

Scenic Rim Local Recovery Action Plan

Following the impact of flooding from
EX Tropical Cyclone Debbie, 29 March 2017 - 19 April 2019

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Situation

Scenic Rim Local Recovery Action Plan in response to the effects of ex Tropical Cyclone Debbie

Human and Social

- Rural communities most heavily impacted have been particularly resilient and helped each other during the post impact and immediate recovery phase.
- Several communities were isolated during the flooding.
- Farmers lost significant lengths of fencing.
- Approximately 20 homes were inundated.
- At least 81 homes were damaged.
- Numerous parks and recreational facilities damaged through inundation. Impact on sporting and cultural activities has not yet been fully assessed.

Economic

- Agricultural economic loss due to loss of crops, top soil, livestock, irrigation equipment, paddock feed, hay and silage storage and fences. The value of this loss is yet to be assessed.
- Tourism impacted through reduced access to locations across the region. For example, O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat loss of business due to lack of road access because of land slips and flooding.
- Small Business: Wide ranging impact on businesses due to loss of power and employees being dislocated from work.
- Bromelton Intermodal Facility impacted through closure of Beaudesert-Boonah Road, causing at least two days delay in freight movement.

Environment

- The speed and magnitude of the flooding has impacted on catchments and waterways.
- River bank and land slippage occurred in many waterways across the three catchments. Assessments of impacts on agricultural land and waterways is not yet complete.
- Flood management practices impacted on stream flow dynamics, resulting in increased frequency of flooding leading to loss of top soil and downstream pollution.
- National, state and local parks and walking trails damaged, impacting on public access.

Infrastructure

- Significant impact on roads, bridges and floodways'.
- National/State level: Beaudesert-Boonah Rd (Coulson's Crossing) cut for at least two days, Mt Lindesay Highway North cut for up to two days, South cut for at least one day, and Cunningham Highway cut for up to one day.
- Seven bridges confirmed damaged leading to isolation,
- Significant degradation of at least 350 local roads and 200 major culverts, impacting on community connectivity and increasing sense of isolation.

Response

Human and Social

1. Outreach teams deployed into towns and remote communities.
2. Communities & housing impact assessments completed.
3. Community interaction & engagement strategy commenced.
4. Volunteer & charity groups coordinated and organised.
5. Hardship funding for impacted individuals, primary producers and businesses distributed.
6. Rural counselling strategy developed and implemented.
7. Fencing repairs completed.

Economic

8. Eat Local Week April-July 2017-2019 conducted including flood commemoration.
9. Tourism Advisory Committee impact assessment completed.
10. Net loss of agricultural production understood.
11. First post flood crops harvested.
12. Tourism infrastructure recovered by mid-February 2018 in preparation for Commonwealth Games visitors.

Environment

13. Green & hard waste removed including debris & flood associated contaminants from built environment.
14. Damage to national parks, public spaces and trails understood.
15. Plan developed to rehabilitate parks, waterways & damaged vegetation.
16. National, State and Local Parks rehabilitated by mid-February 2018 in preparation for Commonwealth Games visitors.
17. Resilient Rivers Catchment Management Strategy developed and implemented.

Infrastructure

18. Utility services restored.
19. Transport infrastructure impact damage assessment completed.
20. Emergent works on roads, bridges and culverts completed.
21. Local roads, bridges and culverts repaired.
22. Timber bridge replacement program continuing.
23. National and State roads including Mt Lindesay Highway (North/South) and Cunningham Highway flood resilience enhanced.
24. Flood resilience of Beaudesert–Boonah Road improved to enable the Bromelton State Development Plan.

Context

This plan articulates the Scenic Rim Community recovery from the flooding caused by ex-Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie over the period 30 March to 02 April 2017.

It is primarily aimed at co-ordinating and tracking recovery efforts and forms a more complete plan than the detail in the Local Recovery Sub-Plan to the Scenic Rim LDMP and also developed as part of the State Government Plan [2017-2019 for Operation Queensland Recovery](#). This plan should be read in conjunction with these two documents.

Purpose

The purpose of the Scenic Rim Local Recovery Group is to guide community recovery efforts. It does so through:

- the convening of regular meetings;
- through extensive community consultation;
- through designing, implementing and monitoring the recovery synchronisation matrix;
- through updating the Local Recovery Plan (on a page);
- through clear communication with stakeholders; and
- through the building of transparent, honest and effective relationships with state agencies (primarily through the Functional Recovery Group structures).

