

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Community **Relief and Early Recovery** Activities



JANUARY 2011 – JUNE 2011

**FLOOD RECOVERY
6 MONTH PROGRESS REPORT**



REGIONAL COUNCIL





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Foreword



The journey of recovery for the Lockyer Valley community will be long, challenging and diverse.

Recovery is based on immediate priorities, short to medium-term and longer-term actions and strategies which assist communities to become more resilient. By increasing resilience, individuals, families and communities can be stronger and have greater capacity to manage disasters and their own recovery in the future.

Council has identified that, due to the impact of the floods, there was a significant loss of socio-economic activity/productivity in the community. With increased emphasis on developing recovery activities, Council is working to reinvigorate socio-economic activity and build a more sustainable region.

Cr Steve Jones

MAYOR

LOCKYER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL



Following the immediate flood response and relief, Council developed the Lockyer Valley Community Recovery Plan in consultation with the community and key stakeholders.

The Lockyer Valley Community Recovery Plan is a living and adaptive document enabling the community to drive their recovery, continue to reassess emerging recovery priorities and develop initiatives addressing their needs.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority) developed 'Operation Queenslander' to assist communities work through the planning and rebuilding process.

Prior to 'Operation Queenslander', Council already commenced the development of the Lockyer Valley Community Recovery Plan. The first issue of the Plan was endorsed by Council on 23 February 2011 and forwarded to the Authority on 4 March 2011.

The Plan was available for further public comment from 4 March 2011 until the first week of April 2011 where it was revised to reflect community feedback including 92 new actions and/or strategies for community recovery.

A copy of the Plan can be downloaded through Council's website at www.lvrc.qld.gov.au or by calling 1300 005 872.

Graham Moon

DEPUTY MAYOR

LOCKYER VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL



Introduction

Lockyer Valley Region Devastating Flood Event

During December 2010 and January 2011, the Lockyer Valley experienced extreme flooding culminating in January 2011 into what's commonly described as "an 'inland tsunami' causing death and widespread destruction"¹.

The flooding had a devastating impact on the local community with no-one unaffected by what occurred. The floods led to death and devastation; 19 local residents lost their lives.

People's lives and belongings were destroyed, houses and

businesses were left structurally unsound, significantly damaged or totally ruined. Creeks and water courses were left scarred. Approximately 1,000 cars were swept downstream and piled up against bridges and left in paddocks.

Emergency services conducted 47 water rescues in the Gatton area and 43 helicopter rescues in and around Grantham and Murphys Creek.

These flash floods resulted in loss and damage to:

¹ Queensland Flood Commission of Inquiry page 235 to 237 and reinforced by Executive Officer Toowoomba DDMG).

- peoples' lives, health and wellbeing, resulting in trauma and isolation;
- homes;
- private and public infrastructure;
- livestock, livelihoods and economic activities;
- sense of community connectedness;
- natural environment; and
- residents' sense of safety and hope for the future.

Communities impacted by the flood events included: Grantham, Spring Bluff, Murphys Creek, Postmans Ridge, Withcott, Flagstone Creek, Helidon, Gatton, Forest Hill, Mulgowie, Laidley, Mount Sylvia, Lockrose, Junction View, East Haldon, Glenore Grove, Crowley Vale, Brightview, Regency Downs and Black Duck Creek.

The impact of the devastating flood event resulted in structural damage to 119 properties with another 2290 properties inundated.

The Recovery Journey

The recovery program has been established for three years in response to anticipated timelines for community recovery actions and strategies. Flexibility has been built into the program to assist individuals and communities with their exit from recovery assistance, depending upon individual needs.

DEC 2010- 10 JAN 2011	JAN 2010- FEB 2011	MAR 2010- MAY 2011	JUN 2010- DEC 2011	JAN 2012- DEC 2012	JAN 2013- DEC 2013
Devastating Flood Events	Community Recovery Plan Developed	Recovery Program Established	Recovery Program Delivery		
	Community Recovery Building a Sustainable & Resilient Community				



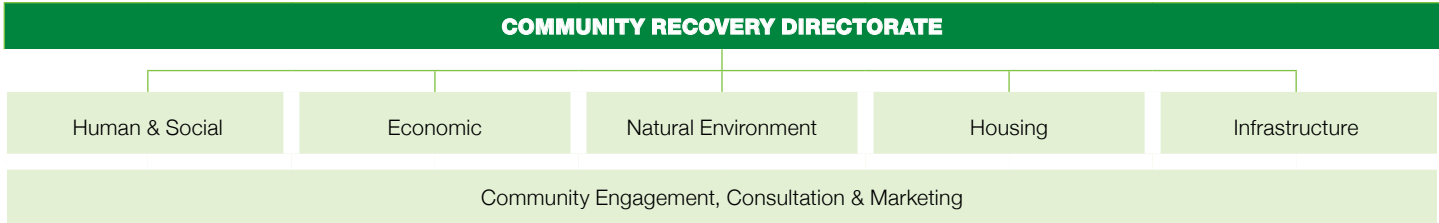
Six Lines of Reconstruction

The Lockyer Valley Community Recovery Plan has been developed to align with the Authority's six lines of reconstruction as outlined below:

THE AUTHORITY SIX LINES OF RECONSTRUCTION ²		COUNCIL COMMUNITY RECOVERY PLAN
Human and Social	➔	Human and Social
Economic	➔	Economic
Environment	➔	Natural Environment
Building Recovery	➔	Housing
Roads & Transport	➔	Infrastructure
Community Liaison & Communication	➔	Community Engagement, Consultation & Marketing

Governance Arrangements

Established to support and inform the Recovery Directorate are five sub-committees; Human and Social, Economic, Natural Environment, Housing and Infrastructure. Each sub-committee is chaired by a Councillor, managed by a Senior Recovery Officer and comprised of membership from various external agencies.



² Queensland Reconstruction Authority Operation Queenslanders The State Community, Economic and Environmental Recovery and Reconstruction Plan 2011–2013).



Key Relief and Recovery Initiatives

The following key recovery initiatives were achieved between 10 January and 30 June 2011 in response to the devastating flood events:

INITIATIVES	DESCRIPTION
Community Recovery Plan	Development of the Community Recovery Plan in consultation with the community and key stakeholders. The Plan is a living, interactive and adaptive document enabling the community to drive their recovery, continue to reassess priorities and develop initiatives that address those needs.
Recovery Committee	At the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 16 February 2011, Council resolved to establish a Recovery Committee with sub committees tasked to manage the recovery and rebuilding of the Lockyer Valley community. Membership includes all Councilors and is Chaired by the Deputy Mayor.



INITIATIVES	DESCRIPTION
Recovery Directorate	At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 23 February, Council endorsed the establishment of a specific Recovery Directorate focused on the delivery of the: • Recovery Plan • Recovery Sub-Plans • Local Community Recovery Plans The Recovery Directorate focuses on recovery efforts while enabling minimal disruption to non-disaster related core Council programs and business.
Community Reference Group	A key task for Council is the community consultation process. On 7 June 2011, the Community Recovery Reference Group was established to ensure Council's Recovery Committee receives information about emerging community issues and provides clear information back to affected communities.
Strengthening Grantham Initiative	Strengthening Grantham is a Council initiative supported by State and Federal Governments, allowing flood devastated residents from across the Lockyer Valley to resettle into a new, flood resilient locations within Grantham. Construction commenced in May 2011 with Stage 1 expected to be finished by December 2011 enabling over 100 families to be relocated.
Disaster Relief Housing Pilot Project	Brisbane Housing Company – Disaster Relief Housing Pilot Project was initiated to assist flood affected residents with a quality affordable alternate housing option. Project includes three manufactured homes, two for occupancy and one for demonstration purposes. Target is to provide three disaster relief housing options in Grantham by December 2011.
Murphys Creek Community Centre	Council, in partnership with community members and major project sponsors, to undertake the planning and construction of the Murphys Creek Community Centre as a key recovery project. The major sponsor is The Rotary Club of Toowoomba East Inc as representative of Rotary International District 9830 Inc.

INITIATIVES	DESCRIPTION
Grantham Butter Factory – Community Centre	In partnership with community members and major project sponsor Rotary Club of Toowoomba South Inc, Council is developing a community facility in the former Grantham Butter Factory as a key recovery project.
Key Legacy Projects	Through the Community Recovery Plan, Council identified and developed an initial list of key legacy projects providing positive outcomes and include: • a network of community hubs/connectors; • backpacker/transient worker accommodation; • community housing trust; • noxious weed eradication; • maximising returns for leisure activities; • sustainable water project; and • emergency helipad.
Increasing the capacity of Council and local communities to plan and prepare for future disasters.	A key focus for Council is to improve its Disaster Management Capability, focusing on prevention, preparation, response and recovery. A project officer was employed in early June 2011 to focus on Disaster Management. To date: • Two sub planning committees have been established to focus on Bushfire and Evacuation planning. • Scoping conducted for a coordination centre. • Scoping community engagement commenced and meetings held with Forest Hill and Mt Sylvia residents. • Disaster Management Presentation given to Council; and • National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funding for disaster preparedness activities sought.



Human and Social Sub-Committee



Cr Tanya Milligan
Chair Human and Social Sub-Committee

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Human and Social Sub-Committee is chartered with restoring and strengthening local human services and community capacity, through provision of direct assistance to individuals and communities, and supporting communities to drive and participate in their own recovery.

Below is a snap-shot of activities associated with the Human and Social Sub-Committee from the period from 10 January 2011 to 30 June 2011.

Key Achievements:

- Establishment of Human and Social Recovery Team comprising three program areas: Project Management, Community Development and Case Management.
- As a result of the high level activities required to respond to residents' needs and enquiries in the initial stages of the flood event, Council adopted a 'case management' approach. The model included using existing staff with knowledge of inter-departmental processes and services. This reduced the impact on residents to deal with multiple departments within Council and provided a planned and coordinated approach in the provision of information and support. Fifteen Council staff were recruited and provided assistance to 147 residents.
- Establishment of Human and Social Sub-Committee and ongoing facilitation of committee meetings. The purpose of the sub-committee is to provide strategic advice and coordination of human and social recovery services. Partners include:
 - Department of Communities
 - Queensland Health
 - Centrelink
 - ATSGMI Inc
 - Lifeline Community Care Queensland
 - Laidley Community Centre
 - Lockyer Information and Neighbourhood Centre (LINC)
 - Global Care
 - Ozcare
 - Red Cross
 - Salvation Army
 - St Vincent de Paul
- The Human and Social Advisory Committee identified the need to establish a number of sub-groups in recognition of the high demand and targeted response required for certain population groups. Of particular focus for this region are young people and farmers with community development and mental health and wellbeing (including case coordination) as key delivery mechanisms.
- Taking a lead in developing a Recovery Service Provider Planning forum in partnership with the Department of Communities and Queensland Health to establish common understanding of the mid-longer term recovery service system, including mapping community needs, trends and patterns, service gaps and duplications, referral pathways and report requirements to assist with coordinated responses to flood affected communities.
- Planning a joint initiative between Council, GP Connections, Beyond Blue and Queensland Health to deliver a Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo to be conducted in October during Mental Health Week.
- Review and development of Council Recovery Data Collection and Management Framework.
- Provision of rate concession to residents affected by floods.





- Lockyer Valley Community Recovery Limited incorporated to disseminate funds generated through Lockyer Valley Flood Relief Appeal.
- Transition of Murphys Creek, Helidon and Grantham Donation Centres to a central distribution point in Gatton.
- Provision of support and advice to Laidley Community Centre to assist with building their organisational and practice operations and development of Gatton Community Hub.
- Engagement and partnership with Global Care to manage volunteer activities in the Lockyer Valley.
- Resource support and advice in development of community communication strategies along with development of community newsletters.
- Project planning and management of Murphys Creek Community Centre and Grantham Butter Factory.
- Implementation of land swap initiatives, including development of policies, communication and information dissemination strategies, case management and information/referral and support services to residents.
- Support in planning a Murphys Creek/Postmans Ridge 6 Month Memorial Service Committee. Event was held on 10 July 2011.
- Coordination and planning of Lockyer Valley Annual Commemorative Service to be held on the one year anniversary event.

Economic Sub-Committee



Cr Janice Holstein ***Chair Economic Sub-Committee***

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council Economic Sub-Committee is chartered with facilitating the rapid restoration of a competitive, sustainable local economy.

Below is a snapshot of activities associated with the Economic Sub-Committee from 10 January 2011 to 30 June 2011.

Key Achievements

- The Economic Recovery Team has established a solid foundation of networking at the Commonwealth and State Government level to assist with the economic recovery of the Lockyer Valley. Recovery projects are being scoped with Regional Development Australia R.D.A) and Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (D.E.E.D.I.).
- Networking through the Business Enterprise Centre Ipswich Region (Federally funded to assist small business) has resulted in over 180 businesses receiving information and assistance to complete grant application funds and 1:1 mentoring on short term business planning. In addition, our existing relationship with the local business community such as the Lockyer Better Business and Laidley Better Business groups, has resulted in joint planning for a cohesive approach to promoting the region.
- The 'Buy Local' campaign was identified in the Community Recovery Plan as a priority task to support local businesses and producers. The aim of the campaign was to focus buying behavior locally and increase consumer confidence. The campaign ran for the month of June, and consumers were encouraged to 'buy local' as each purchase enabled them to enter a draw to win \$250 to be spent at a local business of their choice. There were 5 prizes resulting in an additional \$1,250 being spent with local businesses. The campaign received positive feedback from the community with over 4,000 entries received.
- Council was successful in securing funds from Skills Queensland to employ a Job Skills Development Officer for 12 months. This position will identify future employment skills required and identify job and training opportunities for job seekers and displaced workers within the Lockyer Valley.
- Two key initiatives to help with training and job creation have been undertaken. Firstly, Council is working with Group Training Association to assist in securing apprentices for projects throughout the region under the Apprenticeship Intervention Project program. Secondly, a project is currently in discussion with Master Builders Queensland, Skills Queensland and Construction Skills Queensland. This project is seeking to secure \$5 million to assist apprentices receive training and project work in construction and landscaping projects throughout the Lockyer Valley region.



Natural Environment Sub-Committee



Cr Dave Neuendorf **Chair Natural Environment Sub-Committee**

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council Natural Environment Sub-Committee is chartered to recover, conserve and build resilience in disaster-affected terrestrial, aquatic ecosystems and natural resources throughout the region.

Below is a snap-shot of activities associated with the Natural Environment Sub-Committee from 10 January 2011 to 30 June 2011.

Key Achievements:

- Debris clean-up: Stage One - Murphys Creek area has been completed. Rubbish and chemical drums have been removed. This section was completed on time by the first of three Green Army work crews. The first work crew contained 10 on-ground staff, 2 supervisors and 1 project coordinator. Stage Two commenced in August 2011 and included 20 on-ground staff, 2 supervisors and 1 project coordinator. Each stage is planned to last 16 weeks, including a one-week changeover.
- Natural Environment Sub-Committee was formed identifying priorities and timeframes for future works to achieve the aims and objectives of the Community Recovery Plan.
- A component of Stage One works by the first Green Army work crew was the physical removal of Parthenium plants

from creek banks between Helidon and Grantham, along a 15 kilometre stretch of the Lockyer Creek.

- The extent of the Parthenium post-flood event is currently being determined by Council in collaboration with volunteer groups such as Conservation Volunteers Australia.

STATISTICS

Debris	140 tonnes cleared from creeks and surrounds.
Tyres	1,750 tyres removed.
Creek Clearing	27 kilometres cleaned.
Weed Removal	15 kilometres of creek banks cleared of Parthenium Weed. 1,000 Celtis (weed trees) cut and painted with poison.
Driveway Access	500 metres of driveway repairs to access the region.
Revegetation Project	Cleared site for revegetation of approximately 3,000-4,000 native trees.
Fencing	Identified 28 properties requiring fencing.

Housing Sub-Committee



Cr Peter Friend ***Chair Housing Sub-Committee***

Lockyer Valley Regional Council Housing Sub-Committee is chartered to coordinate planning and implementation of the local regional rebuilding program.

Below is a snap-shot of the activities associated with the Housing Sub-Committee from the period from 10 January 2011 to 30 June 2011.

Key Achievements:

- An additional 25 Environmental Health Officers (EHO) were deployed from other agencies to assist Council inspect evacuation centres, food premises, caravan parks and conduct house to house public health assessments.
- Clean-up of premises was completed using private contractors and Council staff.
- Mosquito control work was undertaken and extra monitoring was conducted to identify potential problems and provide treatment where necessary.
- Ongoing support to residents on devastating flood. There has been a range of housing related assistance provided by case managers ranging from septic inspections, debris collection, provision of shipping containers, skip bins, arranged land fill and repairs to driveways and road access, arranged surveying of property and liaison regarding land valuations.

- Case workers continue to provide one on one support to the 143 flood affected clients. It is estimated that more than 60 per cent of flood-affected residents are interested in the land swap for the Strengthening Grantham Initiative.
- Interim Flood Study initiated. On-ground survey completed of 457 premises to determine actual flood levels and risk management options developed.
- Brisbane Housing Company – Disaster Relief Housing Pilot Project initiated to assist flood-affected residents with a quality affordable alternate housing option. Scope of pilot project includes 3 manufactured homes, 2 for occupancy and 1 for demonstration purposes.
- Target to provide three disaster relief housing in Grantham by December 2011.

SUPPORTING STATISTICS

Approximately 40,000 tonnes of waste cleared from roadways and private property.

Approximately 5,300 tonnes of green-waste mulched as a direct result of the floods.

Twenty-six homes have been demolished with approximately 20 more designated unsafe or beyond repair.

Infrastructure Restoration Sub-Committee



Cr Jim McDonald ***Chair Infrastructure Restoration Sub-Committee***

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council Infrastructure Restoration Sub-Committee is chartered to manage the repair of all Council roads and floodways damaged as a direct result of the devastating flood events. The establishment of this separate group ensures a

dedicated resource team capable of focusing on recovery efforts whilst enabling minimal disruption to non-disaster related Council infrastructure programs.

Key Achievements:

- The infrastructure reconstruction program of approximately \$190m (\$95m/year) is a major variation to Council's normal program which still needs to continue. To respond to the planning, management and support of the infrastructure reconstruction task, Council established the Infrastructure Restoration Group.
- To assist with the Infrastructure Restoration Group, Council engaged consultants Aurecon and KPMG to prepare the estimates of damage to Council infrastructure and evaluate the eligibility of the claim independently for submission to Queensland Reconstruction Authority (Authority).
- The emergent phase of the reconstruction was completed by 22 May 2011. This entailed protection works to eligible public works assets to restore essential services and maintain public safety. Work included repairing floodways, and temporary repairs to bridges, gravel re-sheeting scoured and eroded unsealed roads, patching potholes and failures in sealed roads, repairing, cleaning and making safe play ground equipment, removal of damaged building materials and making repairs to ensure habitability of public buildings.
- All roads were open to 4 wheel drive vehicle access by the end of February 2011 and to 2 wheel drive vehicle access by the middle of March 2011. All but three bridges were open to traffic with some having load and speed restrictions. All public buildings are habitable and all but three parks are available for public use.
- The restoration phase is scheduled to occur over the next 2-3 years as detailed submissions are approved.
- It is highly unlikely that the program can be completed in a two year period.
- Longer time frames could potentially reduce tender prices. Mining and Industrial Development in Queensland and the extent of restoration work in the region has already been identified by the Department of Transport and Main Roads as the major catalyst for works needing to be completed in three years.



- Council will prepare a submission for an extension of time within 12 months of the term ending.
- The devastating flood event caused extensive damage to over 80 per cent of Council's road and bridge assets. The preliminary repair bill for the Council's infrastructure includes:

SUPPORTING STATISTICS ROADS & FLOODWAY REPAIR COSTS	
Sealed roads Estimated @ \$137 million	80 kilometres of replacement road, 200,000m ² patching and 128 kilometres of repairs to shoulders and drains repairs.
Unsealed roads Estimated @ \$8.5 million	Replace pavement, bulk earthworks and shoulder repairs.
Bridges Estimated @ \$11 million	Replacement and repair (likely to change following more structural assessment).
Major culverts Estimated @ \$5 million	Replacement and repair.
Minor culverts Estimated @ \$1.4 million	Replacement and repair.
Floodway's Estimated @ \$13.1 million	Replacement and repair.

PARKS ASSETS

Cost recovery for damage to park and recreation assets is expected to be covered by insurance and valued at \$709,200.

Council has a total of 54 parks of which 11 were flood affected.

COUNCIL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Roads	1,080 km of 1,400 km (approximately 77 per cent) of road infrastructure damaged.
Bridges	40 of 48 bridges damaged, 3 require replacement and 1 requires major structural repair.
Culverts	512 of 2,500 culverts damaged, 174 require major repairs and 338 require moderate to minor repairs.
Floodway's	192 of 330 floodway's require restoration work, 65 require replacement.



REGIONAL COUNCIL

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