



HINCHINBROOK
SHIRE COUNCIL

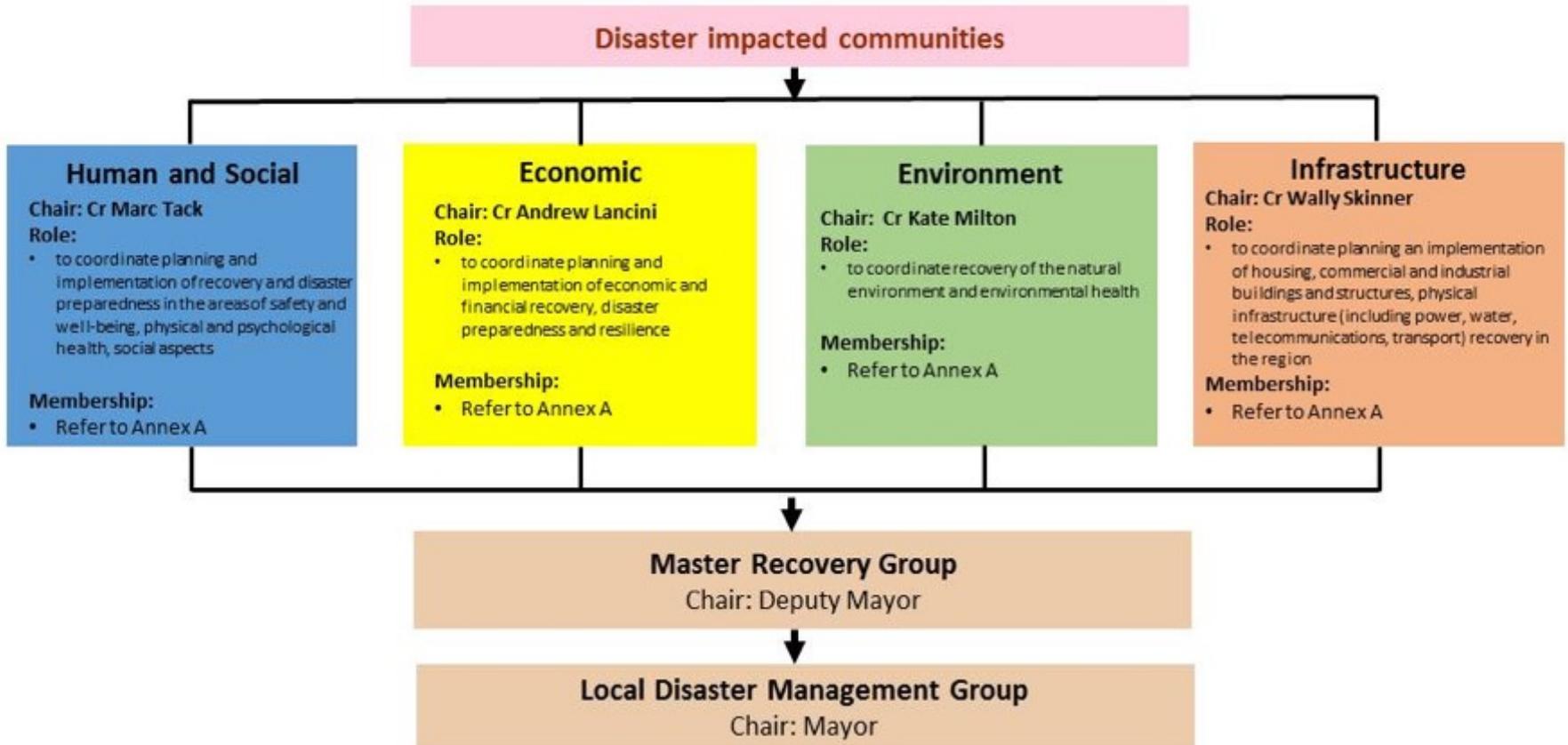
Community Recovery Forum

Presenter: Cr Mary Brown



Overview of Recovery Structure

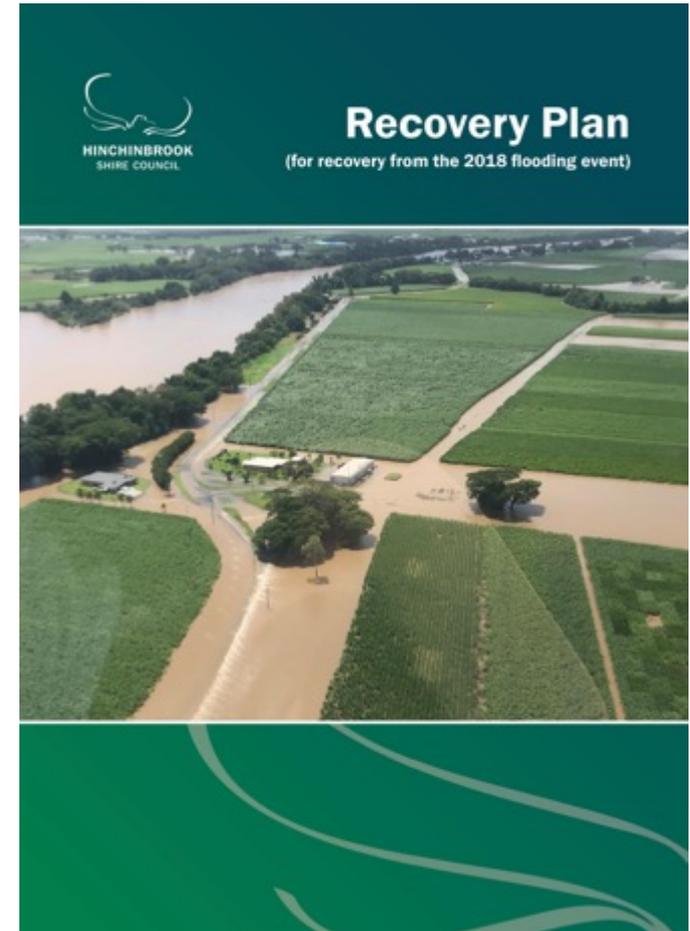
Recovery arrangements



Recovery Plan

- The Recovery Plan aims to provide the structure for a locally-led recovery approach that will assist disaster-impacted members of the community to recover quickly, effectively and remain sustainable. It also aims to incorporate development strategies within this recovery to enhance the resilience of all sectors of the community for subsequent disaster events.

The Recovery Plan is available on the Hinchinbrook Shire Council website, *Flood Recovery* page.



Plan on a page

Hinchinbrook Shire Council Local Recovery Plan

Mission:

To shape a positive future for the Hinchinbrook community by understanding community needs and wants, building on our inherent strengths, recognising and maximising opportunities and facing our challenges head on.

Values:

- To be a responsive Local Government, which includes:
 - Learning, understanding and then acting in the best interests of the community
 - Working collaboratively with others to add value to the wider community agenda
 - Valuing our past, celebrating our successes and learning from our experiences
 - Embracing our future, its opportunities and challenges
- To be a responsible Local Government, which includes:
 - Delivering strong, meaningful leadership in and for our community
 - Influencing the State and Federal agendas
 - Being good managers of community assets
 - Demonstrating good governance, fiscal responsibility, and thoughtful consideration for the long term outcomes of our decisions.

RECOVERY NARRATIVE

Vision:

- Be a Welcoming and Inclusive Community
- Be a Place of Growing Opportunity
