

Torres Shire Council

Local Monsoon Trough Recovery Plan

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

Endorsed by: Torres Shire Council on 10 May 2019



Recovery narrative

Recovery narrative

Council vision statement

Torres Shire is the northernmost local government area in Queensland. It comprises all of the State lying north of latitude 11 degrees south, including the northernmost part of Cape York and islands of the Torres Strait. The Shire's administrative centre is located on Thursday Island: the region's primary service centre.

Torres Shire is the only Australian local government which abuts an international border (Australia and Papua New Guinea) and is in close proximity to the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya. This alone places the people of the Shire in a unique part of the country.

Torres Shire Council's administrative control since the *Torres Strait Islanders Act 1939*, comprises of several islands and portions of Cape York Peninsula, however, the Council's administrative role does not extend to all the islands in the Torres Strait. The major islands covered by the Recovery Plan include: Albany, Dayman, Entrance, Friday, Goods, Horn (inhabited), Little Adolphus, Mount Adolphus, Packe, Port Lihou, Possession, Prince of Wales (inhabited), Thursday (inhabited), Turtlehead and Wednesday.

Torres Shire Council through community consultation, will focus on the promotion of community values, together with the improvement of the quality of lifestyle whilst ensuring efficiency of servicing and protection of the environment.

Council mission

To lead, provide and facilitate a sustainable, safe and culturally vibrant community.

Lines of Recovery

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

Key stakeholders

Torres Shire Council; Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Commonwealth of Australia, Queensland Government, Local business, Registered Native Title Body Corporates, Traditional Owners, local businesses, and the Torres Shire Community members.

Recovery theme: PRIDE

1. **P: Prepare:** Issue community notices before the storm season. Ensure critical infrastructure is maintained.
2. **R: Restoration:** Repair and re-establish community linkages across the lines of recovery.
3. **I: Include:** Include the community in the recovery process through consultation as to recovery priorities.
4. **D: Deliver:** Restore affected community services.
5. **E: Endure:** Embed resilience in all activities to mitigate, improve and build strong community response mechanisms.

Recovery objectives

- ① Essential services – re-establish and upgrade electricity, gas, and water supplies and restore and upgrade waste management infrastructure on Horn, Thursday and Prince of Wales Islands.
- ② Restore, repair and upgrade airport services and infrastructure.
- ③ Restore and upgrade quarantine and biosecurity infrastructure and measures.
- ④ Restore, repair and upgrade wharf and shipping infrastructure.
- ⑤ Clean-up oil spillage and/or hazardous chemical spills on land or sea and take mitigation measures against future incidents.
- ⑥ Impact assessments – to be completed on all islands.
- ⑦ Road transport network – coordinated restoration and improvement of road networks on Horn, Thursday and Prince of Wales Islands.
- ⑧ Flood resilience – develop and implement strategies for greater flood resilience.
- ⑨ The implementation of Coastal Adaption Program.
- ⑩ Restore confidence in the tourism market.

Recovery objectives

Damage and impacts

Damage and impacts

Human and Social

- Community health: inability to access:
 - a safe water supply
 - prompt and efficient garbage disposal.
- Community wellbeing – inability to access schools, health clinics and attend other family obligations due to rough seas and loss of wharf and jetty infrastructure.

Economic

- Increase in spending – having to buy bottled water due to the water filtration system being damaged.
- Increase in spending – no access to traditional methods of food supply.
- Lack of incomes – inability to access work due to rough seas on other islands.
- Loss of income to small and medium business due to dislocation and the impact on tourism.

Environment

- Bio security issue – unable to transport garbage from other islands to waste transfer depot on Thursday Island.
- Bio security issues – graves sinking.
- Bio security – influx of mosquitoes and other vermin and pests.

Building

- Integrity of the dam structure compromised.
- Graves and head stones sinking in Thursday Island cemetery due to water inundation.
- Pavements damaged by water.
- Damage to essential services infrastructure.
- Wharfs, jetties and seawalls damaged.
- Public building damaged.
- Various buildings damaged.
- Decrease in water quality due to water filtration system being damaged – unable to use water for drinking.

