evaluations such as surveys, questionnaires and consultation to seek feedback. The outcomes of the feedback can assist with continuous improvements.

Principles of Lessons Management – Queensland Disaster Sector	Principles of Lessons Management – National[2]
• Promoting a learning culture across the sector. • Driving continuous and sustained improvement that advocates good practice. • Evidence based to inform future policy and decision-making. • Forward thinking and adaptable to changes in ideas and technology.	**Lessons Focussed** – Lessons management is focussed on activities that use learning opportunities to inform change and future improvement.
• Providing a safe environment that builds trust and encourages active participation. • Keeping people and communities at the centre. • Building the confidence and maturity of the sector over time.	**Inclusive** – Lessons management benefits from collaborative approaches and the involvement of relevant stakeholders during phases of the lessons cycle.
• Advancing the collaborative ability of the sector with a coordinated approach to lessons management. • Providing scalability for use at all levels of the sector.	**Consistent** – Lessons management uses consistent, scalable, sustainable processes, tools and themes to support stakeholders to contribute and enable trend analysis across events, organisations and jurisdictions.

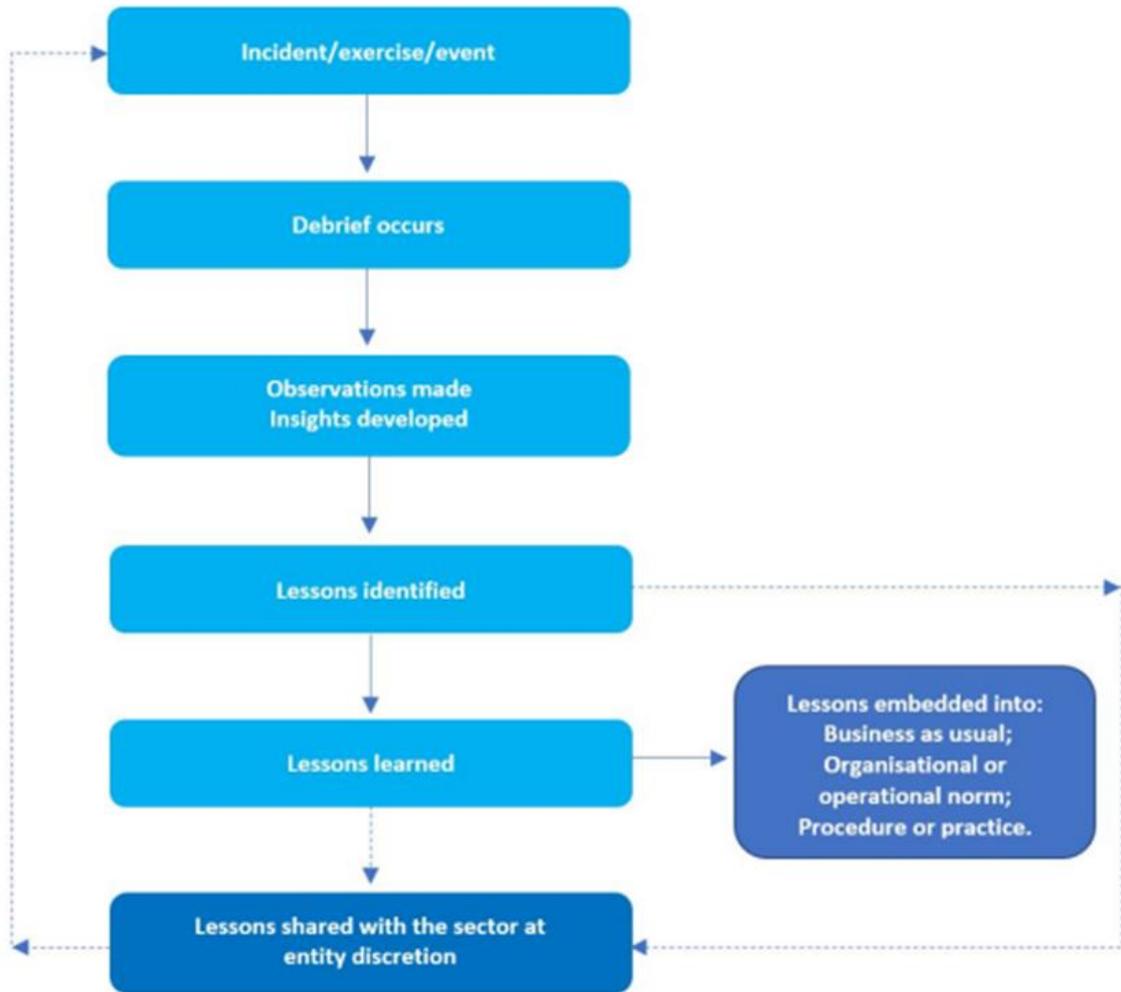*Figure 16 – Lesson management principles*

Figure 17 – Process for developing and sharing lessons

Concept of Disaster Management Operations

The LDMG intent is to provide adequate, timely and efficient support to:

• Build and encourage community resilience through timely and authorised community engagement.

• Encourage and operationalise Business Continuity Management Systems (BCMS), in particular linked to disaster management or operations.

• Foster local led support and solutions for local disasters.

• Seek the RFA process when all local resources are exhausted under the QDMA.

• Establish recovery when required.

• Develop a Continuous improvement culture through innovation and lessons management initiatives.

Disaster Management Training

In accordance with the DM Act (s 16A(c)) persons performing functions under the DM Act in relation to disaster operations must be appropriately trained. The Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework (QDMTF) provides the learning pathways as detailed on the Disaster Management website – Awareness and Training. The Queensland Police Services (QPS) hosted EMC provides guidance and assists with training strategies.

Disaster Risk Assessment

A disaster risk assessment can be conducted through a variety of methods. It is important to use current and evidence-based risk assessments to evaluate potential impacts of hazards, recognise areas of exposure and their vulnerabilities with effective community engagement. The residual risk is to be accepted, treated or managed that may include broadcasting awareness to the DDMG and/or adjacent LGA. The Risk Based Planning Manual – M.1.137 and Queensland emergency risk management framework | Disaster Management | Queensland Government is available on the Queensland Disaster Management Website (www.disaster.qld.gov.au) that has further detail. The comprehensive disaster management planning process is detailed in **Figure 18**.
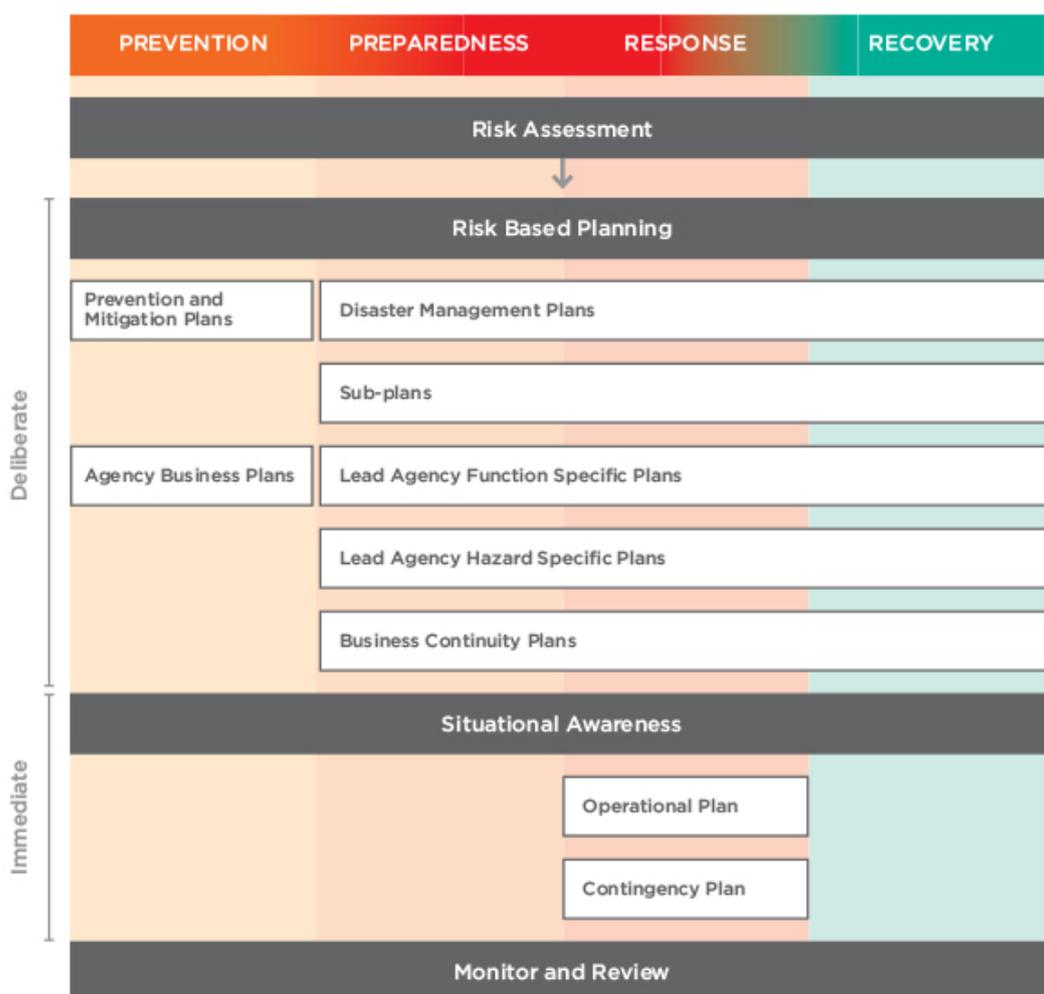

Figure 18 – Comprehensive disaster management planning process

References that can assist in disaster risk assessment are:

• ISO 31000:2018 Risk management – Principles and guidelines

• SA/SNZ HB 436.1: 2020 Risk management guidelines – companion to AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018

• SNZ AS/NZS IEC 31010 - Risk management – Risk assessment techniques

• AS/NZS 5050: 2020 - Managing disruption - related risk

• National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) (Australian Emergency Management Institute, 2020)

The Hazard risk wheel, QERMF and QERMF risk-based planning cycle is detailed at **Figure 19 - 21** respectively. This may be used to assist with a likely awareness of risks and process.

Elements to consider in the Flinders LGA may include:

Essential infrastructure:

- Power (High Voltage (HV) and Low Voltage (LV) transmission lines, circuit towers, sub-stations, generators).
- Communications (mobile towers, NBN infrastructure, phone lines).
- Water (reservoirs, water mains pipes, pump stations, sewerage treatment plants).
- Transport infrastructure (hubs such as airports, heliports).
- Fuel infrastructure (oil & gas pipelines, bulk fuel storage, oil & gas terminals).

Access/resupply:

- Roads (National Highways, State controlled roads, LGA roads, Private strategic roads).
- Rail (freight, light and heavy rail).
- Air (domestic aerodromes, heliports, Defence resources).
- Maritime (ports, ferry terminals, river crossings).

Community and social:

- Population centres (towns, remote communities and isolated areas)
- Demographics (vulnerable or at-risk persons, medically dependent people, young or elderly people, people from non-English speaking backgrounds).
- Social infrastructure (schools, youth centres, community centres).
- Centres of governance (town halls, council offices).
- Building stock (precode-1980 buildings, post-1980 building stock).
- Emergency shelters, places of refuge, surge capacity to support disaster events or recovery.
- Cultural elements (areas or objects of cultural or religious significance).

Medical:

- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Aged care facilities

Significant industries:

 − Heavy industry and manufacturing
 − Transport and logistics
 − Agriculture
 − Tourism
 − Local or other significant industries

Environmental:

