

GOV32	Natural Disasters
Approval Date:	30/01/2019
Council Decision Reference:	013/2021
Policy Type:	Governance
Policy Custodian:	CEO
Review Date:	30/01/2022
Version (Revision Number):	1.0

Purpose

Natural disasters come in various forms being floods, cyclones and severe storms, bush and infrastructure fires or major pest infestation. Perhaps the most common of these within the West Daly region and catastrophic on isolated communities is flooding.

The combination of season bring violent cyclones and storms to cause river and creek crossings to become impassable is almost an annual occurrence. It is therefore vital that each community prepares appropriate disaster plans to cater for likely events.


Scope

In all natural disasters a local disaster control group, which is aligned with a Territory Disaster group takes control. The local senior police officer is considered the Controller of the group and Council plays a support role as needed.

Traditionally, local government becomes involved in the aftermath of natural disasters in a recover role. Council resources, plant and equipment and staff, are expected to work in cooperation with other community agencies to clean up and mitigate the effect on the community of any natural disaster.

Policy Statement

1. Each community service centre will have operational plans to mitigate natural disasters wherever possible and to assist recovery of the community as soon as possible.
2. Each community service centre should be aware of the dangers of bush fires to the community and take appropriate continual mitigation measures such as regular fire break maintenance.
3. All Councils resources, plan, machinery, vehicles and employees will be deployed to assist local community agencies in the event of a natural disaster occurring in the area.
4. Council staff will work under normal supervision on recovery applications but will be guided by the local Emergency Services Controller and work in liaison with other community agencies.

- 
5. At the conclusion of the recovery period of a natural disaster, the Community Services Manager (CSM) will compile a full report detailing the effects of the natural disaster, any damage or loss that has occurred and details of all actions taken in the wake of the event.
 6. At the conclusion of the recovery staff of a natural disaster, if expenditure needed or community recovery is high, Council will investigate possible financial assistance under the Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) Scheme. This action would be the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officers.