Gympie Local Disaster Management Plan

V3.0 September 2023
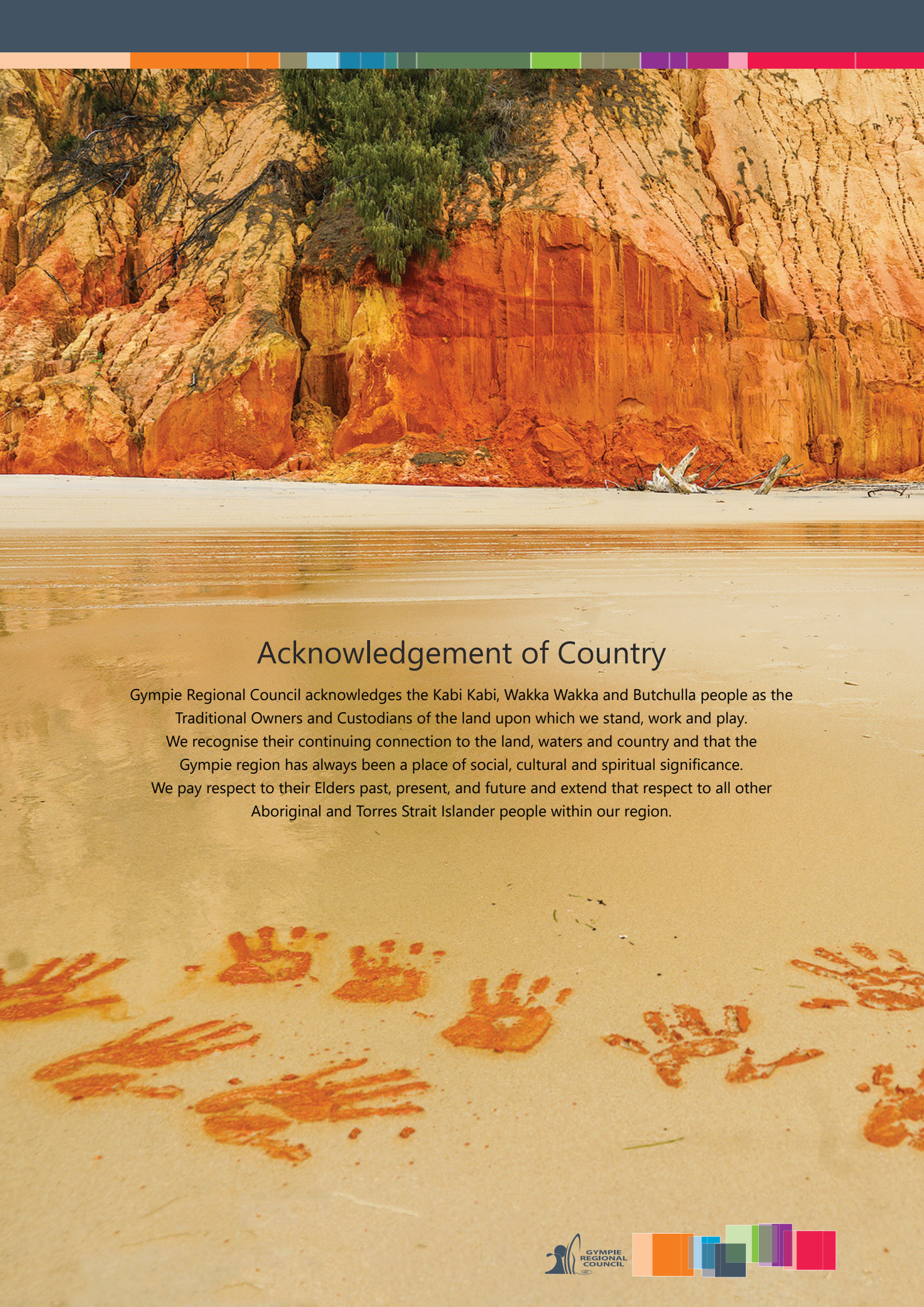
Contents

GYMPIE
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Acknowledgement of Country

Gympie Regional Council acknowledges the Kabi Kabi, Wakka Wakka and Butchulla people as the
Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land upon which we stand, work and play.
We recognise their continuing connection to the land, waters and country and that the
Gympie region has always been a place of social, cultural and spiritual significance.
We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and future and extend that respect to all other
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within our region.

Foreword

We all know the people of our region are resilient, and as a community we unite in times of need.

As Chairperson of the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), it is my responsibility to ensure the proper and appropriate frameworks are in place to manage disasters if and when they arise. This document is an integral part of that management.

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained within this plan is accurate, current and reflects best practice.

It's crucial that our community remain informed of council's position on disaster management at any given point in time.

It is not extreme to point out, in some cases, lives depend on the accurate and timely dissemination of information during a disaster event.

We want our residents to be empowered to take responsible and prudent action during a disaster and this Gympie Local Disaster Management Plan is an important tool.

I would like to thank council staff who were involved in the creation of this document as well as the emergency service agencies and private sector stakeholders who contributed to this work.
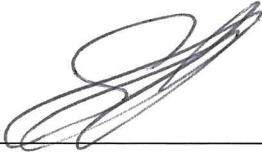
I am incredibly confident the residents in our region are safer and our organisation more flexible because of this.

Mayor Glen Hartwig - Chair of the Gympie Local Disaster Management Group

Endorsement

This Local Disaster Management Plan was approved by the Gympie Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group on 25 September 2023 and recommended for adoption by Gympie Regional Council.

_____

Mayor Glen Hartwig, Chair, Local Disaster Management Group, Gympie Regional Council

16\11\2023
Date

In accordance with a resolution on 25 October 2023, this Local Disaster Management Plan is endorsed for distribution by Gympie Regional Council.

_____

Lorelle Hatch, Deputy Local Disaster Coordinator, Local Disaster Management Group and Manager Governance, Integrity and Risk, Gympie Regional Council

16/11/2023
Date

Glossary of Terms

A Disaster Management glossary of terms and acronyms is published as part of the Prevention Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) Disaster Management Guideline.

A Disaster Management Lexicon is also provided by the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM).

The following acronyms are not contained in the links above but are used by the Local Disaster Management Group in its disaster management arrangements.

Acronym	Meaning
AIDR	Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
CDO	Counter Disaster Operations
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (formerly known as NDRRA)
EAP	Emergency Action Plan (Referable Dam)
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRC	Gympie Regional Council
IGEM	Inspector-General Emergency Management
IMT	Incident Management Team
LGA	Local Government Area
PPRR	Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
QDMA	Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements
RFB	Rural Fire Brigade– QFES
RFS	Rural Fire Service – QFES
SMEACS	Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration, Coordination, Safety
WHO	World Health Organisation

Document Control

This Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) is a controlled document.

The Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) may approve inconsequential amendments to the LDMP.

Any changes to the intent of the document must be endorsed by the Gympie Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) and adopted by the Gympie Regional Council (GRC).

The plan is intended to be a 'live' document. Suggested amendments should be forwarded to:

> Manager Governance, Integrity and Risk
> Gympie Regional Council
> PO Box 155 Gympie, QLD 4570
> Email: council@gympie.qld.gov.au

Record of Amendments

The Gympie LDMG is responsible for issuing amendments and/or updates to this LDMP. LDMG members are responsible for ensuring they possess the most current version of the plan. Printed copies are uncontrolled.

Version	Issue Date	Prepared By	Comment
V1.0	June 2018	Emergency Management Coordinator, P. Mann	Original document
V1.1	August 2020	Manager Projects Procurement and Disaster Management, G. Curry	Minor amendments reflecting government changes and annual review
V2.0	October 2021	Senior Infrastructure Technical Advisor, G.C. Preston	Major revision
V3.0	September 2023	Strategic Disaster Solutions on behalf of Manager Governance, Integrity and Risk, L. Hatch	Amendments reflecting government changes and annual review

Review Requirements

Gympie Regional Council must review the effectiveness of this LDMP at least once a year. The LDMP and associated Sub Plans will be reviewed following any activation of the plans or following any exercises to test the effectiveness of the plans. In addition, GRC may review or renew the Plan whenever it is considered appropriate. This LDMP is subject to the external annual assessment process developed by the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) in accordance with section 16C(b) of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (the Act).

Distribution

The level of circulation of the LDMP and all Sub Plans will be determined by the LDMG. As a minimum this will include all Members and advisors of the LDMG and the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC). In accordance with section 60 of the Act, the LDMP is available for inspection, free of charge to the public from the GRC website under Disaster Management.

1.   Administration and Governance

1.1   Authority to Plan

The *Disaster Management Act 2003* (the Act) and the *Disaster Management Regulation 2014* (the Regulation) forms the legislative basis for disaster management within all levels of government and Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA).

The preparation of this LDMP and all associated Sub Plans has been undertaken in accordance with sections 57 and 58 of the Act, to provide for effective disaster management in the Gympie Regional Council (GRC) area. This LDMP is consistent with Queensland's Disaster Management Standard and PPRR Disaster Management Guideline.

The authorising environment for disaster management documents is detailed in Figure 1 below.
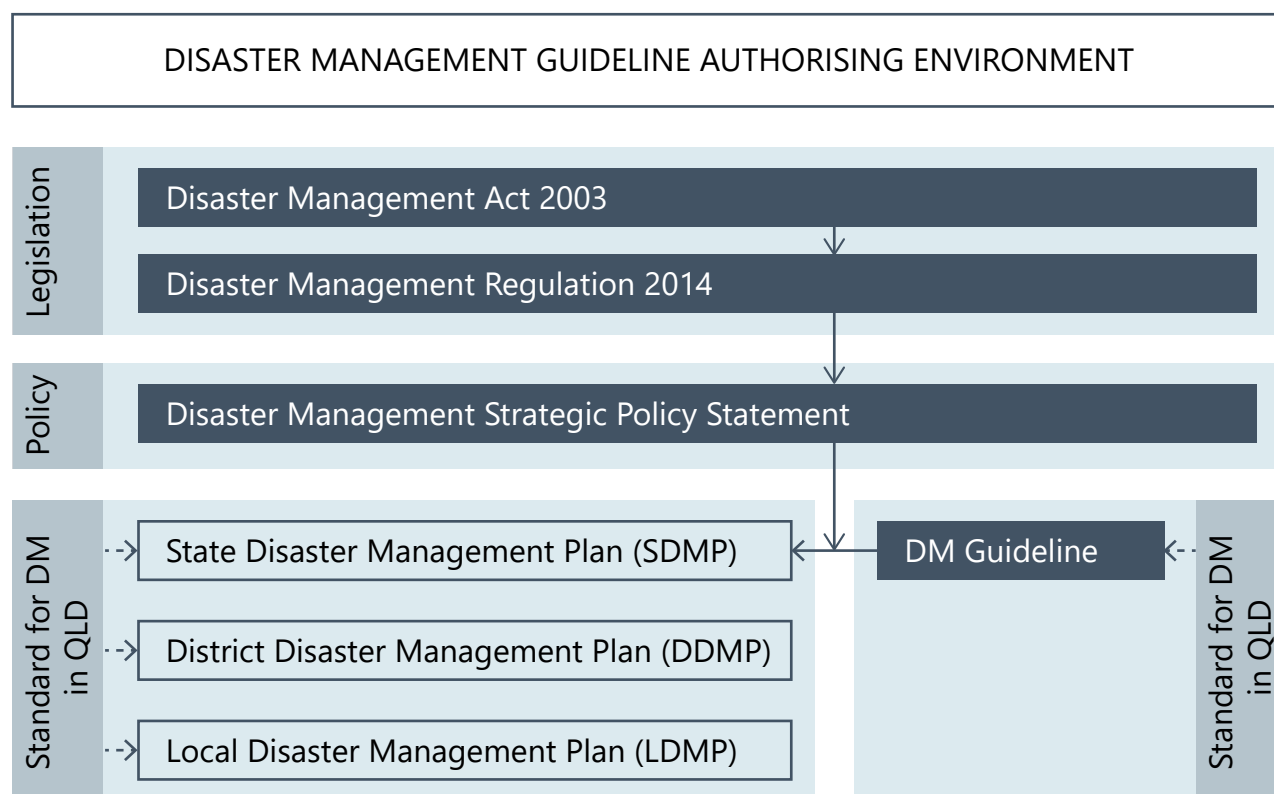
Figure 1: Disaster Management Authorising Environment

1.2   Aim and Objectives

The aim of this LDMP is to detail the arrangements that prevent, where possible, or minimise the impact of disasters or major emergencies on communities of the GRC area. The primary focus is to ensure the safety and welfare of our community as well as other people who may work in, or visit, our region.

The key objectives are to:

■ Provide a framework for the implementation of effective disaster management strategies and arrangements across the four phases of PPRR within the Gympie local government area (LGA)

■ Describe the disaster management structure for the LDMG, the member organisations and their role and responsibilities for the coordination of multi-agency responses

■ Understand the likely effects of natural and non-natural hazards that may impact the community, infrastructure, economy, and environment of the area

■ Planning for those hazards to preserve human life, protect critical infrastructure and property, protect livelihoods and the economy, and safeguard the environment

■ Providing practical information to build community resilience and better assist the community in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disaster events.

1.3   Structure of the Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) and Supporting Plans

1.3.1   LDMP

The LDMP is an overarching document that details the structure, management arrangements and governance provisions which underpin the process of disaster management in the Gympie LGA area. It provides an overview of the arrangements in place for dealing with disasters and sets out the role of the LDMG and the community from the initial notification through the various stages of response and recovery until the disaster event is finalised. The LDMP is designed to be flexible so it can be adapted to any disaster event affecting the region to ensure an integrated, coordinated, and timely response.

1.3.2   LDMP Sub Plans

The LDMP is complemented by a number of Sub Plans which are designed to expand on information contained in the LDMP by providing detailed information for the activation and operation of key functional capabilities. Sub Plans are designed to integrate seamlessly with the LDMP but can be used on a stand-alone basis as required. The following Sub Plans support this LDMP:

■ Activation of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC)

■ Financial Management

■ Public Information and Warnings

■ Logistics

■ Evacuation

■ Public Health.

GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

1.3.3 Hazard Specific Plans

Hazard specific disaster plans are developed by assigned lead agencies to address particular hazards. The table below outlines identified hazards, lead agencies and relevant hazard specific plans that directly impact the Gympie LGA.

Table 1: Hazard Specific Plans

Hazard	Lead Agency	Plans
Borumba Dam	Seqwater	Borumba Dam Emergency Action Plan (EAP)
Cedar Pocket Dam	Seqwater	Cedar Pocket Dam EAP
Lake Macdonald Dam (Noosa)	Seqwater	Lake Macdonald Dam EAP
Bjelke-Petersen Dam (South Burnett)	Sunwater	Bjelke-Petersen Dam EAP
Flooding	Gympie Regional Council	Flood Management Plan and Flood Triggers Spreadsheet
Heatwave	Queensland Health	Heatwave Management Sub-Plan
Tsunami	LDMG	Queensland Tsunami Notification Manual – M.1.183
Bushfire	Queensland Fire & Emergency Services	Queensland Bushfire Risk Management Plan Gympie Regional Council Bushfire Management
Infectious Diseases	Queensland Health	Queensland Whole of Government Pandemic Plan Pandemic Influenza Plan Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza
Animal and Plant Diseases	Department of Agriculture & Fisheries	Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN) Australian Aquatic Veterinary Emergency Plan (AQUAVETPLAN) Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan (PLANTPLAN) Queensland Biosecurity Manual
Water Contamination	Gympie Regional Council as Water Supplier for Gympie Local Government Area Water contamination in other areas Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.	Guidelines for water quality management Gympie Regional Council has a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan Australian Government sets Guidelines and local plans are regulated by Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.