 − Local species and ecosystems
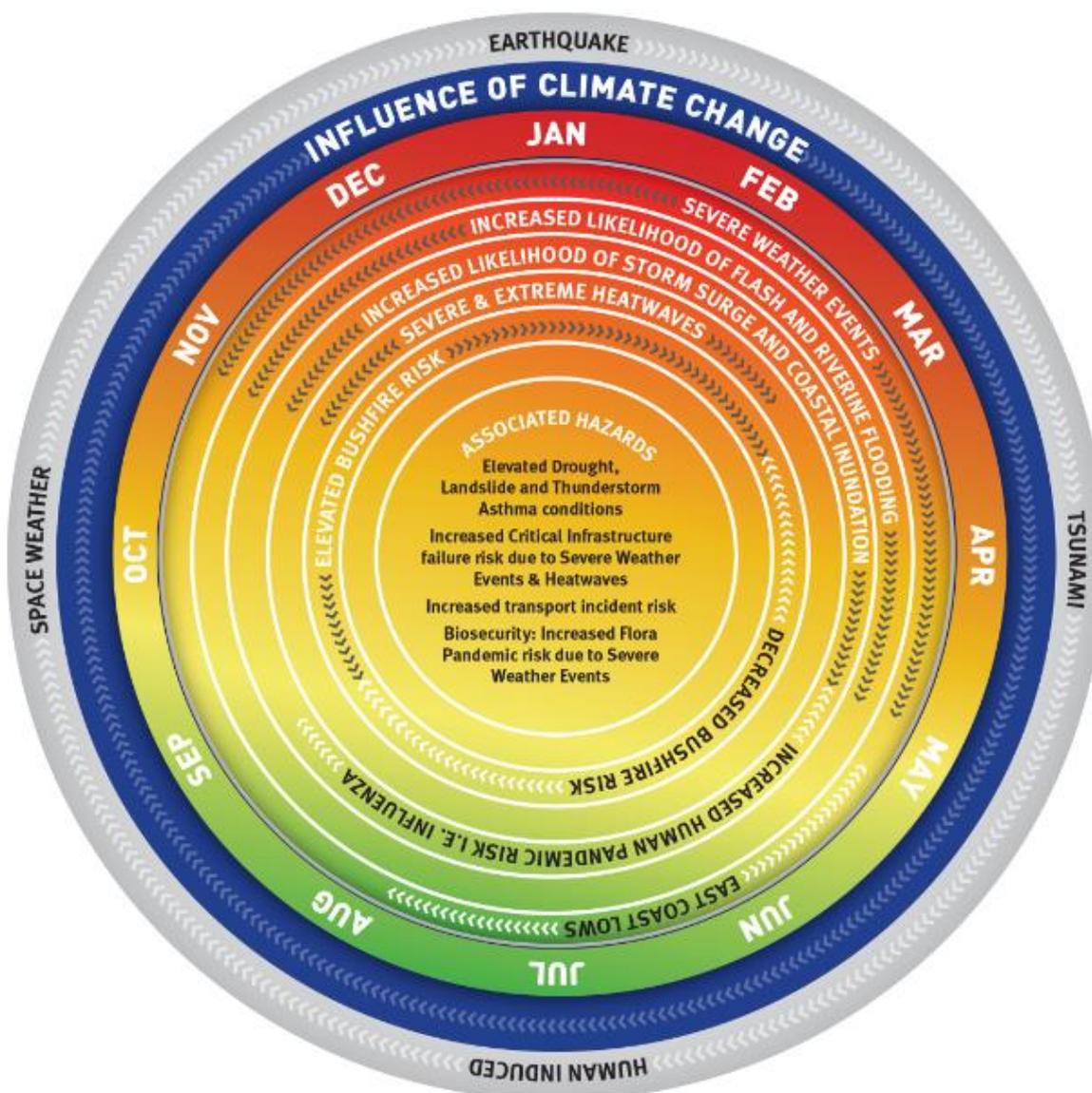 − Areas of Ecological Significance (AES)
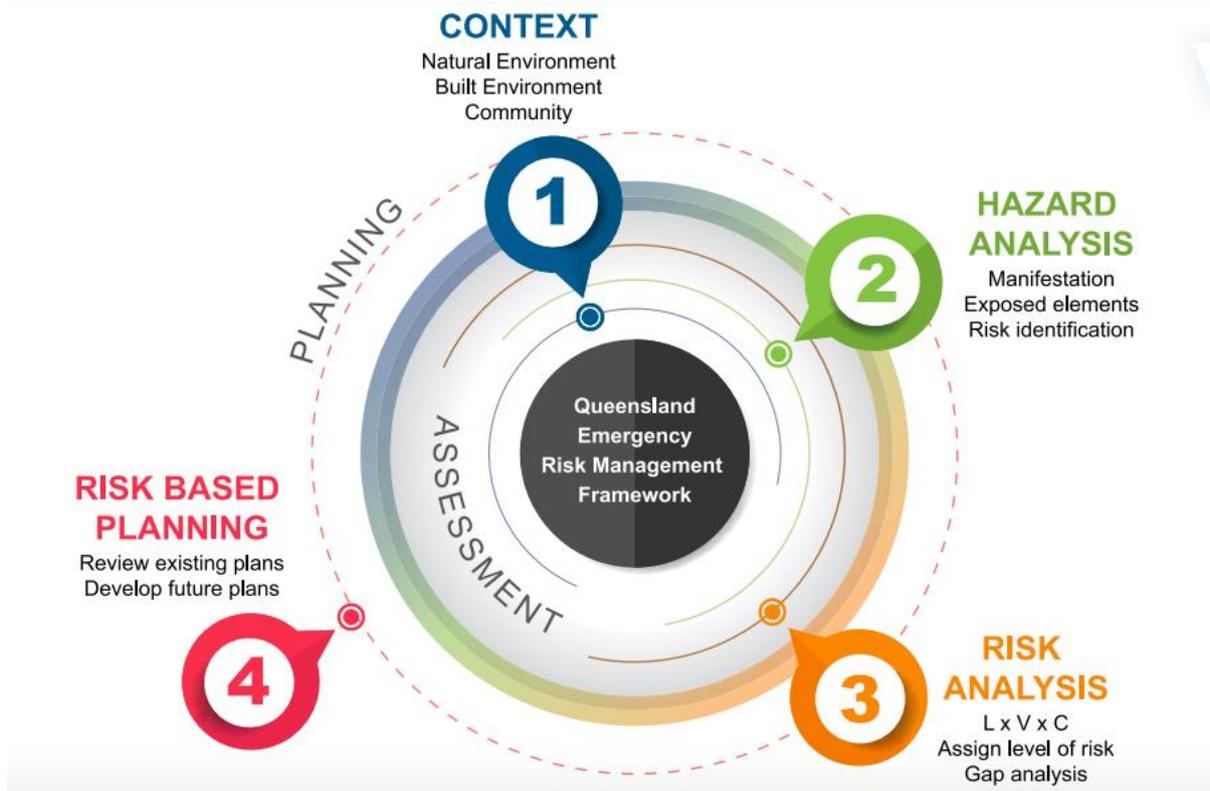
Figure 19 – Hazard risk wheel

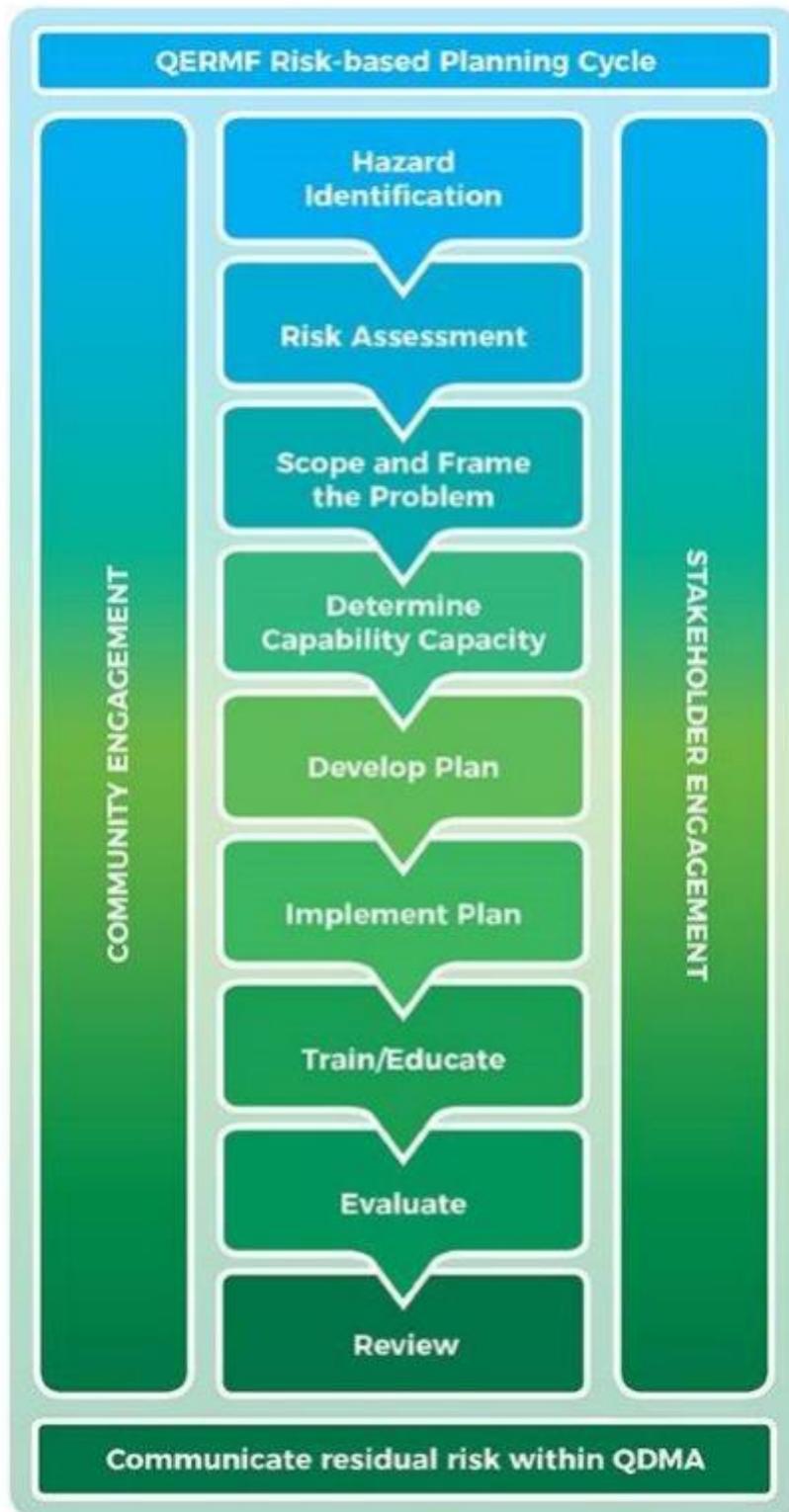*Figure 20 – Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework (QERMF)*

Figure 21 – QERMF risk-based planning cycle

Risk Related Reports/ Assessments

State level disaster risk assessments are available on the Queensland Disaster Management website (www.disaster.qld.gov.au) / Risk (QERMF) / Assessments. The assessments can assist with information that may require contextualisation for the LGA.

Some examples are such as but not limited to:

• State Natural Hazard Risk assessment 2017

• State Heatwave Risk Assessment 2019

• State Earthquake Risk Assessment 2024

• State Tsunami Risk Assessment 2024

• Severe Wind Hazard Assessment Queensland

• North Queensland Monsoon Trough Technical Flood Report – January and February 2019 from the Bureau of Meteorology

• Critical Infrastructure Disaster Risk Assessment for Queensland (CInDRA)

Probability of Risk

Many options exist to assess probability of an event and risk. The QERMF probability table can be used to analyses likelihood of risks between Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) and Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) as detailed in **Figure 22**.

Likelihood	Annual exceedence probability (AEP)	Average recurrence interval (ARI) (indicative)
Almost certain	63% per year or more	Less than 1 year
Likely	10% to <63% per year	1 to <10 years
Unlikely	1% to <10% per year	10 to <100 years
Rare	0.1% to <1% per year	100 to <1000 years
Very rare	0.01% to <0.1% per year	1000 to <10,000 years
Extremely rare	Less than 0.01% per year	10,000 years or more

Figure 22 - QERMF probability table, Likelihood Annual exceedance probability (AEP) and Average Recurrence Interval (ARI)

In consultation with the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience, Geoscience Australia and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, the likelihood table against a 50-year time frame may be used to assist as detailed in **Figure 23**.

Likelihood Table

Historical Likelihood	Likelihood Level	Definition
Has occurred 3 or more times in the last year or at least each year over the last 5 years	**Almost Certain**	Almost certain to occur in most cases
Has occurred twice in the last 5 years	**Likely**	Likely chance of occurring in most cases
Has occurred twice in the last 10 years	**Possible**	Might occur in most cases
May occur, and has occurred once in the last 20 years	**Unlikely**	Not expected to occur in most cases
May only occur in exceptional circumstances or has occurred only once in the last 50 years or more	**Rare**	Will only occur in exceptional circumstances and has not occurred in most cases

Figure 23 – Likelihood table against 50-year time frame

Community of Flinders LGA

Covering 41,199.2km2 the Flinders Shire is situated approximately half way between the cities of Townsville and Mount Isa and is named after Queensland's longest river – the Flinders River. The Flinders Shire is divided by the Flinders Highway – now known as the popular tourist drive "The Overlander's Way". The Flinders Highway runs east and west through the Kennedy Developmental Road – which runs north and south through the Flinders Shire. Encompassing the townships of Hughenden, Prairie, Torrens Creek and Stamford, Flinders Shire has become a major hub for transport and travellers alike. Hughenden is the main centre, situated on the Flinders River, 386km west of Townsville and 519km east of Mount Isa in north western Queensland.

As at the 2021 Census the Flinders Shire has a population of 1,500 residents. Its main industries are cattle and sheep grazing, tourism and renewable energy. The Shire has three prominent geological features: Porcupine Gorge in the north, Flinders River which winds from the White Mountains which are in the northeast through to the west of the Shire, and the Great Inland Sea. Hughenden is the centre of "Dinosaur Country". Prehistoric finds include the great Muttaburrasaurus, Hughenden Sauropod and the Queensland Pterosaur, as well as many ammonites, molluscs and shark teeth dating back to the Cretaceous era.

The Flinders shire includes a variety of diverse landscapes, with basalt caps and gorges to the north, desert country to the south-east and open flat black soil plains to the south and west. The Shire has four different bioregions with ever-changing ecosystems including the Desert Uplands, Einasleigh Uplands, Mitchell Grass Downs and a small portion of Gulf Plains.

Major events held in the Flinders Shire include the Annual Hughenden Agricultural Show, Hughenden Festival of Outback Skies, Hughenden Country Music Festival, Hughenden Camp Draft, Porcupine Gorge Challenge, Hughenden Races, Rugby 7s Carnival as well as country race meetings

held annually at Stamford, Prairie and Kooroorinya Falls Nature Reserve. The Shire welcomes over 18,000 visitors per year through the accredited Visitor Information Centre, The Flinders Discovery Centre.

Flinders Shire was drought declared in April 2013. An active monsoon trough and a slow-moving low pressure system over the northern tropics produced extremely heavy rainfall in tropical Queensland from late January into early February 2019. Parts of Flinders Shire had significant rainfall followed by below average temperatures and high wind conditions. The Flinders River reached major flood levels in Hughenden and other parts of the Shire several times, and damage extended to the grazing industry, small business, the not-for-profit sector and road infrastructure. Our recovery from this severe weather event is a complex task.

Demographics

The Flinders LGA comprises of the following community areas:

- ❖ Hughenden – main township (Population 1113)
- ❖ Prairie (Population 116)
- ❖ Torrens Creek (Population 46)
- ❖ Stamford (Population 77)
- ❖ Remote properties
- ❖ Likely isolated travellers/ tourist
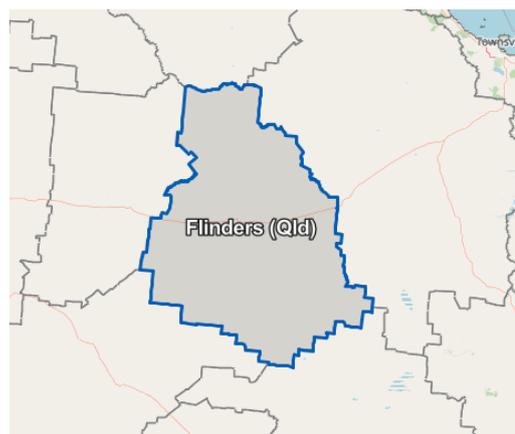
The Flinders LGA demographics, in accordance with the Geoscience Australia – Exposure Report Version 9.4, 2023. The demographics are detailed in **Figure 24**. The Queensland Regional Profiles are also available for current information from the Queensland Treasury – statistics.qpso.qld.gov.au/qld-regional-profiles . A report is in appendix A.

Demographic*	Event	QLD (AV)#	Nat (AV)
Are all aged 65 or over	16.7%	16.3%	15%
Includes persons aged 14 years and under	14.8%	27.7%	24.2%
Includes an Indigenous person	10.1%	4.6%	2.7%
Are a single parent family	5.1%	10.2%	8.4%
Are in need of assistance for self-care activities	4.8%	10.2%	8.7%
Include persons not proficient in English	0%	0.3%	0.8%
Do not have access to a motor vehicle	3.3%	4.4%	4.8%
No one has completed Year 12 or higher	27.4%	23.4%	20%
Moved to the region in the last 1 year	8%	12.5%	9.8%
Moved to the region in the last 5 years	18.8%	36.8%	29.3%

*Demographic information is based on 2021 Census. Residential demographic and economic information is not provided for dwelling counts less than 20 or when the population count is zero.

