

	COUNCIL POLICY	
	DISASTER MANAGEMENT LEVY COUNCIL POLICY	
	Policy Number	CP048
	Directorate	Infrastructure Services
	Owner	Ken Diehm
	Last Approved	24/07/2024
	Review Due	24/07/2025

1. PURPOSE

This policy sets out the objectives and implementation of the levy collected from rateable properties for the purpose of disaster and emergency management activities.

2. SCOPE

The scope of this policy is applied to Council's general rate and charges for rateable properties as set below.

3. HEAD OF POWER

Local Government Act 2009.

Local Government Regulation 2012. (QLD) Part 8 Chapter 4, Council levies a separate charge against all ratable assessment to ensure that Council has the capability to meet its obligations in times of Disaster.

Disaster Management Act 2003 sets out the responsibilities of local governments during disasters.

4. DEFINITIONS

To assist in the interpretation of this Policy the following definitions apply:

"Word" means

Disaster means a serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event that requires a significant coordinated response by State and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption.

Serious Disruption means:

- a) Loss of human life, or illness or injury to humans; or
- b) Widespread or severe property loss or damage; or
- c) Widespread or severe damage to the environment.

Event means:

(1) An "event" means any of the following:

- a) a cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, storm tide, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption or other natural happening;
- b) an explosion or fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill, or a gas leak;
- c) an infestation, plague, or epidemic;

- d) a failure of, or disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure;
 - e) an attack against the State;
 - f) another event similar to an event mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (e).
- (2) An “event” may be natural or caused by human act/s or omission/s.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

5.1. Statement

Council proactively plans to implement initiatives that informs the community of the impacts associated from disaster events such as cyclones, storm surges, floods, bushfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, etc.

The ability of Council to develop and maintain a robust disaster and emergency response capability for planning and operations, is a key factor in helping to ensure the safety and well-being of our local residents. In addition, the levy also assists in building resilience and sustainability of our communities. As such, Council has committed to providing funds for the provision of:

- Establishing and maintaining a Disaster response capability;
- Activities that are undertaken in the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery requirements (PPRR) for the region;
- Upgrades to facilities utilised during times of Disaster;
- Contribution towards the running costs of local State Emergency Service Groups (SES) on a needs basis;
- Contribution towards the running costs of Council’s emergency response operations teams;
- Purchasing equipment to improve Council’s PPRR activities;
- Contribution to the establishment and maintenance of the Total Flood Warning Network (TFWN);
- Contribution towards ongoing support to Council’s isolated communities program on a needs basis;
- Contribution towards the costs of facilities and equipment utilised by the Fraser Coast Rural Fire Brigades and Groups through a sponsorship arrangement.
- Contribution towards the costs of “Not for Profit” Emergency Services Organisations (example Marine Rescue, Life Flight) through a sponsorship arrangement.
- Contribution to other groups that could form part of a combined disaster response capability across the PPRR phases of an event on a need’s basis.
- Contribution to enhance infrastructure resilience projects in the built environment.

The Disaster Management Levy is in addition to any state and national disaster and emergency management funding or grants funding received annually.

5.2. Utilisation of Levy Funds

The levy will provide funds for the following activities but not limited to the:

- operation of Council’s disaster management activities and operating costs of the SES, Fraser Coast Rural Fire Brigades and other Groups as determined by Council;
- purchase of equipment, maintenance of buildings and other operational requirements as agreed annually through the finance committee budget review process for the Fraser Coast Rural Fire Brigades and other emergency services organisations;
- assist “Not for Profit” Emergency Services Organisations as determined by Council;

- implementation of communication tools and systems including the Disaster Dashboard and an Incident Management System;
- ensuring of the continued compliance with current disaster management legislation;
- upgrading of facilities and equipment identified as part of the PPRR requirements, including community consultation as identified and prioritised by the LDMG and Council to address mitigation and resilience strategies; matching available grants with a preference for developing partnerships; and
- resources allocated for negotiating with recipients of any funding allocation to provide a cost benefit to the community in terms of services provided.

5.3. Unutilised Funds

From time to time there may be an unused portion of the funds depending on the operational environment in any given financial year. The unutilised component will be placed in a holding fund that is quarantined for future Disaster/Emergency related activities.

To ensure that the levy revenue and expenditure remains accountable and transparent, Council will produce an annual report through the budget process outlining how levy funds were spent, including but not limited to:

- activity achievements;
- implementation of initiatives;
- program successes;
- performance measured against levy objectives; and
- identification of areas for improvement.

6. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Local Disaster Management Plan – DOCS #4870145.

7. REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed when related legislation/documents are amended or replaced, other circumstances as determined from time to time by Council or at intervals of no more than one year.

Version Control

Version Number	Key Changes	Approval Authority	Approval Date	Document Number
1	New Policy	Council	03/07/2013	2376577
9	Amendment - Ordinary Meeting No 2/20	Council	19/02/2020	2376577
10	Amendment – Ordinary Meeting No. 6/23	Council	28/06/2023	2376577
11	Amendment – Ordinary Meeting No. 7/24	Council	24/07/2024	2376577