1.3.4   Lead Agency Functional Plans

Functional disaster plans are developed by assigned lead agencies to address specific capabilities.

Functional plans will:

■ address functional activities across all phases of disaster management (PPRR)

■ include information on the QDMA links with the functional arrangements

■ support the primary agency to manage the functional activity.

The agency with the primary functional responsibility will include arrangements for the coordination of relevant agencies (government and non-government) that may be required to provide support or collaborate in order to deliver the function.

At the district and local level, functional planning will be established, as necessary, as Sub Plans to the District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP) or LDMP. The Gympie Disaster Management process is an all agency, all hazard approach. It is essential that the various member agencies provide their disaster management Sub Plans and links. Table 2 below outlines a range of functions for which functional planning at the state level is undertaken, with links to those plans.

Table 2: Functions of State Level Agencies

Functions	Lead agency	Plan location (if available)
Search and Rescue	Queensland Police Service	Disaster management plans | QPS (police.qld.gov.au)
Public Health and Safety	Queensland Health	health.qld.gov.au/public-health/ disaster/management
Emergency Medical Retrieval	Queensland Health	health.qld.gov.au/public-health/ disaster/management
Mass Casualty Management	Queensland Health	health.qld.gov.au/public-health/ disaster/management
Mass Fatality Management (including victim identification)	Queensland Health Queensland Police Service	health.qld.gov.au/public-health/ disaster/management
Evacuation Management	Queensland Police Service: ■ Directed evacuations	Evacuation: Responsibilities, Arrangements and Management Manual – 1.190
	Local Disaster Management Group: ■ Voluntary evacuations	Evacuation Sub Plan
Relief and community support	Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy	District Human-Social Sub Plan
Emergency Accommodation	Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy	Temporary Emergency Accommodation Sub Plan
Resupply	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	Queensland Resupply Manual M.1.205

Functions	Lead agency	Plan location (if available)
Warnings	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	[Queensland Standard Emergency Warning Manual – M.1.171](#)
Weather Warnings	Bureau of Meteorology	[National Warnings Summary (bom.gov.au)](#)
Transport Systems	Department of Transport and Main Roads	[Road Condition Information - QLDTraffic](#)
Rapid Damage Assessments	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	Damage assessment and reconstruction monitoring procedures, as at time of the event
Building and Engineering Services	Department of Energy and Public Works	[Building and plumbing	Department of Energy and Public Works (epw.qld.gov.au)](#)

1.3.5   Operational Plans

Operational plans are plans developed and utilised during the response and recovery phases. Examples include the Incident Action Plan and event-specific Recovery Plans.

1.3.6   Community Disaster Management Sub Plans

Community Disaster Management Plans are being developed by the community with the guidance from the LDMG. A complete review of community planning is currently being undertaken. To get involved contact GRC by email disaster@gympie.qld.gov.au

1.3.7   Business Continuity Plans

Each member and advisory agency of the LDMG will maintain an effective BCP. This will ensure they can continue their critical service functions in the event of a disaster to provide coordination and emergency support to the local community.

1.4   Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA)

QDMA is based on a tiered system of committees at local government, disaster district, and state government levels and recognises that the Commonwealth Government may be requested to provide support to the State.

Local Government underpins the QDMA as the frontline of disaster management and has primary responsibility for managing events in their local government area. GRC is ideally suited to manage disaster events at the community level, based on its understanding of local social, environmental, and economic issues, and knowledge of the region's infrastructure.

During a disaster, local government provides initial support to the affected community until its resources are fully committed. Additional support from the State, and ultimately the Commonwealth is then requested if needed. Further information is available [here](#).

National Arrangements State Arrangements

Local Government

Local

Local Disaster Management Group
Local Disaster Coordination Centre

District

District Disaster Management Group
District Disaster Coordination Centre

State Government

State

QLD Disaster Management Committee
State Disaster Coordination Centre

Aust. Government

Department of Home Affairs
Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre

Figure 2: Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements

1.5   Disaster Management Strategic Policy Statement

The Queensland Disaster Management 2016 Strategic Policy Statement informs the state's strategic approach to disaster management. It identifies two strategic objectives that underpin disaster management in Queensland:

- 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.

This LDMP is consistent with the Disaster Management Strategic Policy Statement which informs the Queensland Government's strategic approach to keeping people safe and making communities more resilient to disaster risks and impacts.

The Gympie LDMG takes a flexible and scalable approach to disaster management which provides for the reduction of risk and the enhancement of community resilience whilst ensuring effective response and recovery capabilities.

Gympie LDMG further commits to supporting the two objectives by:

- developing Community Disaster Sub Groups throughout the Gympie LGA
- Identifying hazards and their mitigation at local community levels.

1.6   Disaster Management Principles

In accordance with section 4A(b) of the Act, all events, whether natural or caused by human activity, should be managed in accordance with the Strategic Policy Statement, the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) and any relevant disaster management guidelines. The Act identifies four key principles which guide disaster management in Queensland.

1.6.1   Comprehensive Approach

The comprehensive approach to disaster management comprises the four PPRR phases. This approach ensures a balance between the reduction of risk and the enhancement of community resilience, while ensuring effective response and recovery capabilities.

The four phases of PPRR are not linear, nor are they independent of the others. They overlap and support each other as shown in Figure 3.

For example, recovery activities are likely to begin during the response phase and mitigation strategies may be considered during the recovery phase.

Figure 3: Comprehensive Approach to Disaster Management
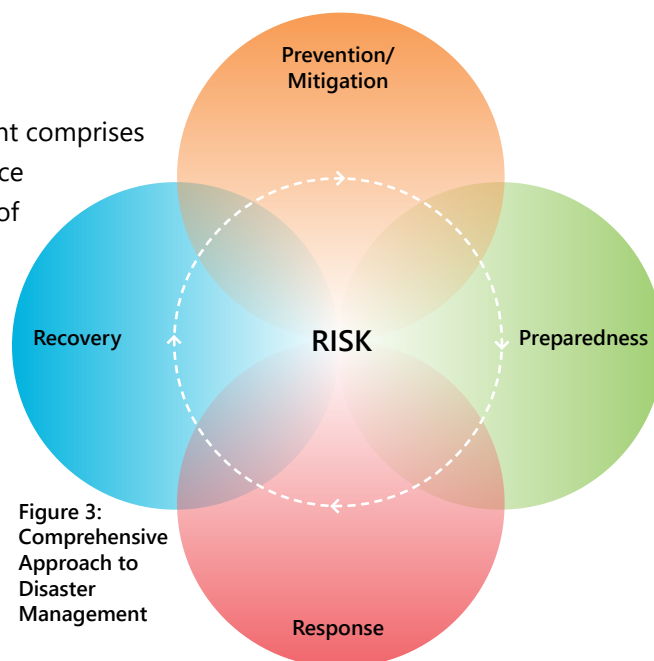
1.6.2   All-hazards Approach

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.

1.6.3   Local Disaster Management Capability

Local level capability is recognised as the front line for disaster management, primarily due to the benefits of localised knowledge and networks.

1.6.4   Support by District and State Groups

The Act establishes a District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) for each of the 22 districts in Queensland, to provide support when required or requested by a LDMG. The LDMG is located in the Gympie Disaster District. This is the link to the Gympie District Disaster Management Plan available on the Queensland Police Services' website.

The Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) can provide additional support and assistance when required or requested by a DDMG. The State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) provides a framework for response and recovery operations.

1.7 IGEM Emergency Management Assurance Framework

Part 1A of the Act establishes the IGEM and Office of the IGEM. The priority for the Office of the IGEM is to facilitate improvements to Queensland's disaster management arrangements to enable confidence in the system and enhance public safety outcomes. The functions of the Office of the IGEM are detailed in section 16C of the Act.

The Emergency Management Assurance Framework (EMAF) was developed by the Office of the IGEM in partnership with disaster management practitioners. The EMAF provides the basis for delivering the functions of the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) as set out in section 16C of the Act. The EMAF also provides the structure and mechanism for reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of disaster management arrangements. The EMAF is comprised of Principles, Good Attributes, Disaster Management Standards and Assurance Activities.

1.8 Linkages to GRC's Corporate Plan

Strategic linkages to Disaster Management are included in the GRC Corporate Plan 2022-2027 and annual Operational Plans.

2. Local Disaster Management Group

2.1 Role of Local Government

The Act details a range of functions and responsibilities for local government to ensure that it meets its statutory obligations. Section 80 of the Act requires local government to undertake the following functions:

a) To ensure it has a disaster response capability

b) To approve its LDMP

c) To ensure information about an event or a disaster in its area is promptly given to the DDC for the district in which its area is situated

d) To perform other functions given to the local government under the Act.

In accordance with section 80 of the Act, a disaster response capability for local government means the ability to provide equipment and a suitable number of people to effectively manage or help another entity to manage an emergency or disaster in the local government area. To ensure this can be achieved, all GRC services have designated responsibilities in disaster management that reflect their legislated and/or technical capability.

In addition to these functions, Section 29 of the Act specifies that local government must establish a LDMG for the local government's area.

2.2 Establishment of the LDMG

LDMGs are established under section 29 of the Act by local governments to support and coordinate disaster management activities for their respective LGAs. A Terms of Reference are available.

LDMG responsibilities are outlined in Manual M.1.030.

2.3 Functions of the LDMG

These functions of the LDMG are prescribed under Section 30 of the Act:

a) To ensure that disaster management and disaster operations in the area are consistent with the State group's strategic policy framework for disaster management for the State.

b) To develop effective disaster management, and regularly review and assess the disaster management.

c) To help the local government for its area to prepare a local disaster management plan.

d) To identify, and provide advice to the relevant district group about, support services required by the local group to facilitate disaster management and disaster operations in the area.

e) To ensure the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a disaster.

f) To manage disaster operations in the area under policies and procedures decided by the State group.

g) To provide reports and make recommendations to the relevant district group about matters relating to disaster operations.

h) To identify, and coordinate the use of, resources that may be used for disaster operations in the area.

i) To establish and review communications systems in the group, and with the relevant district group and other local groups in the disaster district of the relevant district group, for use when a disaster happens.

j) To ensure information about a disaster in the area is promptly given to the relevant district group.

k) To perform other functions given to the group under the Act.

l) To perform a function incidental to a function mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (k).

2.4 Business and Meetings of LDMG

In accordance with section 38 of the Act, the LDMG will conduct its business, including meetings as prescribed by the Regulation. Ordinary meetings are scheduled every three (3) months and extraordinary meetings will be convened as required. Quorum (50 per cent +1 of membership) must be achieved for decisions of the LDMG to be valid.

2.5 LDMG Operational Decision-Making Capability

The LDMG Chair and LDC are authorised to make initial operational response coordination decisions on behalf of the full LDMG to initiate the disaster management arrangements and whilst acting in accordance with LDMG approved plans and procedures. The Chair and LDC have an exclusively operational response coordination function, which will not, at any time, replace the policy decision-making role of the full LDMG.

2.6 Member and Advisory Roles and Responsibilities of the LDMG

Table 3 below details the membership and responsibilities of the LDMG as appointed in accordance with Sections 33 and 34 of the Act. All members have the necessary experience to assist the group undertake and meet its legislative requirements. Membership of the group includes any person acting in the capacity of an appointed member using a DM13 form. When membership changes, notice is provided to the DDMG. If membership of the Chair or LDC changes, notice is to be provided to the SDCC. Membership and contact details for each member is maintained in the restricted LDMG Emergency Contact List in Guardian IMS.

Table 3: Membership and responsibilities of the LDMG

Agency	Position	Status	Responsibilities
Gympie Regional Council (GRC)	Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) Chair – Mayor	Member	■ To chair LDMG meetings and to provide the primary link between the LDMG and council ■ To manage and coordinate the business of the group, to ensure, as far as practicable, that the group performs, its functions, to report regularly to the relevant district group, and the chief executive of the department, about the performance by the LDMG of its functions
	LDMG Deputy Chair and Chair of Local Recovery Group –Deputy Mayor/Councillor	Member	■ Provide advice and support to the Chair and LDMG ■ To chair LDMG Meetings in the absence of the Chair ■ Provide a link between the LDMG and council ■ To participate in the issuing of public information and warnings
	Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) – Chief Executive Officer (CEO), GRC	Member	■ To coordinate disaster operations for the LDMG, report regularly to the LDMG about disaster operations, to ensure, as far as practicable, that any strategic decisions of the LDMG about disaster operations are implemented ■ Provide advice and support to the Chair and LDMG ■ To activate the LDMP and LDCC when required
	Deputy LDC – Director Corporate Services, GRC or Manager – Governance, Integrity and Risk, GRC	Member	■ To undertake the functions of the LDC in the LDC's absence ■ Provide advice and support to the Chair, LDC and LDMG
	Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC) – Director, GRC	Member	■ To undertake the functions of the LRC ■ To coordinate community support during disaster operations for the LDMG ■ Lead and coordinate recovery operations reporting regularly to the Local Recovery Group about recovery operations, to ensure, as far as practicable, that any strategic decisions of the LDMG about recovery operations are implemented ■ Provide advice and support to the Chair and LDMG ■ To activate the Recovery Group and develop an event specific recovery plan when required.

Agency	Position	Status	Responsibilities
Gympie Regional Council (GRC)	Disaster Management Officer (DMO) – Disaster Management Coordinator, GRC	Member	■ Support to the LDC
	Media Liaison Officer (MLO) – Officer, Communications, GRC	Advisor	■ Preparation and dissemination of public information and warnings during an event ■ Responsibilities identified in relevant Public Information and Warnings Sub Plan.
Queensland Police Service (QPS)	Officer in Charge (OIC) – Gympie	Member	■ Refer to pg. 94 of the State Disaster Management Plan ■ Liaison between the agency and the LDMG
	District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) and DDMG XO (Executive Officer)	Advisor	■ Liaison between the agency and the LDMG ■ Provide advice and support to the Chair and LDMG ■ To participate in the issuing of Public Information and Warnings
Queensland Fire & Emergency Services (QFES)	Area Commander FRS	Member	■ Includes: Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), Rural Fire Service (RFS), State Emergency Service (SES) and Emergency Management. ■ Refer to pg. 90 and 91 of the State Disaster Management Plan ■ Liaison between the agency and the LDMG
	Area Director RFS	Member	
	SES Area Controller	Member	
	Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC)	Member	
	SES Local Controller	Advisor	
Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)	Officer in Charge (OIC) – Gympie	Member	■ Refer to pg. 89 of the State Disaster Management Plan ■ Liaison between the agency and the LDMG

Agency	Position	Status	Responsibilities
Queensland Health	Disaster Management Coordinator	Member	■ Refer to pg. 92 and 93 of the State Disaster Management Plan ■ Liaison between the agency and the LDMG
	Mental Health Clinician for Disaster Recovery – Sunshine Coast University Hospital	Advisor	■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG.
	Manager, Environmental Health – Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit	Advisor	■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG
	Gympie Hospital, Nurse Manager	Advisor	■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG.
Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads	Maritime Safety Queensland – Area Manager, Sunshine Coast	Member	■ Liaison between the agency and the LDMG
	Senior Advisor	Advisor	■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG
	Translink – Regional Manager Passenger Transport	Advisor	■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG
Queensland Reconstruction Authority	Regional Liaison Officer	Member	■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG
Queensland Department of Education	Regional Infrastructure Manager – North Coast	Member	■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG
	Principal State High Schools	Advisors	■ Gympie State High School and James Nash State High School. ■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG.
Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts	Senior Advisor	Advisor	■ Liaison between the agency and the LDMG ■ Community Recovery advice to the LDMG
Queensland Department of Environment and Science	Parks and Wildlife Service – Senior Ranger	Advisor	Liaison between agency and the LDMG.

