

Recovery and Resilience

February - August 2015

Six months on...A summary of community recovery and relief activities following Cyclone Marcia

On 20 February 2015, severe Tropical Cyclone (TC) Marcia ravaged Livingstone Shire with highly destructive cyclonic winds causing wide-spread and in some areas catastrophic damage to our region and impacting 37,000 residents. Primary producers, tourist operators, medium and small businesses and the community at large were impacted.

TC Marcia was the third natural disaster event that had impacted on the Shire in a little over twelve months. Many sectors were only just recovering from previous disaster events on top of the economic downturn in the mining, resources and construction industries. 100% of businesses incurred immediate losses due to power outages during the days following the cyclone.

The physical impact could be seen everywhere, scarred creeks and watercourses, inundated fields, widespread debris and vegetation, houses and businesses totally destroyed, left structurally unsound or significantly damaged.

Quick Statistics - 19 to 28 February 2015

- 4,000 telephone calls to Council for assistance
- 6506 jobs created for action
- 931 dwellings damaged (514 remained damaged as at May)



Response and Support

During Cyclone Marcia the Livingstone Shire Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) activated the Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) which included representatives from emergency services, essential services, key community support agencies and Council.

Tasks logged for action through the LDCC

Australian Defence Force	78
Ambulance (QAS)	71
Ergon	299
Guardian (QIT Plus)	19
Qld Fire & Rescue (QFRS)	215
Qld Police (QPS)	170
SES	2356
Asbestos Assessment Team	282
Community/Recovery	517
Damage Assessment Team	416
Livingstone Shire Council/Operations	1747
Other LDCC members	402

Recovery statistics

Total houses damaged	796
Total houses uninhabitable	140
Properties remaining to be repaired as at May 2015	452
Remaining tarpied homes as at May 2015	166
Sporting Facilities / Playgrounds damaged	458
Sporting Facilities /Playgrounds not yet repaired	52
Total insurance claims lodged (property, contents and vehicle)	35,336
Total (\$) commercial claims	\$139M
Total (\$) domestic claims	\$307M
Total persons through Recovery Centre	481
Total outreach visits (to people's homes) by Department of Communities or service providers including Redcross, Unitingcare or Yeppoon Hospital	521
Attendance to Pop-up Recovery Hubs: Byfield, Keppel Sands, Cawarral / Mount Chalmers	121
Livingstone Lend-a-Hand Day properties assisted	48
Community Meeting attendance	1890

Community Recovery

The recovery phase began immediately following the cyclone and will continue as long as need is evident. The future economic recovery of our Shire depends on how quickly, decisively and collaboratively we rebuild with a shared vision of getting our regional economy back on track to build long term sustainability. Council has actively lobbied State and Federal governments to ensure that all funding sources available have been pursued to assist individuals and businesses as well as the community at large.

Livingstone Local Disaster Recovery and Resilience Sub Plan

Following the immediate response to TC Marcia, Council developed a strategic framework for community recovery, referred to as the Livingstone Shire Council (LSC) Recovery and Resilience Implementation Plan. Developed in consultation with key stakeholders and embedded within the Livingstone Shire Council Local Disaster Management Plan, this document outlines short, medium and long-term strategies for recovery within the Shire.

The plan is a living, iterative and adaptive document which aims to enable the Livingstone community to drive their recovery, continue to reassess their emerging recovery priorities and develop initiatives to address their needs.

Recovery and Resilience Taskforces

Four key areas are critical to ensure long term community recovery:

- Human Social Needs
- Built Environment
- Economic Recovery
- Natural Environment

To ensure appropriate focus to all these critical areas, Council established four separate taskforces to develop strategies in line with the Sub Plan and implement actions to achieve recovery and identify opportunities to further build community resilience. These taskforces include relevant stakeholders including community leaders, not-for-profit groups and other agencies both at a State and Federal agencies.

Achievements of these taskforces have been substantial and can be read in the *Community relief and early recovery activities: 6 Monthly Report* found online on Council's website or obtained by contacting our Customer Service Team.

Our Future

We strongly encourage you to consider own mitigation and preparedness activities within your household or business to ensure that you and your loved ones are prepared for any future disasters in our region. Call us on 4913 5000 or visit our website www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/disaster.

State Government Disaster Funding & Insurance

Category B funding was made available immediately to Council following the cyclone which is in addition to the **\$2-3 million out of pocket expenses** Council has incurred. This is for emergent and reconstruction works relating to damaged Infrastructure. Council has made submission for the below funding which is yet to be confirmed.

- Emergent works – Council has lodged a claim for **\$8.1 million**.
- Reconstruction (other than Statue Bay) claim expected to be between **\$1 - 1.5 million**. Consists mainly of replacement of signage, reconstruction of gravel roads and pavement repairs.
- Reconstruction Statue Bay claim expected to be in the vicinity of **\$23 million**.
- Preliminary claims to date for insured assets **\$1.8 million**.
- Claims for revetment to seawalls (Anzac parade, Bluff, Statue bay, Emu Park and Keppel Sands) estimate **\$4 million**.
- Counter Disaster claim approximately **\$400,000**.

Special Disaster Assistance (Clean-up & Recovery Grants) for Small Business and Non-Profit Organisations was announced on 20 March 2015 and for Primary Producers on 13 March 2015.

The **Category C** grant figures as at 4 June 2015 are:

- Primary Producers - 60 applications approved to the value of **\$470,000**,
- Small Business - 29 applications approved to the value of **\$223,000**,
- Not for Profit organisations - 12 applications approved to the value of **\$90,000**.

Category D funding worth \$27.75 million for the region was announced early June and includes funding for four important recovery initiatives:

- Infrastructure Betterment Fund to rebuild damaged local government assets to a more resilient standard - **\$20 million**.
- Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets - **\$6 million**,
- Assistance for councils in the worst affected areas with green waste clean-up and removal activities - **\$1 million**, and
- Engagement of Industry Recovery Officers to support cyclone-affected primary producers and small businesses - **\$750,000**.