

Mackay Regional Council Local Recovery Plan



Mayor
Greg Williamson



CEO
Craig Doyle

Recovery narrative

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Communities recovering from multiple disasters

Four of the five communities in the Mackay region most impacted by the bushfire emergency were also some of the most severely affected by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March 2017. Their resilience has been tested by the worse bushfires the region has ever seen.

Council vision statement

Working as one team to achieve for our clients and community.

Council values

- Health and Safety – of residents and staff in fire-impacted environments is paramount
- Client Satisfaction – the recovery needs of impacted residents and appropriate service provided
- Respect – for local knowledge and local community leadership
- Teamwork – working across Council, with external recovery partners, and local community leaders
- Accountability – to our communities to do what we said we would do to assist their recovery
- Performance – ensure appropriate resources are allocated to achieve the planned outcomes

Local Recovery Group

Established: 5 December 2018
Chaired by: Mayor Greg Williamson

Lines of Recovery

Human and Social, Economic, Environment, Infrastructure.

Key stakeholders

Fire-impacted residents, lead state government agencies, community groups, non-government organisations, local businesses and trade associations, service providers and other invested parties.

Recovery themes – National Principles for Disaster Recovery

1. Understand the CONTEXT – communities recovering from multiple disasters, with compounding impacts
2. Recognise COMPLEXITY – differing identities and social infrastructures across fire-impacted communities; varying levels of disaster resilience
3. Use COMMUNITY-LED approaches – be guided by communities' priorities; flexibility in responding to emerging issues
4. COMMUNICATE effectively – two-way communication with impacted communities, using multiple formats
5. Recognise and build CAPACITY – develop local leadership, skills, and community resources focused on disaster resilience
6. COORDINATE all activities – Council takes the lead in coordinating recovery efforts

Recovery objectives

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- ① Displaced households – settled in temporary accommodation, supported to rebuild
- ② Emergency funding (personal hardship etc.) – granted/approved
- ③ Community support – mechanisms implemented
- ④ Impact assessments – completed and data collated
- ⑤ Mental health support – mechanisms implemented
- ⑥ Fencing – rebuild boundary fences of rural properties
- ⑦ Rural sheds – rebuilding farm structures and replacing lost equipment
- ⑧ Economic recovery of primary producers – minimising impacts
- ⑨ Rainforest rehabilitation – focus on long term rehabilitation project involving communities
- ⑩ Empower local businesses to improve their resilience to disasters
- ⑪ Restore confidence in the tourism market
- ⑫ Assist evacuation and response planning in at risk communities
- ⑬ Community resilience – increasing resilience through community development and education strategies
- ⑭ Weed management – in rainforest areas

Damage and impacts

Damage and impacts

As at 1 January 2018

Human and Social

- 3 x households destroyed/uninhabitable (1 x Netherdale/Finch Hatton, 2 x Dalrymple Heights)
- 3458Ha of parkland and 13km of walking tracks within fire scar
- 16 x properties with household contents damaged or destroyed
- Psychological and emotional trauma/distress due to evacuations, fear for life and property, loss of property, family separation, firefighting effort, having to recover again from another disaster, compounded trauma from STC Debbie
- Community wellbeing – feelings of isolation, loss, anxiety, and fear.
- Community cohesion – lack of trust among neighbours re land management

Economic

- 46 primary production properties impacted
- Agriculture industry – loss of livestock and agistment replenishment approximately \$970,000
- Agriculture industry – cropping, forestry and mining land lost– 101,339Ha, including 370Ha of sugar cane
- Agriculture industry – fencing 1440km approximately \$5,183,522 to rebuild
- Agriculture industry – sheds, pumps, irrigation equipment, water tanks and farming equipment lost
- Tourism industry – damage to camping grounds
- Loss of income to small businesses – temporary closures, loss of tourism

Environment

- 63,194Ha bush reserve and State national park area lost
- 13km of damaged walking tracks
- Biosecurity concerns within agriculture industries
- Public health concerns, including rainwater tanks and waterways
- Loss and disposal of wildlife and livestock

Infrastructure

- Power disconnected to approximately 1460 homes across the affected areas – full power restored within 1 – 3 days
- Telecommunications disrupted and offline for approximately 1 day.
- Nil water and sewerage treatment plants effected
- Nil river height monitoring stations damaged
- Mackay-Eungella Road (range ascent) slopes unstable, landslips in heavy rains
- 13 large or small property sheds damaged or destroyed
- Machinery, vehicles, boats, water tanks damaged or destroyed at 13 properties

Lines of recovery

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