Agency	Position	Status	Responsibilities
Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Principal Agribusiness Development Officer	Advisor	■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG.
Queensland Department of Resources	Energex – Work Group Leader	Member	■ Primary agency for providing, maintaining, and restoring power supplies ■ Provide advice to the LDMG on power supply issues ■ Provide safety information to consumers ■ Liaison between the agency and the LDMG
	Ergon Energy – Area Operations Manager	Advisor	■ Liaison between the agency and the LDMG
	Seqwater – Principal Operations Continuity	Advisor	■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG
	Sunwater – EAP Coordinator	Advisor	■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG
	Queensland Hydro – Senior Advisor Stakeholder Engagement	Advisor	■ Liaison between the agency and the LDMG
Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)	Senior Hydrologist – Hazard Preparedness and Response – East	Advisor	■ Liaison between agency and the LDMG
NBN Co	Emergency Management Liaison Officer	Advisor	■ Provide emergency assets to assist communications before, during and after natural disasters ■ Liaison between the organisation and the LDMG
Telstra	Account Executive	Advisor	■ Primary agency for the management and maintenance of the telecommunications network across all providers ■ Liaison between organisation and the LDMG
Australian Red Cross	Emergency Services Liaison Officer	Advisor	■ Liaison between organisation and the LDMG.
TAFE Queensland	WHS Consultant	Advisor	■ Liaison between organisation and the LDMG
University of Sunshine Coast	Manager, Security Services	Advisor	■ Liaison between organisation and the LDMG
ABC Coast FM – Sunshine Coast	Editor – News	Advisor	■ Liaison between organisation and the LDMG
Bravo Disability Support Network	Family Facilitator	Advisor	■ Liaison between organisation and the LDMG

2.7   Authority of LDMG Members and Advisors

The Members and advisors of the LDMG should have:

- The authority to commit their respective organisation to the LDMG's decisions
- The ability to effectively navigate their respective organisations to seek approval for the commitment of their organisation resources
- A sound understanding of the QDMA and this LDMP.

2.8   Structure of the LDMG

The structure of the LDMG is depicted in Figure 4 below.
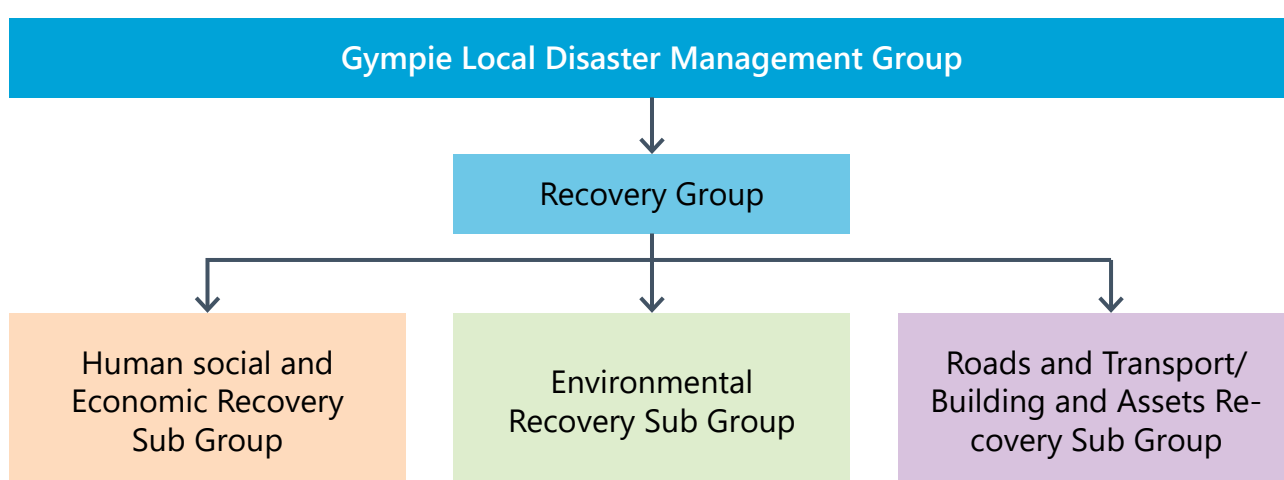
Figure 4: Structure of the Gympie Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG)

2.8.1   LDMG Recovery Group and Sub Groups

A single overarching Recovery Group may be formed. Alternatively, the LDMG Recovery Group may decide to activate one or more of its Recovery Sub Groups as follows:

Human Social and Economic Recovery Sub Group	The key function is to address the human-social (including economic) recovery aspects of a disaster. A Terms of Reference are available.
Environmental Recovery Sub Group	The key function is to address the environmental recovery aspects of a disaster. A Terms of Reference are available.
Roads and Transport / Buildings and Assets Recovery Sub Group	The key function is to address the infrastructure recovery aspects of a disaster. A Terms of Reference are available.

The Chair of the LDMG may establish additional temporary or permanent Sub Groups where needed to manage the business of the LDMG.

2.9   Training and Exercises

In an effort to provide an effective training program, the LDMG works closely with QFES to provide a coordinated program of training from the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework (QDMTF) which outlines the core training courses and inductions relevant to the key disaster management stakeholders to support the effective performance of their role. Exercises will be used to help review the effectiveness of the LDMP. Exercises can take many forms from simple discussion type exercises to full scale operations.

2.10   Post Event Processes

Following any exercises or disaster events that affect the region, the LDMG will ensure debriefing is undertaken and that a post-incident report is developed for consideration of the LDMG which clearly articulates any lessons identified for the future.

2.11   Continuous Improvement

The LDMG is committed to the practice of continuous improvement which involves disaster management processes and arrangements being regularly evaluated and improved to ensure they remain relevant, efficient, effective, and flexible.

3.   Disaster Risk Management

3.1   Risk Based Planning

Disaster Risk Management is a critical element of all phases of PPRR. In Queensland, risk-based planning occurs through the completion of the elective Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework (QERMF) risk assessment process.

The QERMF will eventually replace the existing disaster risk assessment that was carried out for both natural and non- natural disaster events in 2018. This assessment is currently being reviewed and will be updated as funding becomes available. GRC and the LDMG have responsibilities pertaining to identifying and managing disaster risks and hazard risk assessments.

3.1.1   Queensland State Disaster Risk Assessment

The Queensland State Disaster Risk Report 2021/2022 identifies rankings for various hazards across Queensland. For the Gympie LGA, riverine flooding is considered the highest priority for risk management, followed by severe thunderstorm, bushfire, heatwave, tropical cyclone, chemical, biological, and radiological incidents, earthquakes, biosecurity incidents and lastly tsunami.

Table 4: Disaster Risk Rankings for Gympie Regional Council LGA

Tropical Cyclone 6	Riverine Flooding 1	Severe Thunderstorm 2	Bushfire 3	Heatwave 4
Earthquake 8	Tsunami 10	Pandemic 5	Biosecurity 9	Chemical, Biological, Radiological 7

3.2 Community Profile

An understanding of the community profile and the risks that underline potential hazards enhances the development of robust disaster management plans and thereby reduces the impact of disasters and community vulnerability.

3.2.1 Environment

Location and Geography

Most of the usable land in the area lies amongst low hilly country which is used for agricultural production (including grazing beef and dairy; and commercial crops including nuts, citrus, vegetables and hay). The Gympie region's strong agriculture, forestry and fishing sector contributes $248 million in value add to the economy. This makes it one of the most viable destinations for new food and agribusiness investment in Queensland. The region also features large areas of reforestation in State Forests and National Parks.
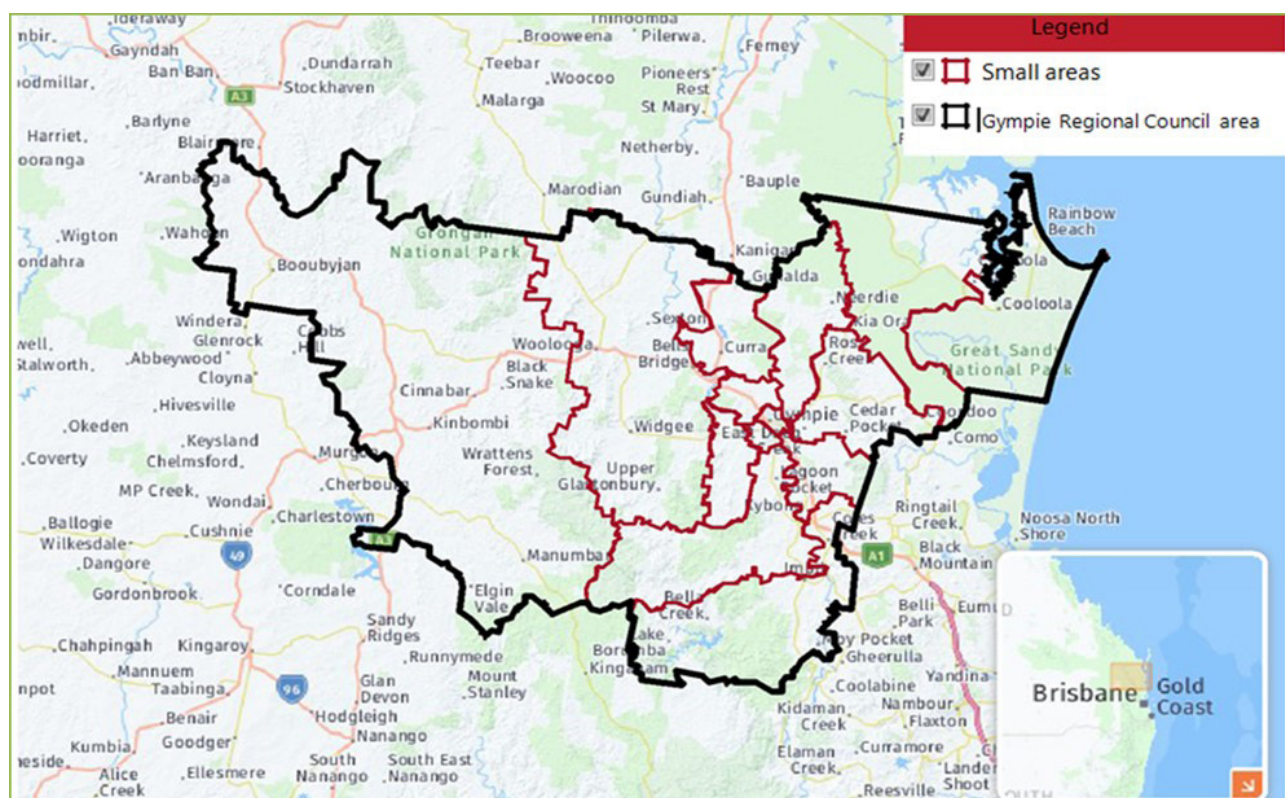
Figure 5: The Gympie Regional Council Area includes suburbs, townships, and rural localities

The region has both rural and coastal topography. The western and south western boundaries are formed in the main by several mountain ranges including the Burnett, Coast and Jimna Ranges. The Mary River and its tributaries flow from these areas. The region contains the major part of the Mary River watershed which drains to the coast east of Maryborough together with the watershed for Barambah, Nangur, and Boonar Creeks which drain into the Burnett River.

There are two referable dams in the Gympie LGA (Borumba and Cedar Pocket Dams) and there are also dams located in the Noosa Council LGA (Lake Macdonald Dam) and South Burnett Regional Council LGA (Bjelke-Petersen Dam) that may impact the Gympie region. The majority of usable land in the area lies amongst low hilly country used for grazing (beef and dairy) over 6567 commercial crops with areas of reforestation in State Forests and National Park.

Climate and Weather

The Gympie Region is considered to have a sub-tropical climate. Temperatures in the summer average a minimum of 19.2 degrees and a maximum of 30.1 degrees and in the winter from 7.1 degrees to a maximum of 22.4 degrees. The highest summer maximum temperature recorded was 42.4 degrees and the lowest minimum winter temperature recorded was – 4.3 degrees. The recorded annual rainfall average is approximately 1124.5 mm and falls mainly from December to May. The highest monthly rainfall was 933.9 mm in 1893.

3.2.2 Human-Social

Population

The 2022 estimated resident population for the Gympie Regional Council area was 55,170 people, with a population density of eight people per km^2. Gympie is the major population centre with 11,557 people. The Gympie Regional Council Community Profile provides the population figures for the following Districts:

- Amamoor – Kandanga and District – 4,448
- Chatsworth – Tamaree and District – 3,559
- Cooloola Cove – Rainbow Beach and District – 4,323
- Curra, Gunalda and Corella – 2,698
- Goomboorian – East Deep Creek and District – 3,385
- Imbil – Traveston and District – 3,276
- Kilkivan – Goomeri and District – 2,152
- Monkland, Mothar Mountain and District – 2,437
- Southside – 6,586
- The Palms – Pie Creek and District – 3,045
- Tin Can Bay – Toolara Forest – 2,467
- Veteran – North Creek and District – 2,461
- Widgee – Lower Wonga and District – 2,775.

The 2021 Census data identified that the median age in the region was 48 years old, 10 years more than the median age for Queensland. Children aged 0-14 years made up 16.5 per cent of the population, 25.5 per cent were aged 65 years and over and the remaining 58 per cent of the population were aged between 15 and 64 years old. The largest represented age group was those between 60 and 64 years of age.

Cultural Diversity

The original inhabitants of the region are the Kabi Kabi / Gubbi Gubbi people, the Wakka Wakka people in the west of the Gympie region and the Butchulla people in the north-east of the Gympie region. At the 2021 Census, 4.4 per cent of the population (2,331 residents) identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. 90.6 per cent of households in the Gympie region used only English at home and 4.2 per cent of households used a non-English language at home. Other languages included German (0.2 per cent), Afrikaans (0.2 per cent), Mandarin (0.2 per cent), Tagalog (0.2 per cent) and Punjabi (0.1 per cent).

Households

Of the households counted in the Gympie region at the 2021 ABS Census, 69.6 per cent were family households, 27.3 per cent were single person households and 3.2 per cent group households. Family households include couple families with children, couple families without children, and one-parent family households.

Dwellings

There were 20,461 occupied private dwellings in the Gympie region at the 2021 ABS Census. Of these, 91.2 per cent were separate, detached houses; 4.6 per cent semi-detached; 1.9 per cent flats, units, or apartments and 1.7 per cent other dwellings such as caravans, tents, sheds, etc. Only 7.2 per cent of dwellings were classified as medium or high density, compared to 24.3 per cent in Regional QLD.

