WEIPA
TOWN AUTHORITY

WEIPA
LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Weipa Local Disaster Management Plan

Version 6.9. November 2026



Acknowledgement of Country

Weipa Town Authority would like to respectfully acknowledge the Alngith People as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters that form the township. Weipa Town Authority pays its respect to elders' past, present, and emerging and welcomes the ongoing role that indigenous people play within the Weipa community.

Foreword from the Chair

Weipa's location brings both great strengths and real challenges. Each wet season we face the threat of tropical cyclones, flooding, storm surge and long stretches of road isolation, often with limited outside help available in the first days of an event. Our remoteness means we must be ready to look after ourselves and each other, and this plan is built around that reality.

The plan sets out how the LDMG, the Weipa Town Authority, Emergency Services, Rio Tinto, Government agencies, community organisations and local businesses will work together before, during and after a disaster. It is prepared under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (Qld) and follows Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements. It is built on the four phases of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

A plan is only as good as the community behind it. I encourage every household and business in Weipa to make their own emergency plan and pack an emergency kit. Know where to get reliable information, and check in on neighbours, elderly residents and anyone who may need extra help. Being prepared before cyclone season is the most valuable thing any of us can do.

I also thank the members of the LDMG, our Local Disaster Coordinator, and the many volunteers and agency staff who give their time and expertise. Their commitment means that when the next event comes, Weipa will be ready.



Jaime Gane

Mayor of Weipa

Chair, Weipa Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG)

Executive Summary

This *Weipa Local Disaster Management Plan* has been prepared by the Weipa Local Disaster Management Group for the Weipa Town Authority in accordance with sections 57 and 58 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

The Plan adopts an all-hazards approach to disaster management, with the objective of reducing the impacts of disasters on the Weipa community through coordinated and collaborative action by government agencies, non-government organisations, industry, community organisations and other stakeholders with disaster management responsibilities, resources, or capabilities.

The Plan is a dynamic, risk-informed document that will be maintained and reviewed to reflect changes in legislation, local circumstances, identified hazards and risks, and lessons identified through disaster events, exercises, and operational experience. In accordance with section 59 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, the effectiveness of the Plan must be reviewed at least annually. The Plan will also be updated as required to ensure it remains consistent with Queensland's disaster management standards and guidelines.

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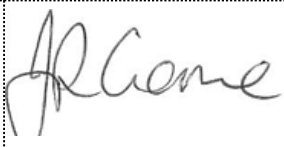
1 Administration and Governance

Endorsement

This plan is recommended for distribution by the Weipa Local Disaster Management Group.

Name	Jaime Gane
Position	Chairperson, Weipa Local Disaster Management Group
Signature	
Date	18-11-26

In accordance with the provisions of the Disaster Management Act 2003, *section.80(1)(b)* of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, and by a resolution of Weipa Town Authority, this Weipa Local Disaster Management Plan is approved.

Name	Renee Williams
Position	Local Disaster Coordinator (Acting)
Signature	
Date	18-11-26

Document Control

This document is a controlled document and is not to be altered, amended or changed in any way other than those amendments by the Weipa LDMG. Any changes must be endorsed by the LDMG. The plans are intended to be 'live' documents. Proposals for amendment to this plan should be made in writing to:

Local Disaster Coordinator
Weipa Town Authority
6 Hibberd Drive
Weipa QLD 4874
wdmg@weipatownauthority.com.au

Amendment Register

Version No.	Date	Description	Author / Approval
For a complete history, please see version 6.5 or earlier.			
6.2	Nov 2020	Annual Review	Jo Moloney
6.3	Sep 2021	Update electronic distribution list. Update WTA signatory details. Update section 9 – replace QDMA pyramid. Update section 18.8.1 – remove Skytrans airlines. Update section 18.12 – include CT scanner. Update section 19.2 – Epidemic / Pandemic. Amendment to section 27.2 -wording change. Amendment to sections 29.1 & 29.2 – background colours added to Activation table; new Activation Response model added. Update LDCC details at section 29.3.	Jo Moloney
6.4	Sep 2022	Annual Review Update section 10 – WTA Corporate Plan.	Jo Moloney
6.5	2023	Annual Review	Karleigh Hall
6.6	Oct 2024	Annual Review Update Section 5 – amendments to Electronic Distribution List Update Section 16 – amendments to Local Disaster Management Group Memberships Update Section 29.1 – update Local Disaster Management Group Response Activation Levels Update Section 29.2 – update LDMG response Activation Triggers	Emily McGrath QPS EMC
6.7	Jun 2025	Annual Review	Emily McGrath
6.8	Oct 2025	Format change to single document	Emily McGrath Tobias Rissman
6.9	Jul 2026	Annual Review Consolidated to overarching plan	E McGrath

Distribution and Availability

Distribution of this plan has been emailed to LDMG Core members, and the District Disaster Coordinator.

The Weipa Local Disaster Management Group complies with the *Information Privacy Act 2009* by allowing only the version, which excludes personal details, to be made to the public.

The Weipa LDMP is available free of charge to members of the public on the WTA website.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
Act	Disaster Management Act 2003 (Qld)
ADA	Australian Department of Agriculture
AMS	Aerodrome Management Services
BAU	Business as Usual
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BRT	Business Resilience Team
BSQ	Bio-security Queensland
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
CDO	Counter Disaster Operations
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DDCC	District Disaster Coordination Centre
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
DMO	Disaster Management Officer
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
DRSG	Disaster Recovery Sub-group
ISSI	Individual System Subscriber Identity (Radio)
LDC	Local Disaster Coordinator
LDCC	Local Disaster Coordination Centre
LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group
LDMP	Local Disaster Management Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
MACC	Media & Corporate Communications
NDRRA	Natural Disaster Relief & Recovery Arrangements

Abbreviation	Description
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NQBP	North Queensland Bulk Ports
PSSCS	Public Storm Surge Cyclone Shelter
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
QBFP	Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol
QBuild	Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works
QDMC	Queensland Disaster Management Committee
QDMTF	Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework
QFD	Queensland Fire Department
QHealth	Queensland Department of Health
QPS	Queensland Police Service
QPS - EMC	Queensland Police Service (Emergency Management Coordinator)
QRA	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
RFA	Request For Assistance
RFS	Rural Fire Service Queensland
RTA / RT	Rio Tinto Aluminium / RTA Weipa Pty Ltd
SDCC	State Disaster Coordination Centre
SDRA	State Disaster Relief Arrangements
SES	State Emergency Service
SITREP	Situation Report or Reporter
TCHHS	Torres & Cape Health & Hospital Service
MRQ	Marine Rescue Queensland
WCCT	Western Cape Communities Trust
WDRG	Weipa Disaster Recovery Group
WIHS	Weipa Integrated Health Service (Hospital)
WOG	Whole of Government
WTA	Weipa Town Authority
XODDMG	Executive Officer District Disaster Management Group

2 Authority to Plan

Weipa Town Authority has a legislative responsibility to develop and implement a Disaster Management Plan in accordance with Section 57(1) *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

The Weipa Local Disaster Management Plan and associated sub plans have been prepared by the Weipa LDMG in accordance with Sections 57 and 58 of the Act, to support effective disaster management with the Weipa Local Government Area. This LDMP is consistent with Queensland's Disaster Management Standard and PPRR Disaster Management Guideline.

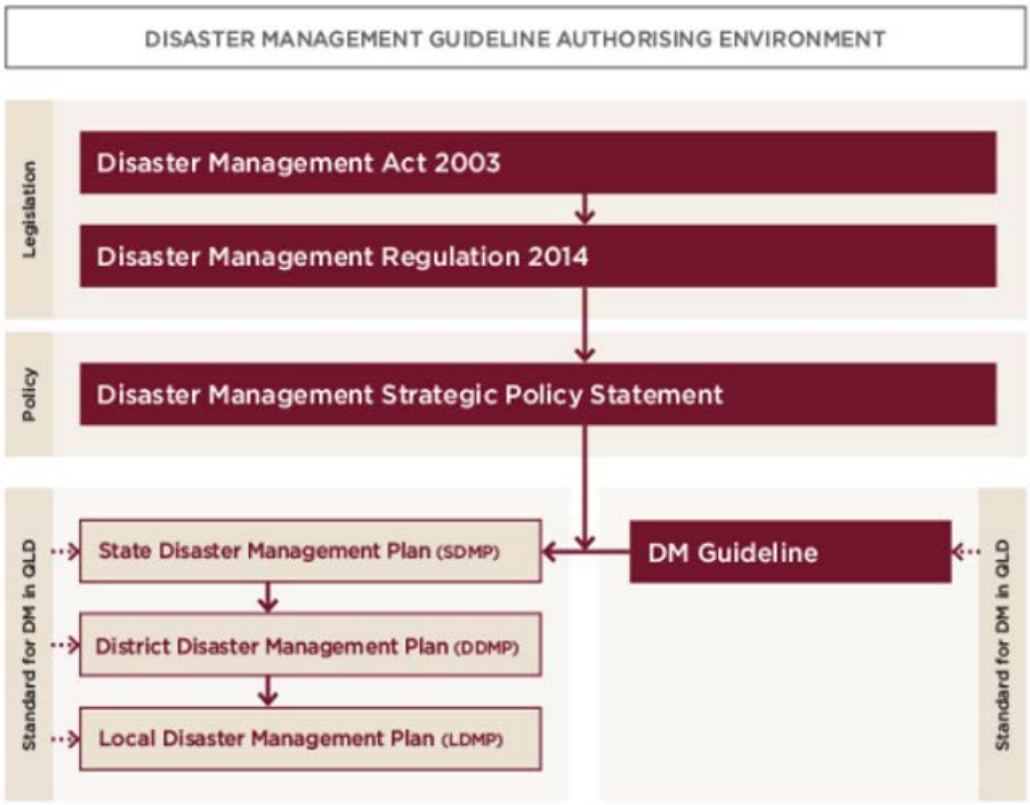


Figure 1 - Disaster Management Authorising Environment

Aim of Plan

The aim of this plan is to minimise the effects of, coordinate the response to, and the recovery from, a disaster or major emergency affecting the community of the Weipa local government area.

Weipa Town Authority (WTA) is committed to complying with disaster management legislation and maintaining effective disaster management arrangements for the Weipa community. This will be achieved through:

- regular review of hazard identification and risk assessments
- development and maintenance of disaster mitigation strategies
- development, implementation, and maintenance of comprehensive disaster management arrangements
- development and maintenance of operational response plans
- establishment, resourcing, and maintenance of a Local Disaster Coordination Centre

- development and maintenance of disaster recovery arrangements
- delivery of disaster management training and exercise regime
- development and implementation of an effective community disaster preparedness and awareness program

Structure of the Weipa LDMP

The LDMP is an overarching document that describes the management and governance arrangements that support disaster management in the Weipa local government area.

Weipa LDMP Sub Plans

In support of the Weipa LDMP, there are number of Operational Sub-Plans for the Weipa Region relating to specific arrangements and actions.

- Activation of the LDMG
- Local Disaster Coordination Centre
- Financial Management
- Impact and Needs Assessment
- Public Health
- Public Information and Warnings
- Communication Network Outage
- Transport and Logistics
- Evacuation
- Recovery

Business Continuity Plans

Each member and agency of the Weipa LDMG is responsible for maintaining an effective BCP. This will ensure they can continue their critical service functions in the event of a disaster to provide coordination and emergency support to the Weipa community.

3 Disaster Management Priorities

In meeting the community's expectations for safety, resilience and sustainability, the Weipa Town Authority (WTA) is committed to:

- working within the *State Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework* and applying a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to disaster management through partnerships across all levels of government.
- protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of the community
- protecting and preserving the natural environment
- recognising and valuing partnerships and collaboration between government, industry, non-government organisations, and the community
- respecting the diversity, needs, and capabilities of the community
- ensuring accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement in disaster management

4 Principles of Disaster Management

Comprehensive Approach:

Section 4A of *the Act* provides that disaster management in Queensland should be planned according to the four phases of this approach – prevention, preparation, response, and recovery. The use of the comprehensive approach ensures a balance between the reduction of risk and the enhancement of community resilience.

