

Policy Name	Natural Disasters
Policy Type	Governance
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SUMMARY

Natural disasters come in various forms – 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 the event that is perhaps most catastrophic on isolated communities, is flooding.

The combination of seasons bringing 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.

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 recovery role. Council resources, plant and equipment and staff, are expected to work in co-operation 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 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 Council's resources, plant, machinery, vehicles and employees will be deployed to assist local community agencies in the event of a natural disaster occurring in the area.

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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 local 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 stage 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 for the Chief Executive Officer.

TERMINOLOGY AND REFERENCES

REFERENCES

Local Government Act

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Chief Executive Officer

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