At the 2021 ABS Census, the Gympie region area had a significantly high proportion of home ownership at 42.1 per cent, compared to the Queensland average of 29.1 per cent. A further 32.2 per cent of Gympie households were purchasing their house with a mortgage. The median monthly mortgage repayment was $1327, significantly lower than the Queensland median monthly repayment of $1733.

At the 2021 ABS Census, 22 per cent of Gympie households were renting, with a median weekly rental payment of $290, comparatively lower than Queensland's weekly rental average of $365.

Socioeconomic Disadvantage

The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage and/or advantage based on a range of Census characteristics. The SEIFA Index of Disadvantage for GRC in 2021 was 930.5.

Vulnerable Sectors

The GRC area includes people who may be highly vulnerable to the impacts of disasters. In 2021, 12.5 per cent of the population reported needing assistance with core activities due to disability, 5.1 per cent were aged over 80 and it was estimated that the homeless rate was 69.4 per 10,000 persons. (2016 data)

There are seven aged care facilities located across the region:

1. Japara Gympie Views - Gympie
2. St Vincents Care Gympie
3. Cooinda Aged Care - Gympie
4. Grevillea Gardens - Gympie
5. Residency by Dillon – Tin Can Bay
6. Community Health – Goomeri
7. Community Health – Kilkivan.

In addition, there are four retirement and mature age living villages:

1. Oxford Crest Retirement Village - Gympie
2. Zion House - Gympie
3. Fresh Water Villas - Gympie
4. Cooloola Waters – Tin Can Bay.

Within all communities, for any number of reasons, members may be or become vulnerable for short or longer terms. Such reasons may include a reliance on mechanical life support systems (e.g. dialysis, ventilators – note, currently there are no dialysis patients recorded within the LGA), a culturally or linguistically diverse background, isolation, little social support or high levels of socio-economic disadvantage, visitors to the region, or chronic or acute health conditions. Women and children impacted by domestic and family violence can also experience even greater levels of vulnerabilities during disaster as access to refuges and other support mechanisms become impacted or cut off.

In 2020-2021 the Australian Bureau of Statistics found that 'nearly half' of Australians had 'at least one chronic' health condition and just over 20 per cent of Australians reported mental health or behavioural problems.

Community Preparedness and Capacity

Notwithstanding the limitations of a small percentage of the populace, the community is essentially regarded as having the capacity to respond to and recover. Gympie has a deserved reputation for flood resilience, and the community has an ability to quickly recover. The pragmatic and practical rural values in the community engender a significant degree of self-reliance, which brings stability, capability, and sustainability.

Gympie has a deserved reputation for flood resilience, and the community's ability to quickly recover is envied by other less prepared and/or flood aware communities. Nevertheless, flooding is extremely disruptive for the residents and businesses that are directly affected as well as those nearby, who may not be directly flooded, but are affected by power outages and evacuation procedures. Repeated, and regular exposure to significant flood events can take their toll on communities. This cumulative impact will need to be considered during the recovery phase.

Emergency Services

There is a solid base of emergency service response capacity spread across the region:

Table 5: Emergency Services Locations in the Gympie Region

Emergency Service	Location
Queensland Police Service	Gympie, Goomeri, Imbil, Kilkivan, Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach.
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (Fire & Rescue)	Permanent/Auxiliary: Gympie. Auxiliary: Goomeri, Imbil, Kilkivan, Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay.
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (Rural Fire Service)	There are 30 volunteer Rural Fire Service brigades located across the Gympie region.
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (State Emergency Services)	Goomeri, Gympie, Imbil, Kilkivan, Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach.
Queensland Ambulance Service	Gympie, Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach. The western part of Gympie region may also be supported by Murgon station (South Burnett). The southern part of Gympie region may also be supported by Pomona, Cooroy (Noosa) or Kenilworth stations (Sunshine Coast).

Medical Facilities

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service extends from Tin Can Bay and Glenwood (34km from Gympie) in the north to Beerburrum in the south. The health service operates five public hospitals at Kawana, Caloundra, Nambour, Maleny and Gympie. Refer: https://www.sunshinecoast.health.qld.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-centres

Gympie Hospital offers 24-hour access to health care and consists of 92 beds providing assessment, diagnosis, and treatment for a full range of emergency, ambulatory and inpatient conditions within a regional generalist hospital capability level. Inpatient areas include women's and families, paediatrics, general and specialty medical and surgical services including rehabilitation.

The facility offers multiple sub specialty reviews through outpatient clinics and telehealth services meeting the needs of the surrounding population.

Primary Health Care

Primary Health Care Services are delivered by the Central Queensland, Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast Primary Health Network (PHN) in the Gympie region – refer https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/phn/your-local-PHN/Qld-PHN

Education and Training

The Education and Training sector is also a major employer within the region and driven to meet the local population's needs. There are numerous public and private schools within the GRC area and both a TAFE and university campus in Gympie. A contact list is maintained as part of the LDMG Emergency Contact List in Guardian IMS. A public contact list for all education facilities in the GRC area can be found on the council's website.

Table 6: Education Facilities in the Gympie Region

	State	Private	Total
Primary School (P-6)	19	1	20
Education QLD School (P-10)	4	1	5
Education QLD (P-12)	0	2	2
Secondary/High School (7-12)	2	2	4
Special School	1	0	1
Tertiary/TAFE	2	0	2
TOTAL	**28**	**6**	**34**

Social Support

The Gympie Community Directory identifies a variety of government and not-for-profit social support services available in the Gympie Region with providers offering various levels and types of services.

Recreation

There is a wide range of community, sporting, cultural and service groups operating across the region in excess of 400 entities. Refer to the Gympie Community Directory. There are approximately 33 Community Centres/Halls.

Annual Community Events

There are special events that are held in the region that attract large numbers of people and includes:

- Country Music Muster
- Mary River Festival
- Gympie Show
- Goldrush
- Heart of Gold Film Festival
- Goomeri Pumpkin Festival
- Rainbow Fishing Classic
- Steam Fest
- Kilkivan Great Horse Ride
- Goomeri Show
- Mary Valley Show.

3.2.3 Economy

There are numerous public and private schools within the GRC area and both a TAFE and university campus in Gympie. A contact list is maintained as part of the LDMG Emergency Contact List in Guardian IMS.
The Gross Regional Product (measure of the size of the economy) for the Gympie region was $2.40B in the year ending June 2021. An economic profile of the Gympie LGA can be found here: https://economy.id.com.au/gympie

Workforce

At the 2021 ABS Census, 48.7 per cent of the GRC population reported being in the labour force. Of these 49.9 per cent were employed full time, 36.5 per cent were employed part-time and 7.1 per cent were unemployed.

An analysis of the jobs held by the local workers in Gympie in 2021 shows the four most popular industry sectors were:

1. Health Care and Social Assistance (3,119 jobs or 14.8 per cent)
2. Education and Training (2,280 jobs or 10.8 per cent)
3. Retail trade (1,257 jobs or 10.7 per cent)
4. Construction (2,217 jobs or 10.5 per cent)

In combination these four fields accounted for 8,873 jobs in total or 46.8 of the local workers. (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 Compiled and presented in economy.id.)

The most common occupations were technicians and trades' workers and labourers. The median weekly income for people aged 15 years and over was $554, somewhat less than the Queensland weekly median of $787. Of people aged 15 and over in 2021, 15.5 per cent reported having completed Year 12 as their highest level of educational attainment, 18.9 per cent had completed a Certificate III or IV, 9.4 per cent had completed an Advanced Diploma or Diploma and 21.9 per cent had a bachelor's degree level or above qualification.

Health Care and Social Assistance

The Health Care and Social Assistance sector is the major employer within the region. The ageing population trend is expected to increase demand for health and social services. Health Care and Social Assistance employs more of GRC's resident workforce than any other industry sector.

Retail Trade

The region has major shopping centres located in Gympie. Most regional towns have shopping precincts that cater for day-to-day needs, with a growing diversity of shops and supermarkets particularly on the Cooloola Coast where there is greater population density.

Construction

Construction has remained a steadfast employer in the region and continues to drive economic growth.

3.2.4   Infrastructure and Essential Services

Transport

The region is served by the following land transport corridors:

- North Coast Railway Line
- Bruce Highway from Brisbane to Cairns
- Wide Bay Highway east to west from just north of Gympie to Goomeri
- Bunya Highway from Goomeri to Kingaroy
- Burnett Highway from south to north in the western part of the region from Nanango to Gayndah
- Extensive council and DTMR road network.

The electrified north coast railway line from Brisbane to Cairns passes through the area carrying passengers and freight.

The region has an aerodrome at Kybong catering for small GA aircraft and is also serviced by the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane airports. A helipad is located at Archery Park, Cross Street Gympie.

There are two marinas in the Gympie Region located at Carlo Point and Tin Can Bay.

There is limited public transport within Gympie LGA, with only 1.1 per cent of residents travelling to work by public transport at the time of the 2016 Census. There are private bus companies and a train station at North Gympie connected to the Queensland rail network.

Fuel

Fuel supplies are available from service stations in most locations and are replenished via road transport from Brisbane.

Electricity

Energy Queensland (energyq) is the electricity distribution network service provider in South East Queensland. Energyq service the Gympie area through Energex and Ergon Energy. These businesses are responsible for the construction and maintenance of the infrastructure that makes it possible for electricity to reach your home. Energex and Ergon Energy are the first port of call when something goes wrong with your energy supply. Power supply is managed by Energex and Ergon Energy and is sourced through the Powerlink transmission network connecting to power stations across Queensland. The electrical supply is vulnerable to external influences such as weather conditions or third-party events causing supply interruptions. Network (coverage) maps of Energex and Ergon Energy are available via their respective websites. Of note, Queensland Hydro will soon be operating in the Gympie region, with initial works and resident grounds for workers situated in the vicinity of Borumba Dam. Borumba Pumped Hydro Project exploratory works will commence in late-2023 and go through to 2025.

Water and Wastewater

GRC is responsible for delivering drinking water, recycled water, and sewerage services to approximately 38,000 customers in the Gympie Region. Our 6,898km^2 geographical area includes the services areas listed below:

- Gympie City - population serviced 25,000

- Mary Valley, Imbil, Kandanga and Amamoor - population serviced 1,500

- Coastal, Rainbow Beach, Cooloola Cove and Tin Can Bay - population serviced 10,000

- Western, (Goomeri and Kilkivan) - population serviced 1,500.

Council provides its water services through the management of an extensive network, including:

- 8 water treatment plants

- 21 reservoirs

- 6 pump stations

- 456 kilometres of pipeline.

Major water treatment plants are located at Jones Hill, Kilkivan, Goomeri, Cooloola Cove and Rainbow Beach. During severe weather events, flood water may infiltrate the reticulated supply or high turbidity might result in boil water notices for extended periods of time. Power is required to support water distribution and treatment. Extended power failures will lead to a loss of reticulated water supply. Reticulated sewerage and associated treatment plants are located at Goomeri, Gympie, Southside (part), Kilkivan, Tin Can Bay, Cooloola Cove, Rainbow Beach and Imbil.

Waste Disposal

Council operates a landfill site at Bonnick Road Gympie which is expected to close in late 2024. Waste Transfer Stations are operated at Tin Can Bay, Rainbow Beach, Imbil and Widgee.

Referable Dams

GRC local government area may be impacted on by a dam failure from three Seqwater dams and one Sunwater dam listed below:

- Borumba Dam (supplies Gympie's water supply)
- Cedar Pocket Creek Dam (stores water for irrigation of dairy land pastures downstream of the dam
- Lake Macdonald Dam (Noosa) may have overflow impacts in Gympie LGA during certain events.
- Bjelke-Petersen Dam (South Burnett) may have overflow impacts in Gympie LGA during certain events.

Refer to the non-natural hazards section for further detail.

Data and Communications

Mobile communications are available from several carriers and provide good coverage to the large population centre, reasonable coverage to most other populated areas and poor coverage to some isolated areas, including the remote rural coastal areas and some areas in the Western part of the Gympie LGA.

Fixed line, Wi-Fi and Mobile internet data services are available through a range of service providers. Some communities in the region have limited or no mobile / internet service. In recent years funding has been granted to address some mobile blackspots. Intermittent connectivity is an issue that has been identified in the more remote and coastal communities.

Two-Way Radio

The council two-way radio system is used generally by work crews as a means of communication between operators of items of plant on a job site but can also be used to communicate with John Street depot, Kilkivan administration office and council's Water and Wastewater Team. A number of channels are available for use for business as usual.

Key Community Facilities

Throughout the region there are a number of key community facilities and large public spaces including:

- Council libraries/facilities/halls/pubic art gallery
- Council work depots at John Street, Monkland, Goomeri, Kilkivan and Tin Can Bay
- Court Houses at Gympie
- Indoor Sports Centres
- Racecourses and Showgrounds
- Parks and reserves
- Shopping Centres
- Swimming pools.

Proposed Future Development

The Gympie Regional Council Planning Scheme 2013 is currently under review. With Gympie as the main hub, the townships of Rainbow Beach, Cooloola Cove, Tin Can Bay, Goomeri and the Mary Valley, are likely to continue to develop and provide an ancillary local level support to communities while generating employment and economic activity. The region's cultural heritage is protected to maintain the link between the current community and the historic values that contributed to its establishment. This is also an important aspect of the local tourism economy. GRC has developed a Local Heritage Register which identifies places of local heritage significance. Some of these places are included in the Queensland Heritage Register.