Structure

The Local Recovery Group structure is as follows:

- Chair Local Disaster Coordinator– Debra Moore
- Secretary/Coordinator – Alisa Totenhofer
- Human and Social Lead FRG
- Economic Lead FRG
- Environmental Lead FRG
- Infrastructure Lead FRG
- Associated Not-for-Profit Businesses,
- Council Service Departments
- Community Groups, etc.

The Scenic Rim recovery was first discussed on 4 April 2017 with representatives from:

- Scenic Rim Regional Council,
- Queensland Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
- Queensland Department of Fire & Emergency Services,

and further discussions with this group occurred on 18 April 2017.

The Scenic Rim response was reviewed on 28 April 2017. The review group comprised:

- Scenic Rim Regional Council,
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority
- Queensland Department Fire & Emergency Services,
- Queensland Police Service, and
- Australian Armed Forces.

Meetings

The Local Recovery Group (LRG) will meet at a suitable time prior to the LDMG meetings. Meeting which are held quarterly. The LRG meetings will be held at the Scenic Rim Regional Council Beaudesert Office, with appropriate duration to report and discuss recovery activities within Scenic Rim region.

Local Recovery meeting that have been held in response to recovery activities from ex-STC Debbie;

- 4 April 2017
- 7 April 2017
- 18 April 2017
- 29 May 2017
- 10 July 2017
- 26 October 2017

Reporting Requirements

The LRG is required to report on appropriate objectives relevant to their industry in line with Annex A Recover Objectives Tracking Register. The tracking register will be updated accordingly after each meeting, to present the recovery progress of the Scenic Rim region.

Meeting Agenda

Meeting agendas will be promulgated no less than one week prior to the meeting. A standard agenda is as follows:

- Welcome, Introductions, Apologies
- Meeting Objective
- Review previous minutes and follow up on action items
- Local Recovery Coordinator Update
- Review progress on Human and Social Line of Recovery
- Review progress on Economic Line of Recovery
- Review progress on Environmental Line of Recovery
- Review progress on Infrastructure Line of Recovery
- Review Objectives Achieved (Annexure A)
- General Business
- Schedule next meeting

Mission

The Scenic Rim will recover, rebuild and become more resilient from the flooding effects of ex-STC Debbie to realise a better future for our community.

How this plan was developed: This plan was developed to direct the recovery of our community. It was developed for the Scenic Rim Local Recovery Group. This group comprises representatives from the Scenic Rim Regional Council, State Government representatives, and members of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, specifically:

Scenic Rim Regional Council:

- A/Director Regional Services - Local Recovery Coordinator
- Manager Information Services - Local Disaster Coordinator
- Manager Works
- Manager Health, Building and Environment
- Communications & Councillor Support Coordinator
- Disaster Management Coordinator
- Community Development Officer - Resilience and Recovery

Queensland State Government:

- Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
- Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
- Department of Environment Heritage Protection
- Department of Transport & Main Roads
- Department of National Parks, Sports and Racing
- Department of Housing and Public Works
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

Challenges

This plan acknowledges the following challenges to the implementation of this plan:

- **Gaining a complete appreciation of the impacts on the community.** The flood damage caused by ex-STC Debbie had a significant impact across our community. This plan seeks to capture these impacts to the best of our current understanding but we recognise that many of the impacts will not be fully known for some time. Therefore, this plan will be adapted, as required, to ensure it remains as accurate as possible. To ensure we maintain a focus on capturing the full impacts we have committed to reviewing the community impacts at each Local Recovery Group meeting and to provide the Scenic Rim LDMG and Regional Council with updates as appropriate.
- **Capturing community input.** This plan intends to consider the thoughts and needs of the Scenic Rim Community. Therefore, how we develop, consult and communicate this plan will need to be tailored to ensure we develop a truly representative plan. To achieve this intent, we must have a Local Recovery Group that has engaged with stakeholders from across our community.
- **Insufficient personnel, financial and other resources to properly implement recovery works.** The recovery objectives outlined in this plan will only be met if the community can harness appropriate resources. To do so we recognise the community will need to determine our own priorities and allocate sufficient resources to achieve them. We also recognise that we must work hard with other stakeholders to ensure our bids for state and federal resources are as comprehensive and clear as they can be.