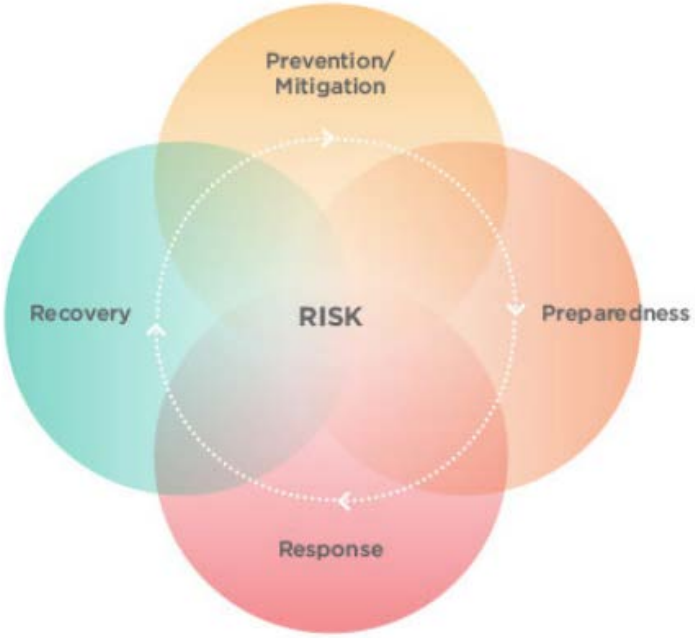


Figure 2 - The 4 Principles of Disaster Management

All Hazards Approach:

This approach assumes that the functions and activities applicable to one hazard are applicable to a range of hazards. It does however affect the need for specific plans and arrangements for identified hazards and risks that require specific technical capacity or authority to effect or direct a response.

Local Disaster Management Capability

Local level capability is recognised as the frontline for disaster management, primarily due to the benefits of localised knowledge and networks. As per section 4A(c) of the Act, local governments are primarily responsible for managing events in their local government areas (LGAs) and this is provided through their LDMG.

Support to the local disaster management groups (LDMG) by District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) and the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC).

The Act establishes a District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) for each of the twenty-two districts in Queensland, to provide support when required or requested by a LDMG. The Weipa LDMG is in the Cairns Disaster District.

A District Disaster Management Plan is available.

The Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) supported by the State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) can provide additional support and assistance when required or requested by a DDMG.



Figure 3 - Queensland Disaster Management Structure

5 Emergency Management Assurance Framework

The *Emergency Management Assurance Framework* is a commitment by Queensland's disaster management stakeholders to position Queensland as the most disaster resilient State in Australia. The framework supports accountability and builds consistency across all levels of the disaster management arrangements and reinforces a shared responsibility for delivering better disaster management outcomes for the community. Developed in collaboration with disaster management practitioners, the framework provides a standard that can be applied by all Queensland disaster management stakeholders to ensure their legislative responsibilities are met and that disaster management programs are effective, aligned with good practice, encourage the best use of resources and meet the needs of Queensland communities.

6 Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG)

Roles and responsibilities of the Weipa Town Authority

The Act details a range of functions and responsibilities for local government to ensure that it meets its statutory obligations.

Section 80 of the Act requires local government to undertake the following functions:

- To ensure it has a disaster response capability.
- To approve its LDMP
- To ensure information about an event or a disaster in its area is promptly given to the DDC for the district in which its area is situated.
- To perform other functions given to the local government under the Act

Administration of the LDMG

6.1.1 Meetings

In accordance with *section 38 of the Act*, the LDMG may conduct its business, including meetings, in the manner it considers appropriate.

The following requirements apply:

- Meetings must be held at least every six (6) months at times and locations determined by the LDMG Chairperson
- Additional meetings may be convened as required, including when requested inwriting by at least half of LDMG members, or by the DDC.
- Appointed deputies attending on behalf of members count towards the quorum.
- The Chairperson, or in their absence the Deputy Chairperson presides the meetings. If both are unavailable, a member appointed by the Chairperson/Deputy Chairperson, or elected by the LDMG if both positions are vacant, will preside.
- Members may participate using technology that enables them to hear and contribute to discussions and are deemed present for quorum and decision making purposes.
- Resolutions may be made at meetings or by majority written agreement in accordance with the LDMG's approved procedures.
- Minutes of all meetings must record and retained.

6.1.2 Attendance

The LDMG contact register for member agencies and key stakeholders will be reviewed and updated at each meeting and maintained by the Disaster Management Officer (DMO) on behalf of the Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC).

Members, or their appointed deputies are expected to attend all LDMG meetings. Where attendance is consistently poor, the LDMG Executive Team should engage with the member agency to address ongoing non-attendance. Attendance records will be maintained to monitor member participation and support governance requirements.

6.1.3 Minutes

LDMG meeting minutes will record key discussion points, decisions and resolutions. Meeting minutes must record whether quorum was present, and the meeting attendance register will be attached to the minutes as the official record of attendance and quorum. LDMG meeting minutes may be subject to release under the *Right to Information Act 2009*. Where it is not practible to convene a meeting, urgent business may be progressed by flying minutes. A resolution by a flying minute is valid where a majority of LDMG members provide written agreement. It Resolution

The Disaster Management Officer will maintain a resolution register to record all resolutions, assigned actions, responsible officers, and completion status. The register will provide an audit trail of actions undertaken and record the acquittal of each resolution. The resolution register will be maintained as the official record of LDMG decisions and actions.

6.1.4 Records and Documentation

The LDMG will maintain a current register of its members and advisers to support routine business and disaster operations. As a minimum, the register will include:

- Name
- Position title
- Organisation/agency
- Work address
- Business and after-hours contact numbers (landline, mobile & satellite)
- Email address

Membership information will be managed in accordance with *the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)*.

The Disaster Management Officer, on behalf of the Local Disaster Coordinator, will ensure the member register is kept current and provide updated membership details to the DDC. Changes to Executive Team membership will also be advised to the SDCC.

LDMG records will be created, maintained, retained and disposed of in accordance with the *Public Records Act 2023 (Qld)* and may be subject to release under the *Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld)*.

Accurate and timely documentation of LDMG decisions, actions and disaster operations will be maintained to support accountability, operational continuity and any subsequent review or legal review process.

6.1.5 Letterhead and Logo

All LDMG correspondence and documentation will be prepared using the Weipa Disaster Management Group logo and WTA letterhead and logo, as the LDMG conducts its business on behalf of WTA.

6.1.6 Agency Status

Member agencies are required to provide written status reports to inform the LDMG of relevant disaster management activities, including disaster management initiatives, projects, training, community awareness, planning, operations and contact updates.

These reports support the LDMG's assessment of disaster management capability and operational readiness and may be presented at LDMG meetings by exception.

Agency Situation Reports will be provided at intervals by the DDMG to support situational awareness. The LDMG will submit Situation Reports to the Cairns DDMG as required and at intervals specified by the Cairns DDC.

6.1.7 Annual

The LDMG will complete an annual status report and IGEM assessment at the end of each financial year, in accordance with requirements set by the Cairns DDC.

The LDC is responsible for preparing the report, which will also be provided to WTA as an annual summary of LDMG activities and outcomes.

6.1.8 Meeting Updates

Member agencies are responsible for ensuring their contact details are current by confirming at each meeting or advising changes as they occur.

Where required, agencies should submit an Agency Report by e-mail at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting. Updates may be provided using the approved Template or within the body of an email.

Members

The membership of the Weipa Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is established in accordance with the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and comprises representatives from relevant agencies, organisations and stakeholders with responsibilities, expertise or capability to support disaster management activities within the Weipa area.

The LDMG will provide an up-to-date membership list to the Executive Officer and the DDC, as part of the annual review of the Local Disaster Management Plan.

The composition of the Weipa LDMG is as follows:

LDMG Core Members	Agency
Chairperson LDMG	Chairperson, Weipa Town Authority
Deputy Chairperson LDMG	Deputy Chairperson, Weipa Town Authority
Local Disaster Coordinator	Superintendent, Weipa Township
Deputy Local Disaster Coordinator	WTA Supervisor Public Works
Disaster Management & Projects Officer	WTA Public Works
Officer-in-Charge	Queensland Police Service
Officer-in-Charge	Queensland Ambulance Service
Emergency Management Coordinator	Queensland Police Service
Director of Nursing & Facility Manager	Weipa Integrated Health Service
Local Controller	State Emergency Service
Area Manager	Western Cape Rural Fire Service
Shift Supervisor	Emergency Services, Rio Tinto Weipa
Strategy and Town Services Manager	Rio Tinto Weipa

6.1.9 Deputies

Section 14 of the Disaster Management Regulation 2014 provides for the appointment of meeting deputies for members of a disaster management group.

A member of the Weipa Local Disaster Management Group may, with the approval of the Chairperson of the group, appoint, by signed notice, another person as their deputy.

The deputy may attend an LDMG meeting in the absence of the appointed member and may exercise the member's functions and powers under *the Act* for the purposes of that meeting.

A deputy attending a meeting of the LDMG is to be counted when determining whether a quorum exists for the meeting.

6.1.10 Advisers

In accordance with *Section 33 and 34 of the Disaster Management Act 2003*, the Weipa LDMG may appoint advisers to provide specialist knowledge, technical expertise, or advice to support the Group.

Advisors may be invited from government agencies, industry, non-government organisations, community groups, utility providers, or other organisations with relevant expertise or responsibilities. Advisors participate in the business of the LDMG in an advisory capacity as required but are not members of the Group and do not have voting rights.

LDMG Advisers	Organisation
Unit Commander	Marine Rescue Queensland
College Principal	Western Cape College, Weipa Campus
Officer Commanding	B Company 51st Battalion FNQR
District Commander	Australian Border Force
Manager	Woolworths Weipa
Officer in Charge	RAAF Scherger
District Officer	Department of Primary Industries
Operations Manager	Goodline
College Principal	St Joseph's Parish School
Regional Liaison Officer	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Port Supervisor	North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation
Manager	Weipa Airport
Chief Executive Officer	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
Chief Executive Officer	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
Community Engagement, Property and Maintenance Manager	Sodexo Weipa

LDMG Advisers	Organisation
Regional Development & Engagement Manager	NBN Australia
Far North Queensland Manager	Telstra
Disaster Management Officer	Cook Shire Council
Manager	Seaswift
Project Manager	Remondis Weipa
Principal Project Officer	Department of Women, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships & Multiculturalism
Chief Executive Officer	Weipa Community Care
Environmental Health Officer	Weipa Town Authority
Supervisor Communities	Weipa Town Authority
Electrical Superintendent	Rio Tinto Weipa
Health & Safety Superintendent	Rio Tinto Weipa
Utilities Superintendent	Rio Tinto Weipa
Community Recovery Officer	Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (Community Recovery)
Managing Director	Evolution Mining & Civil

6.1.11 Agencies

In addition to formal LDMG members, other government departments, agencies, and service providers may be invited to participate in relevant planning, operational or recovery sub-groups, as required. These agencies may also be provided with copies of LDMG meeting minutes where appropriate and in accordance with relevant information-sharing arrangements.

- Department of Communities
- Services Australia
- Ergon Energy Network
- Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ)
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

6.1.12 Sub-groups

The Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) may establish permanent or temporary sub-groups to assist in conducting its functions and responsibilities. Sub-groups may be established to address specific disaster management matters or to undertake planning, preparedness, response, or recovery activities.

The establishment of a sub-group must be approved by resolution of the LDMG. Each sub-group should operate under an approved Terms of Reference that clearly outlines its purpose, scope, membership, roles and responsibilities, reporting arrangements, expected outcomes and governance requirements.

Sub-groups are required to provide regular progress updates to the LDMG, including reporting on activities undertaken, key outcomes, emerging issues and matters requiring the Group's consideration.

Any decisions made or actions undertaken by, or on behalf of, a sub-group should be referred to the LDMG for endorsement through its normal governance processes. During disaster operations, endorsement may be provided by the LDMG or the Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC), as appropriate to the circumstances and in accordance with the relevant legislative and governance arrangements.

6.1.13 Cairns District Disaster Management Group (DDMG)

Section 24 of the Act requires the local government to appoint a representative to the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) and notify the Executive Officer of the State Disaster Management Committee and the Executive Officer of the Cairns District Disaster Management Group of the appointment.

The Chairperson of the Weipa Town Authority has been appointed as the local government's representative to the Cairns DDMG. The role of representative is to:

- Attend DDMG meetings.
- Represent the interests of the Weipa Town Authority and provide information on local disaster management arrangements, issues, and capabilities.
- Facilitate coordination and information sharing between the LDMG and DDMG
- Commit local resources, as reasonably required, to support disaster management operations.

