BARCALDINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

November 2021

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Contents

INTRODUCTION

The Barcaldine Regional Council Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) provides the framework for local disaster management and operations under the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA).

Disaster management planning is focussed on a disaster Event which causes serious disruption and impact on a community, whereas an Incident causes minimal disruption to the community.

Disaster planning has two components:

- **Disaster Management,** which comprises arrangements about managing the potential adverse effects of an event.
- **Disaster Operations**, which are activities, undertaken before, during and after an event to help reduce loss of life, illness or injury, property loss or damage and environmental damage.

Foreword

The Barcaldine Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) takes seriously its responsibilities to support the council, local agencies and community to prevent (mitigate), prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters that impact the local area.

Our primary objective is to ensure the local community, organisations and the Council are prepared with appropriate local disaster management arrangements that detail the steps taken to manage the consequences of a disaster on our communities.

We recognise that:

- Disasters can occur at any time - in any place
- It is not practical to attempt to prevent all disasters
- Effective planning will support our capacity to manage disasters
- We require strategies to minimise impacts on the community
- Preparing our community will ensure we respond appropriately
- Empowering our community will assist them to recover.

This Local Disaster Management Plan sets the framework for managing a disaster in a coordinated way and enhances the Council's disaster management and operations capacity across the five communities in its region –Alpha, Jericho, Barcaldine, Aramac and Muttaburra.

Mayor of Barcaldine Regional Council

Chair

Barcaldine Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group

PART 1 – ADMINISTRATION

The following sections provide the governance and administrative requirements for the Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP).

Authority

The Local Disaster Management Plan has been prepared by the Barcaldine Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group and endorsed by the Barcaldine Regional Council pursuant to Section 57 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (the Act).

Endorsement

The Barcaldine Regional Council Local Disaster Management Plan has been prepared by the Local Disaster Management Group pursuant to the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and recommended to the Barcaldine Regional Council for endorsement.

LDMP has been endorsed by the Barcaldine Regional Council at a Council meeting held on Tuesday 7 December 2021.

Mayor

Barcaldine Regional Council

Date: 15 December 2021

Version Control

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

Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC)

Barcaldine Regional Council

PO Box 191

Barcaldine QLD 4725

The LDMP will have a version control number and date of currency and be marked:

1. **Restricted**, complete version for approved use by disaster management stakeholders.
2. **Public**, limited version for access by the public that has confidential information removed.

Accessibility

The public version of the LDMP is available for download from the Council website. Printed copies of the public version of the LDMP are available at council offices for a service fee.

Copies of the restricted version of the LDMP is available upon written request to the Local Disaster Coordinator or their delegate, the Disaster Management Officer.

Amendment Register

Administrative amendments to the LDMP may be approved by the Local Disaster Coordinator. Any changes to the intent of the document is confirmed by the Local Disaster Management Group and recommended to the Barcaldine Regional Council for endorsement

Amendments to this plan are noted and recorded in the Amendments Register at **Appendix 1.**

Distribution

The restricted version of the LDMP is distributed according to the Distribution List at **Appendix 2**.

The public version of the LDMP can be accessed by the community either online or at a Barcaldine Regional Council office.

Planning Review

The LDMP is a living document and may be amended from time to time in response to the following:

1. Legislative changes.
2. Administrative changes.
3. Lessons learned from activations, exercises or training activities.
4. Hazard and/or risk changes.
5. Community context changes.
6. Participation in external reviews (annual IGEM Plan Assessment).

The minimum review period include but are not limited to:

1. Amendment as a result of the above (as required).
2. Administrative review at least annually.
3. Complete review and rewrite every three years.

Consultation

In preparation of this plan, members of the Barcaldine Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group were consulted and contributed to its development.

Privacy Statement

The information contained herein is collected, stored and managed in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles contained in Schedule 3 of the *Information Privacy Act, 2009.*

References

This Plan and its associated Sub-plans and Guidelines are part of the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) made up of but not limited to:

- Legislation
- Plans
- Policy
- Doctrine
- Standard.

For a list of the references utilised in this Plan, refer to **Appendix 9.**

PART 2 – PLAN ELEMENTS

The Barcaldine Regional Council Local Disaster Management Plan has been produced by the Local Disaster Management Group and endorsed by the Barcaldine Regional Council. The following plan elements underpin the development and review of LDMP.

Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements

The Barcaldine Regional Council LDMG forms part of the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements that:

- Include local, district and state levels (see diagram below)
- Enable a progressive escalation of support and assistance.
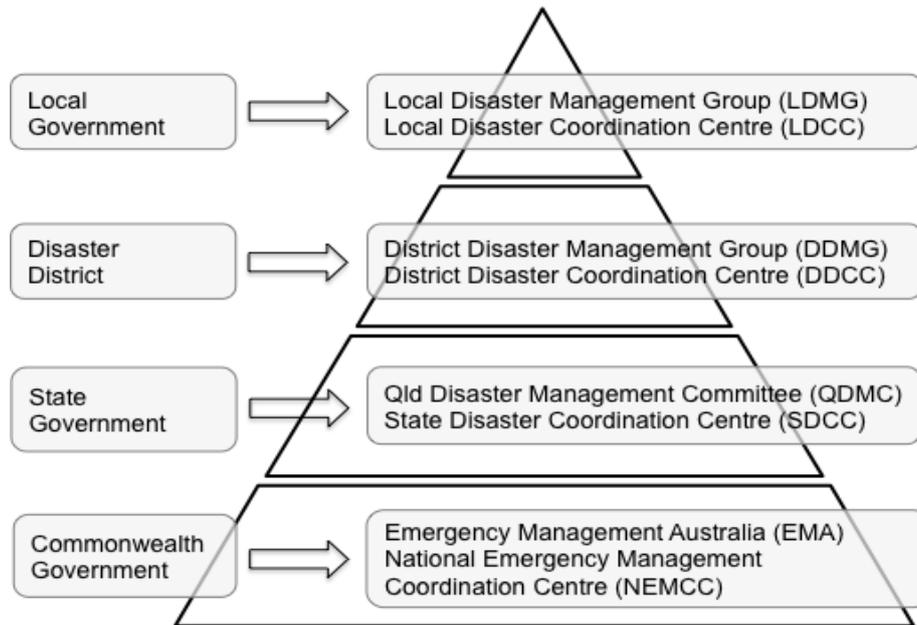
Under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, disaster management in Queensland is based on four principles:

1. A comprehensive approach:
   - Prevention (mitigation)
   - Preparedness
   - Response
   - Recovery.
2. An all hazards approach.
3. A local disaster management capability.
4. Support by the state and district groups to local government.

The Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland focuses on outcomes and accountabilities of shared responsibilities that include:

- Managing risk
- Planning and plans
- Community engagement
- Capability integration
- Operations
- Collaboration and coordination.

Scope

The scope of the Barcaldine Regional Council Local Disaster Management Plan is bound by the Barcaldine Regional Council area and other areas where the Local Disaster Management Plan may be activated to support local communities and disaster management partners.

Purpose

The purpose of the Barcaldine Regional Council Local Disaster Management Plan is to prescribe the local disaster management arrangements to support community safety in times of disaster within the Barcaldine Regional Council area.

Objectives

The objectives of the Barcaldine Regional Council Local Disaster Management Plan include:

1. Developing local disaster management arrangements for preventing (mitigating), preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters that impact the community within the Barcaldine Regional Council area.
2. Identifying local resource capacity and capability to support the Barcaldine Regional Council, disaster management stakeholders and community in a disaster event.
3. Developing local capacity and capability to support disaster management operations.
4. Supporting local community recovery.

Planning Framework

These arrangements are developed under the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements.

For a complete listing of local Plans, Sub-plans and Guidelines that support the Local Disaster Management Plan, refer to **Appendix 3.**

PART 3 – BARCALDINE REGIONAL COUNCIL LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) established a Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) pursuant to Sections 29, 34 and 35 of the Act to perform its role under the Act and advise Council on disaster management related topics.

Terms of Reference

For the BRC LDMG to function, it requires Terms of Reference (ToR), which are detailed at **Appendix 4**. The ToR provides governance to the LDMG on its functions and obligations.

The Terms of Reference are reviewed annually or as required, in line with any legislative or policy change.

Priorities of the Barcaldine Regional Council LDMG

The priorities of the LDMG are set by the group annually, based on the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements and local need. The current set of priorities are listed at **Appendix 4.**

Membership

Members of the BRC LDMG have been appointed by the chairperson pursuant to Regulation 9 of the Disaster Management Regulations 2014 (the Regulations).

A guideline for members on Local Disaster Management Groups, including templates to nominate new members can be found here: M.1.030 Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) Responsibilities Manual.

The chairperson in appointing members, has selected representatives from agencies representing the Barcaldine Regional Council area who:

1. Have a key role in responding to disaster or emergency situations.

2. Have required qualifications and experience.

3. Manage key assets.

4. Provide essential community services.

5. Can provide liaison officers to ensure succession planning.

Chairperson

BRC has appointed the Mayor as the Chairperson and a Councillor as the Deputy Chairperson of the LDMG, they have voting rights.

