

DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICY

SCOPE

This policy applies to all departments and staff of Banana Shire Council.

The Guiding Principles of the Queensland Disaster Management Act 2003 recognise that local governments should primarily be responsible for managing disaster events in their local area.

LEGISLATION

Disaster Management Act 2003
Disaster Management Regulations 2014

OBJECTIVE

To recognise disaster management and associated disaster operations as a whole of Council responsibility integrated across the range of Council functions to improve and expand Council's and the community's ability to mitigate, prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster events.

DEFINITIONS

Council	Banana Shire Council
Disaster	A serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event that requires a significant coordinated response by the State and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption.
Disaster Management	Arrangements about managing the potential adverse effects of an event, including for example, arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a disaster.
Disaster Operations	Activities undertaken before, during or after an event happens to help reduce loss of human life, illness or injury to humans, property loss or damage, or damage to the environment, including for example, activities to mitigate the adverse effects of the event.
Serious Disruption	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.

POLICY

COMMITMENT

Council is committed to a comprehensive and integrated approach to the development of its arrangements and programs for the effective management of disaster and disaster operations:

- **Comprehensive**, in encompassing all hazards and in recognising that dealing with the risks to community safety, which such hazards create, requires a range of mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR) programs and other risk management treatments; and
- **Integrated**, in ensuring that the efforts of Council, all relevant organisations and agencies and the community, as a prepared community, are coordinated in such programs.

PRINCIPLES

Council's disaster management responsibilities are based on the following principles:

- A comprehensive, all hazards, all agencies approach by achieving the right balance of mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, regardless of the nature of the hazard, through established partnerships;
- Prepared communities ensuring they understand their role in disaster management arrangements;
- Consultative decision making;
- A transparent, systematic and consistent approach to disaster risk assessment and management is promoted based on the Australian Risk Management Standard AS/NZS 4360:2004 31000 2009 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines;
- The provision of appropriate training to all Council staff to ensure their contribution to Council disaster management responsibilities;
- The application of effective corporate governance committed to continuous improvement of disaster management policy, programs, practices and service delivery to improve community safety; and
- Annual audits of Council's disaster management plans and processes to ensure compliance with legislative disaster management requirements.

PROCEDURE

Procedures as approved and issued by the Chief Executive Officer, and subject to further revision, amendment and issue under the authority of the Chief Executive Officer.

CERTIFICATION



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
BANANA SHIRE COUNCIL



DATE