

Burke Shire Council Local Monsoon Trough Recovery Plan

North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January - 14 February 2019

Endorsed by: **Burke Shire Council on 18 April 2019**



Recovery narrative

Recovery narrative

Council Overview

The Shire of Burke is a local government area in far North West Queensland on the Gulf of Carpentaria, adjoining the Northern Territory border and covers an area of 40,127 square kilometres. The Burke Shire, as a local government entity, was established in 1885. This was during a period of expansion in the Gulf region mainly due to the mining and grazing industries. The shire and town and the Burke River passing through all are named in honour of Robert O'Hara Burke, the leader of the ill-fated 1860-61 Burke and Wills expedition from south to north which started in Melbourne ended at Coopers Creek.

The shire has a strong rural base and two townships; Burketown and Gregory Downs. There is a resident population of around 550 people in the shire. Communities are diverse with significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations from the Gangalidda Garawa and Waanyi traditional owner groups. There are several large cattle stations in the Burke Shire, each with their own fascinating history.

Burketown is the larger township in the Burke Shire with around 170 residents. About a six hour drive from Mount Isa, the town is located on the Albert River, about 40km south of the coast.

Approximately 20 per cent of the Shire's population lives in Burketown and Gregory, whilst the remaining 80 per cent live on cattle stations or at roadhouses and tourist attractions. The Aboriginal Shire of Doomadgee lies inside Burke Shire to the west of Burketown.

From the months of August to November, a rare meteorological phenomenon known as "Morning Glory" – long, tubular clouds, some up to 1000 km in length – are often observed in the skies above Burke Shire.

The shire contains Boodjamulla National Park (formerly called Lawn Hill National Park) and the World Heritage Site Riversleigh fossil fields.

Burke Shire hosts an annual Easter Fishing competition and is well known for a number of tourist destinations, including Adele's Grove.

Council values

- Accountability and Integrity – Council is honest and transparent in all its dealings and takes full responsibility for the decisions it makes.
- Effectiveness – Council makes decisions that provide enduring solutions to problems.
- Financial responsibility – Council makes financial decisions based on full and open discussions at meetings, access to all relevant information and access to appropriate levels of financial advice.
- Continuous improvement – Council continually focuses on ways to improve the quality and efficiency of the services it delivers.
- Encouraging growth – Council will engage in assessments of economic, social and environment viability and growth in all planning matters.
- Meaningful community engagement – Public consultation is an integral component of Council's decision making methodology.

Local Recovery Stakeholders

- Burke Shire Council
- Community Members in Burke Shire
- Graziers
- Small business owners
- Freight companies
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Mining companies
- State Emergency Service
- Community volunteers
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Local Recovery Group

Recovery objectives

Recovery objectives

- ① Essential services - Power, water, waste, telecommunications – repaired and restored
- ② Develop a resilience program to enhance BoM assets and flood detection programs
- ③ Develop a volunteer recruitment and retention program
- ④ Enhance media capability with the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG)
- ⑤ Determine a methodology to utilise funding to support local recovery initiatives with longer term support
- ⑥ Ensure children remain in education
- ⑦ Ensure community wellbeing and connectedness through betterment / resiliency initiatives
- ⑧ Develop a tourism campaign to support an increase in visitors to the Burke Shire
- ⑨ Develop an environmental management program to address issues of siltation, weeds and erosion
- ⑩ Develop resilience program for local infrastructure projects

Damage and impacts

Damage and impacts

Human and Social

- Community wellbeing and connectedness
- No mail delivery for three weeks
- Impacts to wellbeing as a result of properties being isolated due to road closures
- Impacts to wellbeing due to loss of livestock
- Lack of access to fresh produce due to isolation of properties

Environment

- Biosecurity concerns due to prickly acacia
- Biosecurity concerns due to calotrope
- Biosecurity concerns due to rubber vine slowing down the rivers
- Biosecurity concerns due to build-up of silt
- Biosecurity concerns regarding stock routes
- Biosecurity concerns due to carcass disposal

Building

- Two airstrips on stations impacted due to flooding resulting in scouring
- Homesteads damaged
- Six cattle stations directly impacted