The Chairperson has the following functions (S.34A of the Act):

- Manage and coordinate the business of the group
- Ensure, as far as practicable, that the group performs its functions
- Report regularly to the relevant district group and the chief executive of the department, about the performance by the local group of its functions.

Local Disaster Coordinator

The Chairperson of the LDMG will consult with the Chief Executive Officer to select a council employee to appoint as the Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC).

The Chairperson of the BRC LDMG has consulted and appointed the Chief Executive Officer of Council as the LDC, the LDC has voting rights.

The LDC has the following functions (S.36 of the Act):

- Coordinate disaster operations for the LDMG
- Report regularly to the LDMG about disaster operations
- Ensure, as far as practicable, that any strategic decisions of the LDMG about disaster operations are implemented.

Members

The membership of the LDMG will be made up of members who have voting rights. The members will be reviewed annually by the chairperson, LDC and Longreach District Disaster Coordinator (Qld Police Service).

The Commissioner of the Qld Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) will be advised of the membership of the group and any changes pursuant to Section 37 of the Act.

Advisors

The LDMG may seek the assistance of individuals or organisations where specialist or community related information is required. These persons sit as advisors to the group, they are non-voting members.

Support Agencies

These are identified agencies or organisations that may be consulted due to their subject matter expertise but are not required to attend meetings regularly. They are invited guests with no voting rights.

Sub-groups

The LDMG may form subgroups in response to a need. The LDMG will provide authority and direction on the tasks they may undertake, the more common being risk management, disaster management planning or recovery. The subgroups may:

- Determine their own Terms of Reference
- Report and advise the LDMG on the subject they are working on according to agreed timeframes
- Subgroups may be ongoing or established for a set time.

Disaster management in the smaller communities of Alpha, Jericho, Aramac and Muttaburra will occur through coordination between the LDMG and the relevant Council District Manager.

To assist the LDMG, four sub-groups are based geographically at Alpha, Jericho, Aramac and Muttaburra. The sub-groups will each meet once per year. Each Sub-group reports directly to the LDMG.

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                        │      BRC LDMG       │
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   ┌─────────┐    ┌─────────┐          ┌─────────┐    ┌──────────────┐
   │  Alpha  │    │ Jericho │          │  Aramac │    │  Muttaburra  │
   │  Local  │    │  Local  │          │  Local  │    │    Local     │
   │Sub-Group│    │Sub-Group│          │Sub-Group│    │  Sub-Group   │
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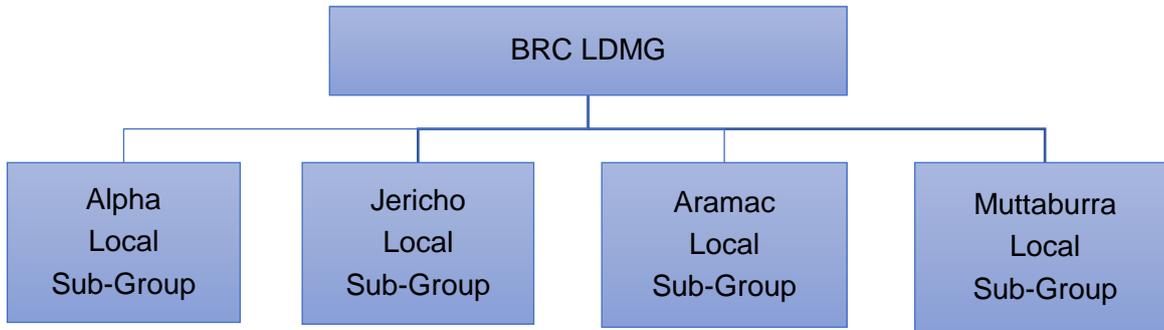
The membership for each Sub-group and contact details can be found at **Appendix 7 – Contact Directory.**

Roles and Responsibilities

Local roles and responsibilities of disaster management stakeholders align with those contained within the State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP).

A listing of stakeholders that engage with the BRC LDMG can be found at **Appendix 6.**

PART 4 – RISK MANAGEMENT

Barcaldine Regional Council and its Local Disaster Management Group have undertaken a risk management approach to identify the specific hazards that affect the local community and the risk they pose to the functioning of their community.

Community Context

Barcaldine Regional Council was formed on 15 March 2008 through the amalgamation of the former Barcaldine, Aramac and Jericho Shires.

