



**SOUTHERN DOWNS
REGIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL
MEETING OF COUNCIL**

LATE AGENDA ITEMS
Wednesday, 19 February 2020

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

11.	CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS	1
11.4	2019-21 Works for Queensland Program Funding Variation	1
11.5	Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package..	5
11.6	Relocation of Rose City FM	8
12.	INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS	11
12.3	Water Restrictions	11
13.	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORTS	13
13.4	Updated Recovery and Resilience Plan: Stanthorpe Bushfires	13
17.	CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ITEMS	24
17.6	YMCA Monthly Report - January 2020 - Warwick Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Centre	24

11. CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

11.4 2019-21 Works for Queensland Program Funding Variation

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 19 February 2020
	Governance and Grants Officer Manager Corporate and Commercial Services	ECM Function No/s: 15.02 and 15.04

Recommendation

THAT Council submits the following variation request to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs for projects funded under the 2019-2021 Works for Queensland Funding Program:

- Relocate Warwick SES to the APRA building \$200,000
- Relocate Rose City FM to alternate location in Warwick \$250,000
- Withdrawal of Flight Training Hangar at Warwick Aerodrome \$310,000
- Upgrades to the WIRAC precinct \$300,000 (change of scope)
- Leyburn Amenities Upgrade \$140,000
- Warwick Bowls Club Recycled Water Access \$20,000
- Regional parks improvements – Apex Park, Allora \$75,000

Background Information

At the General Meeting held on 27 February 2019, Council resolved the following in relation to the 2019-2021 Works for Queensland Funding Program:

THAT Council submit the following list of projects (in order of priority) to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs for consideration from Council's \$2,870,000 allocation under the 2019-2021 Works for Queensland funding program:

1. *Relocate Warwick SES to APRA building & Rainbow FM to Warwick SES building & Woodcrafters & Service clubs - \$300,000*
2. *Warwick Men's Shed and Warwick Woodcrafters Stage Two – including landscaping and fencing - \$300,000*
3. *Maryvale Urban Design outcomes – implement high priority projects - \$170,000*
4. *Leyburn Urban Design outcomes – streetscape & enhance Sprints precinct - \$125,000*
5. *Construction of Dagg's Falls Lookout, Killarney - \$300,000*
6. *Regional parks improvements – including shade, soft-fall and play equipment with village parks the priority - \$75,000*
7. *Sealing gravel section of Darcy Street, Stanthorpe - \$90,000*
8. *Construction of Mini Golf facility at WIRAC – Stage One - \$300,000*
9. *Construction of a Learn to Ride Park at Australiana Park, Warwick - \$300,000*
10. *Condamine River Walkway Stage Two - \$300,000*
11. *Sealing Link Rd from Brunckhorst Avenue to Wallangarra Road, Stanthorpe - \$300,000*
12. *Warwick Laneway Public Art – Town Hall - \$50,000*
13. *Flight Training Hangar at Warwick Aerodrome \$310,000.*

Report

Since the submission of the funding application as per Council's 27 February 2019 resolution, a number of variations to the approved projects have occurred which requires various amendments with the funding body, detailed as follows:

Amended Projects

Relocate Rose City FM to alternate location \$250,000

Originally this project encompassed the relocation of both SES and Rose City FM (formerly known as Rainbow FM) with the total \$300,000 attributed to complete the works. In order to simplify the management of these two projects, they have been separated into individual projects.

During the consultation and investigation phase with Rose City FM, the suggested building refurbishments required for relocation were determined to be an unviable option, due to the costs involved.

It is proposed to submit a variation request to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to include this project separately to the value of \$250,000.

Relocate Warwick SES to APRA building \$200,000

At the Council Meeting on 18 December 2019, Council awarded a tender for the construction costs for relocating the Warwick SES to the APRA building to the value of \$193,700. It is proposed to allocate \$200,000 of the 2019-21 Works for Qld funding for this project to allow contingencies.

It is proposed to submit a variation request to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to include this project separately to the value of \$200,000.

Construction of Mini Golf Facility at WIRAC \$300,000

Following the tender process for the construction of the Mini Golf, it was apparent that the construction costs were well in excess of the \$300,000 funding allocated. It is proposed to alter the project scope (mini golf) to focus the project on upgrades to the WIRAC precinct. This project is currently in the scoping phase with specific project details to be determined.

It is recommended that this funding remains allocated to WIRAC and further information will be presented once project designs have progressed.

Withdrawn Project

Flight Training Hangar at Warwick Aerodrome \$310,000

Following the tender process for the construction of the hangar, it was apparent that the construction costs were well in excess of the \$310,000 funding allocation. It is therefore proposed to withdraw this project from the 2019-21 Works for Qld funding.

At the General Meeting of Council held on 27 November 2019 Council approved the allocation of capital funding from the building reserves and added to Council's 2019/20 budget for the purchase of Lot 7 on SP287028. This has been provided for through the second quarter budget review.

New Projects

Leyburn Amenities Upgrade \$140,000

The Leyburn Amenities Upgrade project is proposed after being assessed as a high priority for the Leyburn community following community engagement as part of the Leyburn Urban Design

Framework. The amenities are well used for community events and by the general public and require upgrades (including the sewerage system).

It is proposed to submit a variation request to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to include this project to the value of \$140,000.

Warwick Bowls Club Recycled Water Access \$20,000

The Warwick Bowls Club Recycled Water Access project is proposed due to an emergent need by the club to access low cost water for the upkeep of their greens. Currently, the Bowls Club is paying for potable water and wish to reduce their costs by gaining access to Council’s recycled water scheme. This project is estimated to cost \$20,000.

It is proposed to submit a variation request to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to include this project to the value of \$20,000.

Regional parks improvements – including shade, soft-fall and play equipment with village parks the priority \$75,000

The regional park location originally proposed for shade improvements was Kilpa Street, Stanthorpe playground. During the project scoping phase, Council staff have determined that the approved works at Kilpa Street (Stanthorpe) playground (both the infant and larger playground) are not the ideal location for a shade sail installation (at this stage) as the larger playground is already heavily shaded by significant trees and both playground equipment’s are nearing the end of its useful life. The finding of the playground equipment lifespan was provided in a playground audit report completed July 2019.