3.3   Hazards

3.3.1   Natural Hazards

There are a number of natural and non-natural hazard events that may impact the GRC community. The most prominent of these are:

Flooding

During intense meteorological conditions such as a tropical low-pressure system, heavy rainfalls can occur throughout the catchments which can result in significant river level rises and flooding. The areas likely to be impacted can be determined from flood mapping held by GRC and those affected may be pre-warned. During large flood events, various communities including Gympie Central, Southside and the area of Monkland can become isolated. In recent years the area has experienced numerous flooding events, generally in the Q 25 range. In February 2022, Gympie was impacted by a 22.96m flood. In 1893 the region was subjected to an above Q 200 event (25.45m). The Flood Hazard Overlay Mapping from the GRC Planning Scheme is at Figure 6 below. Refer to Gympie Disaster Dashboard for flood map overlays.
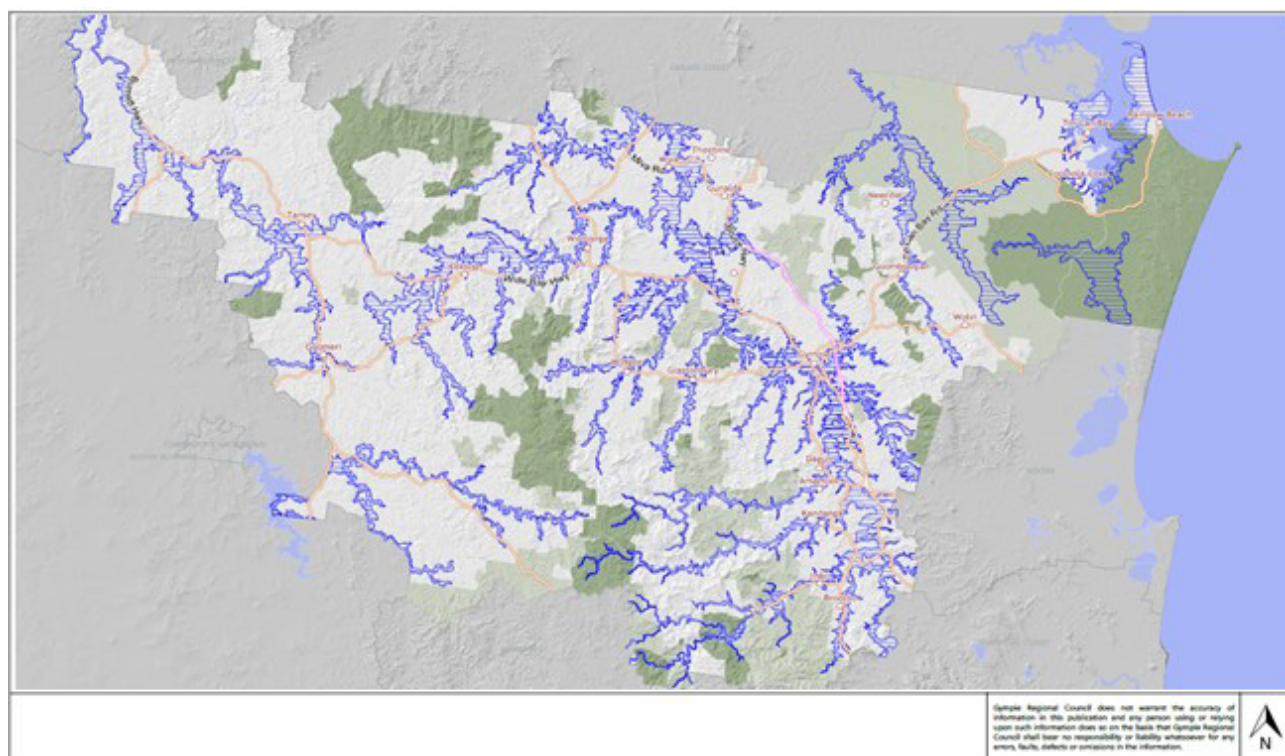

Figure 6: Flood Hazard Overlay Mapping

Additionally, the Australian Government has developed an interactive map which identifies numerous locations within the GRC area that are at risk of flooding, refer: https://floodcheck.information.qld.gov.au/

Flash flooding usually results from relatively short intense bursts of rainfall, commonly from thunderstorms. This flooding can occur in any part of the GRC but is a particularly serious problem in areas where drainage systems may not cope and in very small creeks and streams. Flash floods tend to be quite local, and it is difficult to provide effective warning because of their rapid onset. Areas at risk of flash flooding include Rainbow Beach, Cooloola Cove, Pie Creek (Eel Creek Road), Amamoor Creek, Tagigan Creek (Vines Road) and Eel Creek (Gympie-Woolooga Road).

Flood waters in the GRC may rise and fall rapidly, posing risk of drowning; inundation and damage to property and critical infrastructure; isolation of individuals and major agricultural activities; potential for evacuation; and disruption and damage to businesses and industry.

Severe Storms, Tropical Cyclones and Coastal Inundation

The Gympie region can be impacted by severe storms, including thunderstorms and hailstorms and on rarer occasions, tropical lows, and cyclones. Most likely to occur between October and April, these storms can bring lightning, hail, destructive winds, high rainfall, and flooding.

The cascading and coincident effects of storms and tropical cyclone can pose complex issues such as:

- damage from sustained high wind speeds

- rapid delivery of concentrated rainfall leading to flash flooding

- increased risk of storm surge creating higher risk of coastal inundation and erosion

- onset of riverine flooding due to prolonged and sustained deluges.

Coastal inundation cannot be considered in isolation and storm surges in particular are a consequence of a tropical cyclone or a severe weather event. The profile of this hazard is increased when considering climate change projections of a rising sea level, and an increase in the severity of tropical cyclones and severe weather events.

Significant planning and mitigation is undertaken by coastal local governments coupled with support from the state government however there are multiple developed coastal areas that could face significant risk if a severe tropical cyclone impacts in or near to an exposed or vulnerable location and aligns with high tides inundation.

Bushfire

The threat of bushfire is a seasonal risk, officially commencing on August 1 and continuing until the start of the wet season. The threat fluctuates from low to very high and is dependent upon variables such as temperature, humidity, frosts, wind direction, rainfall, vegetation growth, and existing fuel load. Bushfires can be caused by natural occurrences such as lightning strike, be accidentally started or be deliberate acts of arson.

The Bushfire Hazard Overlay Map in the GRC Planning Scheme indicates the bushfire risk for the region with medium and high bushfire risk potential – refer Figure 7 below. More information on Bushfire Hazard Overlay maps is on the GRC website.
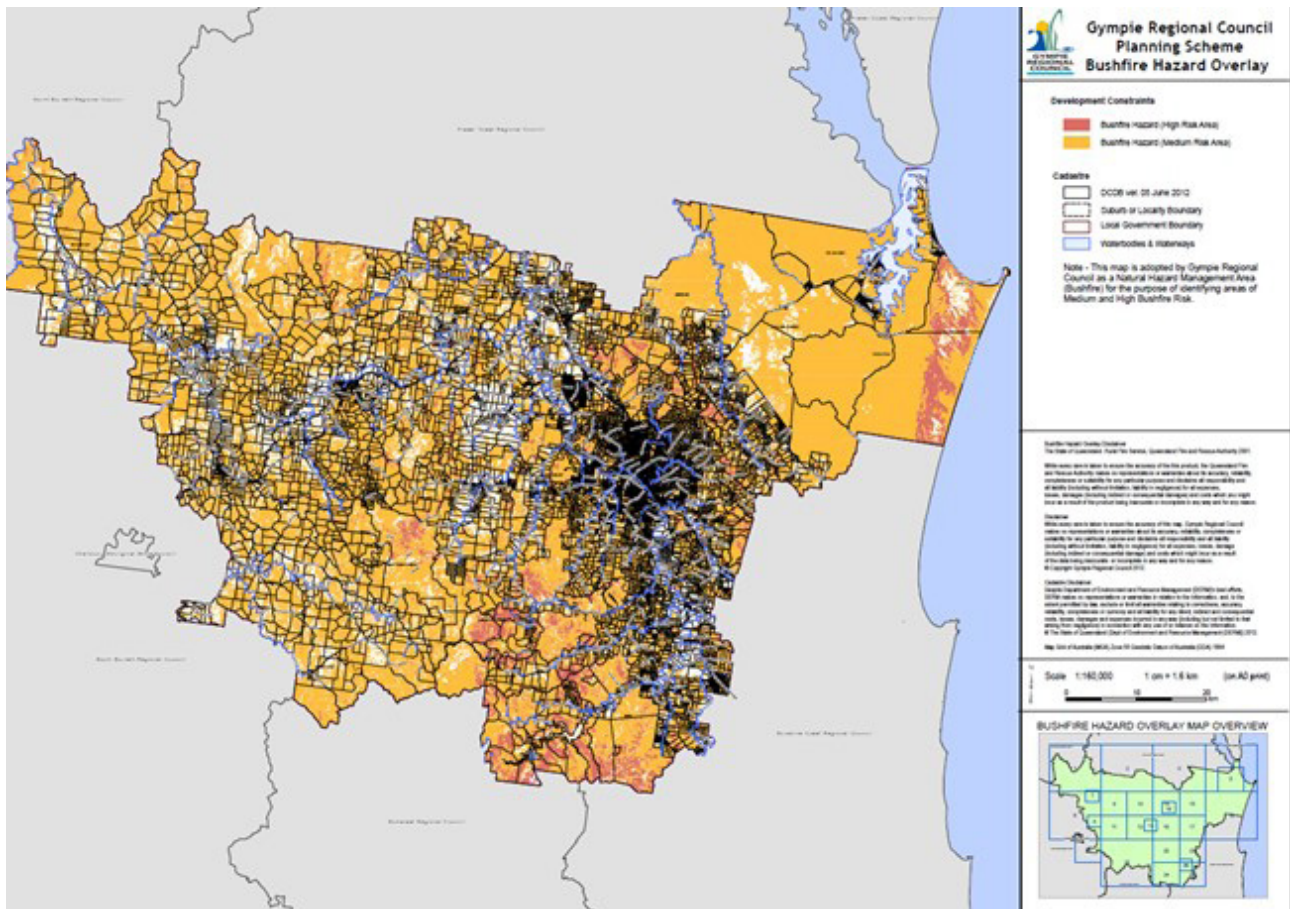
Figure 7: Bushfire Hazard Overlay

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in conjunction with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) have conducted State-wide mapping of Bushfire Prone Areas. This mapping considers landscape slope, potential fuel load, fire weather severity, potential bushfire intensity classes, potential impact buffers, grassfire prone areas and low hazard areas.

The farming land which surrounds towns within the region acts as a buffer, isolating farm buildings from relatively heavier vegetated areas, and offering some protection from bushfires. Scattered rural residential properties (often with absentee landowners) in timbered areas and properties bordering National Parks are particularly susceptible to bushfires. Extensive forestry plantation areas in the region are also susceptible to bushfire. Our rugged terrain in certain areas of the region makes access for bushfire fighting difficult.
The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Environment and Science is responsible for managing the National Parks in the region and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for forestry areas. More information on state level responsibilities can be found on the internet.

Bushfire impacts are potentially harmful to people and property through flame attack, radiant heat exposure, ember attack, wind attack, smoke hazard and convective heat exposure. The terrain and conditions can pose additional hazards to those fighting fires. Impacts can include possible injury or death to people, animals and livestock; loss, disruption or damage to property, buildings, critical infrastructure, essential services, businesses, agriculture and vegetation; blocked road networks; isolation of communities; and potential for evacuation.

Heatwaves

The [Queensland State Heatwave Risk Assessment](#) identifies that severe and extreme heatwaves have taken more lives than any other natural hazard in Australia. Heatwaves, arguably due to their less violent, slower onset and less publicised nature, have only more recently begun to be recognised at a true level of risk. Climate projections indicate generally hotter conditions, with the Bureau of Meteorology and Queensland Health working collaboratively on a Heatwave Service to align service response with weather forecasts. Heatwaves have a broad range of potential health effects impacting mortality rates for vulnerable to the increased risk of bushfire.

Earthquakes

The [Queensland State Earthquake Risk Assessment 2019](#) mapped zones of earthquake likelihood. Gympie is in zone 3. The AEP of a 5.35 magnitude earthquake occurring is 0.35 per cent (Table 7). Recent historical data exists in relation to tremors and earthquakes and none appear to have caused great concern. Notwithstanding, the existence of even a slightly volatile seismic environment acts as a prompt for maintaining situational awareness of the threat, and its possible consequences.

Table 7: Earthquake likelihood in Gympie Regional Council LGA

Magnitude	5.35 magnitude	6.05 magnitude
AEP	0.35 per cent	0.06 per cent

Tsunami

The [Tsunami Guide for Queensland](#) defines a tsunami as a wave or series of waves that are caused by the sudden movement of the ocean's surface due to earthquakes, sea floor (or submarine) landslides, land slumping into the ocean, large volcanic eruptions or meteorite impacts in the ocean.

The communities potentially exposed to tsunami risk in the GRC area are the Tin Can Bay, Cooloola Cove and Rainbow Beach districts.

Landslides

Landslides can be caused by earthquakes or volcanoes, but in Queensland they are generally caused by heavy rain. The rain saturates the soil on a hillside, often where there has been human activity (e.g. construction where trees and plants have been removed), past the point where any remaining vegetation can support the soil's weight against the force of gravity. The top saturated layer of soil then slips down the hill taking whatever is on the land with it. Landslides may be exceptionally slow, moving only centimetres a year, or fast with a sudden and total collapse moving millions of tonnes of debris over many kilometres.

Sinkholes

A sinkhole is a cavity in the ground caused by water erosion and providing a route for surface water to disappear underground. There have been reported incidents of sinkholes at Inskip near Rainbow Beach and some sinkholes appeared overnight. Caution must be exercised when camping or travelling at the beach.

Drought

A drought is a long, dry period when there is not enough water to meet people's needs. Droughts are extreme climatic events that can have long-lasting effects on people, crops, animals, and the economy. The Gympie region's latest drought activation ended in April 2022. This status is reviewed annually by the Local Drought Committee, taking into consideration the extent of rainfall deficiency, pasture and water availability, frequency of supplementary feeding and stock condition. Drought is not considered a disaster in Queensland and is not managed using the QDMA. A Drought Relief Assistance Scheme for primary producers is available from the State Government.

Climate Change and Adaptation

The Queensland Climate Action Plan identifies targets for reducing emissions to zero and transitioning to renewable energy by 2050.

Queensland's climate is changing. Adaptation action is essential for the continued prosperity of our communities, our environment, and our economy. The Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy 2017–2030 (Q-CAS) provides a framework to ensure Queensland becomes more climate resilient and manages the risks associated with a changing climate.

Climate change will likely exacerbate the frequency and severity of natural hazards. Climate Change in the Wide Bay Burnett region indicates the area will be increasingly affected by higher temperatures, hotter and more frequent hot days, more intense downpours, rising sea level, harsher fire weather, more frequent sea level extremes, fewer frosts, warmer and more acidic seas, and reduced rainfall.

Adaptive measures should be considered to manage future climate risks. A Queensland Government Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan for Climate Change is available.

3.3.2 Non-natural Hazards

Infectious Disease Outbreak

Infectious disease is a broad term covering a range of different diseases that can be spread, directly or indirectly, from one person to another. A human pandemic is a disease outbreak that occurs worldwide when a new strain of virus emerges to which no-one is immune. In recent times, at least three pandemics have posed a threat to Australia. The avian influenza outbreak in 2003, the swine flu influenza in 2009 and the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. Such outbreaks can challenge or overwhelm the health system, can involve the isolation and quarantine of large numbers of people for a protracted period, cause widespread economic and social disruption and can result in large numbers of fatalities or people with serious illness.

Animal Diseases

The social, economic, and environmental consequences of an infectious disease outbreak in animals could be catastrophic to the GRC area. Although Australia is currently free of many of the world's worst animal diseases including Foot-and-mouth disease, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and African Swine Fever, it has recently been threatened by other diseases, such as Equine Influenza, Avian Influenza, Australian Bat Lyssavirus, Anthrax and Hendra Virus. Foot-and-mouth disease has been identified as the single biggest threat to Queensland's livestock industry and an outbreak could be devastating to the local economies of the GRC area. Some diseases, known as Zoonoses, can spread from animals to humans.

Plant Pests and Diseases

Queensland is fortunate to be free from many of the world's most damaging plant diseases, pests, and weeds as a result of Australia's strong biosecurity system. Invasive pest species such as Fall Armyworm and invasive weed species such as Giant Rats Tail, lantana camara and navua sedge can have far reaching impacts. Pests and weeds have the potential to damage natural environment eco-systems, increase fire risk and infrastructure maintenance costs, reduce productivity and profitability, limit the long-term sustainability of the regions agricultural and natural resources, and potentially affect human health and peoples' livelihoods. Biosecurity measures have been implemented to try to stop the spread of plant pests and diseases. More information on biosecurity zones is available on the internet.

Vector Borne Disease

Vectors are living organisms that spread infectious diseases from one host to another. Many vectors are bloodsucking insects (e.g. mosquitoes, ticks, sandflies) which ingest disease-producing microorganisms during a blood meal from an infected human or animal host and then inject it into a new host during a later blood meal.