Figure 24 – Demographics in the Flinders LGA
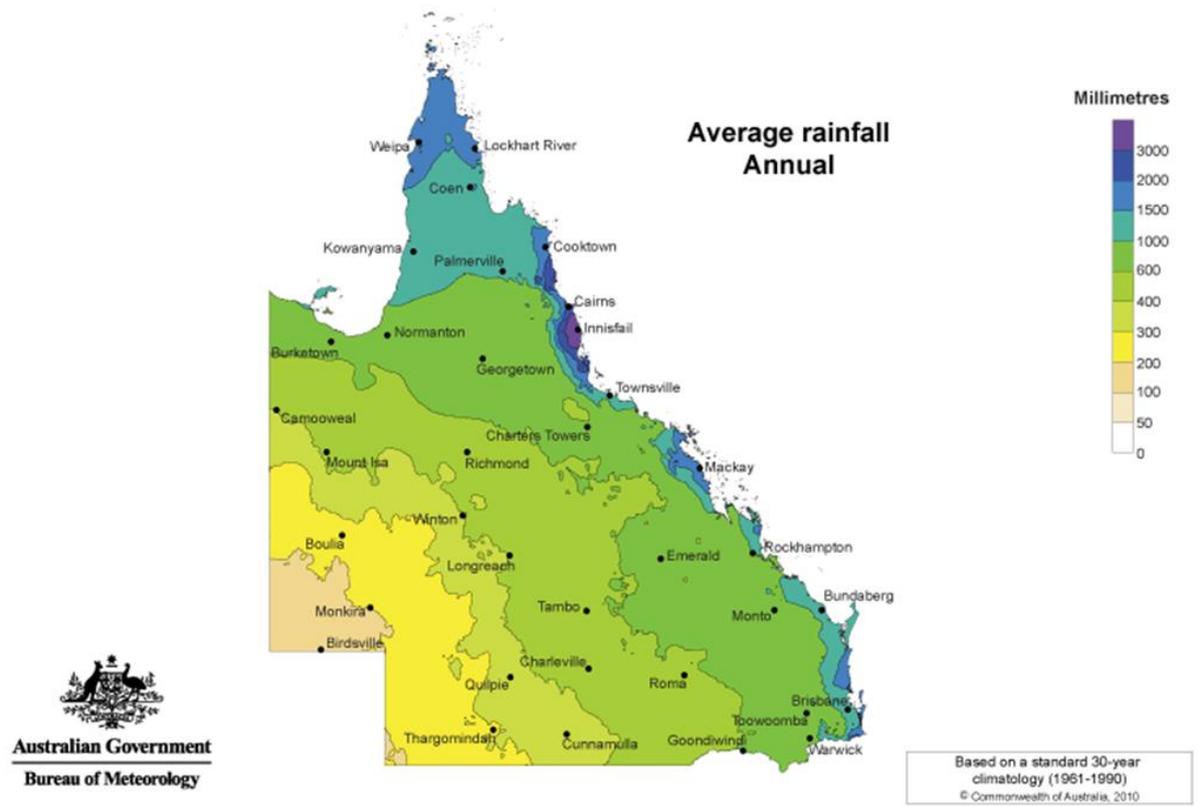
Figure 25 – Average annual rainfall (1961 – 1990)

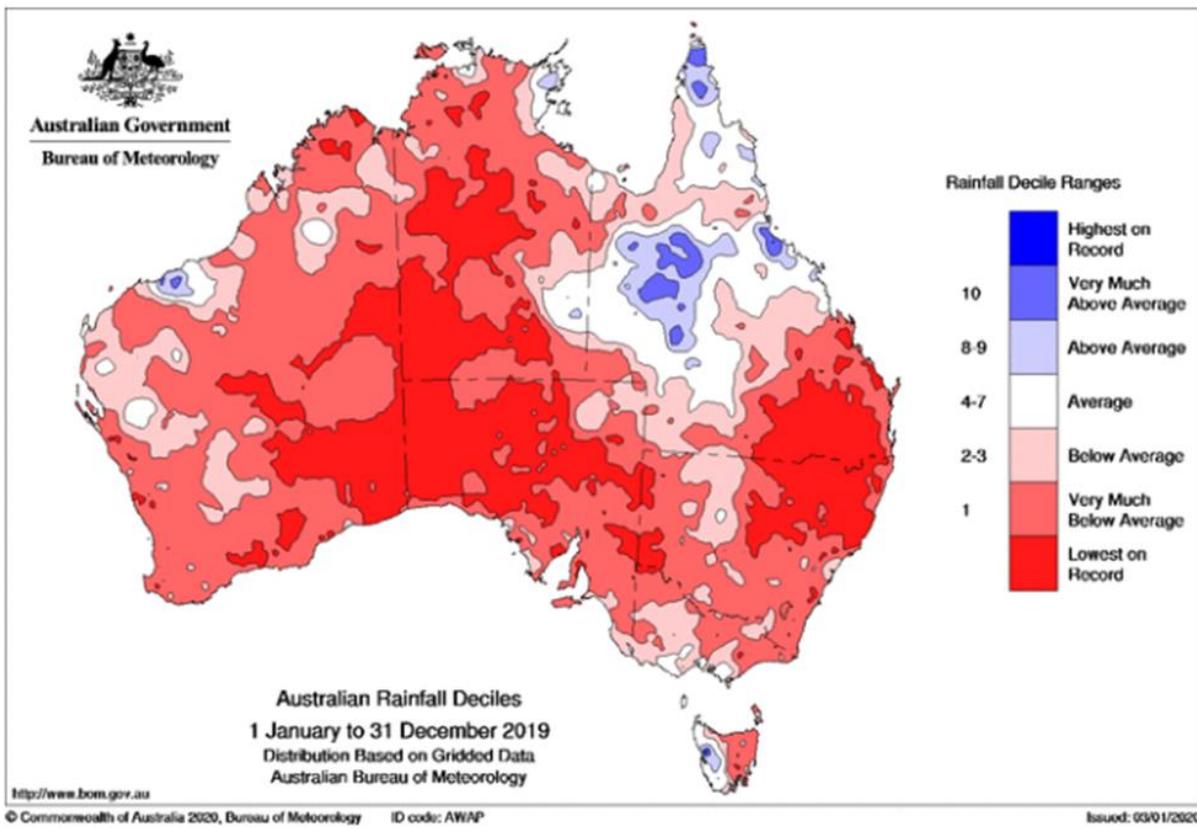*Figure 26 – 2019 annual rainfall*

Hazards

The Queensland State Disaster Risk Report defines hazards as detailed in **Figure 27**. Flinders local disaster management group consider all the risks and the areas of concern in the Flinders are Bushfires, Floods, Cyclones, Pandemic, Biosecurity and heatwaves.

Figure 27 – hazards

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Weather Forecast Districts

The Flinders LGA predominantly is within the Northern Goldfields and Upper Flinders BOM forecast districts. A Southern part of the LGA is within the Central West and a small Northwest area is within the Gulf Country. To the West out of the LGA is the Northwest BOM district. **Figure 28** details the BOM forecast districts.

Figure 28 – Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) weather forecast districts

River Systems

The major river system in the Shire is the Flinders River. A Flinders, Morning Basins, Flood Warning Network as at 30/10/2020 is available on the BOM website. **Figure 29**, details part of this network in relation to the Flinders LGA.
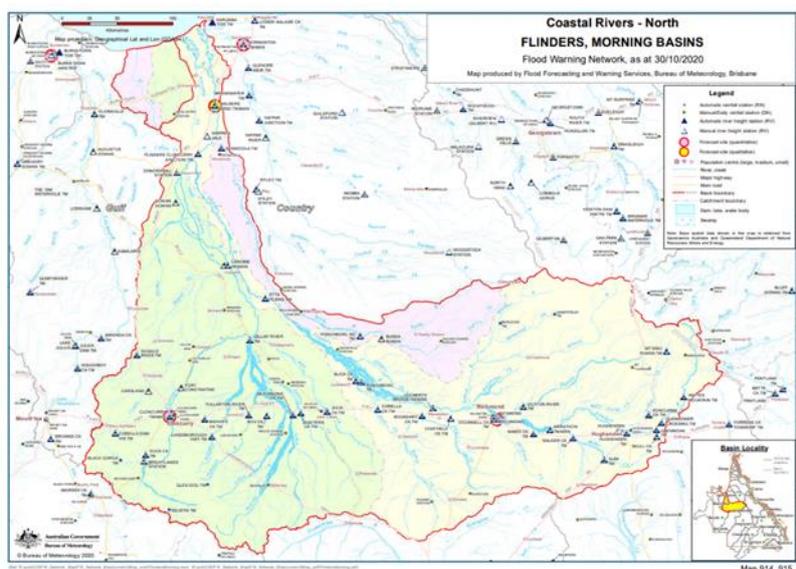

Figure 29 – Flinders River flood warning network

Flinders River Flood Risk

The Flinders River catchment is located in northwest Queensland and drains an area of approximately 109,000 square kilometres. The river rises in the Great Dividing Range, 110 kilometres northeast of Hughenden and flows initially in a westerly direction towards Julia Creek, before flowing north to the vast savannah country downstream of Canobie. Floods normally develop in the headwaters of the Flinders, Cloncurry and Corella Rivers. General heavy rainfall situations can develop from cyclonic influences in the Gulf of Carpentaria which cause widespread flooding, particularly in the lower reaches below Canobie Station. River rises can be rapid and velocities high. The flood risk in the Shire is the area of Hughenden township located on the North side of the Flinders River, and to rural properties near Hughenden, and also isolation of the townships and rural properties of Stamford and Prairie.

In Hughenden township the southern bank of the river is elevated higher than the northern bank and as such the floodplain extends to the north of Hughenden towards Galah Creek. North Hughenden contains many gullies and topographic depressions which convey breakout floodwaters from the Flinders River during large flood events. Several locations exist upstream of Hughenden on the Flinders River where floodwaters spill into the northern floodplain and flow in a north westerly direction towards Galah Creek. A number of these flow paths direct floodwaters through North Hughenden as well as the Hughenden Airport and Golf Course. Flood inundation within South Hughenden is not as severe as North Hughenden due to the higher elevation of the southern riverbank. However, an area in the vicinity of Voss Street is inundated during design flood events equal to or greater than the 50 year Average Recurrence Interval (ARI). (Engeny Flood Mapping Study of Hughenden, August 2011) – **Figure 30**.

Flooding in Hughenden has resulted in:

•   floodwaters inundating the airport and depositing a significant amount of flood debris (including large logs) across the airport;

•   flood waters inundating North Hughenden

•   a significant amount of flood debris collecting on the bridge railing at Ernest Henry Bridge.

The location of Station Creek on the Eastern side of the Hughenden township can also lead to flooding in that area, which is the reason the Showgrounds are not considered a suitable site for an Evacuation Management Centre.

 The isolation of rural properties causes risk to cropping, livestock and persons who are low on supplies or who need medical assistance.

The Flinders Shire Council has 15 **flood cameras** located on its river and creek crossings that can be viewed at www.flinders.qld.gov.au – Disaster Dashboard. The LDMG stay informed of river heights utilising the Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au and Department of Resources (www.resources.qld.gov.au) to assess the impact. Additional flood markers are proposed in a project funded under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program across the region.

Previous Flooding

Previous flood information for the Flinders Rivers is well documented, with flood level records available for the Flinders River at Hughenden since 1942. There are also accounts/photographs of severe flooding in 1917 and 1931. Historical records indicate that up to four (4) major flood events (gauge height > 4.0m) have occurred at Hughenden since 1942, these being 1946, 1967, 1968 and 2002.

Flood events occurring in Hughenden in the last 20 years have been mostly moderate, apart from the 2002 flood which peaked at a level of 4.3m. The 2002 flood event caused significant inundation within Northern Hughenden with BoM records indicating eight (8) houses were flooded with one (1) residence experiencing floodwaters to a depth of 1.0m.
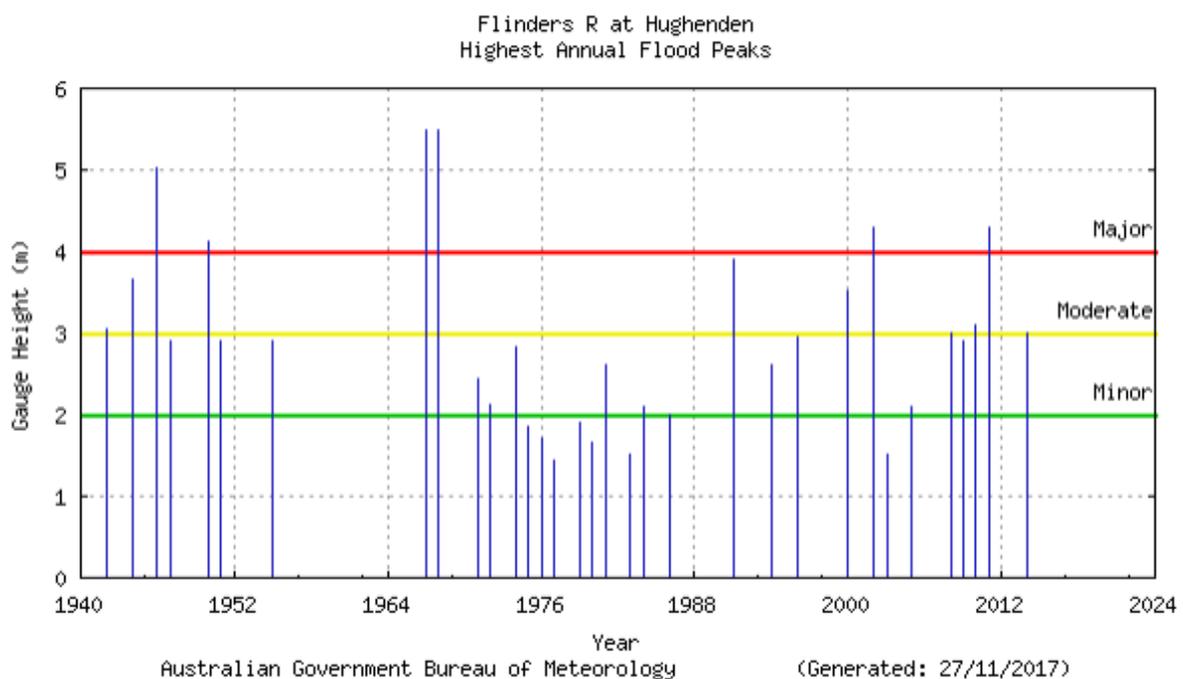
Figure 30 - Graph from the Flood Mapping Study of Hughenden conducted by Engeny in August 2011

Flinders river catchment assessment of the flood potential from BOM details:

•   Major flooding requires a large-scale rainfall situation over the Flinders River catchment. The following can be used as a rough guide to the likelihood of flooding in the catchment:

•   100mm in 24 hours in isolated areas, with lesser rains of 50mm over more extensive areas will cause stream rises and the possibility of minor flooding. If similar rainfalls have been recorded in the previous 2-3 days, then moderate to major flooding may develop.