The Manager of Parks and Operations has provided information surrounding an alternative project at Apex Park, Allora which has been identified as a shovel ready project. This site is currently one of the locations which has a dump point for caravan tourism and staff have identified works necessary to the septic system which require rectification. Other improvements to this site include updating the BBQ and rotunda area.

It is proposed to submit a variation request to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to include this project to the value of \$75,000.

Conclusion

The following summary of changes to 2019-21 Works for Qld funding projects are proposed:

Project name	Current funding allocation	Proposed funding allocation
Relocate Warwick SES to APRA building & Rainbow FM to Warwick SES building	\$300,000	See split below
Relocate Warwick SES to APRA building	\$0	\$200,000
Relocate Rose City FM	\$0	\$250,000
Flight Training Hangar at Warwick Aerodrome	\$310,000	\$0
Leyburn Amenities upgrade	\$0	\$140,000
Warwick Bowls Club Recycled Water Access	\$0	\$20,000
Regional Parks Improvements	\$75,000	\$75,000
Construction of Mini Golf Facility at WIRAC	\$300,000	\$0
upgrades to the WIRAC precinct	\$0	\$300,000
Total	\$985,000	\$985,000

Budget Implications

Council has been allocated \$2,870,000 under the 2019-21 Works for Queensland Program - \$2,870,000. No financial contributions from Council are required unless the project costs exceed the overall funding allocations.

Policy Consideration

Corporate Plan 2019-2024, Prosper - 3.5 Identify new external revenue sources, including grants, to fund regional infrastructure and services.

Community Engagement

Nil

Legislation/Local Law

All projects must be completed in accordance with applicable laws, including normal procurement practices.

Options

THAT Council:

1. Submits the following variation request to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs for projects funded under the 2019-2021 Works for Queensland Funding Program:
 - Relocate Warwick SES to the APRA building \$200,000
 - Relocate Rose City FM to alternate location in Warwick \$250,000
 - Withdrawal of Flight Training Hangar at Warwick Aerodrome \$310,000
 - Upgrades to the WIRAC precinct \$300,000 (change of scope)
 - Leyburn Amenities Upgrade \$140,000
 - Warwick Bowls Club Recycled Water Access \$20,000
 - Regional parks improvements – Apex Park, Allora \$75,000
2. Submits a variation request to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs to request alternative project changes.
3. Does not submit a variation request to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs for the 2019-2021 Works for Queensland funding.

Attachments

Nil

11.5 Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 19 February 2020
	Manager Corporate and Commercial Services	ECM Function No/s: 15.02, 15.04

Recommendation

THAT Council submit applications for the following projects to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority under the Bushfire Recovery Funding Programme with a total value of \$1,300,000:

1. Water Tank Rebate for Rural Landowners **(\$1,050,000)**;
2. Installation of Water Storage Facilities and Equipment to support regional firefighting efforts in locations identified with the Southern Downs region by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services **(\$100,000)**;
3. Drought and Bushfire Regional Readiness Plan (inclusive of an adverse events plan) **(\$50,000)**;
4. Through an expressions of interest process, allocation of funding to regional community and sporting organisations to undertake improvements to community facilities including halls and clubhouses, that increases resilience in preparation for future adverse events **(\$100,000)**.

Report

Following the announcement of the Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package of \$1m in early January 2020, at the Special Council Meeting held on 14 January 2020, Council resolved the following:

That Council:

1. *Extends its appreciation to the Federal Government for the Bushfire Recovery Funding Programme.*
2. *Seek feedback from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development on the eligibility of the following projects under the Bushfire Recovery Funding Programme:*
 - a. *Water Tank Rebates for rural landowners (not connected to any reticulated water supply).*
 - b. *Creation of a fire break master plan that identifies future fire breaks and addresses construction and maintenance of additional fire breaks within the region.*
 - c. *Drought and bushfire regional readiness plan (inclusive of the adverse event plan)*

d. Expressions of interest from regional community and sporting organisations to undertake maintenance to community facilities including halls, clubhouses etc.

Following this resolution, Council sought feedback from the funding administering body, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, regarding these proposed projects and received a response on 6 February 2020 confirming all projects listed above are eligible.

On 12 February 2020, Council received notification from a representative of the National Bushfire Recovery Agency about additional funds being available, \$17 million of which is to be disbursed between specific Councils. Southern Downs has been selected as one of the Councils to receive a portion of this funding, with confirmation that an additional \$300,000 funding allocation will be delivered under the Bushfire Recovery Funding Programme. This is in addition to the \$1 million allocation as previously advised.

It is proposed to attribute this additional funding to the Water Tank Rebate for Rural Landowners, making the value allocated to this project \$1,050,000. The eligibility criteria for the water tank rebate will be developed and communicated to the community in due course.

Fire Break Master Plan/Water storage for firefighting purpose

The initial intent of Council for this project was to develop a fire break master plan that identifies future fire breaks and addresses construction and maintenance of additional fire breaks within the region. Following consultation with representatives from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) the following has been advised:

- QFES has a Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan and associated bushfire maps which are reviewed yearly;
- QFES consults yearly with local rural fire brigades within the region, Council and the community to ascertain where possible new fire breaks/trails are needed and/or maintenance required;
- The data collected through this consultation is collated into a report and QFES assess and make recommendations for new/existing or removal of fire breaks;
- This information is then provided to Council who work with QFES to maintain the fire trails and implement new ones, where recommended;
- The fire trails are currently mapped on Council's GIS system IntraMaps and are regularly updated when new information is provided by QFES;
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife have their own records and maintain their own fire trails as per their work requirements and protocols. This information is publicly available and Council's Disaster Management Coordinator is in the process of obtaining the required GIS information in order to include this information in Council's IntraMaps software;
- Council applies for funding on a yearly basis to support the maintenance and implementation of fire trails throughout the region.

Due to the level of plans and processes currently in place by QFES it is recommended that this project is no longer required.