Stakeholders

This plan recognises there are many stakeholders to the recovery of the Scenic Rim. These stakeholders, and their primary interests are outlined below:

- **Scenic Rim Regional Council:** Focussed on providing Local Government leadership and support to all recovery activities.
- **Local Community and ratepayers:** Focussed on the efficient and effective recovery and achievement of recovery objectives to realise a better future.
- **Road Users:** Focussed on repair of all transport infrastructure and, where possible improving it to be more flood resilient such that future floods have a reduced impact.
- **Local Businesses:** Focussed on returning the local economy to pre-disaster standard or higher standard.
- **Surrounding Councils:** Focussed on improvements to roads to realise better connectivity and river catchment management to better understand future flood events. In addition, the Gold Coast is focussed on the recovery of tourism operators in preparation for the Commonwealth Games.
- **Queensland Reconstruction Authority.** Focussed on guiding state-wide recovery, building connections between stakeholders as well as ensuring funding is utilised in terms of value for money.
- **Scenic Rim Local Disaster Management Group.** Focussed on coordinating and leading the community response and recovery from the impact of floods. LDMG lessons and assessments have informed this plan.
- **Not-for-Profit Organisations.** Focus on providing additional support to the local community in recovery of the Human and Social aspects.
- **Local and State Media.** Local media organisations are key to keeping the community informed of the progress against this plan, and state media organisations highlight the regions recovery more broadly and encourage tourism and business.
- **Local Recovery Group.** Focussed on coordination of the recovery function on behalf of the LDMG.
- **Local Government Association of Queensland.** Supports SRRC in the advocacy of SRRC needs to deliver its functions.
- **Chamber of Commerce.** Promotes the needs of the business communities to ensure local business is viable and growing.
- **SE QLD Council of Mayors.** Custodians of the Resilient Rivers Catchment Management Strategy.
- **Queensland State Government.** Provides a range of State services via:
 - Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
 - Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
 - Department of Environment Heritage Protection
 - Department of Transport & Main Roads
 - Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing
 - Department of Housing and Public Works
 - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- **Federal Government.** Provides funding support through the NDRRA program.

Local Community Intent

Why do we need this plan?

The purpose of the Scenic Rim Local Recovery Action Plan (LRAP) is to enable the recovery and rebuilding of our community from the impacts of ex-STC Debbie and to improve our preparedness and resilience.

How will the plan work?

The Scenic Rim LRAP will support the coordination of the recovery, reconstruction and rebuilding of our local community by firstly getting our people and businesses back-on track as soon as possible.

Secondly, we will empower the community by ensuring we have sufficient input to the Local Recovery Group.

Thirdly, the LRAP focuses on connecting people, communities and stakeholders. It will implement a consultative and open planning process to facilitate the connection of community leaders in the human and social, economic, environment and infrastructure areas with the right stakeholders at state government level.

The fourth point of emphasis is to ensure impacted community members understand and have access to resources and support they need to advance their own recovery through an appropriate community engagement process.

Finally, the plan will implement a robust governance framework, utilising an enduring performance monitoring, review and assurance process. This process ensures optimal and appropriate use of financial and other resources to enable confidence in the region's disaster recovery arrangements.

What is our community recovery end state?

Recovery, reconstruction and rebuilding have been completed, community connections, preparedness and resilience are enhanced. The Scenic Rim is prepared for future challenges and has transitioned to business as usual.

Execution

Phases. This Local Recovery Action Plan will be guided by the "[Queensland Recovery Plan](#)" and the "[State Recovery Plan 2017-19: Operation Queensland Recovery](#)". The plan consists of three phases:

- Phase 1 – Post impact and early recovery
- Phase 2 – Recovery and reconstruction
- Phase 3 – Transition.

Phase one: post impact and early recovery: Phase one commenced immediately after the disaster event impacted. Key objectives included community safety, assistance to displaced resident and interim infrastructure repair.

This phase ended on 2 May 2017 with the formal review of the Response by the Scenic Rim Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG).

Phase two: recovery and reconstruction: Phase two is the deliberate, methodical reconstruction and improvement of the community, our environment, our economy and our infrastructure. These improvements include measurements to enhance community resilience where possible and preparedness for future disaster events. Progress will be monitored, reviewed and regular updates provided to the community, the council, QRA and state government agencies.

It is also important to consider the interest of State Governments and their obligations towards their relevant legislation. In considering redevelopment and construction various pieces of legislation are in place to ensure government interests are considered.

This phase ends three months prior to the expiry of the NDRRA funding period on 31 March 2019.

Phase three: transition: Phase three commences 01 April 2019. This phase sees a progressive hand over of reconstruction responsibilities to agencies, organisations, governments, community-based or industry groups to whom these activities constitute normal business. This phase ends when all reconstruction responsibilities are handed over no later than 30 June 2019.

This date has been selected as it marks the expiry of the allowable time limit for NDRRA assistance. The LRG acknowledges that whilst the plan concludes at this time, some aspects of recovery, such as the human and social impacts, can and will take a significantly longer period to resolve. These enduring aspects of recovery will be supported through assumption of these requirements into business as usual for supporting agencies.

