

# PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN

## Sub-Plan to the Fraser Coast Disaster Management Plan



*Fraser Coast*  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Updated June 2023

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## Authority to Plan

This sub plan has been prepared by the Fraser Coast Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group for the Fraser Coast Region Council under the provisions of Section 57(1) of the Disaster Management Act 2003.

## Approval

The preparation of this Public Health Sub Plan has been undertaken in accordance with the Disaster Management Act 2003, to provide for any public health operations in the Fraser Coast local government area.

Endorsed by Fraser Coast Disaster Management Group



George Seymour

**Chairman**

**Fraser Coast Disaster Management Group**

Date: 28.11.23

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Approved and adopted by Fraser Coast Regional Council



George Seymour

**Mayor**

**Fraser Coast Regional Council**

Date: 29.11.23

## Amendments and Review

This plan will be reviewed at least annually as required by *Section 59 of the Disaster Management Act 2003*, with relevant amendments made and distributed.

Approved amendments to the plan will be circulated as per the distribution and contacts lists, which are maintained by the Fraser Coast Regional Council on behalf of the Local Disaster Management Group.

## Document Control

### Amendment Control and Version Register

The controller of the document is the Fraser Coast Local Disaster Coordinator. Any proposed amendments to this plan should be forwarded in writing to:

*Fraser Coast Local Disaster Coordinator, Fraser Coast Regional Council, PO Box 1943, Hervey Bay Qld 4655*

The Local Disaster Coordinator may approve inconsequential amendments to this document. Any changes to the intent of the document must be approved by the Local Disaster Management Group.

### Amendment Register

Amendment		Plan Updated	
Version	Issue Date	Author	Reason for Change
#2306372	31/07/2013	Mal Churchill	Initial version
2306372	November 2013	Mal Churchill	Revised & updated
2306372v2	July 2016	Mal Churchill	Revised & updated
3840074	June 30, 2019	Warren Bridson Consulting	Reviewed and rewritten to detail the role of FCRC and the LDMG in Public Health operations
3840074	June 2020	Warren Bridson	Change of Chair
	March 2022	Jane Shannon	Reformat and Review

## Distribution

This sub plan is not publicly available and is not for distribution and/or release to persons or agencies other than those identified in the Fraser Coast Local Disaster Management Plan.

## 1. Governance

### 1.1 Overview

Queensland Health is the lead agency for the management of public health, but the Fraser Coast Regional Council has many roles and responsibilities relating to public health that are carried out by Environmental Health Officers and staff. There are roles that these officers carry out as business-as-usual and there are roles that they carry out before, during and after a disaster event in relation to public health.

### 1.2. Purpose

The purpose of this sub plan is to provide an effective preparation and response by the Fraser Coast Regional Council and the Fraser Coast Local Disaster Management Group to public health related functions before, during and after a disaster event.

### 1.3. Scope

This sub plan should be used in conjunction with any Council Environmental Health process and procedures.

### 1.4. Objectives

- To ensure compliance with the Food Act 2006, the Public Health Act 2005, and the Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003, and the Environmental Protection Act 1994 by businesses and residents regarding food safety, vector management, waste management, and other risks to public health as well as environmental protection in a disaster event.
- To harness the efforts of a range of organisations into an efficient coordinated public health response during disaster events that may have a major impact on public health.
- To provide clear, concise, and timely public health information to the Fraser Coast community, Councils Media Team and to the Local Disaster Management Group.

### 1.5. Context

A disaster event may cause significant disruption or damage to essential services, posing a range of risks to public health. Water supplies, sewerage treatment, refuse disposal and access to safe food may be compromised. There may also be an increased risk of disease for some time after the event.

### 1.6. Supporting Agencies

A key component of this sub plan is how Fraser Coast Regional Council will work in cooperation with Queensland Health to fulfil shared responsibilities under the Local Disaster Management Plan. In particular, the provision of public health advice to the community, the Local Disaster Coordinator, and the Local Disaster Management Group.

Fraser Coast Regional Council Environmental Health Officers will join multi-disciplinary teams to assess potential public health risks and provide specialist advice to residents following a disaster event.

Related agencies with an ancillary role in public health that do not have designated responsibility under the disaster management arrangements will be identified and asked to assist by the Local Disaster Coordinator.

