

**Policy Title:** DISASTER MANAGEMENT LEVY COUNCIL POLICY

Policy Subject: Disaster Management

Policy No: CP048 - #2376577

Directorate: Infrastructure Services

Department: Engineering Services

Section: Disaster Management

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Engineering Services

Authorised by: Director Infrastructure Services

Adopted Date: 03/07/2013

Review Date: 28/06/2024

Amended Date: 28/06/2023

Risk Assessment: High

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#### BACKGROUND:

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

This policy sets out the objectives and implementation of the levy. 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 *Disaster Management Act 2003* sets out the responsibilities of local governments during disasters.

A Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), chaired by a Councillor manages and coordinates local and external resources required to provide assistance to the community in response to an Event. Actions carried out during events are managed through activation of a Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC). Council has prepared a Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) in accordance with the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and associated operational plans for use in the event of a Disaster.

#### LEVY OBJECTIVE:

The ability of Council to develop and maintain a robust disaster response capability for disaster management 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;
- the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR) requirements 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 team;

## Fraser Coast Regional Council

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- purchasing equipment to improve Council's PPRR activities;
- contribution to the establishment and maintenance of the early warning network;
- contribution towards ongoing support to Council's isolated communities program on a needs basis;
- contribution toward the costs of facilities and equipment utilised by the Fraser Coast Rural Fire Brigades and Groups through a sponsorship arrangement.

### 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 and Fraser Coast Rural Fire Brigades and Groups;
- 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 Groups;
- implementation of communication and information plans;
- 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 to address mitigation and resilience strategies; and
- matching available grants with a preference for developing partnerships.

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

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.

### AUTHORITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

Council Officers and Councils Executive Leadership Team (ELT), through the budgetary process, are responsible for assessing applications made for grants under this policy.

### HEAD OF POWER:

*Local Government Act 2009.*

*Local Government Regulation 2012.*

### RELATED LEGISLATION:

*Disaster Management Act 2003.*

## Fraser Coast Regional Council

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### RELATED DOCUMENTS:

*Local Disaster Management Plan – DOCS #3840957.*

### DEFINITIONS:

#### **Disaster**

As per the *Disaster Management Act 2003* s 13 meaning of “disaster” -

- (1) A “disaster” is 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.
- (2) In this section “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**

As per the *Disaster Management Act 2003* s 16 meaning of “event” -

- (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.