

Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council Local Monsoon Trough Recovery Plan

North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January - 14 February 2019
Endorsed by: Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council on 12 May 2019



Mayor
Ralph Kendall



CEO
Edward Natera

Recovery narrative

Recovery narrative

Council overview and vision

Pormpuraaw is on the west coast of Cape York, approximately 500 kilometres from the tip of Australia, just south of the Edward River. It is the home of the Thaayore, Wik, Bakanh and Yir Yoront People. Pormpuraaw is a beautiful community that is well known for its coastal location, magnificent sunsets and abundant fishing experiences.

Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council will continue to ensure that the community has a happy, healthy and safe future and is able to lead their cultural and traditional ways.

Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council supports the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) engagement with a Queensland Volunteer Working Group, aligned with ANTA (Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation) and Reconciliation Queensland (a Peak Indigenous Body in QLD) in the development of a website that provides factual details about the upcoming referendum on constitutional recognition of Australia's first people.

The group aims to elevate the discussion in Queensland and throughout Australia about the forthcoming constitutional referendum for the recognition of first peoples in the Australian Constitution by communication with grass roots people of all cultures. The website offers a resource that enables people to browse information both for and against the referendum, showcasing various viewpoints.

Pormpuraaw is a strong, engaged community creating a dynamic future.

Council values

- A strong community – Council will strengthen the capacity and resilience of the Pormpuraaw Community through partnerships with the community, business, government and non-government sector groups in pursuing positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.
- Excellence – Council and staff will strive for innovation, continuous improvement and long term success in management and leadership practice, strategic planning and the performance of Council.
- Accountability – Council is accountable to the community and will conduct affairs openly with integrity in consultation with community, at the same time reflecting the highest level of democratic governance and public administration.
- Fairness and Equity – Council recognises and values the needs of different sectors and groups within its community and works in partnership with its valued volunteers, community based agencies, State and Commonwealth departments to ensure needs are addressed in a planned and timely manner.
- Welcoming ideas – Council will actively encourage the exchange of ideas and knowledge in finding creative solutions.
- Investing in the future – Council will take a long term view as a responsible steward of community.

Local Recovery Group

Chaired by: Ralph Kendall, Mayor

Lines of Recovery

Human and Social, Economic, Environment, Building, Roads and Transport.

Key stakeholders

Lead federal and state government agencies: Rise, PCYC, Skills 360, Pormpuraaw Car Hire, Aged Care/HACC, Mungkan Thaayore Justice Group, QLD Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service, ATSILS, Apunipima Cape York Health Council, Act for Kids, RAATSICC, Skytrans & West Wing Aviation, Pormpuraaw Indigenous Knowledge Centre, Pormpur Paanth Aboriginal Corporation, Pormpur Paanth Aboriginal Corporation Board, Pormpur Paanth AC Child Care Service, Pormpur Paanth After School Care, Pormpur Paanth Women's Shelter, Pormpur Paanth Men's Shed, Anglican Church, St Mary's & St Edwards Parish, Brothers United Sporting Club, Pormpuraaw Kiosk, Pormpuraaw Arts & Cultural Centre.

Recovery themes

- Response: ensure community safety.
- Rebuilding: bring the community forward.
- Restoration: working together to repair and re-establish community linkages across the lines of recovery.
- Resilience: embed the principle in all activities to mitigate, improve and build betterment for the community.

Recovery objectives

- Essential services – power, water, waste and telecommunications – repaired and restored.
- Essential services – Ergon and Telstra to provide local police with keys to access telecommunications tower.
- Essential services – all future planning to consider Category 5 cyclones for housing.
- Telecommunication infrastructure – long term repairs and improvements.
- Solar power weather station for sewerage – installed and operational.
- Sourcing additional power supply.
- Satellite communications installed.
- Road transport network – explore partnership options for ongoing maintenance of Musgrave Strathgordon Road.
- Restore confidence in the tourism market.
- Funding to support recovery initiatives.
- Disaster management and resilience enhanced.
- Emergency supplies accessed.
- Continuation of community events.
- Creating resilient technology infrastructure.
- Effective management of rouge crocodiles.

Damage and impacts

Damage and impacts

Human and Social

- Sound from wind event impacted children's psychosocial wellbeing.
- Community health – inability to cook meals at home due to having no gas or power.
- Community health – inability to use domestic toilets due to having no power.
- Community wellbeing – potential health risks due to overcrowding in brick domestic dwellings.
- Community wellbeing – potential health risks due to increase in mosquito population – Dengue and Ross River fevers.
- Community wellbeing – potential health risks as fly-in dentist is unable to provide services to clients due to supplies not being available.
- Community wellbeing – potential health risk – no access to EFTPOS or bank accounts – unable to purchase essential supplies/food.
- Community wellbeing – potential health risk – no access to EFTPOS or bank accounts – unable to obtain credit for power cards – no power in domestic dwellings.
- Community safety – having to use satellite phones outside due to damaged telecommunications tower.
- Community safety – QPS unable to contact outstation to organise evacuation of residents due to telecommunication tower damage.
- Community wellbeing – 24 hour delay in Council's employee payroll [75 employees affected] due to power outage, thus unable to purchase essential supplies and pay bills.
- Community wellbeing – Centrelink mandatory reporting system unavailable due to power outage – unable to purchase essential supplies and pay bills.
- Community wellbeing – meals unable to be provided to community members by local businesses due to power outage.
- Community wellbeing – emergency barge required to deliver essential supplies due to road flooding and damage.
- Isolation – 500kg of mail in Cairns since December 2018 due to road closures.
- Community safety – due to damage to telecommunications tower, staff had to sleep at hospital in case emergency cases arrived at the hospitals.