BRC has a sub-tropical climate, with the wet season occurring generally from January to April. The average annual rainfall range is between 425-600mm across the area. Average maximum temperatures are 36-37 degrees during summer and 23-26 degrees during winter. Minimum overnight temperatures are 22-23 degrees during the summer months and 0-2 degrees during winter.

BRC covers an area of 53,677 square kilometres. It is in central Queensland (600 km west of Rockhampton) and is bordered by seven other councils – Isaac Regional Council, Charters Towers Regional Council, Longreach Regional Council, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Flinders Shire Council, Winton Shire Council and Central Highlands Regional Council.

The topography of the area is generally rolling plains and flat open grasslands (Mitchell grass), with areas of Gidyea scrub in the west and timbered range country in the east.

Key vulnerabilities:

- The main drainage systems in the council area are the Alice River, Barcoo River, Belyando River, Alpha Creek, Jordan Creek, Landsborough River, Thomson River, Tower Hill and Cornish Creeks, Bullock Creek and Aramac Creek with many smaller tributaries feeding these systems. Alpha Creek flows into Native Companion Creek which in turn flows into the Belyando River. Jordan Creek flows into the Alice River which in turn flows into the Barcoo River. Aramac Creek flows into the Thomson River.
- During periods of rain, many roads in the area quickly become impassable and most towns experience periods of road isolation.

Key resiliencies:

- Neighbouring councils in the area are willing to assist each other when resources are available that are not being used to manage their own events
- Sparse populations between towns mean that the demand for services/support in most disaster events are contained to the townships with limited re-supply support to isolated properties.

The population of BRC was 2,865 as at the 2016 Census, with most of the population living in Barcaldine, Aramac and Alpha and the balance living in Muttaburra and Jericho and on rural properties throughout the area.

Key vulnerabilities/resiliencies:

- These communities have a significant visitor/tourist population during winter, this brings important financial support to the towns but few of these tourists are aware of the disaster potential in the areas they are visiting or travelling through
- Many communities and rural properties are subject to extended periods of isolation by road

- Many of the towns in the BRC area have small populations with a strong sense of community. People are generally well-known to each other which raises inherent resilience factors for these communities

- Most of the residents on remote properties are aware of their unique risks and make seasonal preparations for reasonably predictable events

- There are several socio-economic vulnerabilities and resiliencies that have been considered in the development of this plan. These include:

  o Relatively low unemployment rates in the region (average of less than 2%)

  o Limited capacity of people with low income to support themselves during and after a disaster (average taxable income $38,000)

  o High rates of vehicle ownership (average in excess of one per person).

The economy of BRC area is based on rural agricultural enterprises, light industry, professional service sector (includes government, health, education and finance) and tourism. Council places considerable emphasis on maintaining current industry and growing economic opportunities for the area.

Hazard Identification

The main threats to the BRC area have been identified as:

1. Flooding (Major Threat).

The towns of Alpha and Jericho are prone to major flooding, usually between November and April.

In 1990, severe flooding was experienced in Alpha when Alpha Creek broke its bank and flooded the town to a depth of about 2.2 metres. Flooding occurred again in 2011 and 2012. Any recurrence would necessitate evacuation of the part of the town on the flood plains.

Likewise, in 1990, Jericho recorded flooding to a depth of about one metre through the town. It is considered that a recurrence could call for evacuations. Previous flooding to a similar extent was recorded in 1950, with minor flooding in 1997 and 2008. A levee bank has since been constructed which has seen two floods and successfully prevented water entering homes in Jericho.

The towns of Aramac, Muttaburra and Barcaldine only have a few houses which will likely be affected by flooding.

Road systems can be disrupted for weeks in major floods. Due to black soil, most rural properties around Aramac and Muttaburra are isolated after flooding.

2. Storms (Major Threat).

Severe wind, rain and hailstorms do occur from time to time and could affect any part of the Regional Council area. Potential exists for large scale structural damage to residences and businesses, service interruptions and economic loss to the community.

3. Transport Accident (Moderate Threat).

(a) Road - The Capricorn Highway crosses the Drummond Range and the Great Dividing Range and passes through the centre of Alpha, Jericho and Barcaldine. The Capricorn and Landsborough Highways meet in Barcaldine. State controlled sealed roads link Barcaldine to Aramac to Muttaburra. The Torrens Creek Road from Aramac to Torrens Creek is also state controlled and is

almost completely sealed. Motor vehicle and heavy vehicle accidents have occurred in the BRC area and have resulted in loss of life.

(b) Air - The possibility of an aircraft accident is real. The Barcaldine Airport is used for regular scheduled domestic flights, charter and private aircraft use and medical evacuations. The Muttaburra, Aramac, Jericho and Alpha airports are used for private and charter aircraft.

(c) Rail - The rail line crosses the Drummond Range and the Great Dividing Range and passes through Alpha, Jericho and Barcaldine townships; carrying general freight, livestock and passengers.

(d) There is always potential disaster while the storage and/or transportation of toxic, flammable, gaseous and infectious substances exist. The areas most vulnerable are those in the vicinity of the Capricorn Highway and Landsborough Highways. A gas fired power station with an underground gas line from Blackall (has its own disaster plan, a copy is held by the BRC) is located on the Capricorn Highway east of Barcaldine.

4. Fires (Minor Threat).

(a) Domestic - A potential disaster exists because of many wooden buildings which burn very quickly.

(b) Bushfires - The risk of bush fires is apparent, particularly with a cold winter following a lush summer season. This poses the problem of persons being trapped in fires and damage to buildings.

5. Exotic Animal Diseases (Minor Threat).

The outbreak of an infectious animal disease could cause serious damage to livestock in the area. There are large numbers of feral pigs, goats, dingoes, flying foxes and foxes that may act as carriers of many exotic diseases.

A potential disaster within the rural industry exists with stock/migratory animals such as birds travelling to and through the Region.

6. Pandemic Influenza (High Threat).

Impacts on the BRC area in the event of pandemic influenza would be on health and the disruption of critical community services due to the incapacitation of the human resources that either deliver or maintain those services. The continuation of core business in this circumstance would be a major challenge.

Risk Assessment

The BRC LDMG undertook a risk management process aligned to the Risk Management Standard ISO 31000 – 2009. The Risk Register and matrix, along with the listings of Critical Infrastructure and Essential Services can be found at **Appendix 5 - Risk Register.**

Risk Treatment (Mitigation Strategies)

The BRC LDMG engages in risk management to identify hazards and risks, in partnership they will identify mitigation strategies to prepare the community for a disaster or lessen the impact of a disaster.

PART 5 – PREPAREDNESS

Barcaldine Regional Council and its Local Disaster Management Group undertakes preparedness activities throughout the year to promote community safety and resilience. The LDMG does this through a variety of strategies in partnership with disaster management stakeholders.

Agency Role and Responsibilities

Agency role and responsibilities can be found in detail at **Appendix 6.** Their listed role and responsibilities are based on what they are required to provide in support of the LDMG from a local, district or state level, subject to the disaster type. The LDMG supports agency preparedness activities.

Community Engagement

The BRC LDMG seeks to engage with the local community to facilitate a 'Shared Responsibility' approach to disaster management.

The LDMG is guided by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum when engaging with the community. The Spectrum provides a level of engagement depending on the outcome and includes:

- Inform
- Consult
- Involve
- Collaborate
- Empower.

The way the BRC LDMG communicates with the community and its stakeholders is detailed in the **Communications Sub-plan.**

Community Resilience

The Qld Strategy for Disaster Resilience is underpinned by four key objectives:

- Queenslanders understand their disaster risk
- Strengthened disaster risk management
- Queenslanders are invested in disaster risk reduction
- There is continuous improvement in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

The Strategy provides an overarching framework to empower Queenslanders to factor in resilience measures and activities as they anticipate, respond and adapt to changing circumstances.

Further detail can be obtained from the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2017.

Training

Disaster management training is the responsibility of the member agency and the individuals on the LDMG. The QLD Fire and Emergency Service (QFES) delivers the training through the State Disaster Management Training Framework.

The Local Disaster Coordinator of the BRC LDMG will liaise with the QFES Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) for the Longreach district to identify training needs and deliver training to LDMG members and others to build capacity and capability to undertake their responsibilities in disaster management.

For further support, the contact details for the QFES EMC are listed in the Contact Directory at **Appendix 7.**

Exercise Management

Developing an exercise management program has the benefit of:

- Training personnel
- Reviewing plans
- Testing the effectiveness of plans and resources.

The exercise format can be one or a combination of the following:

- Discussion – hypothetical – agency presentation
- Desk-top
- Functional
- Field.

An exercise management program to review the local disaster management arrangements will be determined by the Barcaldine LDMG or Sub-group set up for the purpose.

An exercise management program to review the Barcaldine Local Disaster Management arrangements includes but is not limited to:

- A need is identified to test a plan or part of a plan from the local disaster management arrangements at least annually - facilitated by the Barcaldine LDMG
- If the local disaster management arrangements have been activated fully at least once in a calendar year, it may be decided not to proceed with the annual exercise
- The Barcaldine LDMG participates in neighbouring LDMG or District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) exercises in a calendar year; where the arrangements are activated, then the annual exercise may not be required.

The Local Disaster Coordinator will seek the assistance of the QFES Emergency Management Coordinator to assist in facilitating the exercise management program, along with the Executive Officer of the DDMG.

PART 6 – PREVENTION

BRC and its LDMG identify hazards and potential mitigation strategies to implement, that will alleviate the consequences of a disaster on the community.

Community Education

BRC and its LDMG contributes to the resilience of their community through community education, by the supply of relevant disaster management information, specific hazard/risk management tools for the community and hazard/risk awareness activities, including:

- Regular disaster management information as part of the council newsletter to residents
- Signage of known risks (where appropriate) to ensure greater community awareness
- Specific disaster management news, information, tools or resources through council service centres, rates notices and other community resources
- Regular broadcasts on local radio
- Door knocking campaigns
- Connecting to the community via multi-media (i.e. Website and Facebook)
- Newsletters to each community prior to storm season and distributed on Facebook
- Distributing information from Get Ready website as reminders to communities
- Community information sessions for pre-season awareness
- Distribute Disaster Management Flip Books: https://www.barcaldinerc.qld.gov.au/disaster-management.

Further detail on how community education may be facilitated is found in the **Communications Sub-plan.**

Hazard Specific Arrangement

The BRC LDMG through its risk management process may identify a need or collaborate with a hazard management agency to develop a local hazard specific plan.

The LDMG has developed local hazard specific plans for:

Pandemic

The BRC LDMG worked with Qld Health and Police to develop a local Pandemic Sub-plan, refer to **Pandemic Sub-plan.**

PART 7 – RESPONSE

Operational response in these arrangements is based on a Disaster which is defined as a multi-agency response where there is a need to:

- Coordinate resources
- Provide communication, resources and support between levels and across agencies
- Provide support to neighbouring disaster management groups.

A disaster is characterised by a high level of community disruption whereas an **Incident** can be managed by responding agencies who can manage the event with the resources they have and community disruption is low.

BRC and its LDMG respond to disasters where it has responsibility to undertake disaster management activities and coordinates local resource support for its partner agencies.

Disaster Declaration

Where there is a requirement for a person or a class of persons to exercise the additional powers available under the provisions of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (section 64), the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) may, with the approval of the Minister, declare a disaster situation for the Disaster District or a part of the Disaster District. The District Disaster Coordinator should take reasonable steps to consult with Council prior to any declaration.

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

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

In declaring a disaster situation, the DDC is to be satisfied that a disaster has happened, is happening or is likely to happen and it will be necessary, or reasonably likely to be necessary, to exercise declared disaster powers to prevent or minimise the loss of human life, illness or injury to humans, property loss or damage, or damagement to the environment. The LDC will ensure that information to the DDC is regular and consistent with the seriousness of an event so that an informed decision can be made.

Communication

The LDMG will coordinate effective collection, monitoring, management and dissemination of accurate, useful and timely information and warnings to the public before, during and after disaster events.

The principal responsibility for the release of this information through the media and other agencies, rests with the Chairperson or their delegate.

Refer to the BRC Communications Sub-plan for further detail.

Activation

The LDMG may be activated in the following circumstances:

- By the Chairperson of the LDMG (or delegate) on receipt of information regarding an actual, imminent or likely disaster event that has potential to significantly impact one or more communities in the Barcaldine Regional Council area; or
- By the Chairperson of the LDMG (or delegate) on receipt of request from the District Disaster Coordinator (Qld Police) response to an actual, imminent or likely disaster event; or

- By the Chairperson of the LDMG (or delegate) on receipt of request from an emergency management agency with combat responsibility for a disaster event.

Activation does not necessarily mean the convening of disaster management groups. Initially it may be for the provision of information to group members as required.

Refer to the **Activation Guideline** for more information.

Escalation

The LDMG is activated according to an escalation model based on the following levels:

1. Alert.
2. Lean Forward.
3. Stand Up.
4. Stand Down.

The movement through these levels may be quick and not necessarily sequential. Refer to the **Activation Guideline** for more detail.

Triggers to escalate the level of response from Local to District and/or State include, but are not limited to:

- Local resources are exhausted
- Level of expertise and/or asset requirements are beyond local capacity and capability
- Complex and multiple events affecting the area.

Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC)

The BRC LDMG is responsible for local disaster coordination during a disaster event. Disaster coordination is facilitated through the establishment of a primary Local Disaster Coordination Centre. Other facilities may be identified to support coordination as required.

Refer to the **Disaster Coordination Centre Guideline** for further detail on location, setup and management of the local disaster coordination centre.

Warnings and Alerts

Warnings and Alerts are issued by the responsible agency and the BRC LDMG facilitates the dissemination of these warnings and alerts as required, to the local community. Refer to **the Public Information and Warnings Sub-plan** for further detail.

Warnings and Alerts may include but are not limited to:

- Bureau of Meteorology, issuing severe weather and flood warnings
- Emergency Alert issued by the QFES with input from LDMGs and the DDMG, refer to Qld Emergency Alert Guidelines
- Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) issued where life and/or property is threatened by a disaster
- Australian Warning System, a consistent standard warning information system across five key hazards used nationally.

The LDMG may issue disaster messaging to keep the local community informed of the situation. Refer to the **Communications Sub-plan** for further detail.

Resource Management

Whilst the BRC LDMG has available the combined resources of its member agencies for use in a disaster event, there will be times when the resources will be insufficient.

Where the LDMG requires logistics support and/or resources to meet operational requirements that are beyond local capacity and capability, the LDMG may formally seek assistance through a:

- **Request for Assistance** forwarded to the DDC
- Council to council arrangement for personnel or logistics.

In all circumstances where additional logistics are required, the DDC will be informed.

BRC has a detailed list of available resources.

Refer to the **Resource Management Guideline** for further detail.

Financial Management

Initially, Council and each agency is responsible for their own financial management when engaged in disaster management activities according to their role and responsibilities.

BRC has their own internal financial management system for the management of its resources, activities undertaken and applications for funding support.

The BRC LDMG through Council will manage the collection, collation and reporting on expenditure information during a disaster event.

Refer to the **Financial Management Guideline** for further detail.

Disaster Reporting

Situation Reports will be submitted at intervals as determined by the LDC from the member agencies, in order to ensure that the Disaster Coordination Centre has complete situational awareness.

LDMG Situation Reports will be submitted on a regular basis to the DDC Longreach. Such reports will be required at times stipulated by the DDC Longreach and will be in the format as prescribed in the Local Disaster Coordination Centre Guideline.

The review of operational activities undertaken during a disaster is a key component in ensuring capability development and the continuous improvement of disaster management arrangements.

Post-disaster reviews are conducted to:

- Assess disaster operations undertaken including actions, decisions or processes
- Document processes that worked well for use in the next operation and disaster management planning
- Assess capability and consider where additional training and/or exercises may enhance capacity.

Evacuation

Evacuation is a strategy that may be employed for the safety of the community. It is based on the:

- Decision to evacuate
- Warning to evacuate
- Withdrawal of people
- Shelter of people

- Return of people.

Evacuation is a general term used when managing a community that needs to be removed from a potential hazard or threat. Other types of evacuation include:

- Voluntary evacuation, where the community is requested to leave an area by their own means without much assistance
- Directed evacuation, where the community is directed to leave (under a Disaster declaration - managed by Police).

The LDMG manages evacuations within their area of responsibility.

The BRC LDMG has developed an **Evacuation Sub-plan** that provides the detail to facilitate an evacuation.

Evacuation Centre Management

Evacuation Centre/s have been identified by the BRC LDMG for use should the community require evacuation or a central facility together during a disaster event.

The identified facilities and management process are contained in the **Evacuation Centre Management Guideline.**

Resupply

The BRC LDMG is responsible for the management of the resupply of essential items to isolated communities and rural properties.

State approved resupply operations may involve watercraft, fixed wing or rotary wing aircraft. The delivery of supplies by these means is designed to ensure the isolated properties or communities are not financially disadvantaged in ordering essential supplies. They may still pay for the supplies, but the transportation costs are managed through state funding.

Refer to **Resupply Sub-plan** for further detail.

PART 8 – RECOVERY

BRC and its LDMG undertake recovery activities and supports partnering agencies in providing recovery services to the community.

Recovery Functions

Disaster recovery is the coordinated process of supporting affected individuals and communities in the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure, restoration of the economy and of the environment and support for the emotional, social and physical well-being of those affected.

Disaster recovery is a complex and usually long process that requires a range of services from various government and non-government organisations who contribute to the support of the community across the five functional areas of recovery:

1. Human and Social.

    Focuses on supporting the emotional, social, physical and psychological health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.

2. Economic.

    Focuses on rectifying the direct and indirect impacts on the economy.