Economic

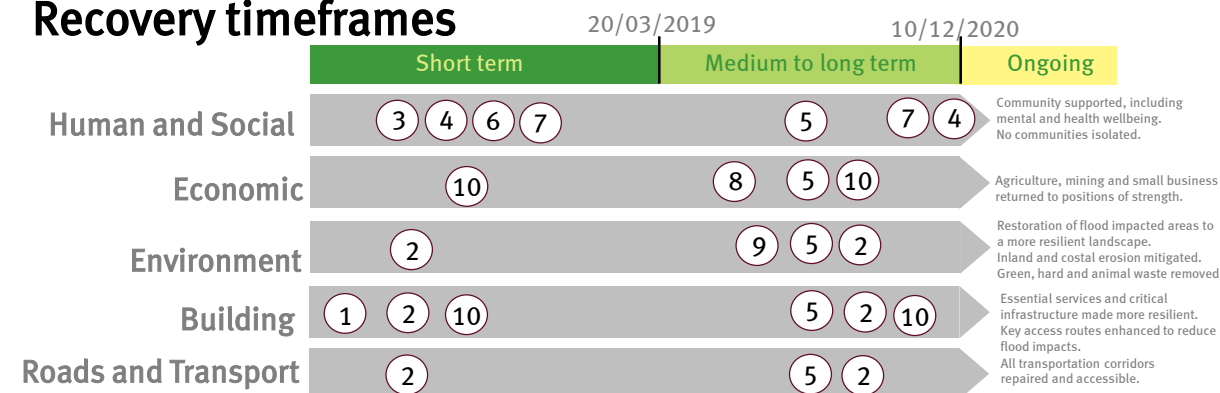
- Agriculture industry – loss of livestock
- Loss of income to small businesses resulting from road closures
- Loss of income for Agriculture industry resulting from road closures
- Potential impacts on tourism due to a lack of access
- Loss of income for those working on properties
- Loss of personal chattels through inundation (vehicles)

Roads and Transport

- All townships, outlying areas and key transport routes were isolated for varying lengths of time due to flooding, bridge floodway damage including, but not limited to:
- Excess silt deposits on roads
 - Roads impacted by scouring
 - All shire roads were either closed or advised to use caution
 - Fencing between properties and roads was impacted
 - Stock routes impacted

Recovery timeframes

Recovery timeframes



Damage – locations



REPA submissions will focus on the following roads:

- Nugaburra Road
- Bowthorn Road
- Doomadgee West Road
- Doomadgee - Lawn Hill Road
- Lawn Hill National Park Road
- Riversleigh Road
- Gregory - Lawn Hill Road
- Mellish Park Road
- Escott Road
- Burketown Rubbish Tip Road
- Floraville Road
- Doomadgee East Road
- Truganini Road
- Cemetery Road
- Burke Street
- Firefly Street
- Morella Road
- Gregory Airport Road
- Road B
- Murray Avenue
- Gleeson Avenue

Recovery tasks

- Undertake media training
- Request and deliver further LDMG training
- Implement Flood monitoring resilience program
- Undertake outreach to impacted homesteads and community members
- Ensure access to rural properties
- Ensure access across the shire is restored
- Effectively utilise the by-products (e.g. sand) from restoration works
- Utilise existing local services to deliver services to the community – the flying padre

Measures of success

Human and Social

- The community feels supported and has accessed availability recovery support.

Economic

- Agriculture industry – livestock and cropping – feels supported, accessing available recovery support where necessary.

Environment

- Clean up of silt has occurred.

Building

- Infrastructure is reflective of current and future community needs and is future proofed and resilient to known challenges.
- Privately owned airstrips are repaired and available for use by the community, RFDS and police.

Roads and Transport

- Road side fencing is repaired.

Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance

For details of activations and assistance measures visit www.qra.qld.gov.au/activations

Disaster relief measure	Activation date
• Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme *	14/02/2019
• Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) *	14/02/2019
• Counter Disaster Operations	10/02/2019
• Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets	10/02/2019
• Disaster Assistance (Small Business) Loans	20/02/2019
• Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Small Business	20/02/2019
• Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans	13/02/2019
• Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Primary Producers	13/02/2019
• Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers	13/02/2019
• Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers	14/02/2019

Betterment / Resiliency Initiatives

Infrastructure Betterment (\$10.25M)

- Total Flood Warning System (\$5.5M)
- 5 Shire automated flood monitoring initiative
- Lawn Hill National Park Road (\$2M)
- 15km of sealing work between Adels Gove and Boodjamulla National Park
- Gregory to Lawn Hill Road (\$2.2M)
- Raise Archie/Dinner Creek crossings
- Armraynald Pit Access Road (\$750K)
- Ensure all year access to this quarry site
- Burketown Airport Road (\$550K)
- Mitigate erosion control issues

Local Infrastructure Projects (\$2.18M)

- Burketown Mineral Baths Development (\$1.4M)
- Construct iconic tourism attraction
- Rehabilitation of Burketown Landfill (\$780K)
- Reduce flood risk associated with landfill.

Flood mapping / Modelling / Design

- Flood Risk Management Study (\$250K)
- River Crossings Detailed Designs (\$240K)
- Detailed Design for raising/realigning the Gregory and Nicholson River Crossings.

Community Health and Wellbeing

- Phillip Yanner Memorial Ground Upgrade (\$160K)
- Upgrade to the Gregory Showgrounds (\$140K)

Tourism Recovery Package

- Gregory Public Toilets (\$80K)
- Install new septic and WWTP
- Burketown Visitor Information Centre (\$160K)
- Funding to enable employment of permanent Indigenous staff at the Burketown VIC.