With the combination of climate change, increasing globalisation, international travel and transport of goods, disease vectors have moved across boundaries into new territories. A major health threat globally, some vector-borne diseases are notifiable under the *Public Health Act 2005*.

Mosquitoes cause more deaths than any other disease vector. In Queensland, the most common mosquito-borne diseases are Ross River Virus, Dengue and Barmah Forest Virus although less common Kunjin virus disease and Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) have also been infrequently reported. The GRC area does have a number of types of mosquitoes that can spread disease.

Referable Dams

Referable dams are those that could potentially cause loss of life should an emergency occur affecting the dam. Overtopping flow of a dam is a component event of many or even most potential failure modes resulting from floods. Dams and levees have been overtopped by a few metres without breaching, but other structures have failed quickly. There are two referable dams in the GRC LGA that must be considered in disaster management planning and another two referable dams in neighbouring LGA's that may impact within the Gympie LGA.

Borumba Dam is located just south of Gympie and stores water for drinking as well as irrigation as part of the Mary Valley irrigation scheme. Built upstream of Imbil, across Yabba Creek, the Borumba Dam was originally completed in 1963 and upgraded in 1997. The Full supply volume for Borumba Dam is 46,000 ML. It is an un-gated dam, meaning that when it reaches 100 per cent capacity, water flows over the spillway and safely out of the dam. The Population at Risk (PAR) for a Sunny Day Failure is 214 and for Flood is 403 however there are often transient PAR in the area due to recreational activities downstream of the dam. If you would like to be notified when Borumba Dam begins to spill, members of the community can contact Seqwater (the owner) to sign up to a free dam release notification service. An Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is available. The dam storage level can be checked here: https://www.seqwater.com.au/dams/borumba

Cedar Pocket Dam stores water for irrigation of dairy land pastures downstream of the dam. Located approximately 20 kilometres east of Gympie, the Cedar Pocket Dam was completed in 1984 and its full supply volume is 735 ML. It is an un-gated dam, meaning that when it reaches 100 per cent capacity, water flows over the spillway and safely out of the dam. The Population at Risk for a Sunny Day Failure is 12 and for Flood is <100 (not fully assessed). If you would like to be notified when Cedar Pocket Dam begins to spill, members of the community can contact Seqwater (the owner) to sign up to a free dam release notification service An [Emergency Action Plan (EAP)](#) is available. The dam storage level can be checked here: https://www.seqwater.com.au/dams/cedar-pocket There is a scenic lookout at Cedar Pocket Dam, however, there are no picnic facilities or public toilets available. No other recreation is permitted.

Lake MacDonald Dam (Noosa Hinterland) was originally built in 1965, the dam was raised in 1980 to increase its storage capacity. Although the official name is 'Six Mile Creek Dam', it is more well-known as Lake Macdonald. The dam is located in the Noosa hinterland and is part of South East Queensland's drinking water supply. In some events, there may be impacts to the Gympie LGA area including flooding on the Bruce Highway south of Gympie. The dam's Full supply volume is 8,018 ML. It is an un-gated dam, meaning that when it reaches 100 per cent capacity, water flows over the spillway and safely out of the dam. If you would like to be notified when Lake Macdonald (Six Mile Creek) Dam begins to spill, sign up to Seqwater's free dam release notification service or download our public safety mobile app. An [Emergency Action Plan (EAP)](#) is available. The dam storage level can be checked here: https://www.seqwater.com.au/dams/lake-macdonald-six-mile-creek

Bjelke-Peterson Dam (South Burnett) also known as BP Dam or Lake Barambah, is located 12km south of Murgon. The dam provides water for the agricultural industry and a major recreational area. The dam is owned by Sunwater and an [EAP](#) is available. The PAR is the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council. Impacts may also be experienced within the Gympie LGA. The dam storage level can be checked here: https://www.sunwater.com.au/dams/bjelke-petersen-dam/

Failure or Disruption of Essential Services

The failure of critical infrastructure which provides essential services such as water, wastewater, waste management, power, information, and communication would have varied, widespread implications. There is the potential for a "ripple effect", where the failure of one essential service may lead to progressive failures of other essential services – e.g. loss of power could potentially lead to loss of communications, loss of reticulated water supply and loss of sewage treatment capability.

It is important to note that it is possible that any infrastructure failure affecting the area, could likely have State-wide and possibly national consequences, resulting in a lack of external support capacity to assist in recovery activities. In addition to the human-social and economic impacts, any loss of essential services can impede the ability to respond to an event locally. Independent generation should be considered by households and businesses, as appropriate.

Other Major Incidents

Major or unusual incidents could occur in any number of settings and are difficult to foresee or predict. Such events have the potential to happen quickly with little to no warning and could potentially require a protracted response by LDMG agencies. Some examples include a structural collapse, a major fire, explosion, or hazardous materials (HAZMAT) release at a key site, a HAZMAT incident or on the transportation network, a mass casualty event, an act of terrorism or the risk of space debris entering the atmosphere. It is important to consider the likelihood and severity of these types of hazards and their impacts on people, infrastructure, the local economy, and the environment.

It is important to be aware of events happening in other regions which may impact on the GRC LGA. Examples may include mass evacuation from the coast as a result of a Tsunami or Cyclone. People may also choose to move from more densely populated regions in times of epidemic/pandemic with the expectation of greater safety in more regional locations. Additionally, certain local events could bring a larger influx of people to the region which may impact the response to the above hazards.

3.4   Residual Risks

The LDMG recognises its treatment options will not always be adequate and residual risk will remain. Residual risks are the risks which remain after the LDMG has applied the risk mitigation strategies within their capacity, but those strategies have not sufficiently reduced or eliminated the risk. The LDMG will progress matters to the DDMG if its capacity will be reached or exceeded.

4.   Prevention

4.1   Prevention

Prevention includes measures to eliminate, mitigate or reduce the likelihood of a disaster occurring, or the severity should it eventuate.

Hazard mitigation is the action taken in advance of a disaster, aimed at eliminating or reducing the impact on the community, economy, infrastructure, and environment.

The implementation of appropriate and targeted mitigation initiatives can offer more sustainable cost savings and result in a safer, more resilient, and sustainable community.

Local and District Disaster Management Groups and the Queensland Disaster Management Committee each have responsibility for prevention activities.

4.2   Land Use Planning

Land use planning in areas exposed to natural hazards can significantly reduce disaster risk, the impact of hazards should they arise and enhance the resilience of existing and future communities. Regulating the use and development of land is a key strategy to avoid risk to life, property, and environment, and reduce damage and disruption to the community.

Land use planning is undertaken in accordance with the State Planning Policy (SPP) requires local governments to identify natural hazards, undertake a risk assessment and include appropriate provisions in their planning scheme to ensure that the risk is tolerable to their community.

The GRC Planning Scheme 2013 (currently under review) provides a framework under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for managing development within the region over the next 20 years. The Planning Scheme uses a series of overlays as a means of influencing development to mitigate or reduce the effects of hazards.

- Bushfire Hazard Overlay

- Flood Hazard Overlay

- Storm Surge Advisory Map

4.3 Building Codes, Regulations and Legislation

The application of building codes and building use regulations aims to ensure that buildings and infrastructure are designed and constructed to standards that reduce the likelihood of damage and injury in an event. Standards and codes should be referred to and enforced particularly for the design and construction of major infrastructure and components of essential services. These controls are important preventative measures that complement effective land use planning. The Queensland Development Code ensures that buildings exposed to particular natural hazards are designed to ensure structural integrity.

4.4 Design Improvements

Infrastructure is required for a community to function effectively however it can be vulnerable to hazards. As a consequence, a community's resilience or ability to respond to a disaster will be influenced by the working availability of essential infrastructure inclusive of roads, railways, dams, bridges, electrical, digital and communications networks, water supply and sewerage systems and the buildings that house essential services (such as communications and health).

In addition, infrastructure may alter flood flows, depth or velocity and add debris to the floodwaters. Therefore, infrastructure on the path of the flood hazard may have consequences that are either intended or unintended. The location and build quality of any infrastructure assets needs to consider the risk associated with potential flood events within that community.

Design improvements to infrastructure or services can be engineered to provide a greater level of resilience. Design improvements can be applied to new infrastructure or to harden existing infrastructure or when considering betterment works during the reconstruction phase. Ensuring the reliability of critical infrastructure and services supports the communities social and economic wellbeing.

Design improvement works provide a range of potential preventative measures including but not limited to levees, flood gates and, on a larger scale, flood mitigating dams. Deciding what role, if any, structural works should play in mitigating risk requires quantifying the risk and consequences to the population.

4.5 Landscape and Environment

Ecosystems serve as protective buffers against natural hazards such as flooding, and the vegetation cover in catchment influences run off and flood behaviour. Traditional methods of flood mitigation have generally focused on structural works, such as levees and building controls that ensure buildings have greater resilience. As effective as these measures may or may not be, it is increasingly recognised that non-structural measures including the management of landscapes can play an important role in mitigating the impact of natural hazards.

4.6 Hazard Reduction

Each agency of the LDMG is responsible for implementing appropriate hazard reduction programs for risks under their control. As an example, QFES, GRC and various landowners undertake an annual hazard reduction program for bushfires. This includes a program of fuel reduction and back-burning, maintenance, and development of fire breaks and GRC plays an active role on the Area Fire Management Group, which provides strategic fire mitigation programs, operational preparedness and response, risk identification and hazard reduction burning.

4.7 Continuous Improvement

The practice of continuous improvement involves disaster management processes and arrangements being regularly evaluated and improved to ensure they remain fit for purpose, efficient, effective, and flexible.

5. Preparation

5.1 LDMG Preparedness and Capacity Building

Effective disaster response and recovery activities begin with preparedness and awareness raising activities that are conducted on an ongoing basis, in advance of any potential disaster to ensure that if an event occurs, communities, resources and services are able to cope with its effects.

LDMG preparedness relates to having arrangements in place to ensure that, should a disaster occur, all the resources and services which are needed to cope with the effects can be efficiently mobilised and deployed.

Capacity building occurs across the phases of prevention and preparation and is built through activities that ensure ongoing improvement of the disaster management arrangements. The implementation and delivery of LDMG meetings, workshops and training and exercises are critical elements in the continuous improvement of disaster management capacity building. Hazard specific and functional plans will be developed as required.

5.2 Community Preparedness and Capacity Building

Section 30 of the Act requires the LDMG to ensure that the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.

The LDMG recognises that local knowledge is invaluable to the disaster planning process and that the community plays a key role in contributing to its own safety. The LDMG advocates that everyone can prepare for disasters in ways that can reduce the impact on their home, family, friends, pets and themselves.

The LDMG community education and awareness programs focus on creating resilient communities. Resilient communities are those that understand the risks they face, how to prepare themselves, their home and their community for the possibility of a disaster event to minimise impacts, can adapt to the circumstances, recover quickly and emerge stronger than their pre-disaster state.

The LDMG works closely with vulnerable groups and promotes the [Person Centred Emergency Preparedness (PCEP) Toolkit](#) as an effective methodology for those with a disability to tailor emergency preparedness to their individual support needs.

5.2.1 Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

Queensland is the most disaster impacted state in Australia. By necessity, Queenslanders are renowned for their resilience and ability to adapt, with a strong community spirit that supports those in need to withstand and recover from disasters. The preparedness and resilience of individuals and communities is a shared responsibility of all sectors, including all levels of government, business, NGO's and individuals. Disaster resilience is significantly increased by proactive planning and preparation for the protection of life, property and the environment through an awareness of hazards, associated risks and local disaster management arrangements.

The [Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience](#) is the guiding instrument for realising the vision to make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia and is underpinned by four key objectives:

- Queenslanders understand their disaster risk

- Strengthened disaster risk management

- Queenslanders are invested in disaster risk reduction

- Continuous improvement in disaster preparedness.

5.2.2 Get Ready Queensland Initiative

The LDMG has undertaken a series of community forums, presentations, displays and community awareness days as part of promoting the annual Get Ready Program in the GRC area. These community engagement programs aim to build resilience in preparation for seasonal hazards (e.g. severe storms, bushfires, floods). These programs are aimed at empowering individuals and the community to understand their local risks and take pre-emptive action to prepare themselves, their families, homes and businesses in the event of disaster. The [Get Ready Queensland](#) program promotes three steps to Get Ready.

Step 1: Understand your Risk

Queenslanders are impacted by more natural disasters than anyone else in Australia. Being prepared for severe weather is part and parcel of living here. The most common types of disasters that can happen in Queensland are floods, storms, cyclones and storm surge and bushfire.

Everyone's disaster risk is different. These types of natural hazards are largely determined by your location. Other hazards such as pandemic and heatwave can happen to anyone at any time. It's important to know what your disaster risks are so that you can be prepared. Being ready will help reduce the impact of a disaster on yourself, your loved ones, home, family, finances and business.

Step 2: Prepare a Household Emergency Plan

A household emergency plan will ensure everyone in your household knows exactly what to do if the worst happens. You might want to involve your neighbours in developing your plan - neighbours who are elderly or have special needs may need your assistance. Equally, neighbours may also provide assistance to your household if required. For more information, see the above link to the Get Ready Queensland online household emergency and evacuation plan. The online plan should take 10-15 minutes to complete and will be available for you to download, save and print once completed.

Step 3: Pack an Emergency Kit

If, as a result of a natural disaster, you are unable to leave your home for an extended period, due to an emergency such as a bushfire, storm, flood or a cyclone, your emergency kit contains a collection of essential items that will equip your household for at least three days of isolation.

For those that would like to take further steps to cover a wider range of scenarios for a longer period, you can add additional supplies to create a comprehensive kit to ensure you are extensively covered. Refer to the [Get Ready website](#) for more information.

5.3 Disaster Dashboard

The GRC [Disaster Dashboard](#) provides a one stop shop site for the community to access BoM weather warnings, up-to-date information on road closures, power outages, evacuation centres, helpful contacts as well as links to other useful disaster related information and our social media sites.

The Disaster Dashboard also provides an [opt in subscriber alerting service](#).

6. Response Strategy

6.1 Activation of LDMG

Timely activation of the LDMG is critical. The LDMG will activate in response to an actual or threatened disaster event which will likely have significant community consequences and requires a coordinated response and / or recovery effort. The decision to activate is based upon defined triggers and the perceived level of threat. The authority to activate the LDMG is at the discretion of the LDMG Chair based on the nature and scale of the event. The LDMG Chair will consult with the full membership where time permits.

6.2 Activation Criteria

The disaster management system at a local level, involving the LDMG, may be activated for any number of reasons. The following decision criteria should be employed (if yes is answered to any of the following the LDMG should be activated):

- Is there a perceived need relative to an impending hazard impact which requires multi-agency coordination?
- Has there been a request from a response agency, to provide resource support and coordination in support of operations?
- Has there has been a request / direction from the DDC to activate the LDMG?
- Has there been a sudden impact event which requires involvement of the LDMG in one or more phases of PPRR?

6.3 Activation of LDMP and Sub Plans

The LDMP will be activated automatically whenever the LDMG is activated. The LDC is responsible for activating approved Sub Plans as required by the nature and circumstances of the event.