•   100mm in 24 hours will cause isolated flooding in the immediate area of the heavy rain.

•   General 100mm or heavier falls in 24 hours over a wide area will most likely cause major flooding, particularly in the middle to lower reaches of the Flinders, Cloncurry and Corella Rivers.

Flood Event	Hughenden	Richmond	Cloncurry	Julia Creek	Walkers Bend
Feb 1944	3.66	9.75*	-	-	-
Jan 1946	5.03	10.06*	-	-	-
Jan 1951	2.90	10.47*	-	-	-
Mar 1955	2.90	11.43*	-	-	-
Jan/Feb 1974	2.05	8.47	7.26	5.43	15.67
Jan 1981	2.60	7.80	5.70	-	12.74
Jan 1984	2.10	8.40	4.80	3.16	11.95
Jan 1991	2.40	7.40	7.80	4.82	15.23
Feb 1991	3.90	7.50	4.85	3.85	11.57
Jan 2009	2.80	8.13	8.03	3.98	13.36
Feb 2009	2.90	8.21	7.79	-	15.06
Mar 2011	-	5.10	5.41	3.34	10.38
Jan 2016	-	-	3.33	-	11.17
Mar 2018	-	7.59	7.55	4.06	12.72
Feb 2019	3.60	9.38	6.67	5.03	17.12

Figure 31 – Flinders river basin, significant floods.

The flood classification at river height stations is as such:

- **Minor Flooding** - Causes inconvenience. Low-lying areas next to watercourses are inundated. Minor roads may be closed and low-level bridges submerged. In urban areas inundation may affect some backyards and buildings below the floor level as well as bicycle and pedestrian paths. In rural areas removal of stock and equipment may be required.

- **Moderate Flooding -** In addition to the above, the area of inundation is more substantial. Main traffic routes may be affected. Some buildings may be affected above the floor level. Evacuation of flood affected areas may be required. In rural areas removal of stock is required.

- **Major Flooding -** In addition to the above, extensive rural areas and/or urban areas are inundated. Many buildings may be affected above the floor level. Properties and towns are likely to be isolated and major rail and traffic routes closed. Evacuation of flood affected areas may be required. Utility services may be impacted.

Tropical Cyclones

Tropical cyclones are low pressure systems that form over warm tropical waters. They typically form when the sea-surface temperature is above 26.5 degree Celsius. Tropical cyclones can continue for many days, even weeks, and may follow quite erratic paths. A cyclone will dissipate once it moves over land or over cooler oceans. Impacts of tropical cyclones are predominately wind and rain.

Tropical cyclone categories

Category 1

−   Damaging winds. Negligible house damage. Damage to some crops, trees and caravans. Craft may drag moorings.

−   Maximum mean wind speed 63–88 km/h.

−   Typical strongest gust is up to 125 km/h.

Category 2

−   Destructive winds. Minor house damage. Significant damage to signs, trees and caravans. Heavy damage to some crops. Risk of power failure. Small craft may break moorings.

−   Maximum mean wind speed 89–117 km/h.

−   Typical strongest gust 125–164 km/h.

Category 3

−   Very destructive winds. Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Significant damage to crops and trees. Power failures likely.

−   Maximum mean wind speed 118–159 km/h.

−   Typical strongest gust 165–224 km/h.

Category 4

−   Significant roofing loss and structural damage. Many caravans destroyed and blown away. Extensive damage to vegetation. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failures.

−   Maximum mean wind speed 160–199 km/h.

−   Typical strongest gust 225–279 km/h.

Category 5

−   Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction of buildings and vegetation.

−   Maximum mean wind speed greater than 200 km/h.

−   Typical strongest gust greater than 279 km/h.

In accordance with the BOM analysis of cyclonic activity 1969 - 2019 in the LGA and within 200 km of the border are as detailed in **Figure 32 and 33** respectively. Within the LGA the highest category cyclone was two, on one occasion that is a rare occurrence. There had been four tropical lows that can provide significant rain fall, being a possible likelihood.

When considering a 200 km buffer out from Hughenden LGA boundary the results indicate:

• Highest category cyclone was a Category 3 on two occasions, being unlikely to rare.

• Total cyclones including a tropical low after a cyclone was on 21 occasions, that is likely to almost certain.

The broader history of tropical cyclones that have affected the Flinders LGA are limited involving outcomes of significant damage.
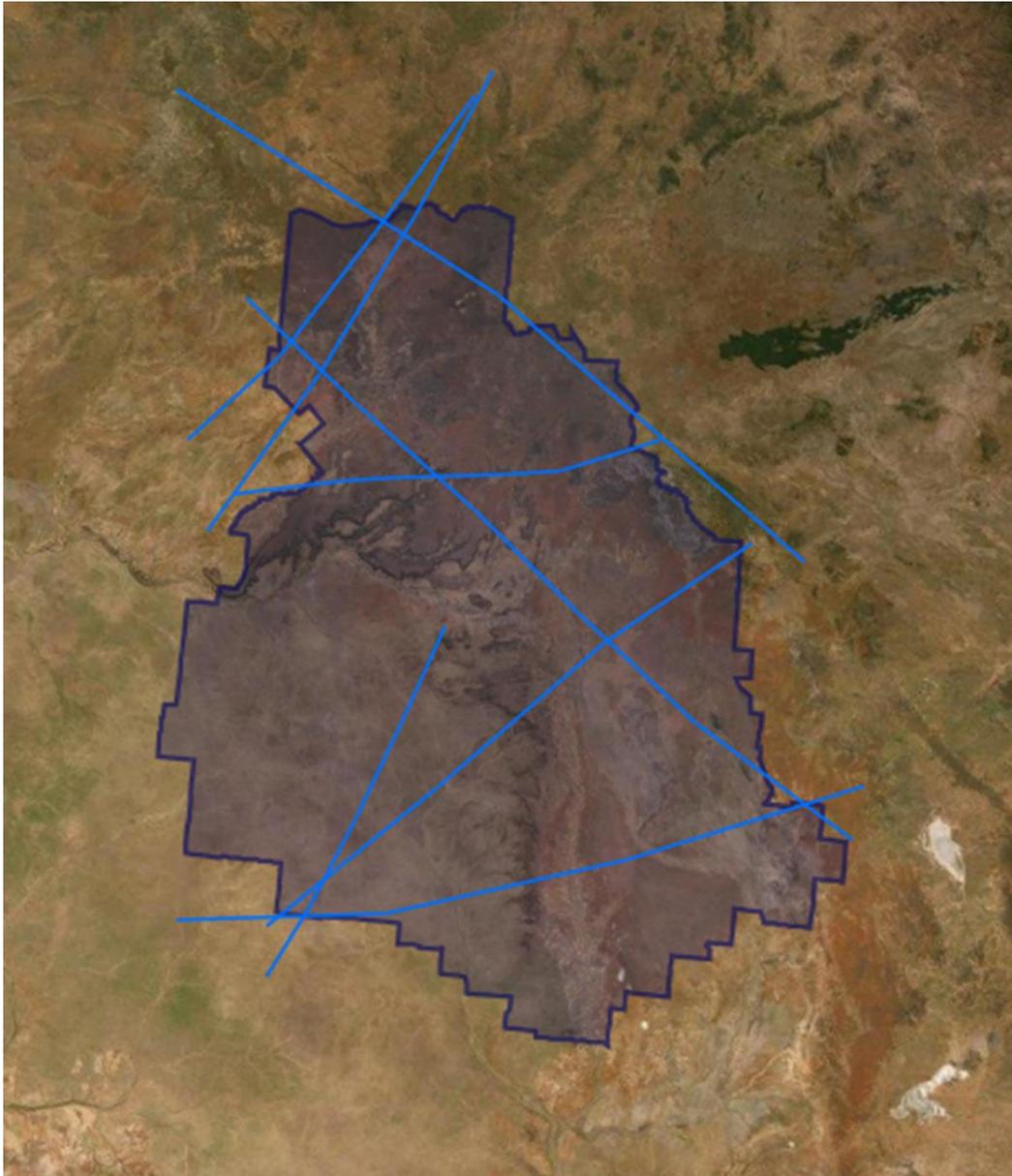
Cyclone Tracks 1969 – 2019 within the Flinders Boundary
Figure 32 – Tropical cyclones, including the tropical low after a cyclone that has breached the LGA
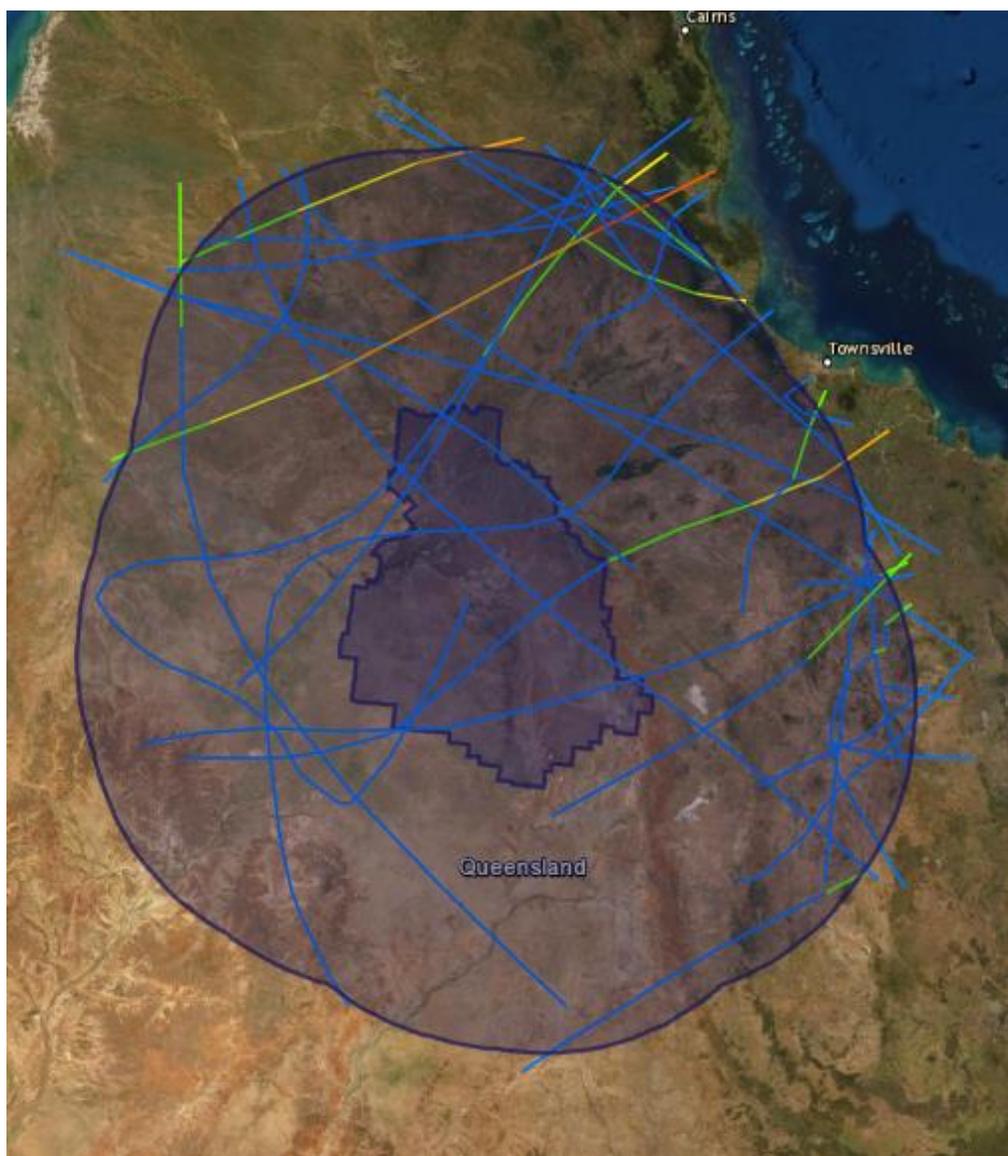
Figure 33 – Tropical Cyclone, including the tropical low after a cyclone that has breached the LGA and a 200km buffer from its boundary.

Bushfire

An Area Fire Management Group (AFMG) is coordinated by QFD and conducted at least annually with land holders/owners/management stakeholders to assess and agree on likely fire risks. Further details of the AFMG are detailed in **Figure 34**. The development of a Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan (BRMP) provides situational awareness for fire risks. The Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan (BRMP) is provide each year to the LDMG. During Operation COOLBURN or Operation SESBANIA that identifies higher fire risk areas are coordinated and mitigated through hazard reduction burns, fire trail/breaks and/or community engagement. The LDMG is provided with the BRMP or advice with progressive updates from QFD. Historically the fire risk has been low in the Flinders LGA. The bushfire risk management and disaster management integration is detailed in **Figure 35**, further information is available in the Queensland Bushfire Plan, a Sub Plan to the State Disaster Management Plan.

For community assistance and awareness of fires in the area please refer to links below:

- NAFI https://firenorth.org.au/nafi3/
- Active Fires https://www.fire.qld.gov.au/Incident-Dashboard
- Fire Wardens https://www.fire.qld.gov.au/safety-education/using-fire-outdoors/fire-wardens
- Australian Warning System (AWS) https://www.fire.qld.gov.au/aws

AREA FIRE MANAGEMENT GROUP (AFMG)

FORMATION	Established by the Queensland Bushfire Plan
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	**Local Government Area** (In some instances an AFMG may cover multiple LGAs, upon approval from the Commissioner, QFES)
MEMBERS	• Chaired by Rural Fire Service, Area Director **Membership of AFMGs may consist of:** • Major landholders and land managers within the area • Government (local, state, Commonwealth) • Community groups involved in bushfire management • Industry groups • Any other entity or person deemed suitable by the AFMG.
FUNCTIONS	• Develop the BRMP for the relevant local government area/s • Provide a forum for stakeholders to discuss planning, preparedness, response and recovery strategies to the effects of bushfire • Provide the BRMP to the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) • Advise the LDMG of mitigation activities undertaken and residual risk • Provide a forum to foster interoperability during response • Provide strategic advice to the LDMG in the event of bushfire related activation.
COMMUNICATIONS	**To the relevant Regional Inter-Departmental Committee Bushfire:** • Provide plans and maps of bushfire mitigation activities • Any information which identifies areas of risk • Details of mitigation activities undertaken • Any information which identifies areas of residual risk • Issues requiring resolution. **To the LDMG:** • Report on mitigation activities undertaken • Report on areas of residual bushfire risk • Table the BRMP.