Roads and Transport

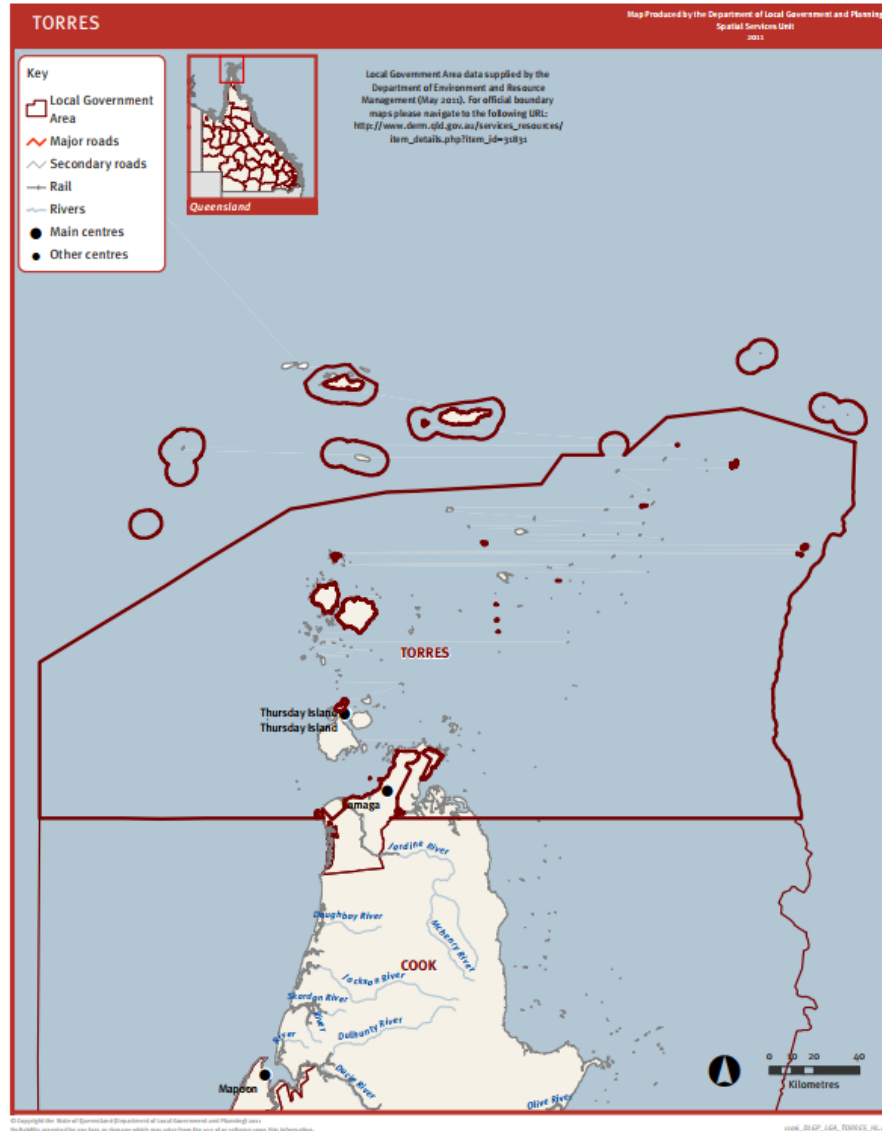
- Main road used for transporting garbage from other islands to landfill depot on Horn Island collapsed.
- Damage to roads on Thursday Island due to water inundation – pot holes and sink holes.
- Kerb and channel replacement required due to water inundation on Thursday Island.

Recovery timeframes

Recovery timeframes

	Short term	Medium to long term	Ongoing	
Human and Social	① ② ⑥	⑧	⑧	Community supported, including mental and health wellbeing. No communities isolated.
Economic	② ⑥	⑩ ④	⑧	Shipping, air movements, mining, small business returned to positions of strength.
Environment	⑤ ⑥	③ ⑨	⑤ ⑧ ⑨	Restoration of flood impacted areas to a more resilient landscape. Inland and coastal erosion mitigated. Green, hard and animal waste removed.
Building	① ② ⑥	③ ④	⑧	Essential services and critical infrastructure made more resilient. Key access routes enhanced to reduce flood impacts.
Roads and Transport	⑥	⑦	⑦ ⑧	All transportation corridors repaired and accessible.

Torres Shire map



Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance

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

Disaster relief measure

- Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) *
- Counter Disaster Operations (CDO)
- Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA)

Activation date

- 19/02/2019
- 27/02/2019
- 27/02/2019

*The Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) for Torres Shire and the Torres Strait Island Region is limited to Emergency Hardship Assistance and commenced on 19 February 2019.

Recovery tasks

- Repair and restore water filtration plant on Horn Island.
- Implement boil water alert.
- Repair drainage on inhabited islands.
- Repair sewage on inhabited islands.
- Undertake impact assessments of damaged roads on Thursday Island.
- Inspect and repair graves and head stones in Thursday Island cemetery.
- Repair roads on inhabited islands.
- Manage mosquitos, vermin and pests.
- Ensure the integrity of the dam structure.
- Repair pavements damaged by water.
- Repair damage to essential services infrastructure.
- Repair damaged wharfs, jetties and seawalls.
- Assist in the repair of other buildings based on safety and habitation concerns.

Measures of success

Human and Social

- Communities on Thursday, Horn and Prince of Wales Islands are able to drink the town water without having to boil it first.
- State rugby league games are played on Thursday Island sports field.
- Flood resilience – develop and implement strategies for greater flood resilience.
- Individuals have access to appropriate financial support.

Building

- Buildings are in good repair.
- The Museum at Green Tree Hill Fort is operational.
- Water filtration system on Horn Island is operational.

Roads and Transport

- Road transport network restoration and betterment planning for road network on Thursday Island has been developed and implemented.
- Road transport network coordinated.
- Cycleways maintained and improved.

Economic

- Restoration of local businesses.
- Increased tourism numbers.

Environment

- Green and hard waste on Thursday Island has been removed and adequately processed.
- Cane toads and similar pests have been eradicated.
- Drainage and water management infrastructure operational and maintained.
- Coastal adaptation program implemented.