- Be a Learning and Creative Community
- Undertake a strategic approach for a Sustainable Environment
- Have Developed Constructive and Inclusive Partnerships



HINCHINBROOK
SHIRE COUNCIL



Mayor:
Cr Malcolm Jago



Deputy Mayor:
Cr Mary Brown



CEO:
Dan McKinnay

Local Recovery:

Established – 9 March 2018 (during first flood event and continued to operate during second flood event which occurred in late March 2018).

Local Recovery Coordinator – Deputy Mayor, Cr Mary Brown.

Four sub-groups: Human and Social; Economic; Environment; Infrastructure.

Key Stakeholders: Hinchinbrook Shire Council residents and businesses, community groups, primary producers, Non-Government Organisations, Non-Government Agencies, state and federal agencies and authorities and other connected parties.

DAMAGE AND IMPACTS

Human and Social

- Relatively small number of households inundated, however, the impact on those individuals and families has been very traumatic.
- 251 properties were assessed with moderate damage and above. Of the 251 properties, 17 were assessed as severe and 1 property (house boat) was destroyed.
- All education facilities across the shire closed. All early childhood education and care services within Ingham were closed, including home based child care providers.
- Longer term psychosocial impacts to community will be monitored.
- Access to Ingham Hospital interrupted by flood water – transport assistance provided by SES, emergency services and aviation assets enabled operational continuity.
- Ingham town split in two due to Palm Creek flooding – north and south isolated, additional Emergency personnel required to be positioned on both sides.
- Significant percentage of community members isolated for 8 days over both events.
- Approximately 4 households required temporary accommodation.