6.4 Levels of Activation

Activation of response arrangements will occur in accordance with a four-phase model encompassing alert, lean forward, stand up and stand down, as outlined in Table 8 below. These levels of activation will drive response activity and guide the scale of response.

Table 8: Response - Levels of Activation

	Triggers	Actions	Communications
ALERT	A heightened level of vigilance due to the possibility of an event.	Monitor situation closely – watching brief. Initial advice to all stakeholders. Refer LDC Checklist.	Chair and LDC communicating remotely.
LEAN FORWARD	Operational state prior to 'stand up'. Heightened level of situational awareness and a state of operational readiness.	Ensure relevant facilities are set up and rosters developed as required (e.g. LDCC, Evacuation Centres). Formal briefing of LDMG. Public information and warnings initiated. Refer LDC Checklist.	Chair, LDC and LDMG members on mobile and monitoring email remotely. Ad-hoc reporting.
STAND UP	Threat is imminent. Community has been or will be impacted. Resources are mobilised, personnel are activated, and operational activities commence.	Activate staff and facilities as needed (e.g. LDCC, Evacuation Centres). Manage disaster operations.	Formal SITREP reporting.
STAND DOWN	Transition from responding to an event back to normal core business and/or recovery operations.	Implement plan to transition to recovery. Debriefing and identification of lessons.	FINAL response SITREP to DDC.

The transition of disaster management groups through these phases is not necessarily sequential. It is based on flexibility and adaptability to the location and event. Further, activation may not necessarily mean the convening of disaster management groups but rather the provision of information to disaster management groups regarding the risks associated with the potential impact of a hazard.

Levels of activation, including triggers, actions and communications for District and Queensland Disaster Management Committees are described in the Queensland Local Disaster Management Guidelines and Queensland District Disaster Management Guidelines.

6.5   Notification Process

The LDMG Chair and LDC will maintain situational awareness in relation to events that have the potential to require the activation of the disaster management system. When a decision is made to activate the LDMG, the appropriate activation level will be determined and communicated to LDMG members.

The initial LDMG meeting will be scheduled, and further meetings agreed where necessary. The DDC will be advised verbally and in writing that the LDMG has been activated. This LDMP will be automatically invoked and the LDC will invoke associated Sub Plans as required by the nature and scale of the event.

6.6   Notification Flowchart
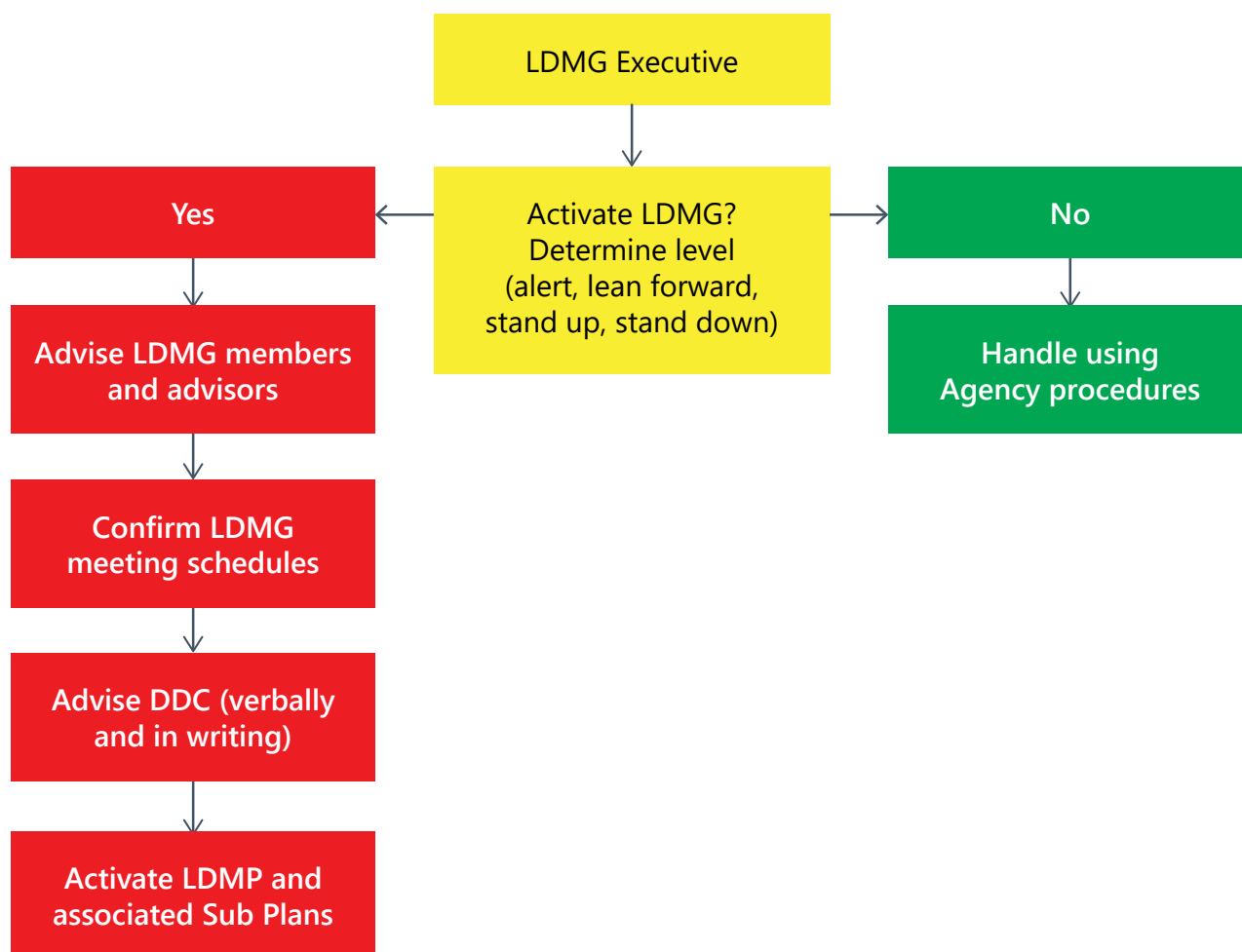
Figure 8: Notification Flow Chart

6.7   Response Priorities

The response phase involves the taking of appropriate measures to respond to an event, including action taken and measures planned in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an event to ensure that its effects are minimised and that persons affected by the event are given immediate relief and support.

The following priorities apply to any response:

■ Preservation of life

■ Protection of critical infrastructure and property

■ Safeguard the economy

■ Protect the environment.

6.8   Response Principles

The LDMG will:

- Activate early to prepare and to plan for the response and coordination of disaster operations

- Work closely with the responsible lead agency and the DDMG to manage and coordinate disaster operations

- Provide warnings, alerts and public information early and consistently to the community or those who need it

- Ensure disaster operations and response activities are coordinated

- Ensure resources are accessed and used effectively

- Provide support to meet community needs

- Provide situational reporting.

6.8.1   Responsible Lead Agencies

The LDMG will ensure the responsible lead agency is supported by the disaster management system during their response to an event. The responsible lead agencies for each hazard can be found in the State Disaster Management Plan – refer pg. 47-50.

6.9   Disaster Declaration

Disaster declarations may be made for a specific location and time period, to enable the exercise by relevant officers of powers related to management of the disaster event.

In accordance with section 64(1) of the Act, the DDC may, with the approval of the Minister, declare a disaster situation for the district, or a part of it if satisfied that a disaster has happened, is happening or is likely to happen, in the disaster district and it is necessary, or reasonably likely to be necessary, for the DDC or a declared disaster officer to exercise declared disaster powers to prevent or minimise any of the following:

- Loss of human life

- Illness or injury to humans

- Property loss or damage

- Damage to the environment.

Before declaring a disaster situation, the DDC is to take reasonable steps to consult with each local government in, or partly in, the proposed declared area. As outlined in section 75 to 78 of the Act, the declaration confers extra powers on particular groups to perform actions, give directions and control movements within the declared area.

It is important to note that the declaration of a disaster situation relates to the situational requirement for additional powers and is not linked to the activation of particular disaster management groups under the QDMA or the activation of disaster financial assistance arrangements. All three actions are independent processes and are not interlinked or conditional. The declaration of a disaster situation does not impact the requirements of a local government under the Act to manage disaster operations in their area.

6.10 Guardian Information Management System (IMS)

Guardian IMS is an electronic workflow for managing disaster events that is used by Gympie LDMG and LDCC for the above purposes. The spatially integrated solution holds plans and preparation documents, creates a chronological record of events and a fully auditable trail of actions, as well as details on the allocation and management of tasks, bulletins, evacuation centres, road closures and reports using MS Word templates.

6.10.1 Situation Reports (SITREPS)

Situation Reports (SITREPS) will need to be prepared on a regular basis. SITREPS will be created and stored within Guardian IMS, so they are accessible to all LDMG agencies.

6.11 Activation of The Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC)

During disaster operations, the LDMG will establish a Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) as a centre of communication and coordination to operationalise LDMG decisions and plan and implement strategies and activities on behalf of the LDMG. The LDCC will have the capacity to receive and manage information, coordinate local resources and information, identify and track tasks and pass information and requests for assistance to the District Disaster Coordination Centre (DDCC).

The LDCC is where the multi-agency response to the event is coordinated from. The primary LDCC is located at GRC offices. For further information, refer to the LDCC Sub Plan.

6.12 Public Information and Warnings

When an event is imminent, it is essential the public are warned of the danger and provided with information about the event and advice on recommended actions. The key objective is to deliver accurate, clear, timely information and advice to the public, so they feel confident, safe and well informed and are aware of any recommended actions. Refer Public Information and Warnings Sub Plan.

6.13 Evacuation

The safety of residents is the primary driver for evacuation. Evacuation carries risks to both those being evacuated and to emergency personnel managing the evacuation. Consideration must be given to the risks associated with the conduct of any evacuation. Under some circumstances, sheltering in place may provide greater levels of safety for the community. If evacuation is required, the LDMG will promote relevant details including the location of any evacuation centres to the affected community via public warnings and the GRC Disaster Dashboard. Refer Evacuation Sub Plan.

6.14 Financial Management

Operational expenditure needs to be tracked using work order numbers established specifically for the event. At the conclusion of the disaster event, all expenditure needs to be finalised. Invoices need to be collated; payments made, and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) claims need to be completed. Refer Financial Management Sub Plan.

6.15   Public Health

A major disaster event may cause significant disruption to the community. Water supplies, sewage treatment, refuse disposal, and access to safe food may be compromised. Refer Public Health Sub Plan.

6.16   Logistics

Timely acquisition and deployment of services and supplies is critical to the efficient response to and recovery from a disaster event. When all local resources have been exhausted or are inadequate, requests for assistance outside the GRC area shall be directed to the DDC. All external assistance requests shall be coordinated by the LDC on behalf of the LDMG. Refer Logistics Sub Plan.

6.17   Damage Assessment

Following the impact of a disaster, measures will need to be implemented to undertake damage assessments to determine the extent of the area affected, damage to homes, infrastructure and essential services and the level of hardship being experienced in the community. QFES have a responsibility for undertaking damage assessment of structures impacted. However, all agencies are able to contribute to damage assessments through operational reporting (i.e. dam owners will report on storage levels, QPS will report on missing people, Queensland Health will report on people requiring hospitalisation / medical treatment and GRC will report on damage to water infrastructure).

Damage assessment information is to be received, evaluated, and managed within the LDCC and necessary action taken where required.

6.18   Simple Tips for Community

During disaster events, it is important to keep calm to help manage fear and to think clearly. It is also important to remember that someone may need your help and that you may also need help. You also need to seek reliable information about what is happening and advice from emergency services. A key source for information is the Gympie Regional Council's Disaster Dashboard http://disaster.gympie.qld.gov.au/

If you have prepared well, the emergency plans will kick in and you, your family and neighbours will be in a position to see out the disaster event. When it comes to any disaster, preparation is the key.

There are some simple things you can do during a disaster event to protect your family and home.

1.   Activate your Household Emergency Plan and get your Emergency Kit.

2.   During severe storms, stay inside and well clear of windows, doors or other openings.

3.   Shelter in the safest part of your house (internal room, hallway, built-in wardrobe or cellar).

4.   Avoid using electrical appliances where possible.

5.   If outdoors, seek immediate shelter in a solid, enclosed space.

6.   If driving, turn on your hazard lights and pull over in an area away from trees, power lines, drains and waterways.

7. Stay tuned to local radio –100.1FM and 855AM ABC Wide Bay or 747AM ABC Southern Queensland, depending on your location. You can also listen to local radio station Zinc FM 96.1 for updates during an event.

8. Follow rolling updates on the GRC's Disaster Dashboard.

9. Follow updates from council's social media: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

10. Follow weather and warning updates: Bureau of Meteorology.

11. Make sure your home and contents insurance cover is enough to cover the cost of rebuilding your home and or replacing your contents or possessions.

12. If needed call SES on 132 500.

13. For any life-threatening emergency dial 000.

7.   Recovery Strategy

7.1   Overview

Disaster recovery is a complex and often lengthy process and requires a collaborative, coordinated, adaptable and scalable approach in which responsibility for its delivery is shared between all sectors of the community including individuals, families, community groups, businesses and all levels of government.

7.2   Definition of Recovery

In accordance with the Queensland Recovery Plan, disaster recovery is defined as the coordinated process of supporting disaster-affected communities' psychosocial (emotional and social), and physical well-being; reconstruction of physical infrastructure; and economic and environmental restoration (including regeneration of the natural environment, associated infrastructure and heritage sites and structures and the management of pollution and contamination).

7.3   Context for Recovery

The need for recovery may arise from a range of natural and non-natural disaster events, often providing an opportunity to rebuild a stronger, more resilient community. Recovery begins shortly after the response phase has begun and the impact has been identified. Recovery can be a long, challenging and complex process and is often considered the most resource intensive and protracted element within the context of the PPRR framework.

Recovery is not a retrospective process, but a process that focuses on building a recovered community. Whilst funded recovery programs under the joint Commonwealth/Queensland funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements have a two-year life span, it is recognised that the time it takes for a community to be recovered will vary based on the impact of the event and the individuals in the community.

7.4 Appointment of Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC)

An appropriately qualified and authorised person has been appointed by the CEO of GRC as the LRC to coordinate and facilitate local recovery operations. The LRC and the LDC liaise regularly to ensure that response operations support the recovery effort and the LRC has good situational awareness to ensure their disaster recovery planning is relevant to the community.

Indicative duties of the LRC include:

- Liaising with functional lead agency representatives at the local and district levels

- Liaising with the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG)

- Working with identified agencies and the community to develop the local event specific recovery plan

- Coordinating the short to medium-term recovery to address the immediate effects of the disaster and develop longer-term measures as appropriate

- Ensuring the local event-specific recovery plan addresses all relevant functional areas of recovery – human and social, economic, environment, building, and roads and transport

- Performing the role of conduit between community and government Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP)

- Developing and implementing effective strategies for community participation and partnership in the recovery process

- Providing advice to state government on the needs and responses of the affected individuals, communities, and other sectors

- Undertaking a post-operation debrief and providing a final report to the LDMG at the conclusion of recovery operations

- Providing or delegating the responsibility for ongoing recovery reporting on the progress of the event-specific recovery plan.

7.5 Activation of LDMG Recovery Group

During the response phase, the LDMG will consider the impact of the disaster. If the event is of sufficient magnitude, the LDMG may decide to activate its Recovery Group. The Recovery Group is likely to be activated in the following circumstances:

- An event where significant loss or damage is sustained impacting the community, economy, environment and / or the infrastructure of the GRC area.

- An event that creates significant disruption to the communities' connectedness or overwhelms local resources or the capacity of the community to cope or recover independently.

- An event that the LDMG determines has ongoing impacts and requires a coordinated and collaborative multi-agency approach to recovery.

- If requested to activate by the DDMG. When activated, the LDMG.

When activated, the LDMG Recovery Group will be chaired by a Councillor of GRC and will be responsible for coordinating recovery activities and ensuring recovery efforts are effectively implemented across the region. A Terms of Reference is available that can be adapted to the specific circumstances of the event.

7.6   Activation Levels, Triggers and Communications

Recovery activation levels follow closely behind the response activation levels. This means that recovery actions are triggered early in the event cycle before the disaster has occurred. The table below identifies the recovery activation levels, triggers and communications.

Table 9: Recovery - Activation Levels

		Triggers	Actions	Communications
Response ALERT				
Response LEAN FORWARD	Recovery ALERT	■ Response phase at 'lean forward' level of Activation	■ Appointment of LRC as appropriate ■ Potential actions and risks identified ■ Information sharing commences ■ LRC in contact with LDCC/LDC ■ Initial advice to all recovery stakeholders	■ LDC and LRC maintain communication. ■ LRC and Recovery Group members on mobile remotely
Response STAND UP	Recovery LEAN FORWARD	■ Response phase at 'stand up' level of activation ■ LDCC assesses event impact and determines if Recovery Group is needed ■ Immediate relief arrangements are required during response phase	■ Monitoring of response arrangements ■ Analysis of hazard impact or potential impact ■ Relief and recovery planning commences ■ Deployments for immediate relief commenced by recovery functional agencies ■ Recovery Group and Sub Group structures finalised along with reporting requirements	■ LRC and Recovery Group members on mobile and monitoring email remotely ■ Recovery Group will commence meeting for planning purposes. ■ More regular reporting as required by the LRC and by the Disaster District and QDMC ■ Community engagement and communication strategy developed

Response ALERT		Triggers	Actions	Communications
Response STAND DOWN	Recovery STAND UP	■ Immediate relief arrangements continue ■ Response phase moves to 'stand down' level of activation. ■ Medium term recovery commences. ■ LRG arrangements are finalised. Community returns to normal activities with ongoing support as required.	■ Recovery Group activated at LDCC or alternate location ■ Recovery plan activated ■ Community information strategy employed ■ Participate in response debrief ■ Transition arrangements from 'response and recovery' to 'recovery' activated including handover from LDC to LRC ■ Action plans for five functions of recovery continue ■ Community information strategies continue	■ LRC and LRG members involved in medium term recovery continue as required ■ Functional lead agencies report to LRC / LRG as required
	Recovery STAND DOWN	■ Recovery Group arrangements are finalised, ■ Community returns to normal activities with ongoing long term recovery support provided as required under pre-agreed arrangements and processes.	■ Consolidate financial records ■ Reporting requirements finalised ■ Participate in recovery debrief ■ Participate in post event debrief ■ Post event review and evaluation ■ Long term recovery arrangements transferred to functional lead agencies ■ Return to core business	■ LRC and Recovery Group members resume standard business arrangements.

GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

7.7   Recovery Group Membership

The Local Recovery Group (LRG) may be comprised of the following members. Membership will be tailored for each event:

Table 10: Membership of LRG

Recovery Group Position	Organisation
Chair	Councillor, GRC
Local Recovery Coordinator	Director, Community Sustainability
Secretariat	Local Disaster Recovery Officer
Members	Chair and Coordinator of Human-Social and Economic Sub Group
	Chair and Coordinator of Roads and Transport / Buildings and Assets Sub Group
	Chair and Coordinator of Environment Sub Group
Supporting Members / Advisors	Department of Communities, Housing & Digital Economy
	Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
	Department of Environment & Science
	Department of Transport & Main Roads
	Department of Energy & Public Works
	Relevant Community Sector and Industry representatives

7.8   Functional Lines of Recovery

Depending on the nature of the disaster, one or more of these five functional lines of recovery may be the focus of recovery operations. The responsible State Lead Agencies identified below will be invited to participate in the LDMG Recovery Group which will consider all five functional lines of recovery when planning and undertaking recovery operations.

Table 11: Functional Lines of Recovery

Functional line of recovery	Description	State Lead Agency
Human and Social recovery	Focuses on supporting the emotional, social, physical and psychological health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities following a disaster.	Department of Communities, Housing & Digital Economy
Economic recovery	Focuses on rectifying the direct and indirect impacts on the economy as a result of a disaster.	Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government & Planning

Functional line of recovery	Description	State Lead Agency
Building and Assets Recovery	Focuses on rectifying damage and disruption which inhibits the capacity of essential services recovery and the building sector, including housing, accommodation, education, and house facilities.	Department of Energy & Public Works
Environmental recovery	Focuses on rectifying the impacts on the natural environment as a direct result of a disaster or through a secondary impact or consequence. Impacts to the environment may include damage or loss of flora and fauna, poor air quality, reduced water quality, land degradation and contamination, as well as cultural and built heritage listed place issues.	Department of Environment & Science
Roads and Transport recovery	Focuses on rectifying the effects of a disaster on transport networks, including road, rail, aviation and maritime normally result in difficulty accessing communities and disruption to critical supply chains (both in and out of the impacted area). Restoration of these networks, or the identification of alternatives, is a priority in disaster recovery.	Department of Transport & Main Roads

7.9 Recovery Sub Groups

Often a disaster will be of such a scale that all functions need to be addressed to effect recovery. To assist with managing capacity and resourcing issues and to reflect other areas of infrastructure that GRC is responsible for i.e. water, wastewater and waste, the LDMG Recovery Group will likely organise itself with three Functional Recovery Sub Groups to address the five lines of recovery as follows:

- Human and Social / Economic

- Roads and Transport / Buildings and Assets

- Environmental.

This structure is depicted in section 2.8.1 of this plan. Which Sub Groups are established, will depend wholly upon the scale of the event and the complexity of the recovery effort.

7.10 Proposed Recovery Sub Group Membership

Table 12: Recovery Sub Group Membership (Proposed)

	Human and Social and Economic	**Environment**	**Roads and Transport / Buildings and Asset**
Chair	Councillor	Councillor	Councillor
Coordinator	Lead Coordinator, Arts, Community and Culture, GRC	Manager, Environment and Waste	Manager – Assets (Construction)
Admin Support	Allocated council administration officer	Allocated council administration officer	Allocated council administration officer
Local Government	Event specific LG representatives	Event specific LG representatives	Event specific LG representatives
State/Australian Government	All agencies listed in the Gympie Region Human and Social Recovery Service Audit as of October 2021, including: ■ DCHDE (Lead agency Human-Social) ■ DSDMIP (Lead agency Economic) ■ Queensland Health ■ Department of Education ■ DAF ■ QRA ■ DATSIP ■ Centrelink	DES (Lead agency Environment) Department of Agriculture & Fisheries (DAF) Department of Resources Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA)	DEPW (Lead agency buildings) DTMR (Lead agency Roads & Transport) DSDMIP Department of Resources

GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

	Human and Social and Economic	Environment	Roads and Transport / Buildings and Asset
Non-government/ Business Representatives	All entities listed in the Gympie Region Human and Social Recovery Service Audit as of October 2021, including: ■ Australian Red Cross ■ The Salvation Army ■ St Vincent de Paul ■ Insurance Council of Australia ■ Industry representatives ■ NGO's ■ Community Support Groups/as relevant ■ Financial Counsellors ■ Chamber of Commerce ■ Regional Access Advisory Committee Council ■ Employment Services	NRM bodies Traditional Owners Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council Wide Bay Conservation Council Regional Development Australia – Wide Bay Burnett Mary Regional Group	Utility owners / operators (Water, power, communications) ■ Seqwater ■ Queensland Building & Construction Committee (QBCC)

GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

7.11   National Principles

The LDMG Recovery Groups will use the National Principles for Disaster Recovery to guide recovery planning, approach, decision-making and efforts. The principles are:

Table 13: National Principles of Recovery

Principle	Definition
Understand the context	Successful recovery is based on an understanding of the community context, with each community having its own history, values, and dynamics.
Recognise complexity	Successful recovery is responsive to the complex and dynamic nature of both emergencies and the community.
Use community-led approaches	Successful recovery is locally led, community-centred, responsive, and flexible, engaging with community and supporting them to move forward.
Coordinate all activities	Successful recovery requires a planned, coordinated, and adaptive approach, between community and partner agencies, based on continuing assessment of impacts and needs.
Communicate effectively	Successful recovery is built on effective communication between the affected community and other partners.
Recognise and build capacity	Successful recovery recognises, supports, and builds on individual, community and organisational capacity and resilience

7.12   Queensland Government Role and Responsibilities

The Queensland Recovery Plan identifies the role and responsibilities of the DDMG and numerous State government stakeholders including:

- Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC)
- Minister
- Leadership Board Sub-committee (recovery)
- State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator
- State Recovery Coordinator
- State Functional Recovery Groups
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

7.13 Recovery Phases

The disaster recovery process can generally be categorised into three phases (immediate, short-to-medium term recovery and long-term recovery).

The phases of recovery are depicted in Figure 9 adjacent.

An indication of likely activities being undertaken at each of the three recovery stages is identified below.

7.13.1 Stage 1: Immediate recovery (post-impact relief and emergency)

Immediate recovery aims to address and support the immediate needs of individuals, businesses and the community affected by an event.

Figure 9: Phases of Recovery

This phase of recovery is challenging as it often coincides simultaneously with response operations. It is the period after a disaster when initial "relief" services are offered to the affected community whilst the full recovery framework is established. It is also the period when detailed recovery planning, including damage and needs analysis is undertaken.

The likely recovery activities conducted during this phase include:

■ Impact and needs assessments commenced

■ Provision of Evacuation Centres

■ Provision of assistance to meet basic human needs

■ Restoration of power, water and communication commenced

■ Emergency funding, shelter, clothing, and food distribution

■ Roads re-open

■ Psychological first aid, and personal support provided
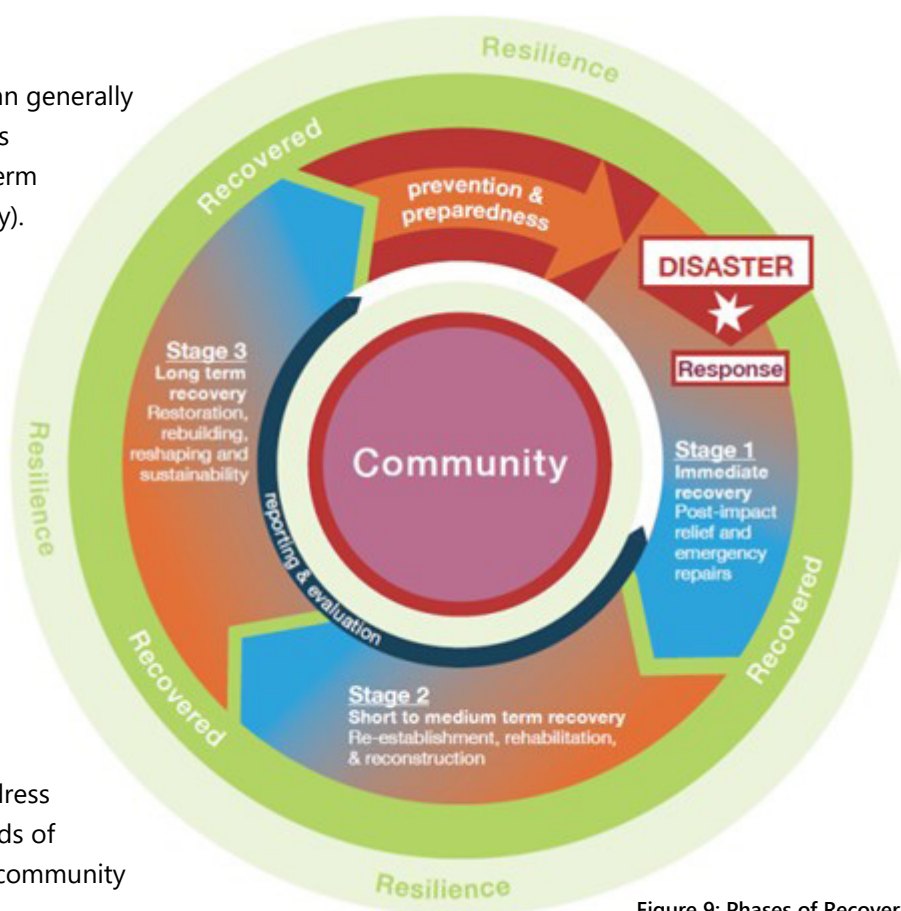
■ Consideration of Recovery Hubs.

7.13.2 Stage 2: Short-to-medium term recovery (re-establishment, rehabilitation, and reconstruction)

This phase of recovery continues the coordinated process of supporting affected communities in the reconstruction of physical infrastructure, re-establishment of the economy and rehabilitation of the environment. During this phase, support for the emotional, social, and physical wellbeing of those affected continues. The recovery activities at this stage will assist the affected community to return to a state of normality, although the community may experience significant change resulting from the event.

The likely recovery activities conducted during this phase include:

- Impact and needs assessments finalized
- Essential service repaired and restored
- Key transport routes are operational
- Roads repairs underway
- Supply chains are returning to normal
- Schools reopen
- Funding to support recovery identified
- Insurance assessments underway
- Community support mechanisms operational
- Community development programs underway to reunite community
- Environmental restoration and biosecurity programs identified and underway
- Support for business is available
- Development of exit strategies.

7.13.3 Stage 3: Long-term recovery (restoration, rebuilding, reshaping and sustainability)

Long-term recovery is characterised by the ongoing restoration and rebuilding of physical infrastructure, restoration of the economy and of the environment, and reshaping to support sustainability of recovery measures in the longer term. During the transition phase, specialist recovery workers leave affected communities and systems start to wind down as normal community development and business as usual processes return. Long term recovery may last many months and in some cases many years after the event. The likely recovery activities conducted during this phase include:

- Assets are restored, improved and operational
- Rebuilding phase finalised
- Longer term psycho-social support strategies for individuals, families and communities are established and operational
- Event anniversaries are acknowledged appropriately
- Key milestone achievements are acknowledged and celebrated
- Exit strategies are implemented.

7.14 Event Specific Recovery Plan

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority has developed a process to develop an event-specific Local Recovery Plan. The methodology, action plan template and the 'plan on a page' Local Recovery Plan template can be found here: https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/our-work/recovery-hub/recovery-templates

The LRC is responsible for working with the LDMG Recovery Group (where activated) to develop the plan and then for obtaining endorsement for the event-specific recovery plan from the LDMG. If developed, an event-specific Recovery Plan should be adopted by GRC. Following adoption, the plan should be uploaded to the council website and promoted to the local community on a regular basis.

7.15 Recovery Hubs

Recovery Hubs are established to provide a range of services to facilitate recovery including welfare, support, financial and emotional recovery services. Recovery Hubs are typically managed by the Department of Communities, Housing & Digital Economy with support from the LDMG where necessary.