Lines of Recovery

Whilst these phases establish the recovery timeframes, we capture our recovery efforts on four Lines of Recovery. These align with the state lines of recovery:

1. Human and Social
2. Economic
3. Environment
4. Infrastructure. (Scenic Rim has combined the state Building Recovery and Roads and Transport in our Infrastructure line of recovery).

Recovery Objectives

Our progress along each of the Lines of Recovery is marked by our Recovery Objectives. These objectives articulate the key effects to be achieved to realise our Line of Recovery end states.

Recovery delivery means we recognise the need to develop a detailed understanding of the recovery objectives to assist the community and other stakeholders to track and understand how we will achieve each objective on our path to recovery. As such, the Local Recovery Group has developed a detailed breakdown of these objectives and their measures of effectiveness.

These are outlined in detail at Annexure A Recovery Objectives Tracking Register. We intend to review these measures of effectiveness regularly through the Local Recovery Group meetings to assist us to track and understand our progress.

The Local Recovery Plan has been developed as a snapshot of the Lines of Recovery and Recovery Objectives. The "plan on a page" is our contribution to the state plan (Operation Queensland Recovery). It is owned by the Scenic Rim Local Recovery Group and will be adjusted as local recovery activities evolve.

The Local Recovery Plan, "plan on a page" can be found on the Scenic Rim Regional Council's Disaster Management, Plans and Documents [website](#). We acknowledge the requirement to ensure changes to our plan are adequately communicated to all stakeholders and will take deliberate steps to do so.

The combination of both the Phases (two and three) and the Lines of Recovery creates our recovery framework. This framework, and the recovery objectives are at Annexure A.

The Register organises the things we want to achieve and when we will achieve them. It coordinates our recovery efforts and is the tool through which we ensure the community and all our stakeholders remain aligned.

Tasks

We have identified the following tasks for our **Local Recovery Group**:

- Go to great lengths to understand the perspectives and pressures on the stakeholders to this plan.
- Consult widely with all stakeholders in the process of developing, revising and implementing this plan.
- Conduct regular reviews of the plan, adjusting it where necessary.
- Work hard to keep the right stakeholders engaged to ensure our community is afforded the resources it needs to recover and come back stronger in the future.
- Hold people and groups accountable for their action items through articulating very clear reporting requirements.
- Be very clear in articulating the Scenic Rim Community priorities, and taking appropriate steps to advise when and why they change.

Council will utilise its direct linkages into business, tourism and agricultural sectors to maintain two way communications with those sectors in regard understanding the effects of the event and where assistance is needed.

Supporting Concepts

Funding

Funding has been activated by the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA); Standard assistance to individuals and the community where activated as outlined on the Queensland Reconstruction Authority [website](#) of NDRRA/SDRA Activations 2016 - 17, Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and associated rainfall and flooding, 28 March-6 April 2017

Category C NDRRA Funding has been approved in coordination with the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors. The Community Development Officer (funded position) will be working closely with Scenic Rim Regional Council and Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors in particular with Red Cross, Logan and Gold Coast funded positions to address critical cases through the Category C State Funded Sub Coordination Meetings.

The Category C State Funded Sub Coordination meetings occur once a month with funded practitioners and Category C funded positions within each SEQ granted LGA. Scenic Rim Local services (Beaucare) have received Category C positions of two (2) mental health counsellors and one (1) financial councillor to the Scenic Rim region.

All grand funded positions through the Category C Funding program came to the end of their employment contracts at the end of March 2019, with feedback supplied to the relevant government funding bodies on the impact of the positions across the region.

Further Category D funding for exceptional circumstances were taken through Betterment application with Scenic Rim Regional Council Infrastructure Department and Economic Recovery Officers through the Economic Recovery Package Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and where collaboratively engaged with Category C Community Development Resilience and Recovery Officer.

Several local environment sites impacted by ex-STC Debbie were granted Category D Funding, the Environmental Recovery Package. The project sites are managed by Health Land and Water Organisation in collaboration with Scenic Rim Regional Council Flood Restoration team, where revegetation has commenced in March and April 2019.

The Infrastructure Recovery Program continues to deliver the works approved under the Category B funding for Restoration of Essential Public Assets and Category D funding for Betterment projects. Monthly progress reporting and progress claims are submitted to the QRA. The majority of works are now complete as reflected on Annex B Councils Infrastructure Recovery Construction Progress Map. All works will be completed prior to the funding deadline of 30 June 2019.

Consultation

This plan will be consulted with the local community, businesses, state government agencies the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and other stakeholders for comment before it is approved. It will be made available on the Scenic Rim Regional Council website and we welcome feedback through the points of contact listed at the bottom of this document at any time.