If the appointed representative changes, the Weipa Town Authority will notify the Executive Officer of the State Disaster Management Committee and the Cairns District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) of the new appointment.

6.1.14 Public Works and Infrastructure Support

The Weipa Town Authority and Rio Tinto are supported in the delivery of public works, engineering, and essential infrastructure services by the following:

- QBUILD
- Telstra
- Queensland Fire Department (QFD)
- Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)
- Goodline
- Hussey Contracting
- EDC Electrical & Co

- Evolution Mining & Civil
- WCB Building and Civil Contracting
- Remondis

These organisations may provide specialist personnel, equipment, technical expertise and infrastructure support to assist with preparedness, response, and recovery activities, subject to operational priorities and resource availability.

Roles and Responsibilities

This section outlines the roles and responsibilities of the organisations and agencies that support disaster management within the Weipa Town Authority area. It provides a summary of each organisation's primary functions and responsibilities across disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery, and should be read in conjunction with relevant legislation, disaster management plans, and agency continuity plans.

6.1.15 Weipa Town Authority

Weipa Town Authority (WTA) is responsible for maintaining local authority services and infrastructure within the Weipa Town Area, in accordance with its governing arrangements under the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement Act 1957 (Qld) (Comalco Act) and the Comalco Agreement.

In support of disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, WTA is responsible for:

- Maintaining public health services and undertaking relevant environmental health functions within its operational responsibilities.
- Coordinating and maintaining local refuse disposal and waste management services.
- Undertaking animal management and control functions within its applicable authority.
- Supporting environmental protection and the management of local environmental issues.
- Maintaining parks, gardens, public reserves and associated public amenities.
- Maintaining an appropriate disaster response capability to support local disaster management operations.
- Disseminating timely, accurate and relevant disaster-related information to the community in coordination with the Local Disaster Management Group.
- Maintaining and supporting local civil infrastructure and essential services within its area of responsibility, including roads, paths, drainage, water supply, and sewerage systems.
- Maintaining continuity of normal local authority services through appropriate business continuity and contingency arrangements.
- Providing operational resources, personnel, and infrastructure support to assist disaster response and recovery activities.
- Supporting community preparedness, public awareness, and recovery initiatives through participation in and support of the Local Disaster Management Group.

WTA will undertake these responsibilities in coordination with the Weipa Local Disaster Management Group, relevant government agencies, service providers, and other supporting organisations, consistent with applicable legislation, disaster management arrangements and agency responsibilities.

6.1.16 Local Disaster Management Group

The Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is responsible for coordinating disaster management arrangements within the Weipa Town Authority area. Its functions encompass disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act 2003 (Qld), the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements and the Local Disaster Management Plan.

The LDMG is responsible for:

- Developing, reviewing, and maintaining the Local Disaster Management Plan and associated disaster management sub-plans and arrangements.
- Coordinating local disaster management activities across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Providing advice and information to the community regarding voluntary evacuation and recommended evacuation arrangements.
- Undertaking and coordinating reconnaissance, damage assessments, and impact assessments to support situational awareness, operational planning, and decision-making.
- Coordinating local support, resources and assistance for response agencies undertaking disaster operations.
- Coordinating the provision of locally based community support services during disaster operations.
- Developing, maintaining, and promoting public education and community awareness programs to improve disaster preparedness, resilience, and community safety.
- Identifying areas where evacuation may be required and providing recommendations to the District Disaster Coordinator regarding the need for a directed evacuation.
- Identifying, coordinating the activation, and supporting the resourcing of evacuation centres and storm surge shelters, in consultation with relevant facility owners and supporting agencies.
- Coordinating the provision of timely, accurate and consistent disaster-related public information before, during and following disaster events, in consultation with relevant agencies.
- Establishing, maintaining, and coordinating the operation of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC), including ensuring appropriately trained personnel are available to support its activation and operation.
- Identifying and coordinating local resources required to support disaster management and disaster operations.

- Maintaining records of decisions, activities, resource requests, and actions undertaken during disaster operations to support accountability, post-event review, reporting, and continuous improvement.

The LDMG will undertake these functions in collaboration with the Weipa Town Authority, District Disaster Management Group, relevant government agencies, emergency services, supporting organisations, and other stakeholders.

6.1.19 Queensland Police Service (QPS)

The Queensland Police Service (QPS), including the State Emergency Service (SES), Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ) and Emergency Management functions, provides policing, disaster management coordination, and emergency response support across Queensland.

Within the Weipa Town Authority area, QPS and its associated services are responsible for:

- Maintaining public safety, law and order, preventing crime and providing general policing services during disaster events.
- Supporting and coordinating disaster management arrangements at the State and District levels in accordance with the Disaster Management Act 2003 (Qld).
- Providing executive and administrative support to the Queensland Disaster Management Committee and District Disaster Management Groups, including support for the State and District disaster coordination arrangements.
- Undertaking State and District disaster coordination functions through appropriately appointed disaster management coordinators and supporting personnel.
- Coordinating police operations associated with evacuations, traffic management, security of evacuated and damaged premises, search and rescue operations and disaster victim identification.
- Supporting the coordination and dissemination of disaster-related public warnings and emergency communications, including the use of the Emergency Alert system in accordance with Queensland's warning arrangements.
- Supporting the coordination and delivery of resupply operations to isolated communities in collaboration with Local and District Disaster Management Groups and relevant supporting agencies.
- Providing disaster management advice, operational support, training and guidance to disaster management groups and participating agencies.
- Providing State Emergency Service (SES) resources and volunteers to support disaster preparedness, response, and recovery activities, including storm and flood response, rescue operations, evacuation support, resupply operations and community education.
- Delivering marine search and rescue operations and marine assistance through Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ), including support to people and vessels in difficulty and assistance to other emergency services where required.

QPS, SES and MRQ will undertake these responsibilities in collaboration with the Weipa Local Disaster Management Group, District Disaster Management Group, Weipa Town Authority and other relevant emergency response and support agencies, consistent with their respective legislative, operational, and functional responsibilities.

6.1.20 Western Cape Rural Fire Service (RFS)

The Western Cape Rural Fire Service, operating within the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) and Queensland Fire Department (QFD) framework, is responsible for supporting fire prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities within its designated operational area.

Its responsibilities include:

- Responding to and managing bushfires, grass fires and other landscape fire incidents within its operational area and capability.
- Undertaking bushfire prevention and mitigation activities, including hazard reduction burning, community education and fire preparedness initiatives.
- Providing bushfire risk management advice and supporting community resilience and preparedness.
- Supporting disaster management operations and other emergency service organisations, as required and within available resources and capabilities.
- Supporting fire-related emergency response and recovery activities in accordance with the Fire Services Act 1990 (Qld) and relevant operational arrangements.

Support to Rio Tinto Emergency Services

Subject to operational availability, appropriate training, equipment, capability and agreed arrangements, the Western Cape RFS may provide support to Rio Tinto Emergency Services during:

- Oil spill incidents, including first-response assistance where appropriately trained and equipped.
- Road crash and aircraft rescue operations.
- Confined space rescue operations.
- Industrial and structural firefighting incidents.
- Hazardous materials (Hazmat) incidents.

Such support will be provided in accordance with established incident management arrangements, relevant agency responsibilities, and applicable safety procedures.

6.1.21 Queensland Fire Department (QFD)

The Queensland Fire Department (QFD) is responsible for providing fire and rescue services across Queensland through Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) and Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ). QFD undertakes fire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities associated with fires, hazardous materials incidents, and other emergencies.

Within the Weipa Town Authority area, QFD is responsible for:

- Acting as the hazard lead and primary response agency for structural fires, bushfires, and chemical and hazardous materials emergencies.
- Providing fire prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery services to protect people, property, and the environment.
- Supporting communities and disaster management groups through operational advice, community education, preparedness activities, and emergency response capability.
- Providing specialist rescue capabilities, including urban search and rescue, technical rescue, road crash rescue, Swiftwater and floodwater rescue, and other specialist rescue operations.
- Providing specialist hazardous materials response capabilities, including incident assessment, chemical analysis, atmospheric monitoring, containment and decontamination advice and support.
- Developing and distributing emergency warnings and public safety information relating to bushfires, structural fires, and hazardous materials incidents.
- Supporting disaster operations, including initial damage assessments, severe weather response, emergency rescue operations, and the provision of specialist technical advice.
- Providing advice and operational support to Local, District and State Disaster Management Groups on matters relating to fire, rescue, bushfire, and hazardous materials incidents.
- Supporting other emergency service organisations and relevant agencies during disaster operations, in accordance with available resources, operational capabilities and established arrangements.

QFD will undertake these responsibilities in collaboration with the Weipa Local Disaster Management Group, Queensland Police Service, Western Cape Rural Fire Service, Rio Tinto Emergency Services and other relevant response and support agencies.

6.1.22 Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) provides emergency pre-hospital care, ambulance transport, and medical response services to protect the health and safety of individuals and communities. QAS supports disaster preparedness, response, and recovery activities in collaboration with other emergency services and health agencies.

- Within the Weipa Town Authority area, QAS is responsible for:
- Providing emergency medical response and protecting people from injury or death during rescue and other emergency operations.
- Accessing, assessing, treating, and transporting sick or injured persons requiring medical attention.
- Supporting the evacuation of health facilities, including the provision of specialised medical assessment, treatment, and patient transport.

- Providing or coordinating ambulance and first aid support at designated evacuation centres and storm surge shelters, where agreed and subject to operational availability.
- Coordinating volunteer first aid groups during major emergencies and disasters.
- Participating in search and rescue, evacuation and victim reception operations by providing medical assessment, treatment, and patient support.
- Supporting disaster and mass casualty management arrangements in collaboration with Queensland Health and other relevant agencies.
- Participating in disaster management planning, training and exercises with other emergency services and disaster management groups.
- Providing appropriately authorised QAS personnel to support the Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC), when requested and available.
- QAS will undertake these responsibilities in collaboration with the Weipa Local Disaster Management Group, Queensland Health, relevant Hospital and Health Services, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire Department, and other supporting agencies.

6.1.23 Emergency Services, Rio Tinto Weipa

Rio Tinto Weipa Emergency Services provides an onsite fire and emergency response capability for Rio Tinto's mining, port and associated operational facilities. It also provides emergency response assistance and specialist support to the Weipa community through established local disaster management arrangements.

Responsibilities include:

- Undertaking fire prevention, preparedness, response, and mitigation activities within Rio Tinto's operational areas and in support of the wider community, where requested and agreed.
- Providing fire control and emergency incident response and management within its operational capabilities and agreed response arrangements.
- Providing road crash and aircraft crash rescue capabilities.
- Providing confined space rescue capabilities.
- Providing industrial and urban firefighting capabilities.
- Providing hazardous materials incident response and management within its training, equipment, and operational capabilities.
- Providing first-response assistance during oil spill incidents, in accordance with applicable incident response arrangements and operational capabilities.
- Providing a designated Fire Safety Officer for the Weipa Storm Surge Shelter when activated, in accordance with the local shelter management arrangements.

Rio Tinto Weipa Emergency Services will work collaboratively with the Weipa Local Disaster Management Group, Queensland Fire Department, Western Cape Rural Fire Service, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service, and other relevant agencies to support coordinated disaster response operations and community safety.

Assistance to the wider community will be provided in accordance with agreed arrangements, operational availability, personnel capability and resource requirements.

6.1.24 Rio Tinto Weipa

The Weipa Town Area is governed by RTA Weipa Pty Ltd (Rio Tinto) under the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited Agreement Act 1957 (Qld) (Comalco Act) and the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement (Comalco Agreement).

Rio Tinto administers the township through the Weipa Town Authority (WTA) which is a separate internal division of Rio Tinto. WTA on behalf of Rio Tinto undertakes local authority functions and provides many services ordinarily associated with local government, within the powers and limitations established by the Comalco Act and Agreement.

Rio Tinto owns, operates, maintains, or supports major infrastructure and essential services within the Weipa township area and region, in accordance with applicable ownership arrangements, licences, agreements and operational responsibilities.

For disaster management purposes, Rio Tinto Weipa is responsible for supporting the continuity, protection, emergency response and restoration of its infrastructure and services, including those for which it has operational responsibility. These include:

- Water supply infrastructure and drinking water treatment, in coordination with WTA and other relevant service providers.
- Wastewater treatment and associated infrastructure, in coordination with WTA.
- Electricity generation, supply, and distribution infrastructure, where owned or operated by Rio Tinto.
- Waste management infrastructure and services, in accordance with applicable operational arrangements.
- Airport infrastructure and associated facilities, where owned or operated by Rio Tinto.
- Telecommunications infrastructure and associated services, where owned or operated by Rio Tinto.
- Roads, bridges and associated infrastructure within Rio Tinto's operational areas and areas under its maintenance responsibility.
- Industrial port facilities and associated export infrastructure owned or operated by Rio Tinto, in coordination with the relevant port authority.

Rio Tinto will work collaboratively with the Weipa Town Authority, Local Disaster Management Group, relevant infrastructure owners, and service providers to support disaster preparedness, response, essential service continuity, and recovery within the Weipa region.

6.1.25 Queensland Health

Queensland Health is responsible for coordinating health-related disaster management activities across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Key responsibilities include:

- Acting as the lead agency for public health, mental health, medical services, mass casualty management, mass fatality management, and emergency medical retrieval
- Acting as the primary agency for heatwave, pandemic, biological and radiological incidents
- Maintaining critical health services for affected communities.
- Providing clinical care, emergency medical response, aeromedical retrieval, and health support during disaster events
- Providing mental health support to affected individuals and communities.
- Delivering public health, environmental health, and communicable disease advice, including risk assessments and surveillance
- Providing health-related information and public messaging to communities and disaster management stakeholders
- Coordinating with health sector partners, aged care providers, and other agencies to maintain essential health services
- Supporting forensic and scientific health services for mass fatality management and terrorism-related incidents

7 Disaster Risk Management

Location

Weipa is located on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula, about two hundred kilometres from the ‘tip’ of Australia and just less than two hundred kilometres from the east coast. It is approximately eight hundred road kilometres and 580 air kilometres from Cairns. The area

administrated by the WTA comprises 10.9 sq-km and is surrounded by the Cook Shire and the Aboriginal Shires of Mapoon and Napranum.



Figure 4 - Map of Cape York

Climate

(Adapted from information provided by the Bureau of Meteorology)

Weipa experiences a tropical monsoonal climate with distinct wet and dry seasons. Average annual rainfall is approximately 2,050 mm, with most rainfall occurring between November and April. The dry season generally extends from May to October, with very little rainfall during this period.

Average daily maximum temperatures range from approximately 31°C during winter to 35°C in late spring. Overnight minimum temperatures range from approximately 18–19°C in winter to around 24°C during summer.

Winds are generally light to moderate, predominantly southeasterly to easterly during the dry season. During the wet season, winds become more variable, with westerly conditions associated with the monsoon trough. Strong and damaging winds may occur during tropical cyclones and severe thunderstorms.

The official Australian tropical cyclone season runs from 1 November to 30 April. Weipa is exposed to tropical cyclone threats, which can bring damaging winds, heavy rainfall, flooding and coastal inundation. Historical temperature records at Weipa Airport include a maximum of 40.1°C and a minimum of approximately 10°C.

Community

7.1.1 Governance

Weipa was established following the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement Act 1957 (Qld), which facilitated the development of the bauxite mining industry and the establishment of the township.

Weipa is a regional service and commercial centre for the Western Cape York Peninsula, supporting surrounding communities through a range of businesses, government services and community facilities.

The local governance arrangements for the Weipa Town Area are unlike other Local Government entities across Queensland. Rio Tinto occupies a unique position under Clause 45 of Schedule 1 of the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement Act 1957 which confers upon Rio Tinto the ability to exercise certain powers of a local government. Therefore, to the greatest extent possible, Rio Tinto governs the town as if it were the local government for Weipa.

7.1.2 Demography

(Adapted from information provided by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office and Bureau of Statistics)

On 30 June 2021, the estimated resident population of the Weipa Local Government Area (LGA) was reported as 4,097 people. Weipa has a relatively young population, with a median age of approximately 30 years.

According to the 2021 Census, 814 people identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, representing approximately 19.9% of the population. The Census also recorded 3,186 Australian citizens.

The reported unemployment rate was 2.1% for the relevant reporting period.

7.1.3 Social Support Infrastructure

Social support infrastructure in the area is based upon the self-sustainability inherent in the traditions of rural and mining communities. There is a general acceptance that the community will look after itself to a great degree, but processes are in place via the State's disaster management system to enable an assisted community recovery from a disastrous or catastrophic event should the need arise.

7.1.4 Torres and Cape York Health and Hospital Service

Hospital	Medical / Surgical, 9 bed Inpatient Services, additional 1 bed maternity, 10 bed Residential Aged Care, emergency services for Weipa and surrounding communities, Outpatient Service, Xray and CT Imaging, Physiotherapy, Community Services (including allied health and primary health care, dental)
Visiting Specialist Services	Endoscopies, Obstetric & Gynaecological, Ophthalmic Surgery, Colonoscopies, Dental, Mental Health, Paediatric, Optometrist, Chest Clinic, Breast Screening, Rheumatology, ENT.
Clinics Available	Child Health / Immunisation Clinic, Antenatal Clinic, Women's Health, Chronic Disease incl renal and kidney care, Mental health, Sexual Health, General Medicine, Podiatry, Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service (ATODS).
General Practitioners	One General Practice in Weipa
Mortuary Capacity	There is one mortuary in Weipa, located at the Weipa Integrated Health Service. It has a capacity of 4.

Capacity

7.1.5 Response

Despite Weipa's remote location and distance from external emergency support, the community is generally considered to have the capacity to respond effectively to most emergency situations using locally available resources. Strong community values and a culture of self-reliance contribute to the community's resilience and response capability.

Rio Tinto, as the major local employer, has significant resources, infrastructure and skilled personnel that can contribute to emergency response operations.

Weipa has an established emergency services presence, including permanent Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) personnel, Rio Tinto Emergency Services, Western Cape Regional Fire Brigade, State Emergency Service (SES) and Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ). A small military detachment may also help under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements, subject to personnel and resource availability.

The Western Cape Regional Fire Brigade provides critical firefighting and road accident rescue services across the region, supporting surrounding communities within an approximately 400-kilometre radius.

Despite these capabilities, Weipa has limited medical facilities and would require external assistance to manage major multi-casualty incidents. External support would also be required for disaster recovery, including coordination of psychosocial recovery activities by relevant Queensland Government agencies.

Woolworths is the town's primary supplier of food and essential provisions, generally maintaining a minimum two-week supply. Arrangements under the Queensland Government's *Resupplying Isolated Communities Policy and Procedures* provide for the replenishment of essential supplies if Weipa becomes isolated by road and sea.

7.1.6 Economic Base – Industry

Weipa's economy is primarily based on bauxite mining, with Rio Tinto operating major mining, processing and export facilities in the region. Mining is a significant source of local employment and contributes substantially to the regional economy.

Other important industries include retail, tourism, construction, beef cattle grazing and government services, particularly health and education.

Weipa also serves as a regional service and commercial centre for surrounding communities, including Aurukun, Napranum and Mapoon, providing access to essential services, employment, supplies and infrastructure.

Power Supply

7.1.7 Generation

Electricity for Weipa township and Rio Tinto's mining operations is generated and supplied through a privately operated electricity network managed by RTA Weipa Pty Ltd.

The electricity supply system includes diesel-fired generators, supported by solar generation and battery storage to supplement supply and reduce diesel consumption.

Diesel fuel is stored in dedicated storage facilities and replenished through deliveries to support ongoing power generation. The township relies on this isolated electricity network, making continuity of fuel supplies and generation infrastructure critical to maintaining electricity during disaster events.

7.1.8 Distribution

Electricity generated by RTA Weipa Pty Ltd is distributed through a network of feeders supplying mining operations, the Weipa township, businesses and surrounding facilities.

The Weipa township distribution network is predominantly overhead, with underground cables also used to connect sections of the network and supply transformers. Distribution within the mine sites is primarily underground.

An overhead distribution connection also supplies Weipa Airport and the community of Napranum. Electricity distribution infrastructure is critical to the continuity of essential services and community operations.

7.1.9 Vulnerability

Significant damage to Weipa's electricity distribution network during a natural disaster could require external assistance to support restoration activities. The availability of local personnel, specialist equipment and replacement infrastructure may limit the capacity to undertake large-scale repairs within short timeframes.

Damage to multiple power poles, overhead lines and associated infrastructure could result in prolonged power outages affecting the Weipa township, mining operations and surrounding communities. Such disruptions may also affect essential services, communications, water supply, sewerage and other critical infrastructure.

The restoration of electricity following a significant event may therefore depend on external technical resources, equipment availability, access to damaged infrastructure and the timely delivery of replacement materials.

Civil Infrastructure

7.1.10 Telecommunications

Telephone and internet services in Weipa are provided through fixed-line, mobile and satellite technologies. Mobile coverage and service reliability can vary across the township and surrounding areas, potentially affecting communications during disaster events.

Radio services available in Weipa include Rebel FM (96.1 FM), ABC Far North (1044 AM), Breeze FM (97.7 FM) and triple j (99.3 FM). Free-to-air and satellite television services are also available.

Internet services are provided through various technologies, including mobile broadband and satellite services. The availability and performance of mobile broadband, including 5G, depend on network coverage and service provider infrastructure.

Some organisations maintain satellite telephone or other independent communications systems to support operational communications when conventional telecommunications services are disrupted.

7.1.11 Water Supply

The Weipa Town Authority (WTA) manages the town's water supply, providing potable water to the community. The water supply is sourced from the local shallow aquifer through a network of groundwater bores.

The system comprises nine shallow aquifer bores. Five are manually controlled and operate continuously, while the remaining four are connected to a central control system through telemetry.

The water supply network services approximately 1,456 connections and is managed by the WTA Public Works Team.

Water supply infrastructure is essential to community health and safety. Disruptions to bore operations, electricity supply, pumping equipment or distribution infrastructure could affect the availability of potable water across the township.

7.1.12 Sewerage

The Weipa Town Authority (WTA), in collaboration with Rio Tinto, manages and maintains the fully reticulated sewerage system servicing the Weipa community. The network services approximately 1,456 connections and collects wastewater from residential and other properties for treatment at the Awonga and Lorim Point sewage treatment facilities.

The sewerage network comprises gravity mains, pumping stations and treatment ponds. WTA and Rio Tinto share responsibility for the operation, maintenance, treatment and disposal of sewage and trade waste.

The sewerage system is critical community infrastructure. Disruptions to electricity supply, pumping stations, treatment facilities or sewerage infrastructure may result in service interruptions, overflows and potential public health and environmental impacts.

Transportation

7.1.13 Airport

Weipa Airport is located approximately 13 km south-east of the township and is a major regional transport facility. The airport is owned by Rio Tinto, with airport operations managed by Aerodrome Management Services (AMS).

The airport has a sealed runway (Runway 12/30), measuring approximately 1,645 metres long and 30 metres wide.

Scheduled passenger services operate between Weipa and Cairns through QantasLink, with additional charter services providing passenger, freight and specialist transport.

Weipa Airport is a critical access point for emergency personnel, equipment, medical evacuations and external assistance during disaster events. Its operational availability is particularly important when road access is restricted or disrupted during the wet season. However, airport access and operations may be affected by severe weather, runway conditions and other aviation restrictions.

Weipa Airport is regulated by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and maintains an Aerodrome Emergency Plan under the provisions of CASA Regulations.

7.1.14 Seaport – Port of Weipa

The Port of Weipa is a major regional port, primarily supporting the export of bauxite from Rio Tinto's mining operations. The port also handles fuel, general cargo and livestock, supporting mining operations and communities across the Western Cape region.

Rio Tinto operates the bauxite export facilities, including onshore handling, processing and stockpiling infrastructure, with conveyor systems supplying Lorim Point East and Lorim Point West wharves for ship loading.

Other port facilities include Humbug Point Wharf, which handles general cargo, and Evans Landing Wharf, which handles fuel imports. Tug services are provided by Smit Lamnalco Towage Australia.

North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBP) is the port authority responsible for the management and strategic operation of the Port of Weipa, including shipping channel maintenance and port infrastructure planning.

Pilotage services are provided under the responsibility of Far North Queensland Ports Corporation (Ports North), while Maritime Safety Queensland, through the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns), oversees marine safety and vessel movements.