Economic

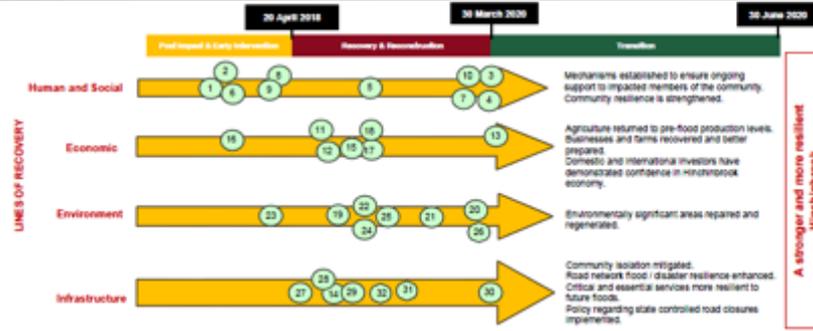
- Approximately 75% of cane farm and other agriculture land inundated.
- Assessment of cane crop production and other agriculture losses continues.
- Tourism businesses reporting very high percentage lost bookings.
- Approximately 50% of all businesses negatively impacted by inundation.
- Significant loss of momentum in business attraction and confidence – several businesses identifying consideration of closing down.
- Businesses reporting up to 8 days and estimated \$1.5M lost trade due to both events – raised need for funding for extended and ongoing business support.

Environment

- Soil erosion and loss of topsoil on river banks – to date 20 properties reported very significant washouts and land slips.
- Sediment build up in the Herbert River continuing to cause increased flooding impacts particularly in the Lower Herbert communities and agricultural areas.
- Debris built up in streams and rivers exacerbating flooding in surrounding properties.
- 251 tonnes of green and hard waste generated.

Infrastructure

- Bruss Highway closed north Ingham to Cardwell and Ingham South to Townsville for several days over each flood event – contributing significantly to increased negative economic impact to business community.
- Rail services ceased between Townsville and Cairns.
- Wilmar Sugar Mill cane rail and bridge network significantly impacted – over \$1M repair bill.
- Numerous local roads closed for extended periods of time until cleared of debris.
- Roads damaged by floodwaters, impacting on community connectivity.
- Wallaman Falls Road (major tourism attraction) – land slip closing road for 10 days. Limited access after temporary repairs performed – major works to follow.
- NBN outage caused disruption to 543 homes – phone and internet connectivity.
- Damage to mailbox levels.
- Numerous locally owned private roads damaged.
- Significant damage to unsealed roads (\$10-million in estimated damage) – loss of formation and gravel lost down to subgrade in multiple locations.