#### **Related agencies may include:**

- Wide Bay Water and Waste

- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries / Biosecurity Queensland
- Department of Environment and Science
- Licensed water carriers
- Licensed waste transporters (liquid and solid)
- Licensed food premises
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

## 2. Public Health Functions

### 2.1. Safe Water Supply

Environmental Health Officers shall work in cooperation with Wide Bay Water and Waste to facilitate the provision of safe and adequate water supplies.

#### Issues to be addressed include:

- Water quality assessment
- Safety and control of supply
- Bacterial sampling
- Water source monitoring
- Water treatment
- Water storage
- Transport and distribution of potable water

#### 2.1.1. Supply of Potable Water

The provision of potable water is based on the minimum requirement of 15L/person/day.

- Evacuation centres must be supplied with sufficient potable water. This may be supplied initially on site by mains or storage tank water.
- Where no potable water is available from mains or tanks at the evacuation centres, water may be supplied by water carriers licensed by a Queensland Local Government Authority.
- Bottled water may be supplied by wholesalers or retailers in the locality when the need arises.
- Household holders are to be provided with information on how to adequately treat water stored in tanks on their property. This should include advice on first flush devices, coarse and fine filtration and disinfection such as the use of ozonisers, or chlorine.
- Chemical disinfection of water using chlorine tablets to be encouraged by media announcement and the tablets distributed from conveniently accessible locations throughout the affected area.
- General information and advice to be freely distributed relating to potential hazards from polluted drinking water supplies.
- announcement and the tablets distributed from conveniently accessible locations throughout the affected area.
- General information and advice to be freely distributed relating to potential hazards from polluted drinking water supplies.

## **2.2. Safe Food and Food-related Concerns**

The Environmental Health Officers will ensure that the provision of emergency food supplies to evacuation centres complies with the Food Safety Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) food safety standards. They shall inspect kitchen facilities and provide advice on food hygiene and sanitation procedures at the evacuation centres and temporary kitchens.

The Environmental Health Officers, in conjunction with Queensland Health, will coordinate the provision of advice to the community on the consumption and storage of food.

The Environmental Health Officers will correspond with affected food businesses to provide advice on food safety, cleaning and sanitisation, and waste disposal and undertake inspections of premises were deemed appropriate.

## **2.3. Provision of Emergency Ablution Facilities**

Any need for temporary abluion facilities will be identified following a review of the damage assessment report for the sewerage network.

The Environmental Health Officers will ensure that abluion facilities within all designated evacuation centres are adequate and of a safe and acceptable standard and that temporary portable toilet and/or shower facilities are provided to the centres if required.

The Environmental Health Officers shall work with Wide Bay Water and Waste to determine the safe disposal of both sewage and wastewater at evacuation centres.

#### 2.4. Refuse Disposal

Wide Bay Water and Waste will identify appropriate emergency landfill sites and coordinate the collection and transportation of refuse and waste. Fraser Coast (Registered) Waste Disposal Facilities include the following:

Site	Location	Activity Landfill /Transfer Station)
Aramara Landfill	Maryborough – Biggenden Road Broweena	General waste disposal 50 – 200t
Boonooroo Landfill	Boonooroo Road Boonooroo	General waste disposal 50 – 200t
Bauple Transfer Station	Bauple Drive Bauple	General waste disposal 50 – 200t
Granville Landfill	Boonooroo Road Maryborough	General waste disposal 5000 – 10000t
Tinana Landfill	Bosel Road Tinana	General waste disposal 5000 – 10000t
Fraser Coast Recycling Centre	Aalborg Road Nikenbah	Waste Transfer station 30t
Maryborough Recycling Centre and Landfill	Saltwater Creek Road Maryborough	General waste disposal 20000 – 50000t
Howard Transfer Station	Powerhouse Road Howard	General waste disposal
Burrum Heads Transfer Station	Orchid Drive Burrum Heads	General waste disposal
Yengarie Transfer Station	Mungar & Quarry Roads Yengarie	General waste disposal



## 2.5. Vermin and Vector Control

The Environmental Health Officers may authorise the following methods for targeted application to reduce public health risks under advice from Queensland Health:

Control	Control Device
Dusting	Hand-held dusters, manually operated or mechanised
Residual insecticide spraying	Knapsacks sprayers with special nozzles
Ultra-low volume spraying	Low dosage applications to large areas from fixed wing aircraft or helicopters
Larviciding	Application to wetlands for mosquito control at predetermined dosages
Place spraying	Interior or exterior applications with pesticide aerosols dispersed under pressure from vaporizers or fogging machines
Impregnation	The treatment of materials such as bedding, clothing, and mosquito nets with pesticides.  In emulsion or solution (by dipping and drying, or by spraying with knapsack sprayers)

The Environmental Health Officers may task Council's pest and vector control teams to enter affected areas (including private land) to undertake surveys and treat where required to reduce the risk of transmissible disease.

The community will be provided with information on reducing the mosquito population and personal protection actions. This will include directing them to the Disaster Dashboard and Council's website for detailed information.

Council restrictions on the use of 'fogging' with insecticides to reduce insect numbers in residential areas may be lifted to prevent public health problems.

## 2.6. Infectious Disease Control

Queensland Health is responsible for immunisations and any program delivered by Council's Environmental Health staff shall be undertaken under the guidance of Queensland Health personnel.

### **Environmental Health Officers shall:**

- Reinforce basic hygiene practices to minimise the spread of disease
- Undertake surveillance and reporting on public health risks
- Provide advice to Queensland Health on any isolation or separation of infected individuals from susceptible groups
- Provide advice and assistance to the Fraser Coast Public Health Unit in the control of
- suspected disease outbreaks and instigate preventative control

### **2.7. Personal Hygiene**

The Environmental Health Officers shall facilitate the preparation of advice concerning personal hygiene to:

- Response agency personnel
- Evacuation centre kitchen personnel
- Community and businesses

### **2.8. Disposal of Dead Stock and Animals**

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will provide advice to Council officers and the Local Disaster Coordinator regarding the disposal of dead stock and animals.

### **2.9. Provision of Public Information**

Information related to Public Health shall be provided by Environmental Health Officers to the Communications and Media Officers in the Local Disaster Coordination Centre for distribution to the community by the processes outlined in the Information and Warning Sub Plan. The templates for this information are held in the Information and Warnings Template Document stored on Guardian.

Media releases will emanate from the Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group through the Fraser Coast Regional Council Communications and Media personnel.

### **2.10 Provision of Advice to Personal Appearance Services Providers**

The Environmental Health Officers, in conjunction with Queensland Health, will correspond with affected businesses providing personal appearance services (including non-higher-risk service providers) to provide advice on infection control, cleaning and sanitisation, and waste disposal and undertake inspections of premises where deemed appropriate.

### **2.11 Environmental Protection**

The Environmental Health Officers, in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Science and any other relevant agencies, will provide advice to business operators that are conducting regulated and de-regulated environmentally relevant activities in the affected area to address environmental pollution and minimise environmental harm through effective clean-up and remediation of premises. Where possible, advice will be provided prior to the event to contain and secure potential contaminants. Environmental Health Officers will conduct inspections of affected premises where deemed appropriate and respond to complaints for which Council has legislative jurisdiction.

## Appendix 1: Public Health Sub Plan Operational Checklist

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
Prepare and release media advisories regarding the function of public health	Env. Health Officer Comms. & Media Officer
Prepare and release media advisories regarding public health risks	Env. Health Officer Comms. & Media Officer
Provide advice on public health risks to the affected community and the LDC /LDMG	Env. Health Officer Comms. & Media Officer
Provide logistic support to outreach teams	Env. Health Officer
Provide logistic support to operational Environmental Health personnel, both in the field and at the LDCC	Env. Health Officer
Provide personal protective equipment to Environmental Health personnel and appropriate public health safety information to operational personnel.	Env. Health Officer
Undertake surveillance and reporting on public health risks and potential public health risks in the affected community	Env. Health Officer
Activate Post Flood Mosquito Control and Education Program (#4518299) Community education and media releases Survey of mosquito breeding areas Chemical treatment using larvicides and residual barriers Post treatment monitoring Community complaint response	Biosecurity Supervisor
Undertake inspections of food premises, personal appearance premises and any premises operating under an environmental authority issued by Fraser Coast Regional Council and respond to any relevant complaints.	Env. Health Officer
Facilitate treatment of public health risks in the affected environment (e.g. vector control, disinfection), including Council facilities.	Env. Health Officer Comms. & Media Officer
Maintain ongoing links with the Fraser Coast District Disaster Recovery Committee	Env. Health Officer Comms. & Media Officer