The port operates under established safety, emergency and extreme weather procedures to manage disruptions and maintain safe maritime operations during severe weather and other emergencies.

8 Hazard Identification

A Natural Disaster Risk Management Study completed on behalf of the WTA by Connell Wagner Pty Ltd (2006) identified several 'natural event' hazards which may impact the Weipa area. Those hazards have been reviewed by the Weipa LDMG, and the following hazard events are identified by the LDMG as being of concern in the Weipa area:

Tropical Cyclone

Weipa and the surrounding Western Cape York region are exposed to tropical cyclones, which typically occur during the Australian cyclone season from 1 November to 30 April. Tropical cyclones may affect the region through destructive winds, heavy rainfall, flooding, storm surge and coastal inundation.

Potential impacts include damage to residential and commercial buildings, vegetation, roads, powerlines, telecommunications, water and sewerage infrastructure, port facilities and other essential services.

Weipa's reliance on road, air and sea transport increases the potential for isolation during and following a tropical cyclone. Disruptions to port and airport operations, fuel deliveries and essential supply chains may affect the availability of food, fuel, medical supplies and other essential resources.

Low-lying coastal areas and communities may be particularly vulnerable to storm surge, coastal inundation and flooding. The extent of impacts will depend on the cyclone's intensity, track, speed, associated rainfall and local conditions.

Effective preparedness requires coordination between the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), emergency services, Rio Tinto, Weipa Town Authority, critical infrastructure providers and surrounding communities. Planning considerations include emergency warnings, community preparedness, evacuation arrangements, protection of essential infrastructure, continuity of critical services and access to external assistance.

Tropical cyclones have the potential to cause significant disruption to the Weipa community and may require activation of the Local Disaster Management Group to coordinate response and recovery activities.

Fire

8.1.1 Bushfire

The bushfire season across Cape York generally occurs during the dry season and build-up period, with increased fire activity typically occurring between July and November. Bushfire risk is influenced by vegetation fuel loads, fuel moisture, weather conditions and community preparedness.

Weipa is surrounded by native bushland, creating potential bushfire risks, particularly at the interface between vegetation and built-up areas. These areas are important priorities for seasonal fire mitigation, community education and monitoring by Rio Tinto Fire and Rescue and the Western Cape Rural Fire Brigade.

Planned to burn and fuel management activities are coordinated through local fire management arrangements, with the Fire Management Group providing relevant updates to the LDMG ahead of the annual planned burning period, generally between April and September.

As development expands into areas adjoining native bushland, appropriate bushfire risk assessments, vegetation management, mitigation measures and community education are essential to reduce the potential impacts of bushfires on people, property and infrastructure.

While many bushfires can be managed through existing firefighting resources and arrangements, incidents that threaten the community or require a coordinated multi-agency response may necessitate activation of the Local Disaster Management Group in accordance with the Local Disaster Management Plan and Queensland disaster management arrangements.

8.1.2 Port Fire

The Port of Weipa handles the import and transfer of flammable fuels, including distillate, aviation fuel and unleaded petrol. Fuel is transferred between vessels and shore-based storage facilities through dedicated infrastructure, creating a potential risk of fire, explosion and hazardous material release.

A fire involving a fuel vessel, transfer pipeline, storage facility or associated port infrastructure could have significant consequences for port operations, personnel, the environment and surrounding facilities.

Rio Tinto Emergency Services and the Western Cape Rural Fire Brigade provide local emergency response capabilities. However, firefighting operations involving vessels alongside the berth or offshore may require additional specialist marine firefighting resources and support from port operators and other emergency response agencies.

A significant port fire may require a coordinated multi-agency response involving the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), emergency services, Rio Tinto, North Queensland Bulk Ports and relevant maritime authorities. Potential impacts include port closures, disruption to fuel supplies, environmental contamination and risks to nearby infrastructure and the community.

8.1.3 Industrial Fire

Weipa has several industrial and commercial facilities that store and handle significant quantities of flammable fuels, including diesel, unleaded petrol, aviation fuel and other combustible materials. These facilities present potential risks of fire, explosion and hazardous material release.

A significant fire at a fuel storage facility, power station, mining operation or fuel distribution site could threaten workers, nearby properties and the wider community. Such an incident

may also result in environmental contamination, disruption to electricity generation, fuel shortages and interruptions to essential services.

Fuel storage facilities within and surrounding the Weipa township are identified in the following table. Storage quantities are indicative and should be confirmed with the relevant facility operators before being relied upon for emergency planning.

Known fuel storage locations and reported quantities:

Location	Diesel (L)	Unleaded (L)	Jet A1(L)	Avgas (L)
Weipa Aerodrome	-	-	65,000	89,000
Weipa Power Station	300,000	-	-	-
Weipa Power Station General Use	16,500	-	-	-
Lorim Point Main Tanks	15,000,000	-	-	-
Evans Landing (Rio Tinto)	1,200,000	2,500,000	1,900.000	-
Iraci Crescent (BP)	54,000	27,000	-	-
Boundary Road (BP)	27,000	35,000	-	-
Andoom	120,000	-	-	-
East Weipa	100,000	-	-	
Andoom Power Station	143,000	-	-	-
Rail	15,500	-	-	-

A further concern is the reported limitation of water pressure in some areas of Weipa. Inadequate water pressure or flow may restrict firefighting capability, particularly during a significant industrial fire or multiple concurrent incidents.

A major industrial fire may exceed local firefighting capabilities and require additional resources and specialist assistance from outside the region. Coordination between emergency services, facility operators, utility providers and the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is essential to manage the incident and minimise impacts on the community, environment and critical infrastructure.

Major Infrastructure Failure

Weipa relies on interconnected critical infrastructure and essential services to support the community, businesses, mining operations and government services. Failure or disruption to one essential service may result in cascading impacts across other infrastructure and services.

For example, an extended electricity outage may affect telecommunications, water supply, sewerage pumping and treatment, fuel distribution, transport operations and other essential services. Disruptions to telecommunications may also affect emergency warnings, incident coordination, banking, commercial operations and access to essential information.

Major infrastructure failures may result from severe weather, natural disasters, equipment or system failures, human error, cyber incidents or disruptions to external supply chains.

Weipa's relative isolation and reliance on regional transport and supply networks increase its vulnerability to prolonged service disruptions. Damage to electricity generation and distribution, telecommunications, port facilities, airport infrastructure, roads or fuel supply arrangements may affect the community's ability to maintain essential services and access external assistance.

Infrastructure failures may extend beyond the Weipa region, potentially affecting surrounding communities and reducing the availability of external response and recovery resources.

Effective disaster management requires coordination between the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), infrastructure owners and operators, utility providers, government agencies and emergency services to maintain essential services, implement business continuity arrangements and coordinate restoration and recovery activities.

Major Transportation Event

A major transportation incident involving multiple casualties may exceed the immediate response capacity of local emergency services and medical facilities. Potential incidents include aircraft accidents, major road traffic crashes and maritime incidents involving vessels within the region.

Weipa Airport, the Port of Weipa and the regional road network are important transport facilities supporting the township, mining operations and surrounding communities. An incident involving any of these transport networks may result in significant casualties, infrastructure damage, disruption to essential services and environmental impacts.

Although this Local Disaster Management Plan focuses on the Weipa local area, the Weipa Hospital and emergency services also support surrounding communities across the Western Cape region. Consequently, local medical and emergency response resources may already be committed to other incidents or regional operations, potentially limiting their availability during a major transportation event.

A significant incident may require additional emergency personnel, specialist rescue equipment, medical resources and external assistance. Effective coordination between emergency services, Queensland Health, transport operators, Rio Tinto and the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is essential to manage the incident and support response and recovery activities.

Marine Pest

The Port of Weipa receives domestic and international vessel traffic, creating a risk of marine pest introduction and spread through vessel biofouling and ballast water.

Introduced marine pests are non-native marine organisms that can establish and spread in new environments. They have the potential to damage marine ecosystems, displace native species, affect fisheries and other marine industries, and foul port infrastructure, wharves, vessels and industrial water intake systems.

The presence of Asian green mussels (*Perna viridis*) has been confirmed in waters near Weipa, with Biosecurity Queensland undertaking surveillance and response activities to determine the extent of the outbreak. This highlights the importance of ongoing marine pest monitoring and biosecurity controls at the port.

A significant marine pest incursion could result in environmental damage, restrictions on vessel movements, disruption to port operations and economic impacts on mining, shipping and regional supply chains. Depending on the nature and extent of an outbreak, additional biosecurity controls or temporary port restrictions may be required.

Marine pest emergencies are managed under the Australian Emergency Marine Pest Plan (EMPPlan), supported by Commonwealth and Queensland biosecurity authorities, port operators and relevant industry stakeholders.

The Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) may be required to support community information, interagency coordination and the management of consequential impacts on essential services, transport and regional supply chains.

Plant or Animal Disease

The Port of Weipa and its proximity to international shipping routes and northern Australian waters create potential pathways for exotic plant and animal pests and diseases to enter Queensland. Risks include the introduction of pests, weeds and diseases through vessels, cargo, animals, people, wildlife and other natural pathways.

An outbreak of an emergency animal disease, such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or avian influenza, could have significant consequences for Australia's agricultural industries, export markets, food security and regional livelihoods. Plant pest incursions may also affect horticulture, agriculture and the natural environment.

Northern Australia is particularly vulnerable to exotic pests and diseases entering from neighbouring countries. The Australian Government's Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS), established in 1989, undertakes surveillance and early detection activities across northern Australia to identify potential biosecurity threats.

Biosecurity Queensland and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry have important roles in managing and responding to plant and animal biosecurity threats, depending on the nature of the incident.

A significant biosecurity incursion could result in quarantine restrictions, movement controls, disruption to agricultural and commercial activities, environmental impacts and substantial economic losses. The LDMG may be required to support community information, interagency coordination and the management of consequential impacts on the local community and regional supply chains.

Earthquake

Earthquakes are considered a relatively low risk to the Weipa area, with historical seismic activity recorded in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Arafura Sea and surrounding Cape York Peninsula. Most recorded events have occurred some distance from Weipa and have not resulted in significant impacts to the township.

Although the likelihood of a damaging earthquake is considered low, seismic activity has the potential to cause structural damage, disrupt essential services and affect critical infrastructure, including electricity, telecommunications, water supply, transport and port facilities.

The potential consequences of an earthquake will depend on its magnitude, location, depth and proximity to populated areas. The LDMG should maintain awareness of seismic activity and consider the potential impacts on the community and essential infrastructure as part of its disaster preparedness and response arrangements.

Hazardous Materials Incident

Weipa has several industrial, commercial and transport facilities that store, handle and transport dangerous goods and hazardous materials, including fuels and chemicals.

Incidents may occur during storage, handling or transportation by road, sea or within industrial facilities. Potential consequences include fire, explosion, toxic exposure, environmental contamination and risks to public health and safety.

Despite regulatory controls and company emergency procedures, accidental spills or releases remain a risk to the community and environment. Depending on the substance and location, incidents may require evacuation or shelter-in-place arrangements.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) provide information on chemical hazards and appropriate emergency response measures.

Marine pollution incidents involving oil or other hazardous substances are managed under the National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies, coordinated by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in conjunction with relevant Queensland agencies.

A significant incident may require a coordinated response involving emergency services, facility operators, environmental authorities and the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG).

Epidemic or Pandemic

An epidemic or pandemic may significantly affect the Weipa community, placing increased demand on local health services and requiring coordinated public health and emergency management responses.

COVID-19 demonstrated the potential for infectious diseases to cause widespread illness, disrupt essential services, restrict travel and impact businesses, workplaces and community activities.

Other infectious diseases of concern include dengue fever, which is transmitted by infected mosquitoes. Although dengue is not endemic in Weipa, local outbreaks may occur when infected travellers introduce the virus to local mosquito populations.

An outbreak of an infectious disease may result in increased hospital admissions, workforce shortages, isolation requirements, travel restrictions and disruption to essential services and regional supply chains.

Weipa's regional isolation and reliance on a limited range of health services may increase the challenges associated with managing a significant outbreak. Coordination between Queensland Health, local health services, emergency agencies and the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) may be required to support public health measures, community information and continuity of essential services.

9 Climate Change

Climate change is not a disaster hazard in itself; however, it has the potential to increase the severity and impacts of certain natural hazards. For Weipa and the surrounding Western Cape region, this may include changes to extreme rainfall, flooding, tropical cyclone impacts, storm surge, coastal inundation, extreme temperatures and bushfire conditions.

Climate change should therefore be considered in disaster risk assessment, infrastructure planning, community preparedness and long-term resilience planning to help minimise future risks and impacts.

Impact

Climate change projections for Cape York indicate increasing average temperatures, more frequent hot days and rising sea levels. Changes to rainfall patterns are also expected, although the extent and seasonal distribution remain uncertain.

For Weipa and surrounding coastal communities, these changes may increase exposure to coastal inundation, erosion, storm surge and extreme weather impacts. Tropical cyclones and severe storms may cause damage to buildings, vegetation, roads, port facilities and essential infrastructure.

Coastal erosion, flooding and storm surge may also affect critical transport routes and infrastructure relied upon for the delivery of fuel, food and other essential supplies.

Climate change should be considered in infrastructure planning, land-use decisions, disaster risk assessments and long-term community resilience planning.

Extreme Events

Climate change and rising sea levels may increase the impacts of extreme weather events on Weipa and surrounding coastal areas. Storm surge and coastal inundation may extend further inland, increasing the risk of erosion and damage to natural ecosystems, residential areas and critical infrastructure.

These impacts may affect coastal communities, transport routes, port facilities and essential services, potentially disrupting access and the delivery of essential supplies.

Climate change projections should be considered in long-term infrastructure planning, coastal development and disaster risk reduction.

Response

Climate change considerations are incorporated into the disaster management planning process through the regular review of local hazards, risks and potential impacts.

The Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) will consider current climate projections, coastal hazard mapping, flood and storm tide modelling and other relevant information when reviewing disaster risks and planning for future events.

Where available, updated mapping and climate information will support land-use planning, infrastructure resilience, emergency preparedness and response arrangements.

Climate change impacts will be considered as part of the ongoing review and improvement of the Local Disaster Management Plan.

10 Risk

Risk Assessment

The LDMG undertakes risk assessments to identify and evaluate hazards that may affect the Weipa community, infrastructure, economy and environment.

The assessment considers the likelihood of each hazard occurring and the potential consequences or impacts. These factors are assessed using the Queensland disaster management risk assessment methodology to determine an overall risk rating, ranging from low to extreme.

The risk assessment informs disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery planning and is reviewed regularly to reflect changes in local conditions and emerging risks.

Consequence

Consequence	Consequence Descriptor
Insignificant	No fatalities. Minor injuries requiring medical treatment. Minimal short-term displacement. Minor damage and disruption to the community. Limited environmental impact with no lasting effects. Minimal financial loss.
Minor	Small number of fatalities. Injuries requiring hospitalisation. Minor temporary displacement. Localised damage and community disruption. Environmental impacts with no long-term effects. Some financial loss.
Moderate	Multiple fatalities and injuries requiring hospitalisation. Significant short-term displacement. Serious damage requiring some external assistance. Community services functioning with difficulty. Significant environmental impacts with long-term effects. Considerable financial loss.
Major	Numerous fatalities and extensive injuries requiring hospitalisation. Large-scale displacement for an extended period. Severe damage requiring substantial external assistance. Community functioning significantly impaired. Severe environmental damage with permanent effects. Major financial loss.

Consequence	Consequence Descriptor
Catastrophic	Mass fatalities and widespread serious injuries requiring extended hospitalisation. Widespread displacement for an extended period. Extensive damage across the community. Community unable to function normally. Widespread and severe permanent environmental damage. Extreme financial loss.

Risk Matrix

Level of Risk	Reasonable Consequence				
Realistic Likelihood	1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastrophic
A - Almost certain	High	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
B - Likely	Medium	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
C - Possible	Low	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
D - Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	High	Extreme
E - Rare	Low	Low	Medium	High	High

Risk Management Priorities

Risk rating	Management response
Low	Managed through routine procedures and monitoring.
Medium	Requires management attention and appropriate mitigation measures.
High	Requires senior management attention and prioritised risk treatment.
Extreme	Requires immediate attention and urgent risk treatment.

11 Risk Register

The Risk Register identifies the key hazards and associated risks that may affect the Weipa community, infrastructure, economy and environment. It outlines the assessed likelihood and consequences of each risk, the resulting risk rating and the treatments required to reduce or manage those risks.

The Risk Register is informed by local knowledge, hazard assessments and the Queensland disaster risk management framework. It is reviewed regularly by the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) to ensure identified risks and treatments remain relevant and reflect changing local conditions.

Responsibility for implementing risk treatments is assigned to relevant agencies and organisations, with progress monitored through the LDMG. Risk ratings and treatment actions are reviewed as necessary to support ongoing disaster risk reduction, preparedness and community resilience.

Hazard: Vulnerable Sector – Potential Risk – Treatment	Likelihood	Consequence	Level
All-hazards			
Emergency communications – There is a risk that residents, emergency services and responding agencies may be unable to communicate effectively during a disaster due to telecommunications outages, limited network coverage or insufficient communications capacity.	B	3	H
Risk treatment actions • Identify and address gaps in mobile telephone, internet, radio and emergency communications coverage. • Engage telecommunications providers regarding network resilience, redundancy and restoration arrangements. • Maintain and test WTA emergency communications systems and backup arrangements. • Confirm alternative communications arrangements for the LDMG, emergency services and essential service providers. **Responsibility:** WTA, LDMG, telecommunications providers, relevant emergency service agencies and DDMG. **Timeframe:** Ongoing, with annual review and pre-wet-season testing.			
Tropical Cyclone and severe weather			
People – There is a risk of injury, illness or loss of life resulting from tropical cyclones, severe winds, storm tide, flooding and associated hazards.	D	3	M
Infrastructure – There is a risk that residential, commercial, industrial and community infrastructure may be damaged or destroyed.	D	2	M
Water supply – There is a risk that damage to water supply infrastructure or loss of power may disrupt the provision of potable water.	C	3	H

Hazard: Vulnerable Sector – Potential Risk – Treatment	Likelihood	Consequence	Level
Electricity supply – There is a risk that damage to electricity generation, transmission or distribution infrastructure may disrupt power supply.	C	3	H
Transport – There is a risk that damage to roads, bridges, airport and marine infrastructure may disrupt transport services and access to the community.	C	2	M
Health services – There is a risk that damage to health facilities, infrastructure or supporting services may disrupt access to essential medical care.	D	4	H
Community isolation – There is a risk that damage to transport infrastructure and supply routes may isolate Weipa and surrounding communities for an extended period.	C	2	M

Hazard: Vulnerable Sector – Potential Risk – Treatment	Likelihood	Consequence	Level
Risk treatment actions • Deliver annual community education and preparedness campaigns covering cyclone warnings, household emergency plans, evacuation arrangements and personal preparedness. • Encourage residents and businesses to secure loose items, remove potential windborne debris and prepare properties before the wet season. • Promote appropriate securing and storage of shipping containers, particularly in industrial and commercial areas. • Maintain relevant building approvals, compliance and asset maintenance programs. • Identify and manage vegetation that may threaten buildings, roads, powerlines and essential infrastructure. • Maintain and periodically test backup power arrangements for critical facilities and water infrastructure. • Confirm essential service providers' business continuity and emergency response arrangements. • Maintain road drainage, culverts, roadside vegetation and other critical transport infrastructure. • Maintain current aerodrome and port emergency arrangements. • Confirm health service continuity arrangements, including backup power, staffing, medical supplies and alternative service delivery arrangements. • Maintain community isolation and resupply planning, including arrangements for food, water, fuel, medicines and other essential supplies. • Promote household and business preparedness for temporary isolation and discourage unnecessary panic buying. **Responsibility:** WTA, LDMG member agencies, Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Fire Department (QFD), Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service (TCHHS), relevant infrastructure providers, North Queensland Bulk Ports (NQBP), transport providers, property owners and businesses. **Timeframe:** Ongoing, with annual pre-wet season review and preparedness activities.			
Bushfire, grassfire or structural fire			
People – There is a risk of injury, illness or loss of life resulting from bushfire, grassfire or structural fire.	D	2	L

Hazard: Vulnerable Sector – Potential Risk – Treatment	Likelihood	Consequence	Level
Smoke – There is a risk that smoke from fires may affect community health, particularly vulnerable people and those with pre-existing respiratory conditions.	D	3	M
Residential and commercial property – There is a risk that homes, businesses and other buildings may be damaged or destroyed by fire.	D	3	M
Critical infrastructure – There is a risk that fires may damage essential infrastructure, including electricity, water, sewerage, telecommunications, fuel storage and transport assets.	C	3	H
Health facilities – There is a risk that bushfire, grassfire or smoke may affect the operation and accessibility of local health facilities.	D	3	M
People – There is a risk of injury, illness or loss of life resulting from bushfire, grassfire or structural fire.	D	2	L

Risk treatment actions

- Promote community awareness of bushfire, grassfire and structural fire risks, including appropriate prevention and preparedness measures.
- Support community understanding of fire danger ratings, warnings and appropriate actions during fire events.
- Undertake planned vegetation management and fuel reduction activities where appropriate and in accordance with relevant fire management arrangements.
- Maintain firebreaks and access routes around critical infrastructure and priority community assets.
- Encourage property owners and businesses to maintain suitable vegetation management and fire protection measures.
- Ensure relevant agencies maintain fire response arrangements and access to appropriate firefighting resources.
- Review business continuity and emergency arrangements for health facilities and other essential services.

Responsibility: QFD, Western Cape Rural Fire Service, WTA, TCHHS, relevant infrastructure providers, land managers and property owners.

Timeframe: Ongoing, with preparedness and vegetation management activities undertaken ahead of the dry season.

Hazard: Vulnerable Sector – Potential Risk – Treatment	Likelihood	Consequence	Level
Public health emergencies – Epidemic or Pandemic			
Community health – There is a risk that an epidemic, pandemic or significant communicable disease outbreak may adversely affect the health and wellbeing of the Weipa community.	C	3	H
Health services – There is a risk that a significant increase in illness, staff shortages or disruption to medical supplies may exceed local health service capacity.	C	3	H
Risk treatment actions • Support public health education and awareness campaigns in collaboration with relevant health authorities. • Promote appropriate hygiene, vaccination and disease prevention information in accordance with current public health advice. • Maintain coordination arrangements between the LDMG, TCHHS and relevant public health authorities. • Identify vulnerable community groups and consider their needs in public health emergency planning. • Maintain health service continuity and workforce contingency arrangements. • Consider potential disruptions to medical supplies, essential services and community support networks. • Ensure arrangements are in place to communicate reliable and timely public health information to the community. **Responsibility:** TCHHS, Tropical Public Health Services, Queensland Health, WTA and relevant supporting agencies. **Timeframe:** Ongoing, with additional measures implemented as required during public health emergencies.			
Biosecurity – Emergency Animal Disease			
Animal health – There is a risk that an emergency animal disease outbreak may affect livestock, domestic animals or wildlife within the Weipa area.	D	2	L
Public health – There is a risk that certain animal diseases may affect human health through direct or indirect transmission.	D	2	L

Hazard: Vulnerable Sector – Potential Risk – Treatment	Likelihood	Consequence	Level
Economy and trade – There are a risk that an emergency animal disease outbreak may disrupt livestock movements, agricultural activities, supply chains and associated economic activity.	C	3	H
Risk treatment actions • Support relevant Queensland and Australian biosecurity authorities in promoting awareness of emergency animal disease risks and reporting requirements. • Maintain arrangements for reporting suspected emergency animal disease incidents to Biosecurity Queensland. • Support surveillance and monitoring activities undertaken by relevant biosecurity agencies. • Maintain awareness of potential impacts on livestock movements, agricultural supply chains and commercial activities. • Identify relevant agency responsibilities and communication arrangements for an emergency animal disease response. • Maintain appropriate local pest and animal management arrangements where relevant to disaster management. **Responsibility:** Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Biosecurity Queensland, WTA, relevant livestock and animal industry representatives and supporting agencies. **Timeframe:** Ongoing, with increased surveillance and response activities as required.			
Heatwave			
Heatwave – People There is a risk of heat-related illness, hospitalisation or loss of life during prolonged periods of extreme heat and humidity, particularly among vulnerable members of the community.	C	3	H
Heatwave – Health Services There is a risk that increased demand for medical assistance and heat-related illness may place pressure on local health services and emergency response capacity.	C	3	H
Heatwave – Essential Services There is a risk that prolonged extreme heat may affect electricity supply, water demand, telecommunications and the operation of essential infrastructure.	C	2	M

Hazard: Vulnerable Sector – Potential Risk – Treatment	Likelihood	Consequence	Level
Heatwave – Community and Vulnerable Groups There is a risk that vulnerable residents, including older people, young children, people with existing medical conditions, people with disability and those living alone, may be unable to adequately protect themselves from extreme heat.	C	3	H
Heatwave – Workforce and Economy There is a risk that extreme heat may affect outdoor workers, businesses, community activities and the delivery of essential services.	C	2	M
Heatwave – People There is a risk of heat-related illness, hospitalisation or loss of life during prolonged periods of extreme heat and humidity, particularly among vulnerable members of the community.	C	3	H
Heatwave – Health Services There is a risk that increased demand for medical assistance and heat-related illness may place pressure on local health services and emergency response capacity.	C	3	H

Hazard: Vulnerable Sector – Potential Risk – Treatment	Likelihood	Consequence	Level

Risk treatment actions

1. Heatwave – People

- Deliver community awareness campaigns regarding heat-related illness, hydration and ways to remain cool.
- Promote Bureau of Meteorology heatwave warnings and Queensland Health advice.
- Encourage residents to check on elderly neighbours, family members and other vulnerable people.
- Promote appropriate workplace and outdoor activity precautions during extreme heat.

Responsibility: WTA, LDMG, TCHHS, Queensland Health, QAS and community organisations.

Timeframe: Ongoing, with increased awareness during the build-up and wet seasons.

2. Heatwave – Health Services

- Maintain coordination arrangements with TCHHS and Queensland Health regarding heatwave preparedness and response.
- Identify vulnerable community groups that may require additional assistance during prolonged heat events.
- Review health service continuity arrangements and capacity to manage increased demand.
- Promote community awareness of heat exhaustion and heatstroke symptoms and when to seek medical assistance.

Responsibility: TCHHS, Queensland Health, QAS and WTA.

Hazard: Vulnerable Sector – Potential Risk – Treatment	Likelihood	Consequence	Level

Timeframe: Ongoing.

3. Heatwave – Essential Services

- Review continuity arrangements for electricity, water supply and other essential services during prolonged extreme heat.
- Encourage essential service providers to maintain appropriate contingency and backup arrangements.
- Identify facilities and infrastructure that may be particularly vulnerable to prolonged high temperatures.
- Monitor increased water and electricity demand during periods of extreme heat.

Responsibility: WTA, relevant utility providers and infrastructure operators.

Timeframe: Ongoing.

4. Heatwave – Community and Vulnerable Groups

- Promote access to suitable cool environments and community support services during severe and extreme heatwaves.
- Encourage carers, support workers and community organisations to check on vulnerable residents.
- Identify potential barriers to accessing cooling, drinking water and health services.
- Include vulnerable community members in local preparedness and public information activities.

Responsibility: WTA, TCHHS, community organisations and relevant support agencies.

Timeframe: Ongoing.

5. Heatwave – Workforce and Economy

- Promote workplace heat management and safe working practices for outdoor workers.
- Encourage businesses and community organisations to review their heat-related contingency arrangements.
- Promote adjustments to outdoor activities during periods of extreme heat.
- Consider the impacts of prolonged heat on essential service delivery and local business operations.

Responsibility: WTA, local businesses, employers and relevant agencies.

Timeframe: Ongoing.

12 Residual Risk

Residual risk is the risk that remains after existing prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures have been implemented. It may include risks that exceed the capability or capacity of the Weipa Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) to effectively manage at the local level.

The Weipa LDMG identifies, assesses and monitors residual risks and, where additional support or resources are required, communicates these to the relevant District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) for consideration and assistance.

Residual risks are reviewed as part of the ongoing disaster risk assessment and planning process to support effective coordination, capability development and risk management across the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA).

Residual Risk / Capacity Gap	Additional Support Potentially Required
Whole-of-community evacuation exceeds available local transport and coordination capacity.	District coordination, additional transport resources and specialist evacuation support.
Limited local operational expertise and staffing for the Weipa Storm Surge Shelter.	Specialist technical advice, trained personnel and operational support.
A major disaster affecting Weipa, Napranum and Mapoon may exceed the combined local response capacity.	Regional resource coordination and additional emergency response capability.
Significant asbestos contamination following widespread building damage.	Specialist hazardous materials assessment, management and remediation resources.
Multiple damaged buildings, mass casualties or a prolonged emergency response may exceed local emergency service capacity.	Additional emergency services, medical personnel, equipment and specialist response resources.
Major disaster-related public and environmental health impacts may exceed local staffing capacity.	Additional environmental health officers and specialist public health support.
Establishment and sustained operation of the LDCC during a major or prolonged event may exceed WTA staffing and financial capacity.	Additional personnel, logistical support and consideration of applicable financial assistance arrangements.

13 Prevention

Prevention involves implementing measures to eliminate or reduce the likelihood of a disaster event occurring and/or minimise its potential impacts should it occur. These

measures aim to reduce disaster risk by addressing hazards, exposure and vulnerability within communities.

Hazard mitigation involves proactive actions undertaken before a disaster to reduce or minimise its potential consequences for people, communities, the economy, infrastructure and the environment. These actions may include planning, regulatory controls, infrastructure improvements, environmental management and other targeted risk-reduction initiatives.

Effective and targeted prevention and mitigation measures can reduce the potential impacts and long-term costs associated with disasters, while protecting community assets and supporting economic, social and environmental resilience. Investing in these measures contributes to safer, more resilient and sustainable communities.

Land Use Planning

Land use planning plays an important role in reducing disaster risk by ensuring that development considers the potential impacts of natural hazards. Appropriate planning controls and development decisions in hazard-prone areas can minimise exposure and vulnerability, reduce the potential impacts of hazard events and support the resilience of existing and future communities.

Integrating natural hazard risk considerations into strategic planning, zoning, development assessment and building requirements helps ensure that communities are developed in a safer, more sustainable and resilient manner.

Community Awareness

Section 30(e) of the Disaster Management Act 2003 (Qld) identifies a function of the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) as ensuring the community is aware of ways to mitigate the adverse effects of an event and prepare for, respond to and recover from a disaster.

The WTA adopts a coordinated approach to community awareness and education programs, recognising that disaster resilience is a shared responsibility involving individuals, households, businesses, community organisations, government agencies and the broader community.

Community awareness initiatives aim to encourage residents to understand the risks relevant to their local area, take practical steps to prepare for potential disaster events and develop the capacity to be as self-sufficient as reasonably possible during and immediately following an event.

These initiatives also promote the importance of recovery planning, encouraging individuals, households and businesses to consider their recovery needs and take steps to support their own recovery following a disaster.

Through ongoing community engagement, education and preparedness initiatives, the WTA seeks to build a well-informed, prepared and resilient community that understands its role before, during and after a disaster.

14 Preparedness

The Weipa Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is responsible for maintaining an appropriate level of disaster preparedness and response capability through the development, implementation and ongoing review of disaster management plans, procedures and operational arrangements.

Preparedness involves ensuring that the agencies, personnel, equipment, resources and essential services required to manage disaster events are identified, available and capable of being coordinated, mobilised and deployed when required. This is supported through regular training, exercises, planning activities and continuous capability development, in accordance with the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA).

14.1.1 Event Coordination

The Weipa Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is responsible for coordinating disaster management activities within the Weipa local government area.

In accordance with section 35 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003 (Qld)*, the Chairperson of the Weipa LDMG appoints a Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC). For the Weipa Town Authority (WTA), this position is undertaken by the Superintendent Township, subject to the formal appointment requirements of the Act.

The LDC is responsible for coordinating disaster operations on behalf of the Weipa LDMG, providing regular updates to the Group and ensuring, as far as practicable, that the Group's strategic decisions relating to disaster operations are implemented.

The activation of the Weipa Local Disaster Management Plan is authorised by the Chairperson of the Weipa LDMG. The Chairperson is responsible for advising the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) when the Plan has been activated. The Plan may also be activated at the request of the DDC, in accordance with the established disaster management arrangements.

14.1.2 Community Warning & Alert Systems and Dissemination

The Weipa Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is responsible for coordinating and maintaining an appropriate level of disaster preparedness and response capability across the Weipa Local Government Area. This is achieved through the development, implementation, monitoring and regular review of disaster management plans, procedures and operational arrangements in accordance with the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA).

Preparedness involves ensuring that the agencies, personnel, equipment, resources and essential services required to manage disaster events are identified, understood and appropriately available to support an effective and coordinated response. This includes establishing clear roles and responsibilities, maintaining effective communication and coordination arrangements, and identifying resource requirements and potential capability gaps.

The LDMG supports ongoing preparedness through regular planning, training, exercises, capability assessments and continuous improvement activities. These activities help ensure

that participating agencies and organisations understand their respective responsibilities, can work effectively together and are suitably prepared to respond to disaster events and support community recovery.

14.1.3 Weipa Disaster Dashboard

The WTA Disaster Dashboard is a one-stop-shop for weather warnings, road closures, flood cameras, power outages, evacuation centres, helpful contacts and links to useful disaster-related information and social media.

14.1.4 AusAlert

The Weipa LDMG recognises AusAlert as one component of Australia's emergency warning arrangements. The system complements existing local warning and communication methods and does not replace the need for community members to monitor other official information sources. The LDMG will incorporate AusAlert into its community warning and dissemination arrangements, as appropriate, and continue to utilise locally relevant communication channels to ensure important information reaches the Weipa community.

14.1.5 Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS)

The Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) is a nationally recognised audio warning signal adopted by all Australian States and Territories in 1999. It is used to attract public attention to important emergency warnings during significant events.

The distinctive siren is broadcast immediately before an emergency warning message on radio, television and other public communication systems. When the signal is heard, the community should stop and listen carefully to the message and follow the advice provided by emergency authorities.

14.1.6 Training

The Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC), in consultation with the Queensland Police Service Emergency Management Coordinator (QPS-EMC), will ensure that all Weipa LDMG members and their deputies complete relevant LDMG induction and Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) training as soon as practicable.

The Weipa LDMG will work collaboratively with QPS to coordinate and deliver training in accordance with the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework (QDMTF). Training will support members in understanding their roles, responsibilities and obligations and developing the knowledge and skills required to effectively perform their disaster management functions.

14.1.7 Exercises

The Weipa LDMG will conduct regular exercises to test and evaluate the effectiveness of the Weipa Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) and associated Subplans.

Exercises may range from discussion-based scenarios and desktop exercises through to practical and full-scale operational exercises.

Exercises aim to:

- Test coordination, communication and liaison arrangements between participating agencies.
- Identify gaps, weaknesses or areas requiring improvement in disaster management arrangements.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of plans, procedures and response capabilities.
- Identify opportunities for continuous improvement and strengthen the preparedness of the Weipa LDMG and participating organisations.

Exercise outcomes and lessons identified will inform reviews and updates to the LDMP and associated Subplans.

14.1.8 Post-Exercise Assessment and Review

A hot debrief will be conducted immediately following each exercise, with a cold debrief held within four weeks to allow participants to provide considered feedback on the exercise outcomes.

Lessons identified, strengths and areas for improvement will be documented and consolidated into an action plan, generally through an After Action Review (AAR), to support continuous improvement of the Weipa LDMP and associated Subplans.

15 Response

The WTA's priority in response to a disaster is preservation of life and protection of community assets and infrastructure.

15.1.1 Authority to Activate

The authority to activate the Weipa LDMG is vested in the Chair of the group. It is duty of the LDC to inform the DDC regarding the Group's activation.

15.1.2 Activation

Activation may occur as:

- A response to a worsening situation
- At the request of the responsible Lead Agency (in situations where no warning is possible)
- A request or direction from the DDC to activate the LDMG

The four levels of activation are:

Activation Level	Description
Alert	A heightened level of vigilance and preparedness due to the possibility of an event in the area of responsibility. Some action may be required, and the situation should be monitored by staff capable of assessing and preparing for the potential threat.
Lean Forward	An operational state characterised by a heightened level of situational awareness of a disaster event (either current or impending) and a state of operational readiness. Disaster coordination centres are on stand-by and prepared but not activated. Situational reports (SITREPS) to DDC should continue as arranged.
Stand Up	An operational state where resources are mobilised, personnel are activated and operational activities commenced. Disaster coordination centres are activated. Situational reports to DDMG continue according to agreed timelines.
Stand Down	Transition from responding to an event back to normal core business and / or continuance of recovery operations. There is no longer a requirement to respond to the event, and the threat is no longer present.