Through discussions with QFES another proposed project that was discussed, which would be beneficial to QFES as well as supporting community resilience, is the installation of water tanks in strategic locations within the region to support regional firefighting efforts. The recent bushfires highlighted that a gap in having accessible water in multiple locations was as an area for improvement. The installation of multiple firefighting water tanks strategically placed throughout the region would reduce QFES wait times in fire events. QFES has suggested that would like to increase water storage capacity at the following locations Braeside, Charlie's Gully, Top Swanfels, South Branch/Whites Road, Pyramids Road and the Sundown area.

This solution would allow for water trucks to fill up water tanks in known locations throughout the year as well as during the fire season and/or any future events. QFES have already identified several proposed locations for these tanks as part of their post event reviews.

Given the current arrangement and issues outlined above, it is therefore proposed to consider redirecting the funds proposed to be allocated for the fire master plan and construction of fire breaks project to the installation of multiple water tanks for firefighting purposes in strategic locations within the region.

Budget Implications

Council has been allocated \$1,300,000 under the Bushfire Recovery Funding Programme with no contribution required of Council.

Policy Consideration

Corporate Plan 2019-2024, Prosper - 3.5 Identify new external revenue sources, including grants, to fund regional infrastructure and services.

Community Engagement

Nil

Legislation/Local Law

All funding will be expended in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy which reflects the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Options

Council submit applications for the following projects to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority under the Bushfire Recovery Funding Programme with a total value of \$1,300,000:

1. Water Tank Rebate for Rural Landowners (\$1,050,000);
2. Installation of Water Storage Facilities and Equipment to support regional firefighting efforts in locations identified with the Southern Downs region by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (\$100,000);
3. Drought and Bushfire Regional Readiness Plan (inclusive of an adverse events plan) (\$50,000);
4. Through an expressions of interest process, allocation of funding to regional community and sporting organisations to undertake improvements to community facilities including halls and clubhouses, that increases resilience in preparation for future adverse events (\$100,000).
5. Determines alternative projects for consideration.

Attachments

Nil

11.6 Relocation of Rose City FM

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 19 February 2020
	Leasing Compliance Officer Manager Corporate and Commercial Services	ECM Function No/s: 05.18.05

Recommendation

THAT Council approve the relocation of Rose City FM to Queens Park, Warwick, as identified in the attached map.

Report

At the General Meeting held on 27 February 2019 Council resolved to relocate Rose City FM from Council's Willi St complex to the Australian Professional Rodeo Association Inc. (APRA) building in conjunction with the SES relocation. This project has allocated funding under the 2019-2021 Works for Queensland funding program.

Council Officers have undertaken consultation and investigations into relocating Rose City FM, it has been determined that the relocation into the APRA building was not a viable option to the cost involved.

Discussions have been held with Rose City FM in regards to potential locations. The potential sites in Warwick are Victoria Park, Barnes Park and Queens Park, with the latter two the preferred options.

Both Barnes and Queens Parks are Reserves for the purpose of Recreation. The Department of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy (DNRME) has been consulted and the Department has no objections to either of these locations being used as a location for Rose City FM. Planning approval is required for all sites. A radio broadcasting station is defined as a Telecommunications facility under the Southern Downs Planning Scheme. All options are within the Community facilities zone, and therefore such a development would be impact assessable; meaning public notification would be required.

Rose City FM has expressed their preference for the Queens Park location. This site is adjacent to both water and wastewater services and power is in close proximity. While the estimated 100 year flood level is nearby the proposed location, the risk of inundation is minimal and Council staff will liaise with the builder to design the building elevation to further reduce any potential flooding risk.

Council officers have obtained preliminary plans and an estimate of costs for the construction of a building to suit the purposes of Rose City FM and these estimates are within the allocated budget.

Budget Implications

A separate report to Council details the proposal to allocate funding under the 2019-21 Works for Queensland Program for this project. No financial contributions from Council are required unless the project costs exceed the overall funding allocations.

Policy Consideration

Corporate Plan 2019-2024, Prosper - 3.5 Identify new external revenue sources, including grants, to fund regional infrastructure and services.

Community Engagement

Council staff have engaged with representatives from Rose City FM regarding this project.

Legislation/Local Law

All projects must be completed in accordance with applicable laws, including normal procurement practices.

Options

Council:

1. Approve the relocation of Rose City FM to Queens Park, Warwick, as identified in the attached map.
2. Approve the relocation of Rose City FM to an alternative location, as advised by Council.
3. Do not approve the relocation of Rose City FM.

Attachments

1. Queens Park - Location of potential area [↓](#)

12. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS

12.3 Water Restrictions

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 19 February 2020
	Manager Water	ECM Function No/s:

Recommendation

THAT Council adopt one of the following options for water restrictions to be implemented from 19 February 2020:

1. Remain at current emergency water restriction of 80 litres per person per day; or
2. Remain at critical water restrictions of 100 litres per person per day; or
3. Remain at extreme water restrictions of 120 litres per person per day; or
4. Consider another water restriction regime.

Report

Due to prolonged dry weather across the Southern Downs, water restrictions have been progressively applied across the region to ensure continuation of water supply. Council moved to emergency water restrictions of 80 litres/person/day from the commencement of water carting to Stanthorpe in December 2019.

Recent rain has restored the water level in Leslie dam to 18.4%. This level of water supply provides a drinking water supply to Warwick, Allora and Yangan until mid-2022. Connolly Dam has also received significant inflow and water supply to Stanthorpe (if required under current carting arrangements) is available until early 2022. Whilst Storm King Dam level is still low (under three months' supply), water supply in other parts of the region such as Wallangarra has also been replenished with recent rain.

Considering the above factors of restored dam capacity, current weather forecast for the next three months and to ensure flow through the water systems to assist in water quality improvements in the distribution network, it is proposed that Council may consider a relaxation of the current emergency level water restrictions to one of the following options;

1. Region wide return to critical level (100 l/p/d) water restrictions.
2. Region wide return to extreme level (120 l/p/d) water restrictions.
3. Another water restriction regime.

Businesses are required to ensure they continue to undertake water saving measures and are encouraged to contact council for assistance with water conservation practices.

Council practices will remain as they have throughout the drought period; whereby alternative water sources such as recycle and raw water will continue to be utilised for Council operations including road construction and maintenance and watering of gardens.

Budget Implications

Loss of revenue from continued reduced water usage across the region.

Policy Consideration

Corporate Plan 4.7: Develop and implement a water security strategy that secures a sustainable, reliable water supply for the region.

Community Engagement

Media releases will be required to notify the community of the amended water restrictions.

Legislation/Local Law

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008.

Options

Council adopt one of the following options for water restrictions to be implemented from 19 February 2020:

1. Remain at current emergency water restriction of 80 litres per person per day; or
2. Remain at critical water restrictions of 100 litres per person per day; or
3. Remain at extreme water restrictions of 120 litres per person per day; or
4. Consider another water restriction regime.

Attachments

Nil

13. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

13.4 Updated Recovery and Resilience Plan: Stanthorpe Bushfires

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: General Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 19 February 2020
	Director Sustainable Development	ECM Function No/s: 09.11

Recommendation

THAT Council endorse the updated Recovery and Resilience Plan for the Stanthorpe Bushfire Event to include the Eastern Queensland Bushfire event and note that the Local Disaster Management Group has also formally endorsed the document.

Report

This report presents to Council the updated Recovery and Resilience Plan for the Stanthorpe Bushfires which now includes data associated with the Easter Queensland Bushfire event.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) is responsible for the Queensland Recovery Plan, and event-specific state recovery plans with support from the Functional Recovery Groups.

Local Recovery Plans and event specific plans are the responsibility of local governments with support from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA). Recovery plans are generally associated with one disaster event, in this case the Stanthorpe Bushfires; however the plan has been updated to include the Eastern Queensland Bushfire event. A Local Recovery Plan provides a snapshot of the impact a region has received, the lines of recovery undertaken and the objectives across recovery groups: Human and Social; Economic; Environment; and Infrastructure and Buildings.

Since September 2019 the region has been widely affected by bushfires, with a series of fires affecting communities and environments such as:

- Stanthorpe
- Ballandean
- Tregony
- Swanfels
- The Gap
- Main Range
- Maryvale

At a recent January 2020 meeting held with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and representatives of Council, the impacts of droughts, and bushfires across the region was discussed. It was also noted at this meeting, there was an opportunity to amend the existing recovery plan to incorporate the range of bushfires that have occurred and had an impact on the region since September 2019. The recovery plan is able to be utilised to inform applications for funding and assist in directing recovery efforts.

To this end, a workshop was held on the 30 January 2020 attended by the Recovery Coordinator from the QRA and all Chairs and Co-Chairs of the recovery subgroups. The purpose of the workshop was to update the existing recovery and resilience plan to include the Eastern Queensland Bushfire event. A copy of the updated plan is attached to this report.

This plan was submitted to the LDMG for approval and endorsement prior to being tabled with Southern Downs Regional Council, as per the requirements of the Local Disaster Management Plan. The recovery process consists of both short term and longer term actions. It is anticipated the short term phase will conclude in the coming week, with a transition towards longer term initiatives.

Budget Implications

Any disaster response and recovery process incurs operational and budgetary impacts. Some costs are recoverable and all steps will be taken where possible to recuperate Council funding. Recovery processes may also result in some ongoing costs and human resourcing requirements. Care is being taken to record expenditure and resourcing implications. The Recovery plan can also be used to help secure alternative sources of revenue.

Policy Consideration

The development of Local Recovery and Resilience Plans are a requirement of Queensland Government disaster responses.

Community Engagement

The development of the Recovery and Resilience Plan was founded on extensive community engagement with relevant stakeholders, government departments and local community associations and groups. All engagement was conducted as part of the five Recovery Subgroups Environment, Economic, Human and Social, Buildings, and Infrastructure. These sub groups will continue to meet quarterly and implement the recovery plan.

Legislation/Local Law

Queensland Disaster Management Act 2003
Queensland State Disaster Management Plan
Queensland Disaster Management 2016 Strategic Policy Statement 2016

The Southern Downs Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group: Southern Downs Local Disaster Management Plan 2019

Options

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the updated Recovery and Resilience Plan for the Stanthorpe Bushfire Event to include the Eastern Queensland Bushfire event and note that the Local Disaster Management Group has also formally endorsed the document.
2. Does not endorse the updated Recovery and Resilience Plan for the Stanthorpe Bushfire Event to include the Eastern Queensland Bushfire event.

Attachments

1. Updated - Recovery & Resilience Plan [↓](#)



Recovery Narrative

About our community

The Southern Downs Regional Council area is located in South East Queensland, about 160 kilometres south-west of the Brisbane CBD. The Southern Downs Regional Council area is bounded by the Toowoomba Regional Council area and the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area in the north, the Scenic Rim Regional Council in the north-east, the New South Wales border in the south-east and south, and the Goondivindi Regional Council area in the west. The Southern Downs region has a land area of 7122km², a population of 35,601 (2018) and a density of 0.05 persons per hectare. It was created in 2008 from a merger of the Shire of Warwick and the Shire of Stanthorpe. The original inhabitants of the Southern Downs area are the Githabul and Kambuwal people.

The Southern Downs Regional Council area is predominantly rural, with numerous small townships. The largest townships are Warwick and Stanthorpe, with smaller townships at Allora, Killarney, Wallangarra and Yangan. The Council area encompasses a total land area of about 7100km². Rural land is used largely for agriculture, particularly sheep and cattle grazing, orcharding, and vegetable and grain growing. Forestry and viticulture are also important industries.

Key features of the Council area include Girraween National Park, Main Range National Park, Sundown National Park, Mount Dumaesq Conservation Park, Morgan Park Regional Park, numerous wineries, Australian Rodeo Heritage Centre, Glengallan Homestead & Heritage Centre, Southern Downs Steam Railway, Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, Warwick Art Gallery, Pringle Cottage, Connolly Dam, Glenlyon Dam, Leslie Dam, Storm King Dam, and various state forests.

The Southern Downs local government area has been drought declared which has substantially impacted residents. In September 2019, the Southern Queensland Bushfires impacted communities across the Southern Downs, specifically Stanthorpe, Applethorpe, and Ballandean. Over 3,000 hectares of land was impacted, with a larger number of rural residential landholders directly affected in these bushfires with damage to houses, fences, farm sheds and other infrastructure. Several horticulture enterprises sustained significant damage to crops, cool rooms, irrigation and water supply infrastructure, tree and vine crops, along with a significant amount of hail netting and fencing. Communities around Swanfels, Maryvale, Tregony, Upper Freestone and Emu Vale were impacted by the Eastern Queensland Bushfires in November 2019. An estimated 50,000 hectares of agricultural land was destroyed/damaged, primary producers lost stock and there was significant damage to infrastructure, including many hundreds of kilometres of fencing.

Council and vision statement

Our recovery will be founded on a collective, community led approach, enabled by inclusive communication and partnerships. Our approach will be to ensure the Stanthorpe and Granite Belt communities are able to improve capacity, grow and prosper to enhance community resilience. The Southern Downs Recovery and Resilience Plan was endorsed by Southern Downs Regional Council on 19 February 2020.

Council values

- Success
- Determination
- Resilience
- Commitment

Recovery and Resilience Group

Established: Monday 9 September 2019
Chaired by: Cr Jo McNally, Deputy Mayor Southern Downs Regional Council

Recovery and Resilience Taskforces

- Human and Social
- Economic
- Environment and Water
- Infrastructure and Roads and Transport
- Buildings

Key stakeholders

Lead state government agencies, community groups, non-government organisations/non-government associations, local businesses and trader associations, service providers and other invested parties. Stakeholders included the following to name but a few, Southern Downs Regional Council, Southern Downs region community members, Australian Red Cross, Lifeline, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Department of Housing and Public Works, Queensland Health, Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, Queensland Police Service, Rural Fire Services Queensland, State Emergency Services, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, GIVIT, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Ambulance Service, Department of Environment and Science, Department of Education and Ergon Energy.

Recovery and resilience themes

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

Damage and Impacts

Human and Social

- Community wellbeing - experiencing lasting effects of the Region's most severe drought, compounded by the bushfire impacts.
- Community wellbeing – short-term evacuations of Stanthorpe, Applethorpe, Ballandean and Thulimbah communities – 135 people in Stanthorpe evacuation centre, 185 people in Leslie Dam evacuation centre and 12 people in emergency accommodation in Warwick.
- Community wellbeing – residents not able to return to the areas of Happy Valley, Glenlyon Drive, Nelson Crescent, McLeod Court for an extended period of time **due to bushfires / road closures**
- Community wellbeing/mental health – pockets of acute disadvantage presented at Recovery Hub
- Community wellbeing – psychosocial wellbeing of individuals / families affected.
- Community wellbeing – psychosocial wellbeing of Killarney community members as a result of 25,000 litres town water supply being used by QFES for fire suppression across Cunningham's Gap – reduced quantity of water available for community use.
- Community wellbeing - Two people injured by vehicle and taken to hospital.
- Isolation – land owners unable to return to their properties in the area west of the New England Highway, between Arico and Matthews Lane in the north and Plant Lane in the south.
- Isolation for children due to school closures - Amiens, Applethorpe, Ballandean, Dalveen, Pozieres, Stanthorpe, The Summit and Thulimbah State Schools; Stanthorpe High School and St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe – closed for 2-3 days. Decrease of 23 per cent in school enrolments across the region.
- Essential Services - loss of power and water to affected communities.
- Community Engagement – postponement of Chamber of Commerce awards events in Warwick and Stanthorpe.
- Community Engagement – challenging community dynamic due to de-amalgamation process.
- Community strength and willingness to support each other, donate and help others in need.
- Public health concerns – increase in presentations of respiratory related illnesses at local hospitals and health services due to reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.
- Public health concerns – decrease in attendance at community events due to reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.
- **[insert number of people] evacuated from Spicers Peak Lodge on [insert date].**
- **Increased burden on Council funding resources through requests for event funding and increased urban design planning processes required to support communities in recovery.**

Economic

- Loss of income to community members due to forced weekend closures of small businesses.
- Loss of income to community members due to evacuations.
- **Increased financial burden to community members – reports of community members not being able to work due to respiratory illnesses associated with reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.**
- **Increased financial burden to community members having to care for family members experiencing respiratory illnesses associated with reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.**

- **extended periods due to respiratory illnesses associated with reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.**
- **Increased financial burden to community members – having to purchase additional medication due to respiratory illnesses associated with reduced air quality as a result of bushfire smoke.**
- **Increased financial burden to community members as a result of having to replace tank water due to continued effects of ash and fire suppressant on water supply quality due to smoke generated from bushfires.**
- **Increased financial burden to community members due to loss of employment as a result of businesses closing due to impacts associated with bushfires.**
- **Increased financial burden to primary producers due to loss of feed – 50,000 hectares of agricultural land lost as a result of bushfires around Swanfels, Tregony, Upper Freestone, Emu Vale and Maryvale.**
- **Loss of income/profits to landholders across the region – water allocated against pre-existing commercial agreements (private water licenses) used by QFES for fire fighting purposes.**
- **Loss of income/profits for local suppliers due to donations of goods to the region.**
- **Loss of income/profits to McDonalds and Caltex service station due to loss of power and burst water main.**
- **Loss of income/profits to specific businesses along the New England Highway such as Gap Creek Moto Club and Bestbrook Mountain Farmstay – due to road closures from 13 – 28 November 2019 from bushfire damage.**
- **Loss of income/profits for tourism industry - perception that visitors were unable to attend local tourist attractions – accommodation occupancy reduced by 45 per cent.**
- **Loss of income/profits for tourism industry and small businesses due to closure of Cunningham's Gap between 13-28 November 2019 – tourists used alternate road routes.**
- **Loss of income/profits for tourism industry and small businesses - decrease in the number of tourists visiting the region due to reduced air quality as a result of smoke generated from bushfires.**
- **Increased freight costs for agriculture and viticulture industries, primary producers and small businesses due to closure of Cunningham's Gap (freight transportation diverted through Gatton and Toowoomba 13-28 November 2019) – Cunningham Highway is a national freight transportation route.**
- **Loss of income/profits to agriculture and viticulture industries, transportation and freight companies, stock agents due to major highway closures**
- **Loss of income/profits to primary producers - \$111,000 worth of livestock lost.**
- **Loss of income/profits to Girraween National Park – no camping permits issued due to threat of bushfires and major impact on tourism for the Region.**
- **Fire impacts on good quality agricultural land.**
- **Increased financial burden on Council to pay for costs of laundering bedding from Warwick evacuation centre.**
- **Increased financial burden on Council due to storage and logistics associated with donated goods.**
- **Increased financial burden on Council due to impacts on capital and operations works program.**
- **Increased financial burden on Council due to having to undertake a marketing campaign to promote the region to counteract media's portrayal of bushfires impact.**
- **Financial burden as some properties not insured and some properties are under-insured.**

Damage and Impacts (cont.)

Environment and Water

- Large pockets of vegetation destroyed, native bushland around and inside affected areas.
- Threat to unique flora and fauna endemic to the region.
- Generation of additional waste and landfill as a result of burnt items.
- Public health concerns due to continued effects of ash and fire suppressant on roofing, water supply and air quality due to smoke generated from bushfires.
- Closure of Glen Rock State Forest and Girraween and Sundown National Parks.
- Biosecurity concerns – risk of weed and seed spread due to influx of fodder received from across Australia.
- Public health – potential incorrect handling and transport of asbestos materials burnt/destroyed by bushfire.
- Public health concerns – need to ensure quality of donated water delivered **in cubes and trucks**.
- Public health concerns – reduced air quality as a result of smoke generated from bushfires.
- Power outages for 14 hours across affected communities and at Stanthorpe Hospital.
- Ongoing water restrictions due to drought.
- Wildlife carers have been supporting impacted animals.
- Damage to water supply assets.
- Water main burst outside McDonalds on the New England Highway.
- **Damage to Spicers Peak walking trails.**
- **3,000 hectares of agricultural land burnt across Stanthorpe, Applethorpe, Ballandean, Swanfels, Tregony, Upper Freestone, Emu Vale and edge of Maryvale.**
- **50,000 hectares of agricultural land impacted across Swanfels, Tregony, Upper Freestone, Emu Vale and Maryvale.**

Buildings

- Damage to Energy Queensland Infrastructure.
- **Damage to Queensland College of Wine Tourism.**
- Damage to housing, community facilities and fence lines, farms sheds and other infrastructure.
- Several horticulture enterprises sustained significant damage to cool rooms, irrigation and water supply infrastructure and hail netting.
- Concerns regarding reduced life of Stanthorpe waste facility due increased volume of waste received from bushfire. Current life expectancy is until December 2020.
- One pump at water treatment plant damaged – reduced capacity at facility for 24 hours.
- Damage to two state schools in the region.
- **Hundreds of kilometers of fencing damaged/destroyed around Swanfels, Tregony, Upper Freestone, Emu Vale and Maryvale.**

Infrastructure and Roads and Transport

- Road closures occurred when evacuation orders were issued – Plant Lane (BWT); Applethorpe (Glenlyon Drive, Sims Lane, Pugh Lane, Roessler Avenue and Johnson Lane); Stanthorpe (Nelson Court, McKenzie Street, Passmore Road, Caves Road and Old Caves Road).
- Road corridors of concern due to burnt trees threatening to fall on road.
- Damage sustained to roadside furniture - Plant Lane (BWT); Applethorpe (Glenlyon Drive and Sims Lane); Stanthorpe (Nelson Court, Connor Street, Passmore Road, Caves Road and McKillop Lane).
- Aboveground power cabling damaged.
- Power poles in Applethorpe damaged.
- Cunningham Highway closed in both directions at Aratula (Cunningham's Gap) – 13 -28 November 2019 due to bushfire and rock falls. Some damage to road pavement.
- Spring Creek Road reduced to one lane due to boulder on road.

Recovery Tasks

1. Undertake rapid damage assessments.
2. Establish a Community Recovery Hub.
3. Provide emergency hardship payments.
4. Inspect and remove burnt trees as required from road corridors.
5. Identify and manage personal hardship cases.
6. Issue community messaging that "we are open for business".
7. Assess human, health, and social impacts.
8. Attend Rural Fire debrief to capture learnings.
9. In partnership with the relevant agencies, provide access to psychosocial support services when required.
10. Facilitate wellbeing support to council staff affected by the bushfires.
11. Assess the economic impact on tourism, small business, agriculture, viticulture and primary producers and promote opportunities to drive economic recovery.
12. Assess resilience of critical infrastructure.
13. Assess environmental impacts across the bushfire affected areas.
14. Seek funding opportunities to support recovery and resilience across Human Social and Economic with particular attention to accumulative effects of disasters.
15. Seek funding opportunities to develop a database to capture baseline data of ecosystems across the region, in order to measure impacts from bushfires.
16. Coordinate donations and ensure that community/volunteers are recognised and thanked for their efforts.
17. Investigate opportunities and lobby for more resilient infrastructure and programs that support the short and long-term wellbeing of the community.
17. Work in partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to conduct hazard and risk assessments for bushfires, and develop education initiatives to build resilience through knowledge of their risk.
18. Assist short and medium-term recovery, and be a conduit to support services as required.
19. Embed Planners, Economic and Community Development Officer/s into the community to build long-term resilience strategies. Capture this forward direction in the form of the Granite Belt Vision and Action Plan.
20. Support community recovery through community events.
21. Develop and implement weed and seed management programs.
22. Repair property fencing.
23. Test water quality.
24. Test air quality.
25. Develop and implement a communication strategy regarding water and air quality.
26. Immediate repair of roads and roadside furniture.
27. Provide water to those affected properties not on town water supply to assist with wash down of houses to remove suppressant used by QFES on bushfire (2000 litres with an option to purchase an additional 2000 litres).
28. Repair community facilities.
29. Reopen schools.
30. Reopen national parks.
31. Develop and implement a tourism campaign.
32. Payment of SDRC Rates Notice – an additional month approved for all residents.
33. Stanthorpe Waste Facility – Waste levy fee waived for bushfire waste.
34. SDRC temporarily lifted the water restrictions of 100L/day/person.
35. Work with Chamber of Commerce to assist in rescheduling awards events.
36. Update region maps to include bushfire overlays and ensure accurate mapping of fire breaks.
37. Transition community members from evacuation centres into temporary/long-term accommodation.
38. Establish and implement re-skilling project for those community members who have lost their jobs.
39. Manage requests from community for sponsorship, events and funding towards activities and fundraisers to help promote and celebrate region.
40. Manage the waste disposal associated with the bushfire events and ensure appropriate waste levy and grants are obtained.

Southern Downs Regional Council

LOCAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN



Recovery Objectives

Recovery Objectives

- Essential services - Power, water, waste, telecommunications – repaired and restored -short term
- Community health, wellbeing and safety restored and resilience improved - short term
- Economic activity restored and resilience improved - short and medium term
- Support for and continuation of key community events - short, medium, long/ongoing
- Confidence in the tourism market restored - medium
- Infrastructure is restored – property fencing, roadside furniture and water supply assets - short and medium
- Environmental restoration and protection (prevention of spread of weeds and seeds)- short and medium
- Environmental restoration and protection (unique flora and fauna endemic to the region) - short and medium
- **Develop a database to capture baseline data of ecosystems across the region- medium to long term**
- Develop a revegetation plan to enhance natural buffers and critical ecosystems that contribute to resilience (funding dependent) - medium to long term
- Increase community awareness and preparedness for all hazards through community engagement- ongoing
- Quarterly meetings of Southern Downs Recovery and Resilience Taskforces reporting to LDMG - short to medium
- Continue to implement long-term resilience strategies as part of the Granite Belt planning process - ongoing
- Establish a long-term vision and action plan that helps reposition the community - medium to long term
- Secure the economic future of the region - medium – long term
- **Community members reach a state of recovery, including being able to make decisions about destroyed or damaged property - short, medium-long, ongoing**
- **An effective waste management program is implemented - medium-long and ongoing**

Recovery timeframes

Measures of Success

Human and Social

- Community members have returned home.
- Community members have transitioned from evacuation centres into temporary/long-term accommodation.
- Community members have returned to work.
- Children have returned to school.
- Community members have accessed financial assistance where available.
- Community members have accessed psychosocial support where required.
- Community and visitors support and participate in community events.
- Funding secured to support community recovery and resilience strategies.
- Education initiatives to build resilience through knowledge of risk assessments has been implemented.
- Planners, Economic and Community Development Officer/s have been embedded into the community to support recovery initiatives.
- Coordination of fundraising and donation activities.
- Stronger partnerships and relationships built with communities and local non-government organisations.
- Residents choosing to stay and remain in communities, schools and sporting organisations

Economic

- Small businesses are trading at capacity.
- Community events are held and well attended, adding value to civic life.
- National parks, reserves and camping grounds have reopened and are receiving tourists.
- Tourism campaign has been implemented and results in an increase in tourism numbers.
- Strategies to support agriculture, viticulture and agriculture industries have been implemented and are successful.
- Community members have been reskilled and secured new employment across the region.
- Council has finalised and implemented the Granite Belt Urban Design Framework and is utilising the document to support initiatives and seek funding sources.
- Chamber of Commerce awards events have been held in Warwick and Stanthorpe.
- Tourism and visitor number have increased and are supporting a healthy economy.

Infrastructure and Roads and Transport

- All roads inspected for damage and risk of fallen trees - all now open.
- All water assets, pumps, treatment plants inspected and operating at full capacity.
- Road furniture has been repaired.
- Water treatment plant is fully operational.
- Resilient infrastructure programs implemented and are successful.

Environment and Water

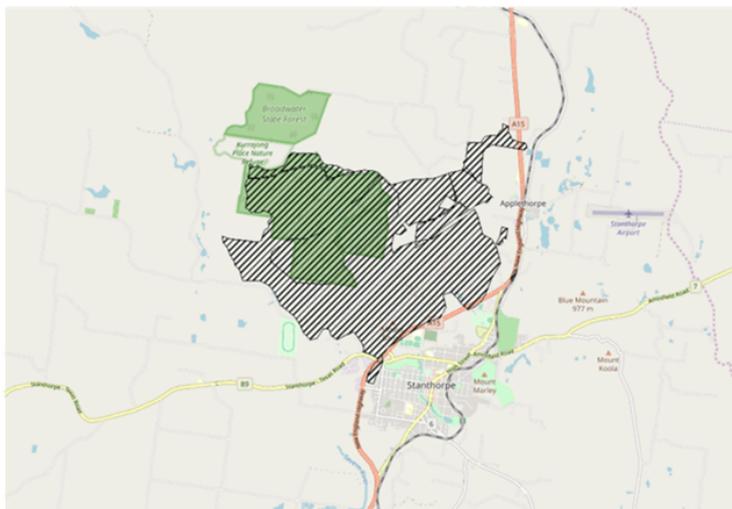
- Waste transfer stations open and unmanned bin compounds fully operational.
- Domestic waste collection services restored.
- Waste program is identified and implemented in order to support recovery efforts.
- National parks, reserves and camping grounds have reopened.
- All parks and public spaces open.
- Trees blocking road and rail corridors have been removed.
- Safety procedures for handling and transporting asbestos materials have been implemented and communicated to the community.
- Weed seed spread awareness and management program has been implemented, and is successful.
- Water quality issues have been resolved.
- Public health restored.
- Essential services – water and waste has been repaired and restored.
- Support and additional resources have been provided to wildlife carers.
- Rehabilitation plans in place for impacted rare and threatened flora.
- Funding secured to develop a database to capture baseline data of ecosystems across the region.

Buildings

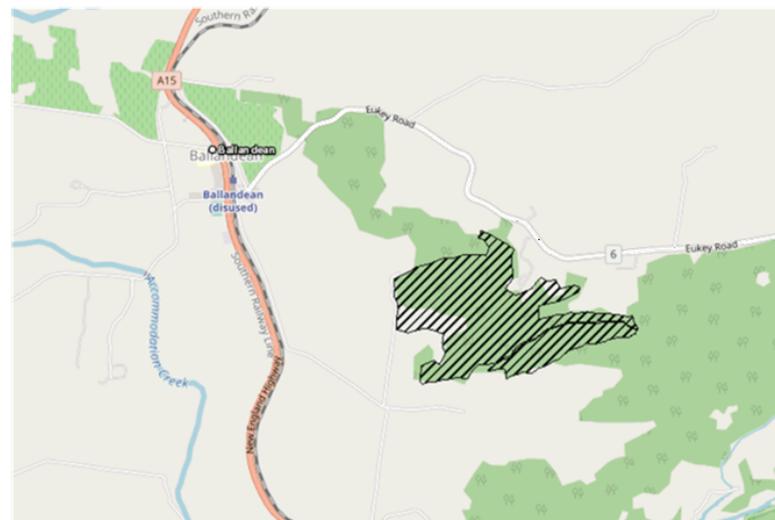
- Energy Queensland infrastructure has been repaired and is fully operational.
- Repairs to Queensland College of Wine and Tourism have been completed.
- Housing, community facilities and fencing has been repaired.
- School facilities have been restored.
- Affected roof wash downs complete.
- Owners of destroyed residences have been supported to make recovery decisions to support their needs.

Damage – Southern Queensland Bushfire

(6-12 September 2019)



Applethorpe and Stanthorpe Fire Area



Ballandean Fire Area

Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance – Southern Queensland Bushfire

(6-12 September 2019)

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

Disaster relief measure

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme **
- Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) **
- Disaster Assistance (Not-for-Profit Orgs) Loans
- Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for not-for-profit organisations
- Disaster Assistance (Small Business Loans)
- Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for small business
- Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans
- Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for primary producers
- Freight Subsidies for primary producers

** The PHAS and ESSRS for Southern Downs is limited to Applethorpe and Thulimbah. The Emergency Hardship Assistance component of the PHAS commences for Applethorpe on 7 September 2019 and on 16 September 2019 for Thulimbah.

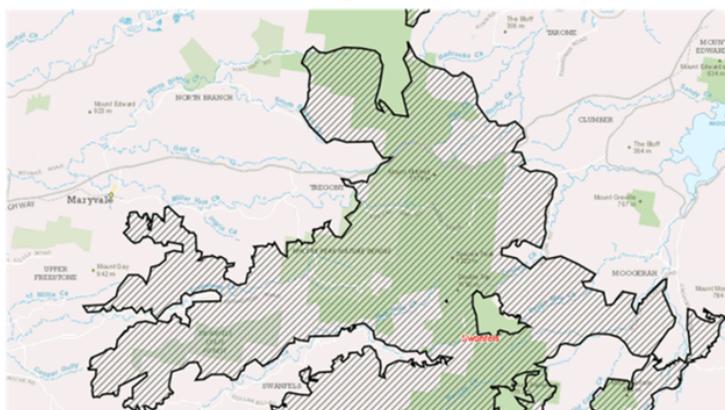
Activation date

- 07/09/2019
- 07/09/2019
- 07/09/2019
- 13/09/2019
- 13/09/2019
- 13/09/2019
- 13/09/2019
- 13/09/2019
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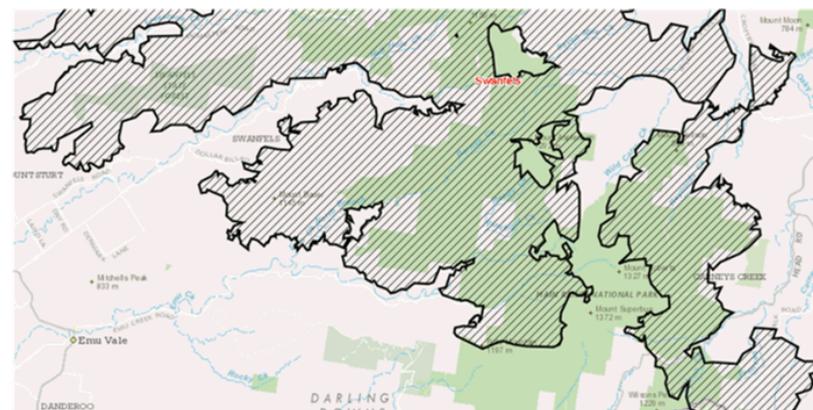
Damage - Locations

Damage – Eastern Queensland Bushfire

(8 November – 19 December 2019)



Maryvale, Tregony, Upper Freestone - area



Swanfels and Emu Vale - area

Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance - Eastern Queensland Bushfire

(8 November – 19 December 2019)

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

Disaster relief measure

- Counter Disaster Operations
- Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA)
- Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans**
- Freight Subsidies for primary producers

** Category B concessional loans up to \$500,000 for small businesses and primary producers for replacement of assets destroyed by bushfires or for essential working capital

Activation date

- 18/11/2019
- 20/11/2019
- 31/01/2020
- 13/09/2019

Exceptional Category C and D assistance measures

DRFA Category	Package Type	Assistance Measures
Category C	Community Recovery Package	Mental Health and Wellbeing
		Community Development Fund
		Flexible Funding Grants
Category D	Increased special disaster assistance grants (including Category C component)	Grants for primary producers of up to \$75,000
	Payment to bushfire affected governments	\$1M payments to severely impacted local governments

Activations Summary

17. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ITEMS

In accordance with the provisions of Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a local government may resolve to close a meeting to the public and move 'into Committee' to discuss confidential items, such that its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting.

Recommendation

THAT the meeting be closed to the public and move into committee to discuss the following items, which are considered confidential in accordance with Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following, as indicated:

17.6 YMCA Monthly Report - January 2020 - Warwick Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Centre

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(h) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.