3. Roads and Transport.

    Focuses on rectifying the effects on transport networks including road, rail, aviation and maritime networks that result in difficulty accessing communities and disruption to critical supply chains.

4. Building.

    Focuses on rectifying damage and disruption which inhibits the capacity of essential services and the building sector.

5. Environment.

    Focuses on rectifying the impacts on the natural environment either directly or through secondary impacts that include loss of flora and fauna, air and water quality, land degradation and cultural and built heritage listed places.

BRC through the LDMG has developed the **Barcaldine Regional Council Recovery Sub-plan May 2021**. The Recovery Sub-plan provides greater detail on how recovery will be implemented within the Barcaldine Regional Council area.

Vulnerable Persons

The LDMG acknowledges that there are vulnerable people in the community and people can become vulnerable due to a disaster impact. The LDMG has limited capacity to manage vulnerable persons and will rely on working with partner stakeholders who have responsibility in this area and through support from the District Disaster Management Group.

Offers of Assistance

In disaster operations and management, the LDMG may receive offers of assistance but may not have the capacity to manage all offers depending on their nature. One way the LDMG will manage offers is through GIVIT under the Qld Policy for Offers of Assistance and Guideline.

The Qld Government through the Qld Reconstruction Authority, has partnered with GIVIT to provide a mechanism to match donations with community need.

Animals in Disasters

The LDMG recognises that animals both domestic and commercial are impacted by a disaster. The LDMG will liaise with the Department for Agriculture and Fisheries to facilitate support for impacted animals. Where this will exceed local capacity, assistance will be sought through the District Disaster Coordinator.

Spontaneous Volunteers

Volunteers play a key role in local disaster management response and recovery. Spontaneous volunteers may present during a disaster event, whilst limited in the Barcaldine area, the LDMG through Council does not have capacity to manage spontaneous volunteers and would seek assistance from the District Disaster Management Group through Volunteering Queensland to provide support with this.

Impact Assessments

Impact assessments inform the disaster management approach and may be undertaken by various agencies due to their role and responsibility. The Barcaldine Local Disaster Management Group is required to undertake their own impact assessments where Council has responsibility, but also to liaise with other agencies to collect and collate information to develop an overview of the impact of the disaster on the community, to inform disaster management not only in recovery but also response, preparedness and prevention (mitigation), as applicable.

Further detail on how impact assessments are managed can be found in the **Barcaldine Regional Council Impact Assessment Sub-plan September 2019.**

APPENDIX 1 – GLOSSARY

A comprehensive list of disaster management acronyms and definitions can be found at the following sites:

- Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience (AIDR) – www.knowledge.aidr.org.au/glossary
- QLD Govt Disaster website – www.disaster.qld.gov.au/dmg/Glossary/Pages/default.aspx

A general rule for the use of an acronym within this document is to write out the full name followed by the acronym in brackets, then the acronym is used where appropriate throughout the document

The following is a list of the most common terms and acronyms used in LDMP and its definition:

Term/Acronym	Meaning
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
BRC	Barcaldine Regional Council
Community	A group of people with a commonality of association and generally defined by location, shared experience or function
Coordination	The bringing together of agencies and individuals to ensure effective Disaster Management, but does not include the control of agencies and individuals by direction
Critical Infrastructure	A service, facility or a group of services or facilities, the loss of which will have severe adverse effects on the physical, social, economic or environmental wellbeing or safety of the community
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
Disaster	A disaster is a serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event that requires a significant coordinated response by council, state and other agencies to manage the event and help the community recover from the disruption
Disaster Management	Arrangements about managing the potential adverse effects of an event; including for example - arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster
Disaster Operations	Activities undertaken before, during or after an event happens to help reduce loss of human life, illness or injury to humans, property loss or damage; or damage to the environment, including for example, activities to mitigate the adverse effects of the event
Evacuation	The voluntary or involuntary removal of persons or things from a disaster area
LDCC	Local Disaster Coordination Centre - a centre established at local level as a centre of communication and coordination during response and recovery operations
LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group
LDMP	Local Disaster Management Plan

Term/Acronym	Meaning
PPRR	Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Service
QH	Queensland Health
QPS	Queensland Police Service
Recovery	The coordinated process of supporting emergency-affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic, and physical well-being
Relief	The provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs of persons affected by, or responding to, an emergency. It includes the establishment, management and provision of services to emergency relief centres.
RFS	Rural Fire Service
Risk	The chance of something happening that may have an impact on the safety and wellbeing of a community. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood.
SES	State Emergency Service

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