15.1.3 Local Disaster Coordination Centre

The Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) is a facility established within the Weipa local government area to support and coordinate the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) response to disaster events. The LDCC is responsible for providing timely, accurate and relevant information to the District Disaster Coordination Centre (DDCC) regarding any disaster event, or potential disaster event, occurring within the local government area (LGA).

The primary LDCC for Weipa is located at the Weipa Town Authority (WTA) Council Chambers, 6 Hibberd Drive, Rocky Point.

It is noted that a large African Mahogany tree located behind the WTA building presents a potential safety risk during periods of high winds and heavy rainfall. Should the primary facility become inaccessible or unsuitable for use for any reason, the LDCC will relocate to the designated secondary location at the Weipa SES Building, 2 Hibberd Drive, Rocky Point.

15.1.4 Notification Process

The LDMG Chairperson and Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) will maintain ongoing situational awareness of events and emerging risks that may necessitate activation of the local disaster management system.

Where a decision is made to activate the LDMG, the appropriate activation level will be determined and communicated to all relevant LDMG members. An initial LDMG meeting will then be convened, with further meetings scheduled as required to support ongoing coordination and response activities.

The District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) will be formally notified of the LDMG's activation, both verbally and in writing.

15.1.5 Warning Notification and Dissemination

Weipa LDMG members will receive warnings and notifications through various communication channels, including SMS, email or direct telephone contact. Warnings may be received from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC), District Disaster Coordinator (DDC), Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) and relevant agency communication channels.

The LDC will coordinate the dissemination of relevant warnings and information to LDMG members, who will also maintain communication with their respective agencies. The LDMG will be kept informed of developing situations and consulted, where appropriate, regarding transitions between activation levels.

The DDC will facilitate the dissemination of relevant warnings and information to affected LDMGs within the district, maintaining communication with the SDCC and relevant agencies.

Public warnings and information may be disseminated through SMS and landline messaging, local radio, broadcast media, the Weipa Disaster Dashboard, Council communication channels including social media and other appropriate platforms.

Additional warning systems may be used to support and reinforce public warnings, including the Australian Warning System (AWS), Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS), Emergency Alert (EA) and AusAlert, as appropriate to the event and available warning arrangements.

15.1.6 Operational Reporting

The LDC will ensure operational reporting from LDMG to Cairns DDMG commences once the LDMG is activated.

15.1.7 Situation Report (SITREP)

SITREPS capture accurate information from the day's operations by detailing current and forecast situation during a disaster event. The LDC, through the operation of the Weipa LDCC, is responsible for the preparation of the SITREP. The SITREP will be distributed at intervals as requested by the Carins DDMG.

15.1.8 Tasking and Incident Logs

The Weipa Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) uses a manual logging system to record and monitor operational taskings and incidents. Records include the task description, commencement and completion dates and times, responsible agency or officer, actions undertaken and relevant comments.

All taskings and incidents are plotted on reference maps to support situational awareness and operational coordination. Operational reports, including Situation Reports (SITREPs), can be generated using recorded tasking, incident and location information.

Accessing Support

The Weipa LDCC shall provide land line telephones, wi-fi, two way radios, desk space and administrative resources to agency Liaison Officers.

15.1.9 Requests to Cairns DDMG

Where the Weipa LDMG has exhausted its capacity and requires additional logistics support and/or resources to meet operational requirements that are beyond local capacity and capability, the LDMG will formally seek assistance through a Request for Assistance forwarded to the DDCC.

- All requests to the DCC will go through either the LDC or Chair of the LDMG.

15.1.10 Disaster Declaration

Under section 64 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003 (Qld)*, the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) may, with the approval of the Minister, declare a disaster situation for the Disaster District or part thereof where additional declared disaster powers are necessary to prevent or minimise loss of life, injury, illness, property damage or environmental damage.

Prior to making a declaration, the DDC must take reasonable steps to consult with the District Disaster Management Group and each affected local government, including Weipa Town Authority (WTA).

Under section 69 of the Act, the Minister and Premier may also jointly declare a disaster situation for the State or part of the State.

Under section 75, the Chairperson of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) or the relevant DDC may authorise appropriately qualified persons to exercise declared disaster powers. Police officers may also exercise these powers under the Act.

A declaration of a disaster situation does not transfer or remove WTA's responsibilities for coordinating local disaster response and recovery activities.

15.1.11 Financial Management

Weipa Town Authority (WTA) and responding agencies are responsible for managing their own financial arrangements during disaster response and recovery operations, including recording expenditure and preparing claims for reimbursement of eligible costs.

WTA maintains an allocation for disaster-related expenditure within its annual budget. However, disaster events may require significant and unforeseen expenditure at short notice, potentially requiring additional financial resources.

Financial management during disaster events may involve urgent expenditure and non-routine purchasing arrangements. All expenditure must be appropriately authorised, recorded and supported by relevant documentation in accordance with applicable financial and procurement requirements.

A formal declaration of a disaster situation is not a prerequisite for activation of disaster funding arrangements or reimbursement of eligible expenditure. However, reimbursement is subject to the eligibility criteria and requirements of the applicable funding program.

Each agency represented on the Weipa LDMG is responsible for managing its own financial arrangements and maintaining records to support any eligible reimbursement claims.

15.1.12 Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA)

Where disaster funding may be available, the Weipa LDMG, through the Weipa Town Authority, should engage with in the first instance, all attempts must be made to contact the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) at the earliest opportunity to determine the availability of funding and the applicable Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) or State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA). in writing to request funding support for Weipa LDMG Operations. The LDMG needs to capture written evidence from QRA if they will not provide approval for funding support.

15.1.13 State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA)

The intent of the State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA) is an all-hazards disaster relief program that is fully funded by the Queensland Government and applied to both natural and non-natural disasters.

The purpose of the SDRA is to address personal hardship and community needs for disaster events where the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) cannot be activated.

As the SDRA is wholly State funded, it is not subject to Australian Government eligibility requirements or activation thresholds. Consequently, it can help with a broader range of disaster events and to assist in the relief of communities whose social wellbeing has been severely affected by a disaster event (natural or non-natural). The SDRA is State funded, and therefore not subject to the Australian government-imposed event eligibility provisions or activation threshold. Consequently, SDRA can address a wider range of disaster events and circumstances where personal hardship exists.

15.1.14 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) provide for cost-sharing between the Australian and Queensland Governments to assist with the recovery costs incurred by eligible state agencies, local governments and other eligible entities following a disaster event.

The Weipa Town Authority (WTA) is currently not eligible to receive DRFA funding.

15.1.15 Queensland Police Service (QPS)

As the Weipa Town Authority (WTA) is currently ineligible to receive Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) funding, costs associated with the operations of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC), including staff wages, catering, external clean-up activities etc are not claimable by the WTA.

Where a Request for Assistance (RFA) is approved through the Queensland Police Service (QPS), and QPS has agreed to provide the requested resources, the associated costs of additional personnel, extra staff, including travel and accommodation, will be managed directly through QPS.

15.1.16 Recouping of Funds

Extreme care and attention to detail must be exercised taken throughout the disaster response and recovery phases period to maintain accurate logs, formal records and file copies of all expenditures, (including personnel time sheets,) to provide clear and reasonable accountability and evidence in support of any subsequent justification for future reimbursement claims.

Reimbursement is not an automatic process and requires sufficient solid evidence to demonstrate of disaster-related that expenditure is disaster-related and eligible under the applicable funding arrangements.

Supporting documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- Public information notices and warnings
- Photographs of disaster impacts before clean-up activities commence
- Photographs of clean-up and recovery activities
- Situation reports and statements from relevant Town Authority or Local Disaster Management Group personnel
- Expenditure summaries from spreadsheets or financial management systems
- Quotations, purchase orders and contracts
- Tax invoices and receipts for completed works
- Personnel timesheets, plant or equipment usage records

15.1.17 Resupply

Due to Weipa's remote location and exposure to natural hazards, the community may experience temporary isolation because of disaster events. Extended isolation may disrupt access to essential food, fuel, medical supplies and other basic commodities, potentially requiring coordinated resupply operations.

Resupply may be necessary where communities, rural properties or stranded persons are isolated from their normal sources of essential supplies for an extended period. Where required, the Weipa LDMG will coordinate resupply arrangements in consultation with relevant agencies and neighbouring local governments, including Napranum, Mapoon and Cook Shire.

Individuals and communities remain responsible for their own disaster preparedness, self-sufficiency and mutual assistance wherever possible. Resupply operations are intended to support communities experiencing hardship due to prolonged isolation and should not replace individual and community preparedness.

Resupply arrangements will be undertaken in accordance with applicable Queensland disaster management resupply guidelines and procedures to ensure isolated and vulnerable communities can access essential supplies during disaster events.

16 Recovery

Disaster recovery is the coordinated process of supporting individuals and communities to restore infrastructure, the environment, the economy, and emotional, social and physical wellbeing following a disaster. Recovery can take months or years and often extends beyond immediate relief to include repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation and community development.

It is not practical to prepare a detailed, pre-formatted recovery strategy for every hazard because each disaster affects communities differently. Instead, recovery plans provide a strategic framework that can be adapted once the extent and nature of the impacts are known. The appropriate recovery teams and resources can then be identified.

Recovery is complex and depends heavily on community resilience, participation and engagement. Disasters can affect infrastructure, the environment, local economies and the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals and communities. Mental health impacts may continue well after the immediate emergency has passed, making ongoing psychosocial support an important part of recovery.

Recovery strategies may include:

- Providing financial, material, medical and psychosocial assistance
- Restoring essential infrastructure and services
- Repairing and restoring the natural and built environment
- Supporting businesses, employment and economic recovery
- Supporting community development, connection and resilience
- Providing longer-term health and wellbeing services.



Figure 5: Stages of Recovery

Components of Recovery

Recovery needs vary between individuals, families and communities. To coordinate these diverse needs, Queensland groups recovery activities into five functional lines of recovery:

- **Human and Social** – health, wellbeing and community support
- **Economic** – businesses, employment and economic recovery
- **Environment** – restoration and protection of the natural environment
- **Building** – repair and reconstruction of buildings
- **Roads and Transport** – restoration of transport infrastructure and services

These areas overlap and require different skills and resources. The functional lines support recovery planning and coordination but do not change the legal responsibilities of individual agencies.

Principles of Recovery

16.1.1 Community-Led Approach

Recovery should be community-centred, flexible and responsive to changing needs. It should:

- Involve communities in decisions about their recovery
- Build on local knowledge, strengths, leadership and resilience
- Support partnerships between communities and recovery agencies
- Identify opportunities to improve social, economic, built and natural environments

16.1.2 Coordination of Activities

Recovery requires a planned, coordinated and adaptable approach. It should:

- Use skilled and trusted leadership
- Involve relevant agencies and stakeholders working together
- Establish clear goals, roles and responsibilities
- Adapt to changing community needs and impacts

16.1.3 Effective Communication

Effective recovery depends on clear, timely and two-way communication. It should:

- Provide accurate, accessible, and consistent information.
- Use appropriate communication channels for different audiences.
- Encourage community feedback and participation.
- Maintain communication throughout the recovery process.

16.1.4 Acknowledging and Building Capacity

Recovery should build on existing community and organisational strengths. It should:

- Identify and mobilise local skills and resources.
- Support self-reliance, resilience, and community leadership
- Provide appropriate support to recovery workers and affected people
- Gradually reduce external support as local capacity increases

Reference

Extensive supporting material is available at https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/dm-guideline-supporting-resources. A selection of references follows.

- Australian Emergency Management Glossary
- ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines
- Critical Infrastructure Emergency Risk Management and Assurance
- Disaster Management Act 2003
- Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework
- Operational Planning Guidelines for Local Disaster Management Groups
- Queensland Disaster Management Planning Guidelines 2005 for Local Government
- Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Guidelines
- Queensland Emergency Alert Operational Guidelines
- Queensland Emergency Management Assurance Framework
- Queensland Evacuation Guidelines
- Queensland Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (PPRR) Disaster Management Guideline for 2024-25
- Queensland Public Cyclone Shelter Guidelines
- Queensland Recovery Guidelines
- Queensland Resupply Manual
- Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland