

NORTH BURNETT REGION DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN Sub Plan 8 – Impact Assessment

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Purpose of this Sub Plan

The purpose of this sub plan is to detail the arrangements for the planning and conduct of Disaster Impact Assessment within the North Burnett Region.

Maintenance of this Sub Plan

The Local Disaster Coordinator is responsible for this Sub Plan. Changes to this Sub Plan require the endorsement of the LDMG and the approval of the LDC. This Sub Plan shall be exercised annually.

Introduction

Impact Assessment is a critical aspect of disaster response and recovery. Decision-making after a disaster is often complicated and made more difficult due to a lack of information about the impact of the disaster and what needs to be done to assist the community. Decision makers will almost certainly have information gaps that must be filled before effective decisions can be made and adequate resources deployed.

Impact Assessment is undertaken continuously throughout response and recovery operations. There are three broad types of Impact Assessment undertaken:

Immediate Impact Assessment.

Immediate Impact Assessment is undertaken immediately after disaster impact using local resources on hand. This form of assessment usually strives to collect macro level detail so that initial response decisions can be made and resources allocated.

It is undertaken largely by Council staff and local emergency services, and by the community self-reporting disaster impact. The efforts of the emergency services and the community should be guided and facilitated by the LDCC under LDMG direction through an Immediate Impact Assessment Plan.

Rapid Impact Assessment.

Rapid Impact Assessment can be defined as the deployment of dedicated teams operating in defined impact areas systematically assessing building structures and collecting electronic data on damage that can be quickly transmitted to the LDCC for analysis. This form of Impact Assessment seeks to gather data that can be used to quantify the impact in more detail allowing decision makers to make better decisions and use resources more effectively.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Service maintain an effective Rapid Impact Assessment capability that can be deployed into the region if required.

The LDMG may request any relevant agency to augment or support Rapid Damage Assessment Teams to collect appropriate information required by decision makers.

The LDMG and LDCC will need to provide direction and guidance to Rapid Impact Assessment Teams to ensure their efforts are focused and relevant

to the needs of decision makers. The LDCC should maintain a Rapid Impact Assessment Plan in conjunction with QFES if this type of assessment is required.

Long-term Impact Assessment.

Long term Impact Assessment is focused on the long-term impact of disasters and seeks to provide decision makers with an understanding of broader community and social issues that may arise as a result of disaster impact. It is usually undertaken during Recovery addressing Human/Social Economic, Infrastructure and Environmental issues.

Addressing information gaps and situational awareness in disaster situations is paramount. Successful disaster operations and subsequent recovery is largely dependent upon how quickly and effectively authorities are able to provide appropriate responses and resources. This can only be achieved if planners and decision makers have a clear assessment of the disaster impact.

North Burnett Impact Assessment Strategy

The strategy for Disaster Impact Assessment in the North Burnett is to plan for and undertake Immediate Impact Assessment reporting as soon as practicable after the impact of a disaster and to seek additional assistance for Rapid Impact Assessment as required.

The LDMG is to establish the Priority Information Requirements for all Impact Assessment operations. The LDCC is to develop the Disaster Assessment Plan based on these Priority Information Requirements.

If Rapid Impact Assessment is required, the LDCC is to support the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services in the development of a Rapid Impact Assessment Plan.

The results of Immediate and Rapid Impact Assessment provide the basis for Response operations and Recovery Needs Analysis.

Priority Information Requirements

Priority Information Requirements (PIR) are questions that must be answered about the disaster impact in order to enable effective operational decision making and resource allocation.

PIR will change as the disaster event unfolds. Different things will be important at different times and the level of detail required often increases as time goes on.

PIR for immediate Impact Assessments will usually be broad questions e.g. are power, water, sewerage services affected? how many people need evacuation? how many houses are uninhabitable? are food supplies threatened? how long will current water supplies last? etc.

PIR for Rapid Impact Assessment will usually be much more specific in order to enhance situational awareness and to provide a deeper understanding of the issues and needs within the community e.g. data on residential housing damage by category (mild, moderate, severe)? how many children are affected by age and special need?

All PIR must include a time dimension e.g. when the information is required by the LDMG for decision-making.

The LDMG must articulate their PIR to focus the information collection effort in order to avoid the collection of irrelevant or lower priority information.

The LDCC is responsible for ensuring that agencies and the community are tasked/requested to provide relevant data that will assist in answering the PIR.

Disaster Impact Categories

The LDMG and the LDCC should consider the following categories of social structure when establishing PIR and developing Impact Assessment Plans. These categories may be modified to suit the situation. One or more PIR may be developed for each of these categories as a result of an appreciation of the current situation.

Useful Categories for Impact Assessment	
Community – Social Cohesion	What is the impact on the community’s social cohesion. Consider sporting clubs, community halls, community groups, schools, education facilities, etc.
Rural & Agricultural	What is the impact in rural areas and areas of primary production. Consider crop destruction, roads and access, stock losses, farm infrastructure damage, etc.
Financial & Economic	What is the financial and economic impact for the region. Consider immediate financial losses and loss of employment and/or trade.
Services & Utilities	What services and utilities have been disrupted? Consider power, water, sewerage treatment, communications, refuse management
Industry & Business	What impact has occurred to businesses and industry. Consider local traders, community supplies, retailers, manufacturing, hospitality, entertainment, child care services
Built infrastructure	What is the damage to the built infrastructure? Consider roads, rail, airports, community buildings, council services infrastructure, Government facilities, communications, etc
Residential	What is the damage to people’s homes. Consider whether homes are habitable, length of time to return people who have been evacuated, length time for repair, provision of services, etc.
Aged & Special Needs	What Aged and Special Care facilities have been impacted? Consider hospitals, aged care facilities, special education facilities impacts on people with disabilities, etc.
Supply & Distribution	Are food and other essential supplies disrupted or at risk of being disrupted? Consider local food suppliers, transport and distribution routes, damage to wholesalers/providers, etc

Natural environment	What has been the impact on the natural environment. Consider erosion (river bank), changes to habitat, threatened species, public spaces and amenities, water, air and soil quality, etc.
Public Health	What are the risks to public health? Consider infectious diseases, sanitation and refuse management, toxic flood waters, food spoilage, inadequate water treatment, vermin and insect control, etc

Table 1 – Categories for Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Planning Process

Impact Assessment Planning is undertaken by LDCC staff with assistance from LMDG member agencies. For Rapid Impact Assessment, planning is conducted in conjunction with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

Developing the Impact Assessment Plan is done in four steps as outlined below:

Step	Description
STEP 1 LDMG DIRECTION	<p>The LDMG considers what is known of the situation and the information gaps that need to be fulfilled.</p> <p>The LDMG develops Priority Information Requirements including the time the information is required by the LDMG.</p> <p>The LDMG tasks the LDCC to fulfill the PIR by the required time.</p>
STEP 2 LDCC PLANNING	<p>The LDCC undertakes planning and action as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop specific questions from the PIR that agencies and the community can be tasked/requested to fulfill. 2. Match the specific questions to the resources able to provide the information by the required time. More than one agency may be tasked to collect information. 3. Consult with agencies to be tasked to confirm capacity and any special requirements. Determine the reporting format and timings with each agency. 4. Document the specific questions and tasking arrangements in the Impact Assessment Collection Plan (template format at Appendix 1). 5. Task agencies as per PIR Collection Sheet.
STEP 3 MONITOR AND FOLLOW UP	<p>LDCC monitor agency reports; follow up and collate data received.</p> <p>LDCC maintain currency of PIR Collection Sheet.</p> <p>LDCC report on PIR when required by the LDMG.</p>

STEP 4 UPDATE PLANNING	LDMG issues new or updated PIR. Process recommences at Step 1.
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Table 2 – Impact Assessment Planning Process

Agencies that Support Impact Assessment

Agencies that may be tasked to collect information that helps answer the PIR and the information they may be able to provide is summarised in the table below:

Agency	Type of Information that may be collected
Qld Police Service	Reports of building damage, disruption to utilities, road status and general conditions in the community
BOM	Information and predictions of weather and river conditions.
QFES	Reports of buildings damage, disruption to utilities, road status and general conditions in the community gained by deployed local crews including rural fire service; auxiliary staff and SES.
QAS	Information on building damage and road conditions obtained by deployed local crews.
Council Staff	Reports on damage or disruption to council infrastructure including water supply, sewerage, refuse management and roads. Can also provide damage reports on community resources owned by council e.g. clubs, sporting associations, community groups, etc.
Qld Health	Reports of damage to health facilities and disruption of health services.
Transport and Main Roads	Damage reports to State/Federal roads and associated infrastructure e.g bridges/culverts, etc.
Ergon Energy	Damage reports to the electricity distribution systems and restoration timeframes.
Revolution Mining	Reports on damage to mining facilities and or equipment.
QRail	Damage to the rail network and disruption to rail services.
Department of Communities	Reports of impact on people with special needs.
Sunwater	Reports of damage to dams and associated facilities that pose a risk to downstream communities.
Chambers of Commerce	Reports on damage to businesses premises and trading conditions including financial impact assessments.
Local Grower Associations	Damage reports of member farms including financial impact and economic impact assessments.
Community Groups	Information on damage to buildings, loss of services and impact on people with special needs.

The Public	Information on building damage, road conditions, loss of services, damage to social infrastructure. Resupply requirements.
Landcare Organisations	Can provide information on environmental impact including river bank erosion; degradation of air, soil or water; impact on protected species, etc.

Table 3 – Agencies that support Damage Assessment

Impact Assessment Collection Plan

The Impact Assessment Collection Plan is a plan for how the PIR established by the LDMG are to be addressed within established time frames. It defines the:

- PIR,
- specific questions that need to be answered in order to address the PIR,
- agencies or elements of the community that are tasked/requested to provide reports or respond to specific questions,
- reporting timeframes and formats to be used.

The purpose of the impact assessment planning process is to provide the LDMG and LDCC with a systematic approach to the collection of focused and relevant impact data that assists operational decision-making. The plan documents the above detail and allows for the monitoring of impact assessment reporting and tracking of data to answer the PIR.

The Impact Assessment Plan will be continuously updated throughout the response to the disaster event as current PIR are answered and new PIR are developed by the LDMG. Managing the plan is a continuous process undertaken by LDCC staff with agency support and assistance.

A template for an Impact Assessment Plan is provided at Appendix 1 to this sub plan.

Analysis of Impact Assessments

Analysis of damage and impact reports is undertaken by LDCC staff with data presented to the LDMG to support the PIR. The LDMG is responsible for determining the significance of impact assessment reports provided by the LDCC and for providing the direction on appropriate response activities and resources necessary to mitigate the disaster impact. This direction is included in the Event Operational Plan.

Appendices:

1. Template – Impact Assessment Plan

Appendix 1 – Template – Disaster Impact Assessment Collection Plan

This template is provided for use by LDCC staff to document the outcomes of Impact Assessment Planning and to manage and track Impact Assessment reporting. It may be modified to suit the situation as required. This plan may be disseminated to tasked agencies.

North Burnett – Impact Assessment Plan - <Event Name>						
Correct as at: <date/time>						
Priority Information Requirement	Specific Questions to answer the PIR	Agencies / Elements of Community Tasked to respond to specific questions	Report By (date/time)	Reporting Format (how is information to be reported)	Tasked	Completed

Note: Maintained by the LDCC based on PIR established by the LDMG. New PIR may be added throughout disaster operations as required.