Figure 34 – Area Fire Management Group

FIGURE 1:

QUEENSLAND'S BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION

Queensland Disaster Management Committee

State Inter-departmental Commitee Bushfire ⟷ State Disaster Coordination Group

Regional Inter-departmental Commitee Bushfire ⟷ District Disaster Management Group

Area Fire Management Group ⟷ Local Disaster Management Group
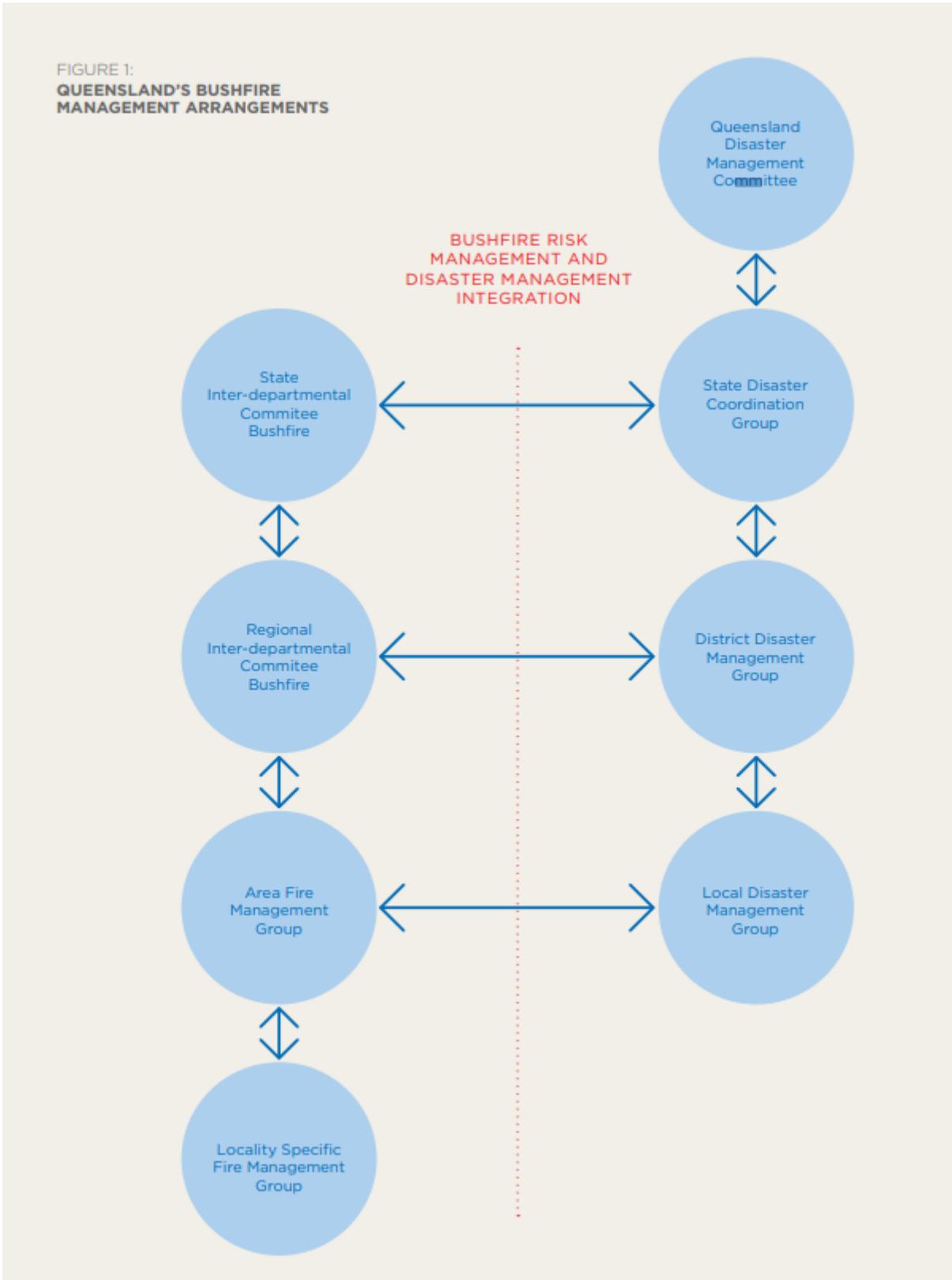
Locality Specific Fire Management Group

Figure 35 – Bushfire risk management and disaster management integration

Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS)

The AFDRS is a Nationally consistent approach, that has Fire Danger Ratings (FDR). The FDR provides information to describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. Further information is detailed on the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) website - Fire Danger Ratings | Queensland Fire Department that is updated daily. The FDR is detailed in **Figure 36**. The FDR are allocated against BOM weather forecast districts as detailed in **Figure 37**, an example is detailed in **Figure 38**. The BOM Fire Weather Knowledge Centre has related weather information. The FDR indicators of potential danger can be used as trigger for action as such:

MODERATE	**HIGH**
Plan and prepare.	**Be ready to act.**
Most fires can be controlled.	Fires can be dangerous.
› Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.	› There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area. › Decide what you will do if a fire starts. › If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bush fire risk areas.

EXTREME	**CATASTROPHIC**
Take action now to protect your life and property.	**For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas.**
Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.	If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.
› These are dangerous fire conditions. › Check your bush fire plan and that your property is fire ready. › If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts. › Reconsider travel through bush fire risk areas.	› These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire. › Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire. › Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before. › Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.

NO RATING: On days when there's minimal risk, the white bar meaning 'No Rating' will be used. Report any fires to 000.

Figure 36 – Detailed Fire Danger Rating (FDR) in Australia – Fire Danger Ratings Sheet, afdrs.com.au/#ratings

MODERATE	HIGH
Plan and prepare	Be ready to act

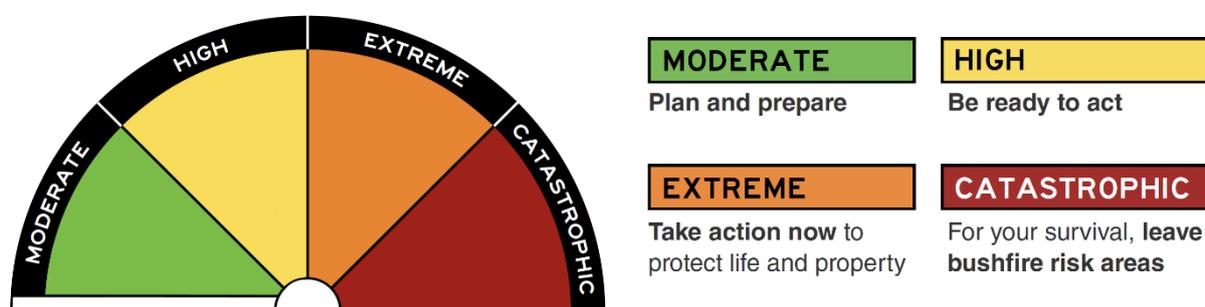| EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
Take action now to protect life and property	For your survival, **leave bushfire risk areas**

Figure 37 – Fire Danger Rating (FDR) in Australia

Queensland Fire Danger Ratings
Issued at 4:00 pm EST on Thursday 23 November 2023.

District	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Peninsula	Moderate 13	Moderate 12	No Rating 11	Moderate 12
Gulf Country	Moderate 13	Moderate 13	Moderate 12	Moderate 12
Northern Goldfields and Upper Flinders	Moderate 13	Moderate 13	Moderate 13	Moderate 13
North Tropical Coast and Tablelands	Moderate 13	Moderate 13	Moderate 12	Moderate 12
Herbert and Lower Burdekin	Moderate 13	Moderate 13	Moderate 12	Moderate 12
Central Coast and Whitsundays	Moderate 17	Moderate 15	Moderate 14	Moderate 17
Capricornia	Moderate 18	Moderate 16	Moderate 14	Moderate 15
Central Highlands and Coalfields	Moderate 17	Moderate 15	Moderate 12	Moderate 14
Central West	Moderate 15	Moderate 13	Moderate 13	Moderate 13
North West	Moderate 16	Moderate 14	Moderate 15	Moderate 14
Channel Country	Moderate 20	Moderate 16	Moderate 15	Moderate 15
Maranoa and Warrego	Moderate 15	Moderate 13	Moderate 15	Moderate 15
Darling Downs and Granite Belt	Moderate 18	Moderate 15	Moderate 16	Moderate 18
Wide Bay and Burnett	Moderate 16	Moderate 14	Moderate 12	Moderate 14
Southeast Coast	Moderate 15	Moderate 14	Moderate 12	Moderate 14

Code

Fire Danger Ratings (Fire Behaviour Index - FBI)	No Rating (< 12)	Moderate (12-23)	High (24-49)	Extreme (50-99)	Catastrophic (>= 100)

Notes
- For all weather information, visit the Bureau of Meteorology web page at www.bom.gov.au.
- For information on Fire Bans and how to Prepare. Act. Survive. Visit www.qfes.qld.gov.au.
- For all current bushfire warnings, visit www.qfes.qld.gov.au/Current-Incidents
- Note: On occasion Fire Danger Ratings may not adhere to FBI thresholds above due to agency discretion in setting FDRs.

Figure 38 – Example of Fire Danger Rating (FDR) in BOM weather forecasts.

Heatwave

The annual maximum temperature for Queensland is detailed in **Figure 39**. Queensland Heatwave risk assessment has been developed with stakeholders as defined in **Figure 40**. The heat wave intensity and potential community impact is detail in **Figure 41**.
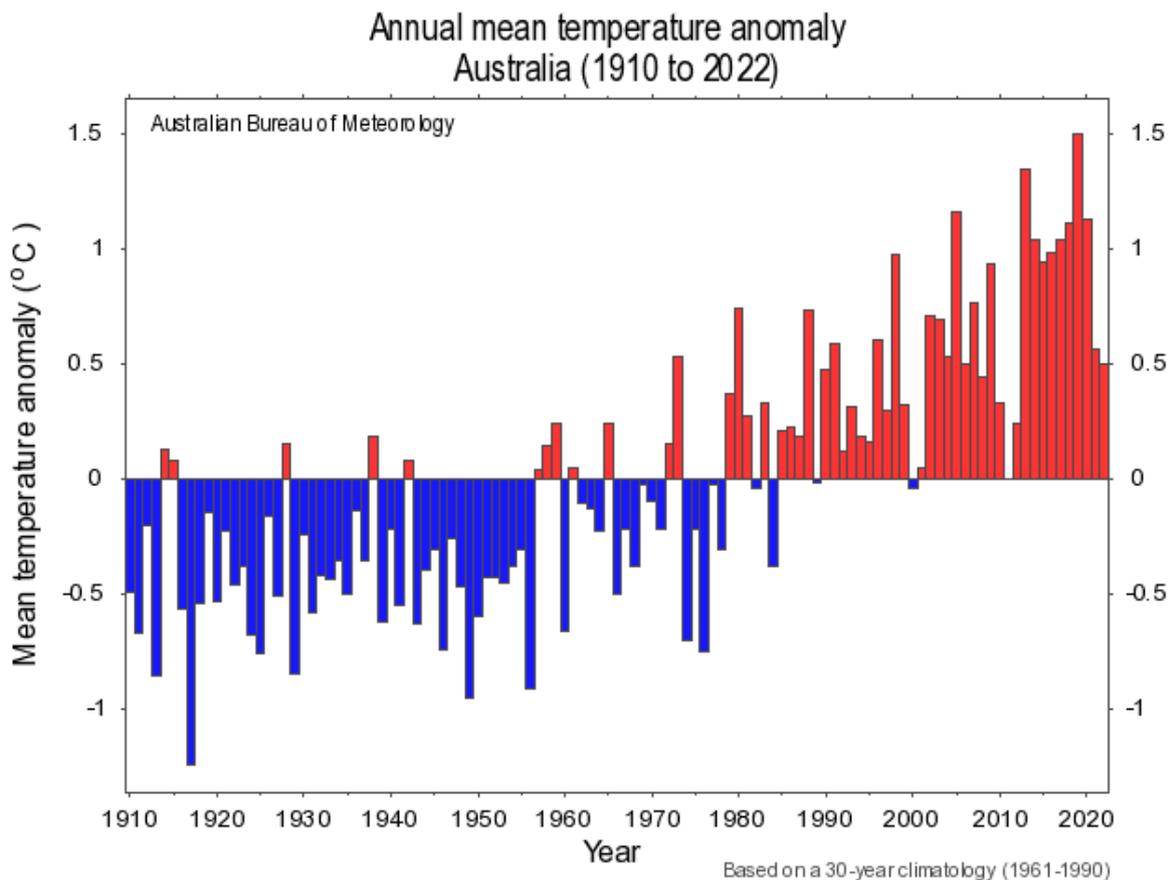
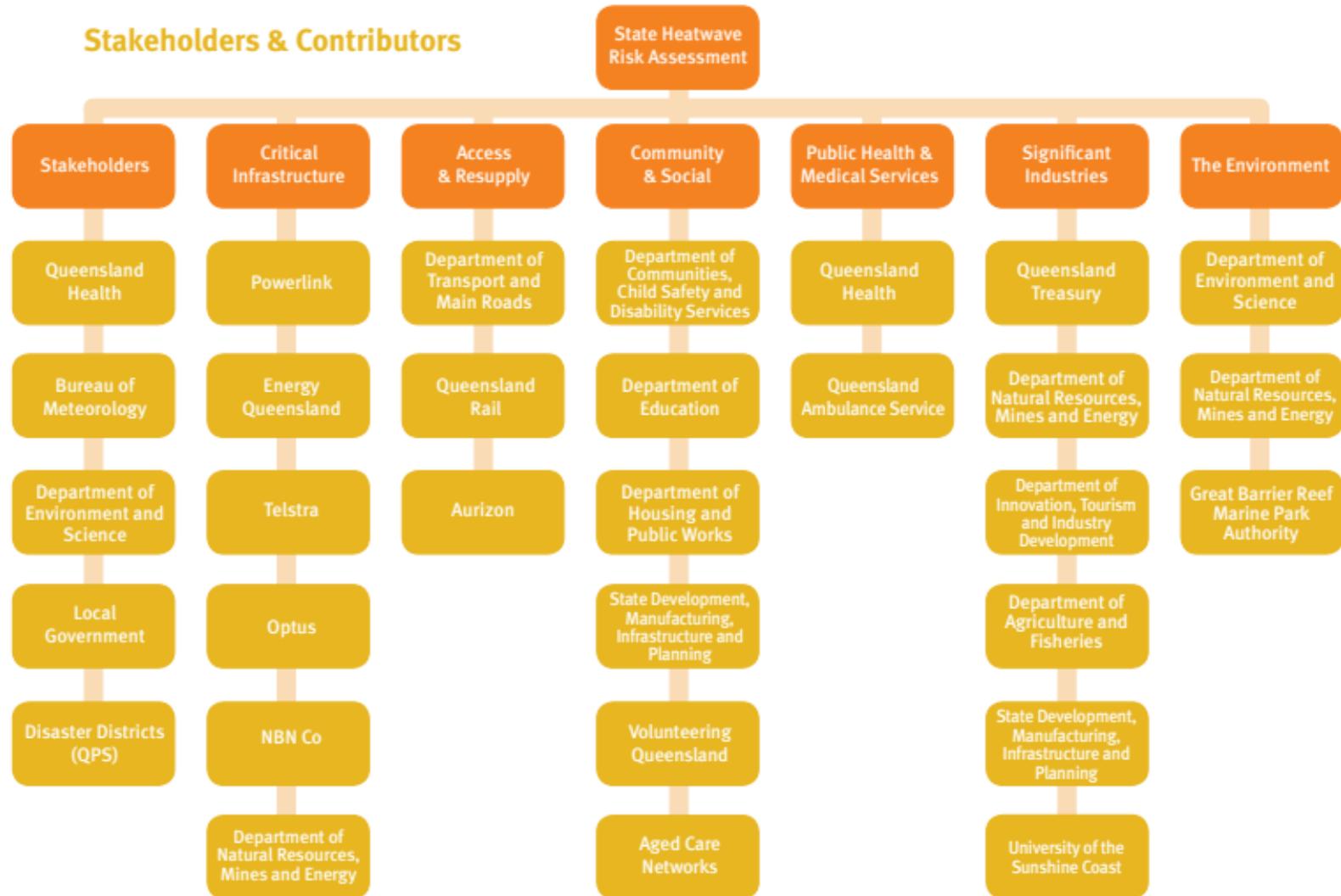*Figure 39 – Annual maximum temperature Queensland*

Figure 40– State heatwave risk assessment stakeholders

HEATWAVE INTENSITY	COLOUR CODE	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY IMPACT
Low intensity heatwave	Yellow	Most people expected to have adequate capacity to cope with this level of heat but begin to see health effects. Increased risk to vulnerable groups.
Severe heatwave	Orange	Increased morbidity and mortality for vulnerable groups, such as those over 65, pregnant women, babies and young children, and those with chronic illness (e.g. renal disease, ischaemic heart disease).
Extreme heatwave	Red	May impact normally reliable infrastructure, such as power and transport. Health risk for anyone who does not take precautions to keep cool, even those who are healthy.

Figure 41 – Heatwave intensity and potential community impact

UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

Index	Heatwave Index	Definition
HWF	Heatwave frequency	Number of heatwave days relative to number of days in a year - i.e. [number of heatwave days/365] x 100 (%)
HWD	Heatwave duration	Number of days of the longest heatwave of the year (days)
HWMt	Temperature of heatwave magnitude	Average mean temperature (in °C) of all heatwave days across the year
HWAt	Temperature of heatwave amplitude	Average mean temperature (in °C) of the hottest heatwave days of the year
Hot Days	Days >35°C	Annual count of days with maximum temperature >35°C
Hot Nights	Nights >20°C	Annual count of nights with minimum temperature >20°C

Note: All figures represent an absolute change from the reference period (1986 to 2005) unless expressed in negative terms, based on RCP 8.5. Further information and guidance on the data represented within this infographic can be found at Appendix F.

Figure 42– Heatwave definitions

ACRONYM	HEATWAVE INDEX	DEFINITION
HWA	Heatwave amplitude	Amplitude of the hottest day of the hottest heatwave of the year, denoted by the maximum EHF of the heatwave with highest mean EHF (°C2)
HWAt	Temperature of heatwave amplitude	Average mean temperature (in °C) of the heatwave amplitude as per the above calculation.
HWM	Heatwave magnitude	Average magnitude of all heatwave days across the year, given by the average of all EHF higher than 1 (°C2)
HWMt	Temperature of heatwave magnitude	Average mean temperature (in °C) of the heatwave magnitude as per the above calculation.
HWN	Heatwave number	Number of heatwave events throughout the year (number)
HWF	Heatwave frequency	Number of heatwave days relative to number of days in an year - i.e., (number of heatwave days/365)*100 (%)
HWD	Heatwave duration	Number of days of the longest heatwave of the year (days)
TX40	Number of days with maximum temperature above 40 °C	Number of days in a year with maximum temperature above 40 °C (days)

Figure 43 – Definitions for Regional climate models

Earthquakes

The Queensland State earthquake risk assessment details the earthquake moment magnitude and definition in **Figure 44** and Queensland notable earthquakes 5.0 or above in **Figure 45.**

Moment Magnitude (Indicative only)	MM Intensity (Likely maximum)	Definition
1.2	II	MMII - felt by a few persons at rest indoors, especially by those on upper floors or otherwise favorably placed.
2.0	III	MMIII - felt indoors, but not identified as an earthquake by everyone. Vibrations may be likened to the passing of light traffic. It may be possible to estimate the duration, but not the direction. Hanging objects may swing slightly. Standing motorcars may rock slightly.
3.0	IV	MMIV - generally noticed indoors, but not outside. Very light sleepers may be awakened. Vibration may be likened to the passing of heavy traffic, or to the jolt of a heavy object falling or striking the building. Walls and frame of building are heard to creak. Doors and windows rattle. Glassware and crockery rattle. Liquids in open vessels may be slightly disturbed. Standing motorcars may rock, and the shock can be felt by their occupants.
4.0	V-VI	MMV - generally felt outside and by almost everyone indoors. Most sleepers awakened. A few people frightened. Direction of motion can be estimated. Small unstable objects are displaced or upset. Some glassware and crockery may be broken. Some windows crack. A few earthenware toilet fixtures crack. Hanging pictures move. Doors and shutters swing. Pendulum clocks stop, start or change rate.
		MMVI - felt by all. People and animals alarmed. Many run outside. Difficulty experienced in walking steadily. Slight damage to masonry D. Some plaster cracks or falls. Isolated cases of chimney damage. Windows and crockery broken. Objects fall from shelves and pictures from walls. Heavy furniture moves. Unstable furniture overturns. Small school bells ring. Trees and bushes shake or are heard to rustle. Material may be dislodged from existing slips, talus slopes, or slides.
5.0	VI-VII	MMVII - general alarm. Difficulty experienced in standing. Noticed by drivers of motorcars. Trees and bushes strongly shaken. Large bells ring. Masonry D cracked and damaged. A few instances of damage to Masonry C. Loose brickwork and tiles dislodged. Unbraced parapets and architectural ornaments may fall. Stone walls crack. Weak chimneys break, usually at the roof-line. Domestic water tanks burst. Concrete irrigation ditches damaged. Waves seen on ponds and lakes. Water made turbid by stirred-up mud. Small slips, and caving-in of sand and gravel banks.
6.0	VII-VIII	MMVIII - alarm may approach panic. Steering of motor cars affected. Masonry C damaged, with partial collapse. Masonry B damaged in some cases. Masonry A undamaged. Chimneys, factory stacks, monuments, towers, and elevated tanks twisted or brought down. Panel walls thrown out of frame structures. Some brick veneers damaged. Decayed wooden piles break. Frame houses not secured to the foundation may move. Cracks appear on steep slopes and in wet ground. Landslips in roadside cuttings and unsupported excavations. Some tree branches may be broken off.
7.0	VIII-IX	MMIX - general panic. Masonry D destroyed. Masonry C heavily damaged, sometimes collapsing completely. Masonry B seriously damaged. Frame structures racked and distorted. Damage to foundations general. Frame houses not secured to the foundations shift off. Brick veneers fall and expose frames. Cracking of the ground conspicuous. Minor damage to paths and roadways. Sand and mud ejected in alluviated areas, with the formation of earthquake fountains and sand craters. Underground pipes broken. Serious damage to reservoirs.

Figure 44 – Earthquake Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) and definitions.

Date	Location	Magnitude	Depth
August 2016	Offshore north east of Bowen	5.8	7km
August 2015	Offshore east of Fraser Island	5.3	13km
July 2015	Offshore east of Fraser Island	5.4	13km
February 2015	Eidsvold, Bundaberg	5.2	13km
July 2011	Bowen, Mackay	5.3	7km
November 1978	Heron Island, Yeppoon	5.2	12km
December 1974	Offshore of Mackay	5.1	6km
June 1965	Tarewinnabar, Warwick	5.3	28km
June 1918	Lady Elliot Island, Gladstone	6.0	15km

Figure 45 – Queensland notable earthquakes 5.0 or greater

The record of earthquake occurrence within Queensland since 1866 is detailed in **Figure 46**. This may not be an accurate reflection due to the location of settlement activity and placement of seismographs across Queensland, in particular for Central and West regions of Queensland.
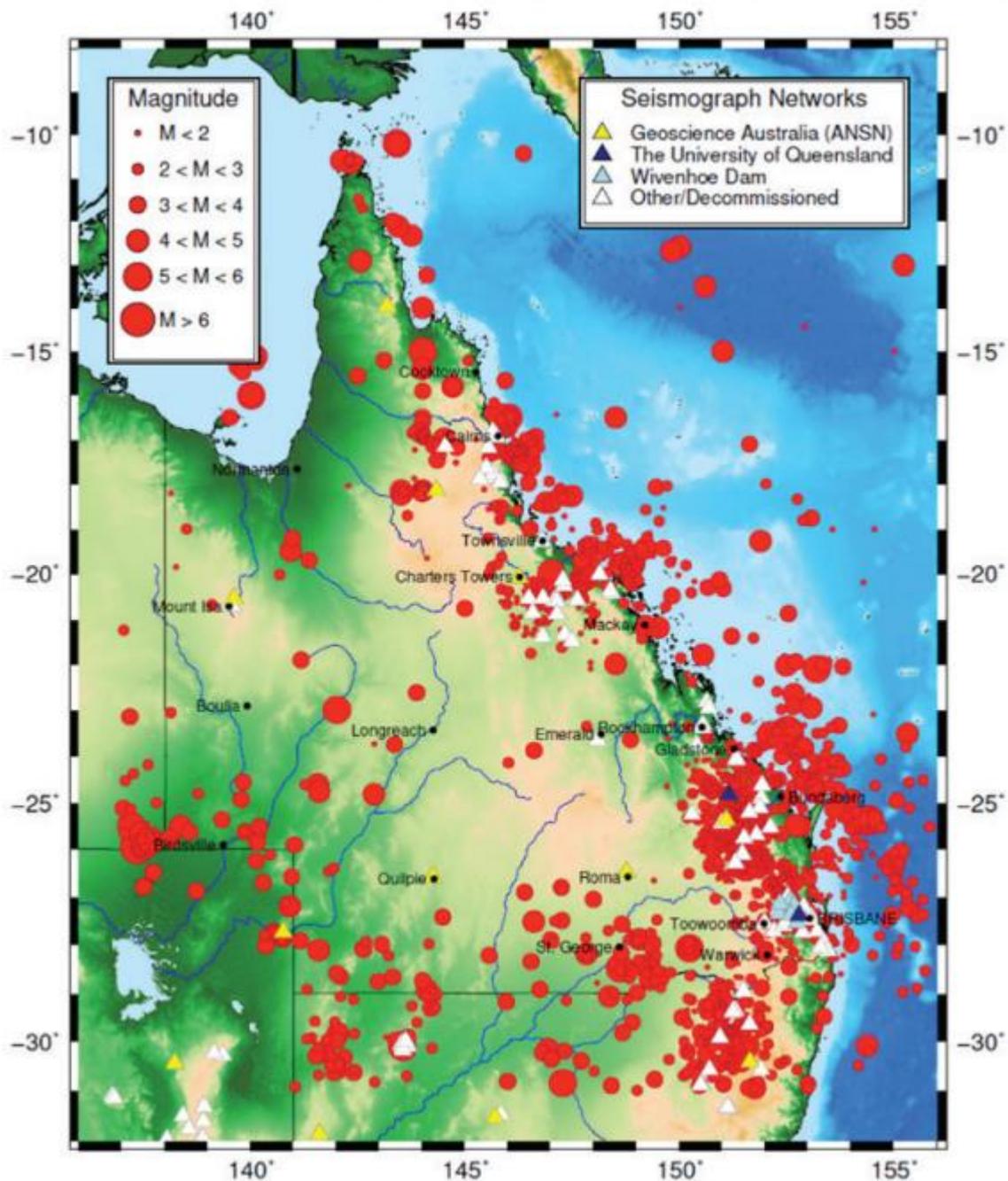

Figure 46 – Record of earthquake occurrence within Queensland since 1866 -2019

In the Flinders LGA there are two seismic (earthquake) zones Z029 and Z034 as detailed in **Figure 47**. The AEP when bench marked against a magnitude 6.05 may only be 0.07% (Z029) and 0.41% (Z034); however, over 30, 50 and 100 years the broader probability increases as detailed in **Figure 48**. The primary and secondary effects can be considered against known events such as Gladstone 1918 at 6.05 and Newcastle 1989 at 5.35. Further information can be requested through Geoscience Australia 1800 655 739 or earthquakes@ga.gov.au.
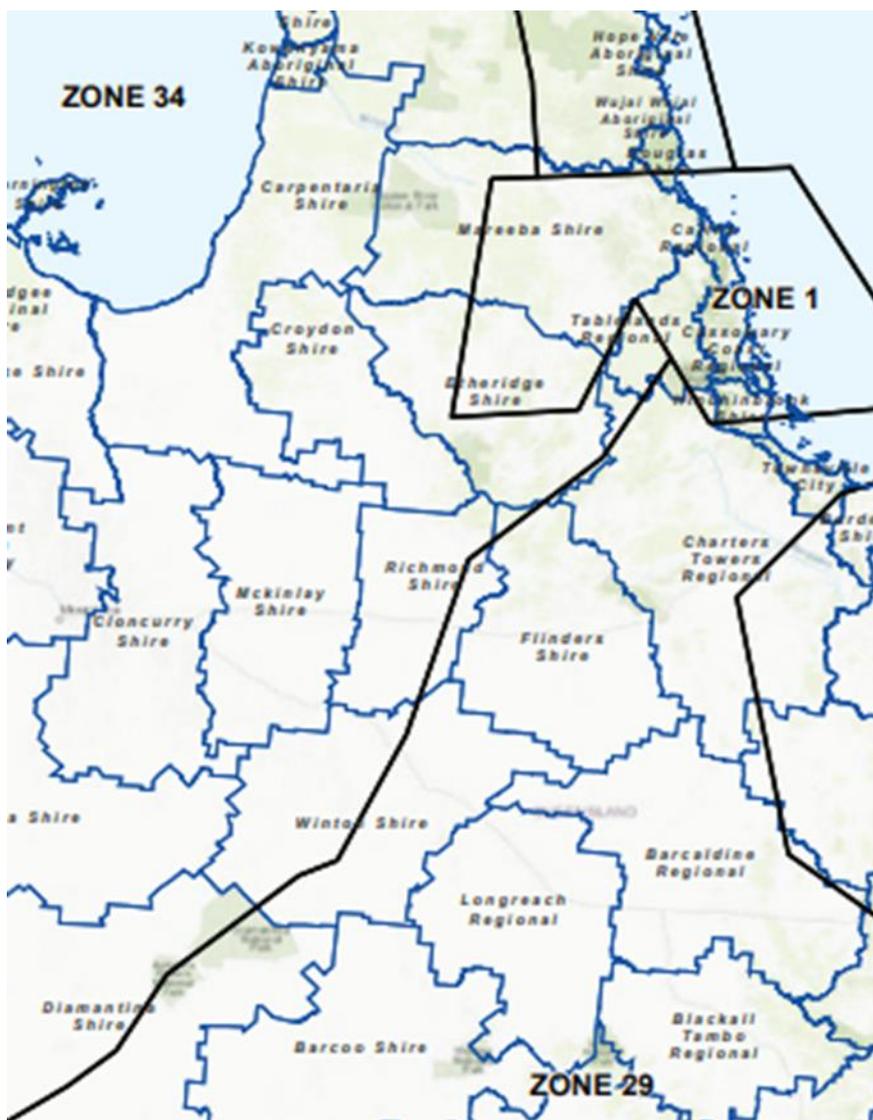
Figure 47 – Earthquake Zones

SOURCE ZONE OCCURRENCE DATA NSHA2018												
		MAGNITUDE			MAGNITUDE			MAGNITUDE			MAGNITUDE	
ZONE		5.35	6.05		5.35	6.05		5.35	6.05		5.35	6.05
Z001		0.13%	0.02%		3.38%	0.53%		6.27%	0.88%		12.15%	1.76%
Z002		0.14%	0.02%		4.23%	0.59%		6.96%	0.98%		13.43%	1.96%
Z003		0.35%	0.06%		5.56%	0.78%		9.10%	1.30%		17.37%	2.58%
Z004		0.19%	0.03%		5.64%	0.79%		9.23%	1.32%		17.60%	2.61%
Z028	AEP	DATA UNAVAILABLE		30 YEARS	DATA UNAVAILABLE		50 YEARS	DATA UNAVAILABLE		100 YEARS	DATA UNAVAILABLE	
Z029		0.53%	0.07%		14.66%	2.15%		23.21%	3.58%		41.03%	6.99%
Z030		0.03%	0.00%		0.82%	0.11%		1.36%	0.19%		2.70%	0.37%
Z034		2.18%	0.41%		48.36%	11.79%		66.76%	18.86%		88.95%	34.17%
Z035		0.29%	0.06%		8.25%	1.72%		13.36%	2.84%		24.94%	5.60%

Magnitude 5.35 equivalent to Newcastle 1989 Event. Magnitude 6.05 equivalent to Gladstone 1918 Event.
30 Years – Typical length of a mortgage in Queensland
50 Years – Land Use Planning Horizon
100 Years – Critical Infrastructure Build Horizon

Figure 48 – AEP and broader probability for earthquake zones

Epidemic and Pandemic

In the event of epidemics and pandemics this will be conducted with the primary/lead agency. Animal related will be through Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and human related with be through Queensland Health. Dependant on the event, both agencies may be required. The Queensland Government Queensland Whole-of-Government Pandemic Plan and the **Flinders Sub Plan Pandemic** details further information.

Traffic Accidents

The occurrence of traffic accidents within the Flinders LGA is likely as an incident managed by a lead agency over a major highway connecting Townsville to Mount Isa. The traffic comprises general to tourist and logistic runs that involve business resupply, cattle and chemical/product movement for the mining sector. The higher consequence to the community that would require a significant coordinated response that would involve a Disaster is unlikely to rare. This includes the consideration of chemical products being moved via rail or road. In the event of a traffic disaster the LDMG would assist the lead agencies.

Community Disaster Resilience and Capacity Building

Community engagement

Effective community engagement is the process of stakeholders working together to build resilience through collaborative action, shared capacity building and the development of strong relationships built on mutual trust and respect. Community engagement strategies are equally important during all phases prevent/mitigate, preparedness, response and recovery, to well inform the community and associated stakeholders to make the optimal decision.

The approaches to community engagement for disaster resilience at **Figure 49**, with further information in the Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection – Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience.

The principles are:

• **Place the community at the centre** - Effective community engagement is responsive, flexible and recognises the community as the central reference point for planning, implementing and measuring success in any engagement process. Inclusive, respectful and ethical relationships between engagement partners and the community must guide every stage of the engagement process.

• **Understand the context** - Effective community engagement requires partners to develop a strong understanding of the unique history, values, diversity, dynamics, strengths, priorities and needs of each community. It is also important to understand the environmental, political, or historical context that surrounds any hazard, emergency event or disaster.

• **Recognise complexity** - Effective community engagement considers the complex and dynamic nature of hazards, disaster risk and emergency events and the diverse identities, histories, composition, circumstances, strengths and needs of communities and community members. Because of this complexity, effective community engagement to build disaster resilience is an evolving process that requires ongoing investment.

• **Work in partnership** - Effective community engagement requires a planned and coordinated approach between the community and partners at every stage of the process. Potential issues

arising from any imbalance in power, information or resources between the community and partners will be proactively managed during the process.

• **Communicate respectfully and inclusively** - Community engagement is built on effective communication between the community and partners that recognises the diverse strengths, needs, values and priorities of both community members and partners.

• **Recognise and build capability** - Effective community engagement recognises, supports and builds on individual, community and organisational capability and capacity to reduce disaster risk and increase resilience.

Who leads the process	Partner designs and delivers to community	Partner leads with community input	Community and partner work together	Community leads with partner support	Community designs and delivers
Basis of engagement	Partner provides community with information, options, solutions or services for a given situation or issue.	Partner provides leadership to community. Community provides input to the process.	Community and partner form a partnership. They co-design and develop options and solutions.	Community provides leadership to partner. Partner provides input to the process.	Community designs, decides and implements all actions. Minimal or no engagement necessary from any partner.
Stated or implied, contract between external partner and community	Partner understands the issue or situation, provides community with what they need and keeps community informed through the process.	Partner provides guidance, listens to community concerns and issues and takes them into account. Community input is considered necessary to ensure success.	Both community and partner bring expertise to the relationship. Mutual participation or collaboration contribute to success.	Community understands its own context and situation. Partner offers expertise and knowledge. This input is offered to support community-led action.	Community has a thorough understanding of its own context and situation and the hazards that may affect them. Community will ask for support when and if needed. External organisations may not be aware of projects at all.
Methods of engagement	• Meetings • Presentations • Information sessions • Training and seminars • Fact sheets • Brochures • Newsletters • Letter box drops • Door knocks • Online instruction videos or information • Traditional media • Social media	• Meetings • Seminars • Consultations • Online or analogue surveys • Partner-led workshops and focus groups • Partner-led projects • Traditional media • Social media	• Co-chaired committees and working groups • Deliberative, participative and co-led workshops and focus groups • Online collaborative spaces • Shared research projects • Collaborative community-based projects • Traditional media • Social media	• Meetings • Seminars • Consultations • Forums • Online or analogue surveys • Community-led workshops and focus groups • Community-led projects • Informal conversations • Traditional media • Social media	• Meetings • Presentations • Information sessions • Training and seminars • Fact sheets • Brochures • Newsletters • Letter box drops • Door knocks • Online instruction videos or information • Community-led working groups • Community-led projects • Traditional media • Social media
Examples of actions or activities that reflect methods	Briefings by specialists in disaster preparation, response or recovery. Information based public safety campaigns.	Partner-led planning and recovery focus groups and workshops. Partner-led surveys and feedback sessions.	Collaborative disaster planning and preparation projects. Joint working groups to implement particular projects.	Community-led planning processes, recovery committees, meetings and projects.	Community-led, resourced and implemented recovery processes and projects.
NB: Many of the methods of engagement can be either online, face to face, or both.					

Figure 49 – Approaches to community engagement for disaster resilience

The Queensland Government arrangements for coordinating public information in a crisis, provides cross government communication activities to assist in disaster events. The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) disseminates information to authorised LDMG key stakeholders (Chair, LDC). It is at the LDMG discretion if this information is sent to the wider LDMG and/or community. At times some of the information may not be for media or community dissemination, but rather for timely situational awareness to assist with disaster management. The LDMG is assisted with the Flinders Shire Council Website, Facebook and notice boards to broadcast key authorised information for the LGA and subsequent community. If changes to the authorised LDMG key stakeholders is required for SDCC information, this can be actioned through the EMCC/EMC.

Community engagement strategies may be conducted to assist in preparedness, prevention/mitigation, response and recovery updates, such as but not limited to:

• Get Ready initiatives.

• Volunteerism opportunities to support the community.

• Disaster management and hazard awareness campaigns.

• School education programs.

• Community meetings or workshops.

• Communication strategies through media email, paper, radio, TV to broadcast authorised information relative the community in the LGA.

• Evaluations seeking community and stakeholder feedback.

Prevention

Prevention and mitigation activities with improvement strategies are through studies, reports and assessments.

Government agencies responsible for specific prevention functions, that may be requested to assist the LDMG, are detail in **Figure 50**.

Lead agency	Prevention Functions
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	• Hazard mapping • Bushfire mitigation programs
Queensland Reconstruction Authority	• Disaster resilience and mitigation policy and planning • Disaster mitigation and resilience funding
Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs	• Disaster mitigation and resilience funding
Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning	• Building our Regions program • Land use planning
Department of Housing and Public Works	• Building Code

Figure 50 – Government agencies responsible for specific prevention functions

Preparedness

Coordination and collaboration

The LDMG requires to coordinate and work in collaboration with group members and associated stakeholders. The members are likely to also be working within their own agency framework; however, it is important to ensure the LDMG is aware and provided situational awareness in relation to disaster management related tasks.

• LGA known resources such as but not limited to QAS (vehicle only), QPS (EMC and SES), QH, QFD (FRS and RFS) DAF and Ergon.

• Businesses and agencies are encouraged to consider risks within their respective Business Continuity Management System (BCMS), that considers activities prior to during and after likely Disaster events.

• Management of likely or ad hoc external agencies and stakeholders in the LGA. Advisors or consultants will likely be called in based on the event if requested by the LDMG. It is important to ensure briefing of agencies is conducted prior to work in the LGA.

• The confirmation of equipment availability, conduct of maintenance checks and testing are encouraged with competent and qualified members. This is to ensure functionality is likely if required in an event. Equipment can be such as but limited to plant (trucks, graders, etc), generators, fuel, spare parts, consumables. Plant/equipment list is available within the Council by contacting the Finance Department or the Chief Executive Officer (07) 4741 2900 or 0428 411 684 out of hours.

Response Strategy

Activations will be conducted in accordance with the LDMP and associated triggers. When in doubt initial discussions between the Chair, LDC and/or EMCC/EMC may be required before the wider LDMG is informed. The changes to activation levels are then decided by the LDMG with support from the lead/primary agency and associated DM stakeholders. The LDMG Activations table at **Figure 51**. The activation triggers are detailed in **Figure 52**. Activation in response is when there is a need to:

• Monitor potential hazards or disaster operations

• Support or coordinate disaster operations being conducted by a designated lead agency.

• Coordinate resources in support of disaster response or recovery operations in the LGA.

Level of Activation	Response
Alert	At this stage the Flinders Shire Local Disaster Management Group is placed on Readiness. The Local Disaster Coordinator continues to monitor the event.
Lean Forward	The Lead Agency advises the Chairperson/ Local Disaster Coordinator that assistance under the Disaster Management Plan may be required for a pending threat. The Chairperson places the members of the Disaster Management Group on Standby, whereby they are responsible to keep abreast of current affairs and weather conditions. The Chairperson implements the Disaster Management Plan and authorises the Local Disaster Coordinator to place the Local Disaster Coordination Centre staff on Standby should Flinders Shire Council be the Lead Agency or required to assist another agency under the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements
Stand Up	The LDMG is activated. If the need is required, LDMG will operationalise a LDCC.
Stand Down	A decision is made by the Chairperson to cease Operations. The Disaster Coordination Centre may then be closed. Disaster Coordination Centre staff are to be debriefed by Local Disaster Coordinator. Members of the LDMG are to attend a Debrief meeting, which is to contain reports from relevant agencies regarding the disaster management operations highlighting aspects that were successful and those that were not for inclusion in the LDMP review and update.
Debriefing	A hot debrief should be conducted immediately after the event has passed or no later than the next day.

Figure 51 – Activation table

LEAD	PREVENTION FUNCTIONS
Area Fire Management Group	• Assess the bushfire hazard in their area of responsibility • Develop the BRMP for the relevant local government area/s • Advise the LDMG of mitigation activities undertaken and residual risk
Department of Environment and Science (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)	• Conduct planned burns and other prevention activities on land it manages • Monitor bushfire risk and fire danger conditions across land it manages • Identify priority protection areas • Maintain road network and fire lines on its land
Department of Housing and Public Works	• Administer minimum standards for buildings in bushfire prone areas • *Building Act 1975* • Queensland Development Code • National Construction Code • Australian Standard AS 3959 – Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas
Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME)	• Managing underlying risk level relating to fire on DNRME land • Conduct planned burns and other prevention activities on land it manages • Monitor bushfire risk and fire danger conditions across land it manages
Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR)	• Manage bushfire risk within state-controlled road reserve • Manage closed rail corridors
HQ-Plantations	• Monitor bushfire risk across the Plantation Licence Area • Conduct planned burns and other prevention activities on Plantation Licence Area
Individual community members	• Understand bushfire risk in the environment • Undertake preparations to make their property less vulnerable to bushfires • Make decisions about their response in the event of a bushfire
Land Managers	• Identify bushfire risk on their property • Enact mitigation strategies
Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG)	• Coordinate bushfire risk-mitigation strategies for the local government area in consultation with the AFMG • Manage residual bushfire risk • Report residual bushfire risk to relevant DDMG, where appropriate
Local Government	• Administer local planning scheme • Administer building standard approvals and compliance • Conduct bushfire mitigation activities on land owned/managed by local government • Designate bushfire prone areas
Persons/Businesses who operate overhead electricity networks (Aurizon, Energy Queensland, Essential Energy, Powerlink, Queensland Rail, RTA Weipa)	• Assess and manage bushfire risk throughout their network • Develop and undertake bushfire mitigation activities
Queensland Fire & Emergency Services (QFES)	• Coordinate, plan and facilitate bushfire mitigation programs • Granting of Permit to Light Fire • Develop guidance material • Support the development of Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plans (through AFMGs) • Monitor bushfire risk in Queensland • Building fire safety
Queensland Treasury	• *Planning Act 2016* • State Planning Policy

Figure 52– Bushfire lead and prevention functions

Authority to Activate the LDMG

The LDMG initial activation is by the Chair with communication from LDC, DMO, EMC and lead agency can decide to activate the LDMG. Further changes to the activation are recommended to be with the LDMG direction. The level of activation will be determined, with consideration for the likelihood and possible impact of the threat. The group may also be activated by the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC), in consultation with the Chair.

Declaration of Disaster Events and District Disaster Coordinator (DDC)

A DDC may request disaster declaration that is subject to approval from the Minister QFD. This may provide additional powers under (s77-78) of the DM Act. When the DDC declares a disaster situation, the Chair or LDC will ensure that this information is provided to all members of the LDMG.

If the situation warrants the directed evacuation of members of the public, the Chair or LDC of the LDMG will request a declaration of a disaster from the DDC. The DDC may provide written direction to ensure the performance of the LDMG functions after consultation with the Chair of the LDMG. It is the responsibility of the LDMG to comply.

Communications and systems for information and warnings

The intent of the LDMG within the Flinders LGA is to employ timely, authorised and efficient communication systems and methods that are available on the Queensland Disaster Management website (www.disaster.qld.gov.au), the principles are further detailed in areas such as but not limited to:

• Queensland Emergency Alert Manual – M.1.174

• Emergency Alert website

• Queensland Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) Manual M.1.171

In addition to external communication systems, the LDMG may also broadcast authorised information on the Flinders council website/Facebook, etc. for community engagement and awareness. Remote property owners are able to be contacted by UHF radios, satellite phones and networks through the Flinders Council Customer Services. In the event of power and communication failure, notice boards located within the Flinders LGA may be used to ensure a multipronged approach to media dissemination, with local resources such as but not limited to QPS, QFD, DAF, RFDS etc. The use of innovative methods such as Visual Display Boards (VDB)are encouraged when available.

Media management during disasters must be appropriate, reliable and consistent. All LDMG associated broadcasts are to be authorised by the chair. Supporting agencies may also support the LDMG in a collaborate approach with messaging.

Flinders Shire Council has also installed a new siren is expected to provide further awareness to the Community in the event of a risk such as chemical spill road or rail near Hughenden.

Evacuation and sheltering arrangements

An evacuation involves scalable approaches to planning and coordination for the movement of persons from an unsafe or potentially unsafe location and their eventual return. There are three methods of evacuation:

• Self-evacuation is initiated in the absence of official advice or warnings by the community.

• Voluntary evacuation is initiated by the LDMG with advice or warnings to the community, in particular for the at-risk population.

• Directed evacuation, otherwise known as compulsory evacuation, requires the declaration of a disaster and direction from DDC or Declared Disaster Officers. The LDMG has no legislative powers and must request through the DDC if this is warranted, and no declaration of a disaster is current in the LGA.

In the Flinders LGA, the likely arrangements are sheltering with family or friends. If the need requires within the LGA several building structures or businesses could be operationalised. The stages of evacuation are detailed in **Figure 53**. Further information is available in the Evacuation: Responsibilities, Arrangements and Management Manual .1.190 that is available on the Queensland Disaster Management website (www.disaster.qld.gov.au). A copy of the Flinders Shire Evacuation Sub Plan is available here.

In the event of a large-scale evacuation or the request to host external evacuees from another LGA, the establishment of an Evacuation Centre may be required. There is one Evacuation Centre that has been pre-determined by the Flinders LDMG and which is detailed in the *Evacuation Centre Management Sub Plan.* To assist the following are available on the Queensland Disaster Management website, hard copies are available with the LDC.

• Queensland Evacuation Centre Management Handbook

• Queensland Evacuation Centre Field Guide

• Queensland Evacuation Centre Planning Toolkit

An evacuation involves:

Community Preparedness	Analysis risk and probabilities (likelihood/worst case scenario) of an event, ensure communities understand risk and evacuation zones (maps) and ensure approaches to evacuation are scalable and documented.
Decision to evacuate	Decision makers analyse event intelligence and make an assessment on the necessity to evacuate persons exposed to a range of hazards.
Warning[1]	Notification of event conditions and appropriate actions required are conveyed to the public.
Withdrawal	The movement of exposed persons from a dangerous or potentially dangerous area to a safer location.
Shelter	The provision of refuge and basic needs for evacuees in safer locations and evacuation facilities.
Return	The assessment of a disaster area and the planned, coordinated and managed safe and timely return of evacuees.

Figure 53 – Stages of an evacuation

Logistics

Logistic activities have three phases:

• Before the event.

• During the event.

• After the event.

General logistic categories are:

• Managing requests for assistance, offers of assistance and advice.

• Emergency supply.

• Council to Council arrangements.

• Resupply operations.

Emergency Supply

Emergency supply is the acquisition of and management of Emergency supplies and services in support of disaster operations such as but not limited to bedding, water and food that cannot be sourced locally. An example of an Emergency Supply Register is available on the Disaster Management website.

Resupply

Resupply may be required to provide essential items for impacted communities in accordance with the Queensland Resupply Manual – M.1.205 and submitted on the Queensland Resupply Request Form –F.1.206, that is available on the Disaster Management website (www.disaster.qld.gov.au).

The three types of resupply are:

• Isolated communities.

• Isolated rural property.

• Stranded persons.

Financial arrangements

The activation of the LDMG does not relate to funding eligibility; however, increases the optimisation of support and opportunities for the LGA. Support and advice is available through the QRA Liaison Officer, QPS EMCC & EMC and respective lead agency under the Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Guidelines from QRA or the Queensland Disaster Management website.

Offers of Assistance

The management of Offers of Assistance are conducted in accordance with the Managing Offers of Assistance Manual - M.1.202. and the Offer of Assistance Policy, that are available on the Disaster Management website (www.disaster.qld.gov.au). **Figure 54**, details referral pathways.

The categories of Offer of Assistance are:

• Financial

• Volunteering

• Goods and services

Offer type	Partner organisation
	Associated lead government organisation
Financial	If the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has activated the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal:
	Contact Smart Services Queensland on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or 1300 300 768
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
	If the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has activated an appeal via donation to an NGO:
	Contact Smart Services Queensland on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or 1300 300 768
	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
	In all other circumstances, donations should be directed towards a reputable NGO or charity.
Volunteers	Contact Volunteering Queensland at https://volunteeringqld.org.au/services/emergency-volunteering
	Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
Goods and services	Contact GIVIT at http://www.givit.org.au/
	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Corporate offers	Refer based on the type of offer (financial, volunteers, goods and services)

Figure 54 – Offers of assistance Referral pathways

Recovery Strategy

The Flinders LDMG, operationalises the Local Recovery Group (LRG) to manage any local recovery if evidence indicates, as a result from an event. A Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC) has been established to assist in this process. All five Functional Recovery and Resilience Groups (FRRG)/Pillars are considered, reviewed and assessed if the need requires recovery support after an event. This would include any temporary FRG as advised by Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA). The Queensland Recovery Plan (Sub Plan to the State Disaster Management Plan) assists the LRG with recovery functions and the Local Recovery Planning Manual – M.1.136, documents are available on the Disaster Management website (www.disaster.qld.gov.au). An example LRG is detail in **Figure 55** and will be reviewed and adjusted as required to contextualise event specific recovery in the LGA. The LRG will be activated if a need has been confirmed from the affected LGA and/or community.

The authorised FRG are:

• Environmental

• Building

• Roads and Transport

• Human and Social

• Economic

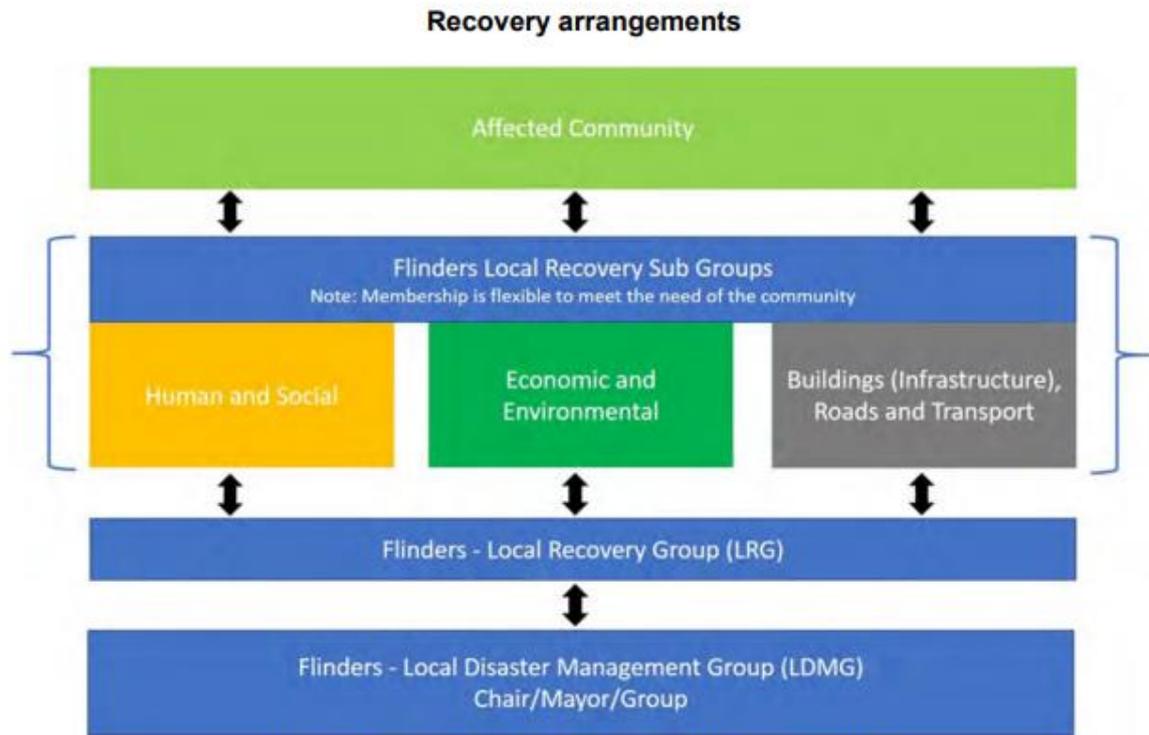• Temporary FRG may be approved by QRA to meet the requirements of an event.

Recovery arrangements

Figure 3: Flinders Shire Disaster Recovery Arrangements

Figure 55 – Flinders Shire recovery arrangements

LDMG Sub Plans

− **Pandemic sub plan**

− **Evacuation centre management sub plan**

− **Local recovery sub plan**

Local Recovery Group and Sub Group Memberships

SHIRE OF FLINDERS

External Advisors:

- Queensland Police Service (QPS) - Emergency Management and Coordination Command (EMCC), Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) Andy Pethybridge

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA)

Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC) – Cr Kelly Carter

Information
Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG)
Chair – Mayor Kate Peddle
Local Disaster Coordinator – Eddie Jackson

Sub Group Chair: Cr Coordinator: DCS&W – Barbra Smith	Sub Group Chair: Cr Coordinator: DOE – Misenka Duong	Sub Group Chair: Cr Coordinator: DC&FS – Melanie Wicks	Sub Group Chair: Cr Coordinator: CEO – Eddie Jackson	Sub Group Chair: Cr Coordinator: DOE – Misenka Duong
Human and Social Recovery Sub Group	**Building Recovery Sub Group**	**Economic Recovery Sub Group**	**Environment Recovery Sub Group**	**Roads and Transport (Rail, Air and Maritime) Recovery Sub Group**

Human and Social Recovery Sub Group

Suggested Membership:
- Flinders Shire Council
- NDIS/NDIA
- Local Schools
- Queensland Health
- Queensland Police Service
- Australian Department of Human Services
- Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services
- Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
- Centrelink

Local Community Organisations:
- St Vincent de Paul
- Country Women's Association
- FSC Community Care Program
- Hughenden Community Advisors Network
- Chamber of Commerce

Supporting Agencies:
- Life line
- GIVIT
- Red Cross

Building Recovery Sub Group

Suggested Membership:
- Flinders Shire Council
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority
- Queensland Treasury and Trade
- Insurance Council of Australia
- Department of Housing
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Department of Energy and Water Supply
- Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
- Building Services Authority

Supporting Agencies:
- Ergon Energy
- Telstra

Economic Recovery Sub Group

Suggested Membership:
- Flinders Shire Council
- Chamber of Commerce
- Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ)
- Insurance Council of Australia
- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Queensland Treasury and Trade
- Department of Local Government
- Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
- Department of Education, Training and Employment
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
- Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- Department of Energy and Water Supply
- Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
- QRAA
- Primary Producer/Industry Groups (Agforce)

Supporting Agencies:
- Insurance companies
- Tourism Queensland

Environment Recovery Sub Group

Suggested Membership:
- Flinders Shire Council
- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
- Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
- Department of Resources
- Department of Energy and Water Supply
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Catchment Coordination Groups
- Terrain Natural Resource Management
- Primary Producer/Industry Groups

Supporting Agencies:
- Environmental advisors
- Chemical/HAZCHEM advisors
- Substance advisors
- RSPCA
- Environmental interest groups
- Agforce

Roads and Transport (Rail, Air and Maritime) Recovery Sub Group

Suggested Membership:
- Flinders Shire Council
- Chamber of Commerce
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority
- Queensland Treasury and Trade
- Insurance Council of Australia
- Department of Housing and Public Works
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Department of Resources
- Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
- Building Services Authority
- Queensland Rail
- RoadTek
- Aurizon
- State Emergency Services

Supporting Agencies:
- Environmental advisors