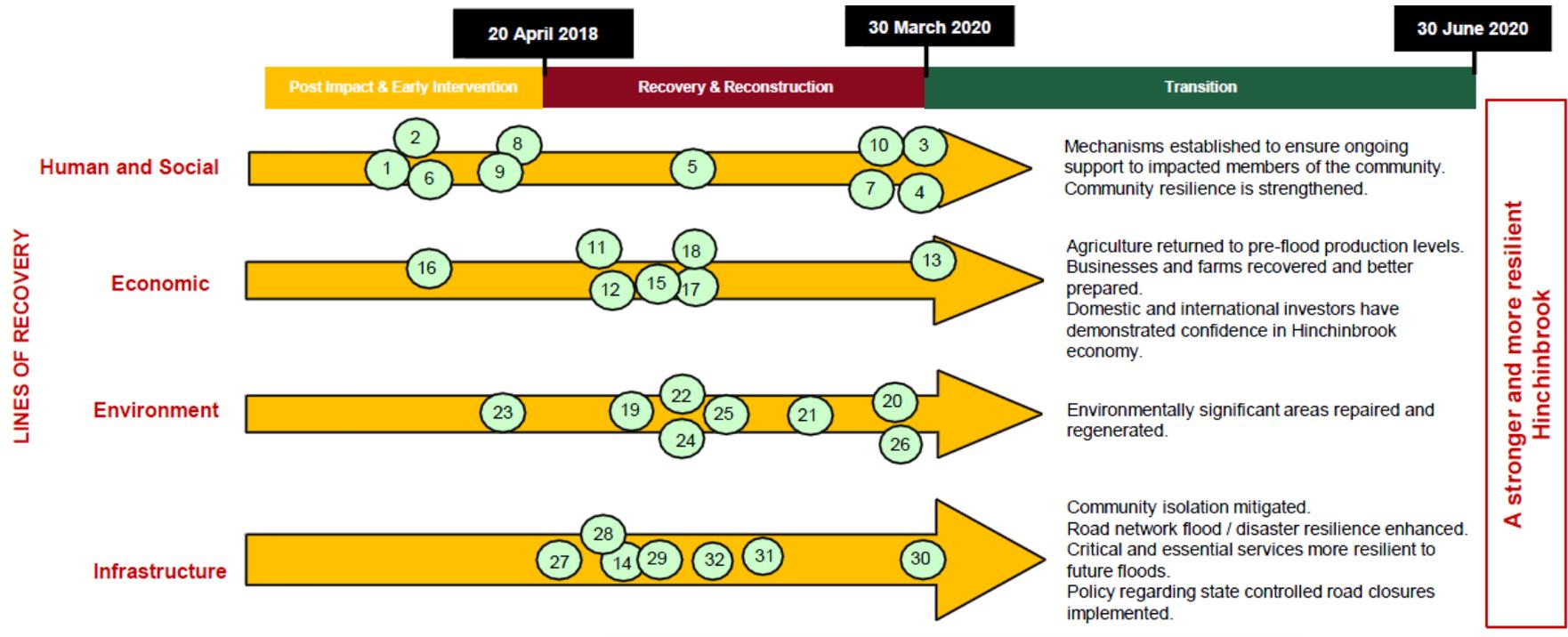


RECOVERY OBJECTIVES

- Community impact assessments completed.
- Impact assessments to community groups completed.
- Community engagement activities initiated to recovery completed.
- Community engagement activities related to recovery completed.
- Nursing care home based and residential care resources identified.
- Ingham temporary accommodation completed.
- Groups of assistance coordinated.
- Implementation and delivery of destination marketing plan to support tourism and local business.
- Seaside sheds cleaned.
- Provision of recovery information to community completed.
- Business impacts completed.
- Agriculture and aquaculture impacts completed.
- Clipboard Cairns program completed.
- Fire ready to Wallaman Falls completed.
- Residence Office supplies and Business Support Plan implemented.
- Chamber of Commerce assisted to conduct business information sessions.
- Assistance to address future issues for business by website design and models is sought.
- Information sessions on business continuity and preparing for disasters delivered.
- Damage assessments completed.
- Liability for State Government regarding flood inundations in Lower Herbert to support H&V activities.
- Sheds and shed management regarding flood inundations completed.
- Removal of debris from farms, farm drainage and cane farm tracks.
- Access to isolated businesses re-established.
- Green and demolition waste management completed.
- Fire and asset management completed.
- Waste consultation program in place.
- Road networks assessed.
- Structure assessments of private buildings completed.
- Cane farming – normal practices for road works completed for harvest season.
- Road network repaired.
- Review flood immunity of mailbox levels.
- Liability for construction of bridge to maintain connectivity between north and south Ingham completed.

A stronger and more resilient Hinchinbrook

Lines of Recovery



RECOVERY OBJECTIVES

1. Community impact assessments completed.
2. Impact assessments to community groups completed.
3. Community engagement in recovery completed.
4. Community development activities related to recovery completed.
5. Nursing care (home based) and residential care resources identified.
6. Ingham temporary accommodation completed.
7. Offers of assistance coordinated.
8. Implementation and delivery of destination marketing plan to support tourism and local business.
9. Sports fields cleaned.
10. Provision of recovery information to community completed.
11. Business impacts completed.
12. Agriculture and aquaculture impacts completed.
13. Operation Clean-up program completed.
14. Final repairs to Wallaman Falls completed.
15. Resilience Officer appointed and Business Support Plan implemented.
16. Chamber of Commerce assisted to conduct business information sessions.
17. Assistance to address future issues for business by potential delayed impacts is sought.
18. Information sessions on business continuity and preparing for disasters delivered.
19. Damage assessments completed.
20. Lobby for State Government regarding flood impediments in Lower Herbert to support HRIT activities.
21. Weed and pest management education projects delivered.
22. Removal of debris from farms, farm drainage and cane train tracks.
23. Access to isolated homesteads re-established.
24. Green and demolition waste management completed.
25. Pest and weed management completed.
26. Wildlife conservation program in place.
27. Road networks assessed.
28. Structural assessments of private dwellings completed.
29. Cane farming / Wilmar priorities for road works completed for harvest season.
30. Road networks repaired.
31. Review flood immunity of Halifax levee.
32. Lobby for construction of bridge to maintain connectivity between north and south Ingham completed.

Post Impact and Early Intervention

- Community Recovery Hub - Engagement and Recovery
- Reworked the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay Event to a 'bounce back' street party for the community
- Business Workshops
- Tourism Marketing Campaign



To achieve these objectives the immediate and extensive collaboration with local and State Government agencies was imperative.

Recovery and Reconstruction

- Funding for feasibility study for bridge for community connectivity



Community Resilience Officer

- Funding and appointment of a Business Community Resilience Officer for a 12 month term

With a focus on sustainability this role aligns with the objectives of Council's *Recovery Plan* and *Economic Development Strategy* which will be continued through Council's Economic Development Department.

Transition

- Acknowledgement that our district will always be regularly flood impacted
- Community Preparedness and Resilience
Ageing in Place Strategy and Committee
- Diversification away from reliance on a single industry economy
- Mitigate the impact of every event for the entire community

Questions?



Contact



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Deputy Mayor

Hinchinbrook Shire Council

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