Economic

- Aquaculture – loss of income for crocodile farm due to nests and eggs being destroyed by water damage.
- Local contractors – loss of earnings as a result of not being able to receive materials/supplies due to road closures.
- Loss of income/profits to small businesses due to power and telecommunication outages.

Economic (cont.)

- Loss of income/profits to small businesses as a result of not being able to receive supplies due to road damage.
- Loss of income/profits to small business – increased operational costs as a result of having to charter supplies into community due to road damage.
- Tourism – loss of income due to beach erosion and road damage.

Environment

- Coastal erosion evident at Mungkin beach front and Chapman River.
- Loss of crocodile nests due to flooding.
- Biosecurity concerns within the aquaculture industry.
- Public health concerns, including mosquitos and water quality.
- Biosecurity concerns with potential sewerage overflow into township if alarms at sewerage plant fail due to power outage.
- Rouge crocodiles entering local waterways.
- Biosecurity concerns with cemetery due to rising table waters.
- Potential stock loss on Ngokal Weendi Aboriginal Corporation cattle station.

Building

- Power disconnected to homes.
- Telecommunications tower disrupted and offline for six days.
- Sewerage treatment plant alarms effected by power outage.
- One pump at sewerage plant not working.
- Landing beacon at the airport non-operational for five days due to telecommunication tower damage.
- Satellite dish damaged, unable to provide community with updates during event.
- Police station without communications.
- Lack of gas supply in community.

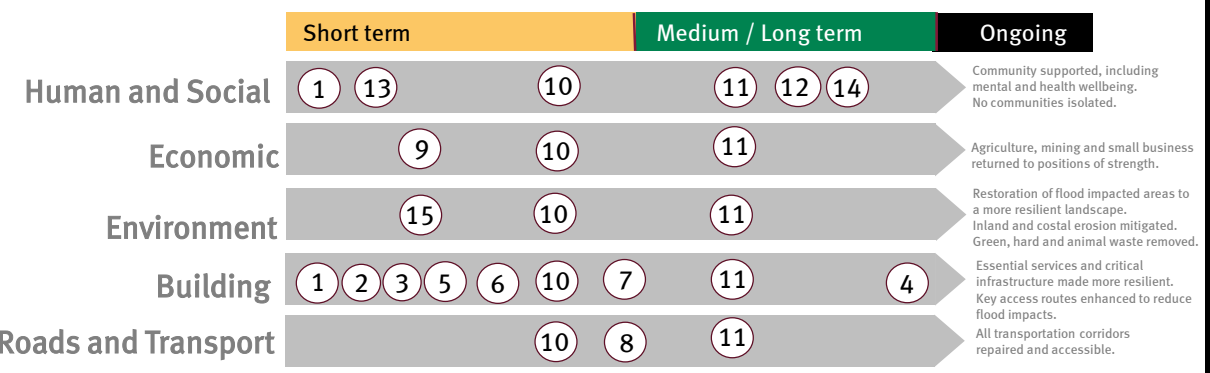
Roads and Transport

- The township, outlying areas and key transport routes were isolated for varying lengths of time due to flooding along the Musgrave Strathgordon Road.
- Airport closed as radio communication with planes was non-operational due to telecommunication tower damage.

Recovery objectives

Timeframes

Recovery timeframes



Pormpuraaw Map



Recovery tasks

- Essential services re-checked – bores, sewerage plant and pumping station.
- Airport runway checked.
- School to be re-opened.
- Health care services restored.
- Undertake event debrief.
- Consultations for people with service providers, i.e. doctors and dentists.
- Repair telecommunications tower.
- Recovery sub-plan developed.
- Internal wifi network installed.
- Emergency supplies provided to community.
- Review and restock disaster management emergency kits.
- Seek funding for solar power weather station for sewerage, emergency warning system, internal wifi system, supplies for disaster management emergency kits.
- Seek extension to funding for bakery.
- Procure one x 3 phase 90kVA telecommunications backup generator and one x generator for aged care shipping container freezer.
- Impacted trees.
- Council Server relocated to Cairns.

Measures of success

Human and Social

- Disaster management emergency kits restocked.
- Funding secured.
- Funding extensions approved.
- Community has been resupplied.
- Recovery sub-plan developed and implemented.
- Community events held – football carnival, bull riding, carnival, fishing competition, NAIDOC, National Sorry Day, Father's Day, Mother's Day etc.

Economic

- Increase in tourism numbers.
- Small businesses economic standing recovers.
- Payroll activities occur as normal.

Environment

- Beach access restored.
- Green waste clean-up occurred.
- Crocodile population managed effectively.

Building

- Essential services – power, water, waste and telecommunications fully operational.
- Keys to telecommunication tower provided to local police.
- All future planning considers Category 5 cyclones for housing.
- Internal wifi network funded and installed.
- Warning alarm system funded and installed.
- Satellite communications operational.
- Generators procured.
- Bakery operational.
- Football field operational.

Roads and Transport

- Partnership option developed for ongoing maintenance of Musgrave Strathgordon Road.

Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance

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

Disaster relief measure

- Counter Disaster Operations (CDO)
- Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA)

Activation date

18/02/2019
18/02/2019