The Scenic Rim Local Recovery Group will track the progress of the plan and provide initially monthly, and then quarterly reports to the LDMG and Council. Community stakeholders will be offered the opportunity to contribute to these regular reports.

Importantly, we seek feedback from state government agencies and the Functional Recovery Groups on this plan. The plan requires we develop and maintain close working relationships and provide frank and robust feedback on the viability of our recovery objectives and the resources available to our community.

Governance

The Local Recovery Group will report on the progress of this plan to the LDMG and Council at appropriate meetings. Reports will be provided with recommendations for adapting and improving the plan where appropriate.

We will provide support to the Inspector General Emergency Management as his team assists us to learn and improve from this experience.

IGEM Recovery Review

On the 26 September 2017, core council members of Scenic Rim Local Recovery Group associated with 5 functional recovery lines, Local Recovery Coordinator and Disaster Management Coordinator participated in the IGEM Recovery review, to efficacy of recovery governance and assessment of gaps contributing to local level recovery planning and community outcomes.

These findings will be used to assist the over recovery capability to the State and further develop the recovery function for the Scenic Rim Local Recovery Group.

QRA Recovery Capability Development Project

On the 23 March 2018, again council core members of the Scenic Rim Local Recovery Group contributed to the initial stage of the QRA Recovery Capability Development Project. This project, driven by QRA has been developed to partner and build on existing capabilities and identify strategies and actions that will build recovery capability at the local level.

Outcomes of this project include;

- Increase confidence in Queensland that impacted individuals, communities and businesses will be helped back on track,
- Building on existing recovery approaches that recognise communities are best placed to design and implement local plans that meet their own needs, including improved community engagement for recovery operations and planning,
- Improved recovery operations coordination and planning processes at the local and district levels,
- Improved recovery governance, including reporting processes and integration of state agencies in local and district recovery groups.

The project has been developed in stages with;

Stage 1: Initial Engagement

Stage 2: Training and Exercise Package Development

Stage 3: Training and Exercise Delivery (complete by 30 June 2018)

Communication Strategy

Key messages: Our key recovery messages are:

Scenic Rim is a robust and resilient community. We help each other out in tough times and assist our neighbours in their recovery.

Scenic Rim is a beautiful tourist destination. Our unique location just an hour from Brisbane and the Gold Coast make us an ideal getaway location.

Scenic Rim will learn from this experience. We will come back stronger and more prepared for future events

Our regional economy relies upon good roads to provide access to our rural producers, natural attractions and tourist operators. As such we prioritise the recovery and reopening of this infrastructure and natural attractions.

Scenic Rim produces the highest quality fresh foods, highlighted during our flagship 'Eat Local' Week in June each year.

Method of dissemination

Information will be distributed out to the community via below resources.

- Local Papers
- Internet – Council website and social media sources.
- Local Magazines/bulletins
- State papers
- Tourism websites, booklets

Local Disaster Management Plan

This plan, and the lessons learned by the LDMG from the ex-STC Debbie response will inform the review and revision of the Scenic Rim Local Disaster Management Plan. An annual review required with Queensland Inspector General Emergency Management.

Points Of Contact

The points of contact for this Local Recovery Action Plan are as follows:

Scenic Rim Regional Council Contact details

By Phone

(07) 5540 5111 or 1300 360 555

In person

Beaudesert Administration Centre - 82 Brisbane St,

Other methods can be found: <http://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/contact-us>

Debra Moore

A/Local Recovery Coordinator

Manager Community and Culture , Scenic Rim Regional Council

Alisa Totenhofer

Disaster Management Coordinator

Scenic Rim Regional Council

Annexures

Annexure A Recovery Objectives Tracking Register

Annexure B Council Infrastructure Flood Recovery Progress

Related Documents

- Scenic Rim Regional Council Recovery "Plan on a page":
- <http://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/dm-plans-and-documents>
- Scenic Rim Disaster Management and Recovery Sub Plan:
<http://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/dm-plans-and-documents>
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority, State Recovery Plan:
<http://qldreconstruction.org.au/resilience-and-recovery>
- Beaudesert Shire Planning Scheme 2007
- DRAFT Scenic Rim Planning Scheme
- Available Flood studies
- Resilient Rivers Catchment Management Strategy
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries processes
- Gold Coast Commonwealth Games tourism and marketing strategy
- Local Government Procurement Guidelines
- Queensland State Infrastructure Plan
- Healthy Land and Water
- Queensland Local Government Guidelines for Volunteer Management
- DMO forums on Volunteer Management
- Scenic Rim Local Disaster Management Plan
- Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements