



Somerset Local Disaster Management Group

Local Disaster Management Plan (2026)

Version 6



Somerset
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Emergency Contacts

Life Threatening Emergencies

Call Triple Zero **000**
TTY emergency call **106**

Police

Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000
Police Link: 131 444

Flood, Storm or Rescue

State Emergency Service (SES)
132500.qld.gov.au
Phone: 132 500
General Information
ses.qld.gov.au

Fire, Emergency or Rescue

fire.qld.gov.au
Phone: 13 74 68
Fire Ban Information: 1800 020 440

Energex

Power Outages: 13 19 62
Fallen power lines: 13 62 62

Water & Sewerage

[Urban Utilities](#)
Faults & Emergencies Phone: 13 26 64
General Enquiries Phone: 13 26 57

Animal Emergencies

[RSPCA](#): 1300 264 625
Queensland Primary Industry
Call Centre: 07 3239 3111

Traffic and Transport

Phone: 13 19 40
qldtraffic.qld.gov.au

Prepare for an Emergency

Get Ready getready.qld.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology

bom.gov.au/qld/

Somerset Regional Council

General enquiries 07 5424 4000
(including emergencies – all hours)
somerset.qld.gov.au
facebook.com/somersetregionalcouncil

Disaster Dashboard
disaster.somerset.qld.gov.au/

Radio

ABC 612 AM
abc.net.au/brisbane/
Phone: 1300 222 612

River 94.9 FM
river949.com.au
Phone: 07 3813 1949

Telecommunications

[Telstra](#)
Phone: 13 22 03

[Optus](#)
Personal Phone: 131 344
Business Phone: 133 343

[Vodafone](#)
Phone: 1800 914 408

[NBN](#)
Contact your retailer

Queensland Health

13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)
Poison information: 13 11 26

Community Recovery Hotline

Phone: 1800 173 349

National Relay Service

Teletypewriter Phone: 133 677
Speak and listen Phone: 1300 555 727
SMS relay Phone: 0423 677 767
[Captioned relay users](#)

Foreword

Somerset Region is a dynamic area of the Brisbane Valley in southeast Queensland and is one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland.

Despite its idyllic lifestyle, the area is occasionally subjected to the impact of disasters both natural and non-natural. In the past few years, we have seen the impacts of fast moving, high impact bushfires, the COVID-19 pandemic, supercell storms and east coast lows pressuring the many dams across the region, as well as the associated riverine flooding.

The region has a wide range of topography, changing demographics and diversified industries; therefore, this dynamic and robust Local Disaster Management Plan is designed to meet the many challenges that threaten the lifestyle we enjoy.



This Local Disaster Management Plan was prepared by the Somerset Local Disaster Management Group under the authority of the [Disaster Management Act 2003](#). This Local Disaster Management Plan provides a framework for the prevention of, preparedness and response to, and the recovery from, disasters and emergencies including the activities of the joint agencies within the Somerset Regional Council area.

This Local Disaster Management Plan is a dynamic document which will be regularly reviewed to ensure it meets any changes in legislation and reflects the lessons identified from natural disasters across the Somerset region and elsewhere in the state.

Whilst as a community we may not be able to prevent disasters from occurring, we can, through planning, prepare our community and enhance its resilience to the adverse impact of any threat.

Cr Jason Wendt
Mayor
Chair
Somerset Local Disaster Management Group

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

Somerset Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which we live and work, the Jinibara, Jagera, Yuggera, Ugarapul, Kabi Kabi and Dungibara Peoples.

Further, we embrace and promote the Somerset region’s heritage to incorporate all cultures, their beliefs and aspirations.

Plan Endorsement

This Local Disaster Management Plan was approved by the Somerset Regional Council in accordance with the [Disaster Management Act 2003](#) (the Act) and describes the arrangements for the effective management of disasters in the Somerset Regional Council Local Government Area. This Local Disaster Management Plan is consistent with the [Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland](#) (the Standard) and the [Queensland Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery \(PPRR\) Disaster Management Guideline](#) (the DM Guideline).

In accordance with the provisions of the [Disaster Management Act 2003](#) s80, the Somerset Local Disaster Management Plan was prepared and endorsed the Somerset Local Disaster Management Group on 17 March 2026.

Signed/Dated: _____

Cr Jason Wendt (Mayor)
Chair
Somerset Local Disaster Management Group

Signed/Dated: _____

Andrew Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
Somerset Regional Council

Table of Contents

Foreword	3	5. Prevention	48
Plan Endorsement	4	5.1. Somerset Region Risk Mitigation and Reduction	48
Table of Contents	5	5.2. SRC Planning Scheme and Land Use Strategy	48
1. Administration and Governance	6	5.3. Building Codes	48
1.1 Document Control	6	5.4. Insurance	49
1.2 Introduction and Principles	8	6. Preparedness	50
1.3 Legislative and Governance Framework	11	6.1. Preparedness – A shared responsibility	50
1.4 LDMG Establishment, Roles, Responsibilities	13	6.2. Community Education and Information	50
1.5 Agency Roles and Responsibilities	15	6.3. Response Capabilities	53
1.6 LDMG Meeting Governance	20	6.4. Training	55
2. Community Characteristics	21	6.5. Exercises	55
2.1. Geographical Area	21	6.6. Post Event Analysis	55
2.2. Somerset Climate and Weather	22	6.7. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	56
2.3. Population and Demographics	22	7. Response	57
3. Essential Services and Infrastructure	26	7.1. Notification Pathways	57
3.1. Spatial Mapping of Infrastructure	26	7.2. Activation	58
3.2. Airfields	26	7.3. Local Disaster Coordination Centre	59
3.3. Communications	26	7.4. Public Information and Warnings	60
3.4. Medical and Aged Facilities	27	7.5. Resource Coordination	63
3.5. Power	27	7.6. Disaster Declaration	63
3.6. Roads and Bridges	28	7.7. Impact Intelligence Gathering	63
3.7. Water supply, Sewerage Treatment and Dams	28	7.8. Financial Management	64
4. Hazards, Risk Assessments and Mitigation	30	7.9. Logistics management	65
4.1. Somerset LDMG QERMF Implementation	30	7.10. Resupply	65
4.2. Heatwave	31	7.11. Accessing Support and Allocating Resources	66
4.3. HAZMAT Incident	32	8. Relief and Recovery	68
4.4. Severe Thunderstorm	33	8.1. Relief	68
4.5. Drought	34	8.2. Evacuation and Evacuation Centres	69
4.6. Flooding – Flash	35	8.3. Isolated communities	69
4.7. Bushfire	36	8.4. Donations	69
4.8. Aircraft Incident	37	8.5. Volunteering	70
4.9. Landslip	38	8.6. Financial assistance arrangements	70
4.10. Flood - Riverine	39	8.7. Recovery	71
4.11. Pandemic	40	9. Appendices	75
4.12. Biosecurity Emergency	41	9.1. Appendix A - Local Disaster Management Plan version history	75
4.13. Earthquake	42	9.2. Appendix B – Abbreviations	76
4.14. Dam Failure (Sunny Day) Wivenhoe Dam	43	9.3. Appendix C – Definitions	78
4.15. Dam Failure (Sunny Day) Other Major Dams	44	9.4. Appendix D – Sub Plans	82
4.16. Security or Terrorism threats / incidents	45		
4.17. Space Weather	46		



Administration and Governance

1.1 Document Control

Plan Accessibility

The Somerset Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) has an information classification of OFFICIAL. A copy of this LDMP is available by visiting somerset.qld.gov.au and searching 'disaster management'. Residents can also access this LDMP free of charge at Somerset Regional Council's (SRC) administration buildings at Lowood, Esk and Kilcoy.

Review

The Somerset LDMP is reviewed as required by s59(1) of the Act. This occurs annually based on the lessons identified in line with the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) [Lessons Management Framework¹](#), the IGEM capacity assessment, and any changes to [the Standard²](#), and findings derived by the annual test of effectiveness as required by s59(2) of the Act.

Feedback and recommendations to amend this plan can be forwarded by mail to:

Chief Executive Officer
Attn: Local Disaster Coordinator
Somerset Regional Council
PO Box 117
Esk, QLD 4312

or by email to mail@somerset.qld.gov.au

¹ Queensland Government, Queensland Disaster Management Lessons Framework: www.igem.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-07/IGEM%20Lessons%20Management%20Framework.pdf

² Inspector-General Emergency Management, Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland: www.igem.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-12/NEW%20Standard%20for%20Disaster%20Management%20in%20Queensland%20v2.0.pdf

Version Control

The initial version of the Somerset LDMP and subsequent amendments of a procedural nature are approved by the Somerset Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), SRC and reviewed by the Ipswich Disaster District Coordinator.

Amendments of a minor nature, such as formatting, legislation references, typographical errors or contact information are handled administratively by SRC and ratified at the next LDMG meeting.

Version	Date	Author	Comments
v1.0	1/12/2007	KTG Engineering	Initial version of plan under QDMP Guidelines 2005 & Operational Plan Guidelines 2006.
v2.0	15/02/2012	Somerset Regional Council	Changes to bring in line with amendments to the Act and current arrangements
V2.1	21/11/2012	Somerset Regional Council	Updated as part of Annual Review
V2.2	30/09/2013	Somerset Regional Council	Updated as part of Annual Review
V2.3	31/08/2014	Somerset Regional Council	Updated as part of Annual Review
V2.4	31/08/2015	Somerset Regional Council	Minor changes, including contacts
V3.0	1/10/2018	Somerset Regional Council	Minor changes, including contacts
V4.0	30/06/2022	Somerset Regional Council	2022 review and modernisation of plan
V4.1	30/10/2022	Somerset Regional Council	Minor changes
V5.0	31/07/2024	Somerset Regional Council	Minor changes, including new Chair and added additional Seqwater Dams. Change of QFES (Qld Fire and Emergency Services) to QFD (Queensland Fire Department)
V6.0	17/03/2026	Somerset Regional Council	2026 review and modernisation of plan

Distribution

The controlled master copy of the Somerset LDMP is held by SRC. Copies will be distributed to members of the LDMG and are available online to members through Council's LDMG Members portal (GuardianIMS). Hardcopies of all plans are located in the primary Local Disaster Coordination Centres (LDCC) located at Esk.

1.2 Introduction and Principles

Purpose

The purpose of the LDMP is to undertake the following:

- Embed the strategic policy framework for disaster management for the State, and the local government's policies for disaster management.
- Outline the roles and responsibilities of entities involved in disaster management.
- Outline arrangements for the coordination of disaster operations and activities performed by the entities involved in disaster operations and disaster management.
- Identify the events that are likely to happen in the area.
- Identify the strategies and priorities for disaster management for the area.³

Scope

The LDMP applies to the SRC Local Government Area and operates within the Ipswich Disaster District.

All agencies across the Somerset LDMG work together in a cooperative manner to achieve their roles and responsibilities to protect communities, respond to disasters and emergencies and recover the SRC area after their impact.

What is a disaster

A disaster is 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. A serious disruption is defined by:

- loss of human life, or illness or injury to humans; or
- widespread or severe property loss or damage; or
- widespread or severe damage to the environment⁴.

What is Disaster Management

Disaster management arrangements are about managing the potential adverse effects of an event, including, arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a disaster⁵.

Role of Local Government

The Act describes the following responsibilities for SRC:

- to ensure it has a disaster response capability;
- to approve its LDMP;
- to ensure information about an event or a disaster in its area is promptly given to the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC); and
- to perform other functions given to the local government under the Act.⁶

³ *Disaster Management Act 2003*, s57

⁴ *Disaster Management Act 2003*, s13

⁵ *Disaster Management Act 2003*, s14

⁶ *Disaster Management Act 2003*, s14

Phases of Disaster Management

The comprehensive approach to disaster management comprises four phases: Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) to ensure a balance between the reduction of risk and the enhancement of community resilience, whilst ensuring effective response and recovery capabilities⁷.

Phases of Disaster Management

Consistent with the Act, disaster management is planned across the PPRR phases of disaster management, as outlined below:

Phase	Somerset LDMG Activities
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate and coordinate strategies to reduce the impact of disaster events on the community.
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase community resilience through knowledge and education.• Encourage shared responsibility and an all-hazards approach to disaster management, including for the resources and arrangements used to support response and recovery.• Enhance local capability by encouraging participation in training and exercises, contributing to equipment acquisition programs, and building relationships.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide effective and efficient coordination of disaster response and relief/short-term recovery to safeguard people, property and the environment.• Provide support to communities outside of the SRC region who may be affected by a disaster.
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that the recovery priorities across the SRC community are identified and met across the functional areas.• Ensure that recovery operations help to build whole of community resilience.

⁷ Queensland Government, Interim Queensland Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/359465/Interim-Prevention,-Preparedness,-Response-and-Recovery-PPRR-Disaster-Management-Guideline-v2.pdf

Guiding Principles

The LDMP follows the guiding principles outlined in s4(a) of the Act:

- **Comprehensive approach**
 - The comprehensive approach to disaster management comprises of activities related to PPRR, as shown below.



Figure 1. Comprehensive approach to Disaster Management (QFD)

- **All hazards approach**
 - Ensures that a consistent approach is taken so that any hazard can be managed under the plan. This does not mean that all possible hazards are planned for, but ultimately the structures and framework put in place can effectively deal with most hazards that arise.
 - All events, whether natural or caused by human acts or omissions, should be managed in accordance with the Queensland Disaster Management Strategic Policy Statement, the State Disaster Management Plan and the PPRR Disaster Management Guideline.
- **Local Governments should primarily be responsible for managing events in their area**
 - The idea is that it is Local Government who best know their community, risks and geography and as such, are best equipped to effectively manage a disaster event.
- **The District and State Disaster groups will assist Local Governments if required.**
 - Local Governments can seek assistance from the District and/or State through the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA).

1.3 Legislative and Governance Framework

The Disaster Management Act, 2003

The Act determines the establishment, operation of, and roles and responsibilities of the Somerset LDMG, including the provision of this LDMP. The act is cascaded through the authorising environment shown in figure 2 below.

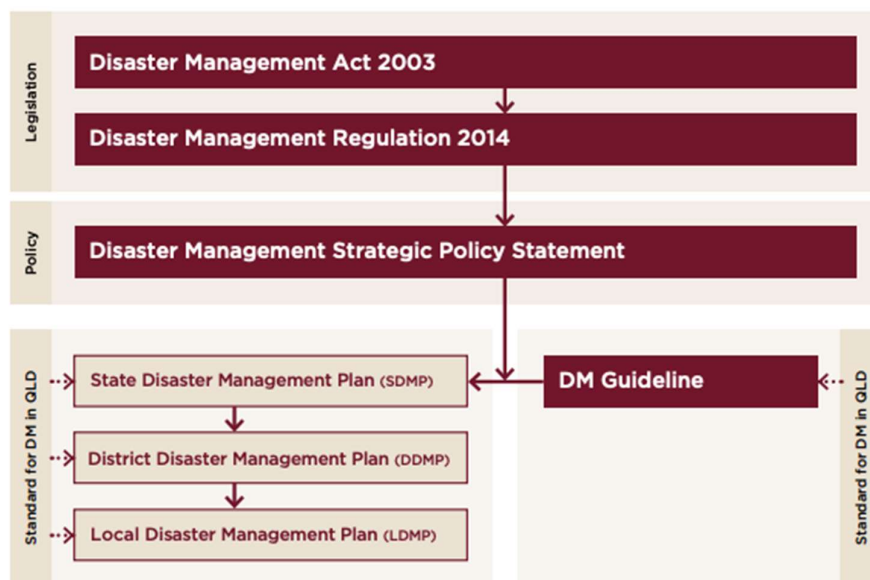


Figure 2: Disaster management authorising environment

The Regulation

The [Disaster Management Regulation \(2014\)](#)⁸ (the Regulation) determines matters relating to membership and business of disaster management groups, along with provisions for disaster districts.

The Strategic Policy Framework

The [Queensland Disaster Management 2016 Strategic Policy Statement](#)⁹ outlines the intent to keeping people safe and making communities more resilient to disaster risks and impacts across Queensland¹⁰.

The Disaster Management Guideline

The [Disaster Management \(DM\) Guideline](#)¹¹ (the Guideline) provides detailed information across PPRR along with roles and responsibilities across the LDMG and should be read in conjunction with this LDMP¹².

⁸ *Disaster Management Regulation 2014*: www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/2017-04-30/sl-2014-dmr

⁹ Queensland Government, Queensland Disaster Management 2016 Strategic Policy Statement: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/337234/2016-Queensland-Disaster-Management-Strategic-Policy-Statement-SPS.pdf

¹⁰ *Disaster Management Act 2003*, s18(a)

¹¹ Queensland Government, The Disaster Management Guideline: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/disaster-management-guideline

¹² *Disaster Management Act 2003*, s63

The Emergency Management Assurance Framework

The [Emergency Management Assurance Framework \(EMAF\)](#)¹³ defines the role of the IGEM under s16(c) of the Act, and how the Standard is implemented across the Somerset LDMG.

The Disaster Management Standard

The Standard¹⁴ in Queensland establishes the performance requirements of all entities involved in disaster management to achieve the best outcomes for the community. It outlines the following shared responsibilities:

- Managing Risk
- Planning and Plans
- Community Engagement
- Capability Integration
- Operations; and
- Collaboration and Coordination.

Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA)

SRC, through the Somerset LDMG, has primary responsibility to manage disasters and emergencies at the local level. This is traditionally managed in line with the approach outlined in this plan.

Where there are gaps in capacity or capability, the Somerset LDMG may request assistance from the Ipswich District Disaster Management Group (DDMG).

Where the event exceeds the capability of the Ipswich DDMG, approaches can be made by the DDMG to the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) to seek resources from across the state, where they exist, and if not, to the Commonwealth, through the National Situation Room (NSR), as shown in figure 3.

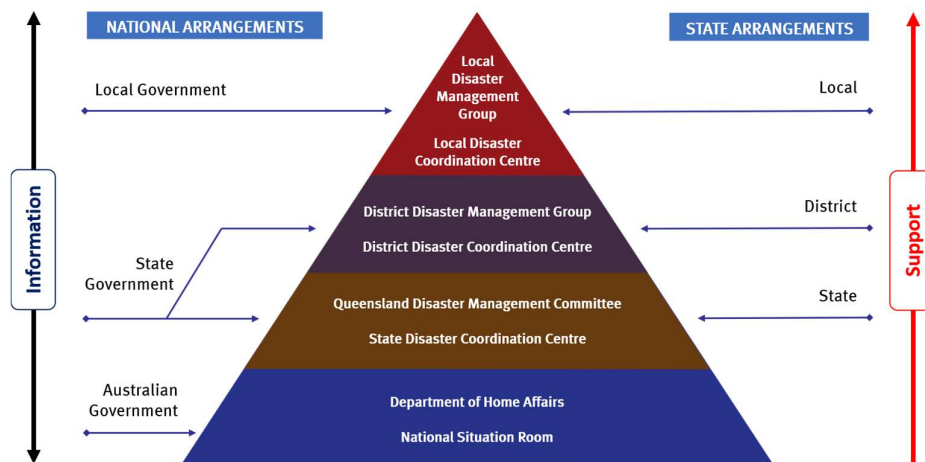


Figure 3: Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements

¹³IGEM Emergency Management Framework: www.igem.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-07/Emergency%20Management%20Assurance%20Framework%20v2.1.1.pdf

¹⁴ Inspector-General Emergency Management, Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland: www.igem.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-12/NEW%20Standard%20for%20Disaster%20Management%20in%20Queensland%20v2.0.pdf

1.4 LDMG Establishment, Roles and Responsibilities

Establishment of the LDMG

The SRC has established the Somerset LDMG to support its disaster management activities, under s29 of the Act.

Functions of the LDMG

The functions of the Somerset LDMG include (but are not limited to):

- Meet regularly, and in doing so build and maintain relationships between all members.
- Develop, regularly review and assess effective disaster management.
- Assist SRC to prepare the Somerset LDMP.
- Ensure the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.
- Identify and coordinate the use of resources that may be used for disaster operations.
- Manage disaster operations in the area under policies and procedures decided by the State Group.
- Ensure disaster management and disaster operations in the area are consistent with the State Group's Strategic Policy Statement for disaster management for the State.

Responsibilities of the LDMG

In accordance with s30 of the Act, the Somerset LDMG is responsible for managing disaster operations across the SRC local government area.

It does so under policies and procedures defined by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC), the state group, chaired by the Premier of Queensland. In the event of a disaster, the Somerset LDMG is the decision-making authority for disaster management across the SRC LGA.

Membership of the LDMG

Chair and Deputy Chair of the LDMG

In accordance with s34 of the Act, SRC has appointed the Mayor as Chair, and the Deputy Mayor as Deputy Chair of the LDMG. The Chair of the Somerset LDMG has responsibility:

- To manage and coordinate the business of the group.
- To ensure, as far as practicable, that the group performs its functions.
- To report regularly to the Ipswich DDMG about the performance by the LDMG of its functions.

Local Disaster Coordinator

Under s35 of the Act, the Chair of the Somerset LDMG appoints a Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) for the Group. In recognition of the necessary expertise, experience, authority and delegations to perform the role effectively, the Chair has appointed the SRC

Director of Operations as the LDC, and the Engineering Services Manager as the Deputy LDC. The LDC has responsibility:

- To coordinate disaster operations for the LDMG.
- To report regularly to the LDMG about disaster operations.
- To ensure, as far as practicable, that any strategic decisions of the LDMG about disaster operations are implemented.

Core Members

Under s33(1) of the Act, the Somerset LDMG consists of the persons prescribed by the regulation to be members of the group. When considering membership, as per s9(4) of the regulation, SRC requires the person to have the necessary expertise or experience to be a member, to their satisfaction prior to appointment.

Advisors

Advisors provide additional support and expertise to the Somerset LDMG. Advisors do not hold voting rights. The current list of members and advisors are provided in the table below.

Member	Advisors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset Regional Council (SRC) • Queensland Fire Department (QFD) • Queensland Police Service (QPS) • Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) • Queensland Reconstruction Authority • Energex • Urban Utilities • Seqwater • CleanCO • Qld Hydro • CS Energy • Telstra • National Broadband Network (NBN) Co • Queensland Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Moreton Hospital and Health Service (HHS) – Esk Hospital • Metro North HHS – Kilcoy Hospital. • State Emergency Service (SES) • Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) • Red Cross • Queensland Education

Deputy Members

Deputy members serve as a proxy for core members should they be unavailable to attend. Deputy Members are expected to achieve the same level of skill and expertise as core members. A deputy member has voting rights in the absence of their core member.

1.5 Agency Roles and Responsibilities




Effective coordination of disaster management relies on roles and responsibilities being clearly defined, communicated and understood. The indicative disaster management roles and responsibilities of the Somerset LDMG member organisations and other stakeholders are provided in the table below.



Further detail about the roles and responsibilities of each agency is contained within the Queensland [State Disaster Management Plan¹⁵](#) (SDMP) and/or relevant legislation.







Entity	Roles and responsibilities
District Disaster Management Group (Ipswich)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop effective disaster management for the district, including a district disaster management plan, and regularly review and assess that disaster management. • Ensure any relevant decisions and policies made by the QDMC are incorporated in its disaster management, and the disaster management of local groups in the district. • To coordinate the provision of State resources and services provided to support local groups in the district.¹⁶
Somerset residents, businesses and Community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand local risks and develop an emergency plan. • Prepare emergency and evacuation kits. • Prepare home or business. • Listen to warnings. • Check on family, friends and neighbours. • Plan for pets, animals and livestock in an emergency.
Somerset Local Disaster Management Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation assessment - the collection, collation, evaluation and dissemination of information relating to the current and predicted status of the disaster. • Event priority determination – the establishment of priorities among the many distinct incidents that may make up a disaster event. • Essential resource acquisition and allocation – the acquisition of resources from the agencies involved or from external sources to support the disaster response. • Coordination with other groups – such as the Ipswich DDMG and cross-border coordination agencies. • Coordination with elected and appointed officials – the briefing of elected and appointed officials on disaster-related issues in the local area. • Coordination of information – coordination of summary information such as impact assessments. • Coordination of information – among agencies and other groups to ensure consistency in messages to the public. The Chair, Somerset LDMG approves and delivers the media statements and public announcements to ensure consistent messaging.





¹⁵ Queensland Government, Queensland Interim State Disaster Management Plan 2024-25: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/528448/Interim-Queensland-State-Disaster-Management-Plan-2024-25.pdf



¹⁶ Disaster Management Act 2003

Entity	Roles and responsibilities
<p>Somerset Regional Council</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and administration of the Somerset LDMG, including the development and maintenance of disaster management plans and sub plans. • Establishment of a LDCC (including training of sufficient personnel to operate the centre on behalf of the Somerset LDMG. • Coordinate disaster operations and support response and recovery agencies. • Coordination of impact assessment and disaster response on behalf of the Somerset LDMG. • Coordination of immediate welfare and recovery needs in conjunction with Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS) and Australian Red Cross (including the management of evacuation centres). • Maintenance of local government function via local government business continuity contingency planning. • Maintenance of a disaster response capability. • Maintenance of Council telemetry and warning systems. • Community awareness and education, and issue of public warnings and information. • Support for the region's State Emergency Service (SES). • Advice to the Ipswich DDMG on local matters such as evacuation and longer-term recovery. • Support for the Ipswich DDMG to perform the functions of the local group, in the event a disaster prevents the local group from performing its functions. • Advice to the LDMG and request and provide assistance through the local group as required during disaster operations.
<p>Queensland Ambulance Service</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide, operate and maintain ambulance services. • Access, assess, treat and transport sick and/or injured persons. • Protect persons from injury or death, during rescue and other related activities. • Provide and support temporary health infrastructure where required. • Collaborate with Queensland Clinical Coordination Centre in the provision of paramedics for rotary wing operations. • Participate in health facility evacuations. • Collaborate with Queensland Health in mass casualty management systems. • Provide Disaster, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Chemical HAZMAT, Biological and Radiological operations support with specialist logistics and specialist paramedics.
<p>Queensland Fire Department (QFD)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary agency for bushfire. • Primary agency for chemical / hazardous materials (HAZMAT) related incidents. • Provide control, management and pre-incident planning of fires (structural, landscape and transportation). • Provide rescue capability for persons trapped in any vehicle, vessel, by height or in confined space.

Entity	Roles and responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescue of persons isolated or entrapped in swift water or floodwater events. • Provide advice, chemical analysis and atmospheric monitoring at chemical/HAZMAT incidents. • Advice to the Somerset LDMG and assistance through the local group as required during disaster operations. • Provide impact assessment and intelligence gathering capabilities. • Provide logistical and communications support during disasters within capabilities. • Advice to the LDMG, and assistance through the local group as required during disaster operations. •
<p>Queensland Police Service</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve peace and good order. • Prevention of crime. • Maintain any site as a possible crime scene. • Provide a disaster victim identification capability. • Coronial investigation procedures. • Conduct traffic control, including assistance with road closures and maintenance of roadblocks. • Control and coordinate evacuation operations. • Lead agency for Terrorism. • Coordinate search and rescue operations. • Manage the registration of evacuees and associated inquiries in conjunction with the Australian Red Cross. • Crowd management and public safety. • Provide security for damaged or evacuated premises. • Respond to and investigate traffic, rail and air incidents. • Advice to the Somerset LDMG and assistance through the local group as required during disaster operations.
<p>Emergency Management Coordinator (Queensland Police)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with local government, agencies, authorities, communities, and community groups to build local disaster management capability and capacity. • Provide support to disaster management planning, reviews and assessments. • Deliver the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework (QDMTF) products and other emergency management training to stakeholders. • Provide advice and support to Somerset Region LDMG in relation to disaster management and disaster operations. • Coordination of disaster management training. • Public education in disaster management.
<p>Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of community recovery effort across government and non-government agencies. • Chair for the multi-agency District Community Recovery Committee. • Development and annual review of the combined Ipswich and Toowoomba District Human and Social Recovery Plan. • Establishment and management of Community Recovery Centres and Coordination Centres.

Entity	Roles and responsibilities
 <p>Queensland Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of financial assistance to eligible individuals and families affected by a natural disaster. • Establishment of outreach service teams to visit households and determine their recovery needs. • Advice to the LDMG and assistance through the local group as required during disaster operations.
<p>Queensland Health (West Moreton HHS – Esk Hospital and Metro North HHS - Kilcoy Hospital)</p>  <p>Queensland Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of medical resources including medical personnel. • Public health advice and warnings to participating agencies and the community. • Psychological and counselling services for disaster affected persons. • Ongoing medical and health services required during the recovery period to preserve the general health of the community. • Advice to the LDMG, and assistance through the local group as required during disaster operations.
<p>Queensland Reconstruction Authority</p>  <p>Queensland Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead agency for the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and State Disaster Relief Arrangements. • Conduct reconstruction monitoring during the recovery phase of a disaster. • Advise LDMG on recovery planning for specific disaster events. • Administer, coordinate and distribute disaster resilience funding programs on behalf of Queensland. • Review, maintain and update Local Resilience Action Plans to ensure there is a pipeline of projects for future investments in disaster resilience and mitigation activities.
<p>Energex</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of electrical power supply. • Advice in relation to electrical power. • Restoration of power. • Safety advice for consumers. • Advice to the LDMG and assistance through the local group as required during disaster operations.
<p>Urban Utilities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver drinking water, recycled water and sewerage services within the Somerset region. • Provide advice to the LDMG and action reasonable requests during disaster operations, as required.
<p>Seqwater</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and coordinate supply of bulk potable water. • Develop and maintain dam Emergency Action plans per legislative requirements. • Develop the Flood Mitigation Manual for the Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams. • Develop and maintain Fire Management Plans for Seqwater owned land. • Provide advice on bulk water supply, Emergency Action Plans and dams located within the Somerset region to the LDMG and action reasonable requests during disaster operations, as required.

Entity	Roles and responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake dam safety emergency response at Atkinson, Bill Gunn, Clarendon, Lake Manchester, Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams. • Determine the area of potential impact from the dam safety emergency. • Provide Council with initial notifications under the Emergency Action Plan and SitReps will be issued to the LDMGs relevant to / downstream of the dam.
<p>State Emergency Service</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the community in the preparation for, response to and recovery from an event or disaster. • Public education. • Rescue of stranded persons. • Search operations for missing person. • Emergency repair and protection of damaged or vulnerable buildings. • Assistance with debris clearance. • First aid support. • Traffic control support. • Assistance with radio communications. • Assistance with lighting. • Advice to the LDMG and assistance through the local group as required during disaster operations.
<p>NBN Co</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of telecommunication services. • Provision of communication facilities. • Advice to the LDMG and assistance through the local group as required during disaster operations.
<p>Telstra</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of telecommunication services. • Provision of communication facilities. • Advice to the LDMG and assistance through the local group as required during disaster operations.
<p>Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead agency for containment and eradication of animal and plant diseases and pests. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) also provides advice on agriculture, fisheries and forestry in a disaster event. • Collaborate with stakeholders with shared responsibilities and other organisations to facilitate prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies and priorities for animal welfare management within a community. • Provide advice in relation to agriculture, fisheries and forestry disaster impacts. • Provide advice on livestock welfare. • Coordinate destruction of stock or crops in an emergency pest/disease situation. • Lead the reporting on the disaster impact assessments on the agricultural sector, including economic losses and expected recovery.

<p>CleanCo</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake emergency response at Splyard Creek Dam. • Determine the area of potential impact from the dam emergency. • Provide the relevant disaster response agencies with timely notification of impending and actual emergencies, including details of the emergency and estimates of potential impacts downstream of the dam.
<p>Queensland Hydro Queensland Hydro</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake emergency response at the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project. • Determine the area of potential impact from the dam emergency. • Provide the relevant disaster response agencies with timely notification of impending and actual emergencies, including details of the emergency and estimates of potential impacts downstream of the dam.

1.6 LDMG Meeting Governance

The Somerset LDMG Meeting Governance arrangements are documented in the Guideline¹⁷.

Ordinary Meetings

The Somerset LDMG currently meets two(2) times per year. Meetings are held as a mix of online (via Microsoft TEAMS) and face-to-face. For ordinary meetings of the Somerset LDMG an agenda will be emailed to members no later than one week prior to the meeting. Members will be given three months' notice of each of these meetings. It is a requirement that members, or their proxy, attend all meetings where possible. The minimum number of members required for a meeting is 50% plus one.¹⁸

Extraordinary Meetings

Extraordinary Somerset LDMG meetings can be called during emergency events and provision may be made for members to use TEAMS. Location of the meeting and the details for the meeting will be provided at the time and at the discretion of the LDC.

Minutes will be taken at all Somerset LDMG meetings, providing a summary of the discussions and any resolutions made. A copy is distributed in a timely manner to members and relevant advisors.

Requirement for members to report

There is an expectation that members of the Somerset LDMG should attend and provide a written report to each of the LDMG meetings. The reports should outline any disaster management related activities performed or proposed to be conducted in the future that is of relevance to the group. Reports should be emailed prior to the meeting and will be included in the minutes of each meeting.

¹⁷Queensland Government, Interim Queensland Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline s2.2.1: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0032/359465/Interim-QPPRR-Disaster-Management-Guideline.pdf

¹⁸ Disaster Management Regulation 2014 s13

Community Characteristics

2.1. Geographical Area

This Somerset LDMP is applicable to the SRC Local Government Area (LGA), as shown in figure 4 below. The area administered by SRC covers 5,379km² with the administrative centre located at Esk, approximately 60km northwest of Ipswich. The area contains a major part of the Brisbane River and Stanley River catchments. The northern, eastern, and western boundaries are formed in the main by several mountain ranges including Brisbane, D'Aguilar and Blackbutt Ranges, and several smaller ranges.

The region is home to two of the largest dams in Queensland, Wivenhoe and Somerset. Somerset Dam releases its water into Wivenhoe Dam, which in turn supplements the natural flow of the Brisbane River and maintains an adequate supply of water to the Mt Crosby pumping station. Wivenhoe Dam was constructed after the 1974 floods to provide Ipswich and Brisbane better flood immunity and at the same time provide potable water to both Brisbane and Ipswich. Lockyer Creek flows into the area from the Lockyer Valley and joins the Brisbane River downstream from Wivenhoe Dam. The southern end of the SRC LGA generally consists of creek and river flats supporting small crop farming and is the area most likely to be subjected to flooding of any significance. The majority of other usable land in the SRC area lies amongst low hilly country used for grazing with small areas under forestation.

The Brisbane Valley Highway, from Ipswich and Brisbane, enters the area at its southeast corner and runs the full length of the SRC area in a north, north-westerly direction, intersecting with the D'Aguilar Highway west of Kilcoy. The Warrego Highway forms the southern extremity of the SRC area for a short distance where it crosses at Minden.

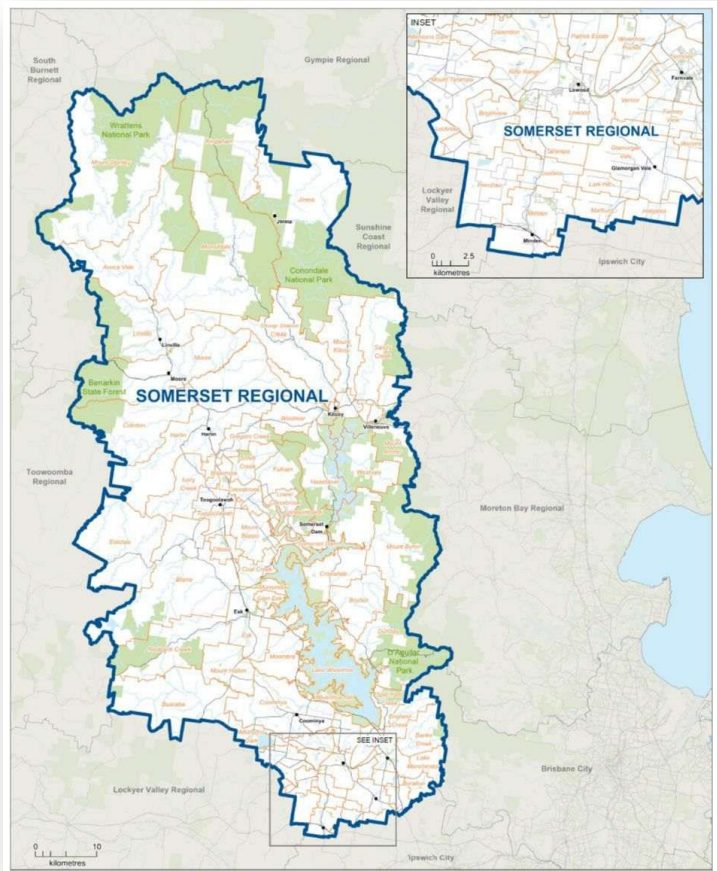


Figure 4: Somerset Regional Council Local Government Area

2.2. Somerset Climate and Weather

A detailed summary of the climate and weather across the SRC LGA can be found on the [Bureau of Meteorology \(BoM\) website¹⁹](#). The climate of the SRC area is characterised by high variability in rainfall and temperature with the summer rainfalls occurring between October and March. The heaviest rainfalls generally occur in January and February. Ex-Tropical cyclones can affect the area in the form of heavy rain depressions, generally between January and March; this is also the time for well-developed troughs to occur.

Between November and February, the area experiences many thunderstorms resulting in the region being classed as being one of the thunderstorm hotspots in the State, particularly around the township of Esk.

The average annual rainfall varies between 650mm and 850mm. Daytime temperatures are in the 20-30-degree range for most of the year, although short periods of heat wave conditions can be experienced. Occasional frosts occur in mid-winter. Over the past 10 years, the region has seen days of extreme heatwave and increased drought, which is trending towards climatic conditions, of above average temperatures, and other conditions which are conducive to large spread and rapid-fire conditions occurring.

Climate Change

Climate change is a feature across the region, which needs to be further explored. Further information on climate change, and its impact to the SRC area, can be accessed on the [Department of Environment and Science \(DES\) website²⁰](#).

2.3. Population and Demographics

For the latest population data, refer to the [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(ABS\) website²¹](#) which provides the latest analytics for the SRC area. The table below provides the key population statistics for the SRC area from the 2021 Census data.

Category	SRC Statistic
Male	50.5% (12,650)
Female	49.5% (12,410)
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	4.7% (1,172)
Median Age	45
Families	6,932
Average people per household	3.4

¹⁹Commonwealth Government, Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Climate Statistics for Australian Locations: www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_040189.shtml

²⁰ Queensland Government, Climate Change in the South East Region, Department of Environment and Science: www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0023/67631/seq-climate-change-impact-summary.pdf

²¹ Commonwealth Government, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 Census: www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA36580

Vulnerable Population

For detailed information on vulnerable communities who require support under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), refer to the [Australian Government Care Sector Demand Map](#)²². Community members with specific needs should be identified in consultation with appropriate stakeholders that may require special consideration, such as:

- those reliant on mechanical life-support systems
- those reliant on home oxygen
- people from Non-English-Speaking Backgrounds
- those with health support needs
- aged population and people in residential care
- people with disabilities
- varying cultural and language backgrounds
- transient populations
- Other population groups without support, dependent upon the nature of the event.

The Somerset LDMG has members and/or advisors from the following organisations that can assist in compiling a list at short notice of those that may be considered as vulnerable, including:

- Energex (critical supply locations)
- Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS)
- Queensland Health – Metro North and West Moreton HHSs.

Industry

For information on industry, refer to the [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(ABS\) website](#)²³ which provides the latest analytics for the SRC area. The wealth across the SRC area is based on primary production and timber and secondary industries, which service the primary industries. In broad terms, the southern/central areas of the Somerset region are agricultural land, the northern/western areas are cattle grazing & timber country, and the south-eastern area is forestry/national parks. Dotted throughout the area are numerous rural residential subdivisions. The area has seen a large rise in the number of poultry farms, particularly in the Southern areas of the region. The table below provides the employment industry trends based on the 2021 Census data.

Category	% Of population employed within the industry
Meat Processing	6.8%
Beef Cattle Farming (Specialised)	3.6%
Road Freight Transport	3.2%
Primary Education	3.1%
Supermarket and Grocery Stores	3.0%

Tourism

Tourist coaches, caravans and private vehicles traverse across the region. The main attractions visited are Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams with associated water sports and

²² Commonwealth Government, Australian Government Care Sector Demand Map:

www.caresectordemandmap.dss.gov.au/map/ndis/postcode

²³ Commonwealth Government, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 Census: www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA36580

camping areas. The Seqwater [‘things to do’ webpage](#) provides information about recreation closures.

There are several private enterprises in the Somerset region which operate historic buildings, deer farming and skydiving. There are also educational and other centres of attraction including the Boys Brigade Glengarry Education Centre, Camp Duckadang, Mountain Lake Adventures, Camp Somerset, motor sports in the Jimna area, and the Stanley River Environmental Centre. The Somerset region is home to many parks, both council owned, and others that are owned and maintained by state government agencies such as Seqwater and DES. A list of parks within the region can be found by searching ‘parks’ on council’s website somerset.qld.gov.au.

The [Brisbane Valley Rail Trail²⁴](#) is a recreational trail that follows the disused Brisbane Valley rail corridor from Wulkuraka, west of Ipswich, to Yarraman, west of Kilcoy. SRC and the State have invested considerable funds into ensuring that the 161km trail is user friendly, giving walkers, cyclists, and horse riders the unique opportunity to experience the diverse rural landscape of the Brisbane Valley.

Schools

The public school systems are distributed across three Department of Education Districts.

- Metropolitan region (Lowood and Fernvale areas)
- Darling Downs West region (Esk and Toogoolawah areas), and
- North Coast region (Kilcoy area).

Category	Locations
Pre- School/ Child Care	Coominya, Esk Kindergarten, Esk Preschool, Fernvale Fun Factory, Fernvale Preschool, Lowood Pre-school/kindergarten, Toogoolawah Kindergarten, Toogoolawah Playgroup, Country Kids, Kilcoy Kindergarten
Primary Schools	Clarendon, Coominya, Esk, Fernvale, Glamorgan Vale, Harlin, Kilcoy, Mt Kilcoy, Linville, Lowood, Minden, Moore, Patrick Estate, Prenzlau, Mt Tarampa, Tarampa, Toogoolawah
High Schools	Lowood, Toogoolawah, Kilcoy

Major Community Events

Community events are held throughout the year attracting locals and visitors to the region. Some of these are listed below.

- Rural Shows – Esk, Lowood, Toogoolawah and Kilcoy
- Horse Racing – Esk and Kilcoy
- Watts Bridge Fly In (near Toogoolawah)
- Ramblers Equinox Skydiving (Toogoolawah)
- Somerset Rail Trail Fun Run
- Country Markets – Kilcoy, Fernvale, Esk, Linville, Moore
- Parkrun – Esk, Kilcoy, Lake Wivenhoe

A full list of community events can be found by searching ‘community events’ on council’s website somerset.qld.gov.au

²⁴ Brisbane Valley Rail Trail: www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.com.au

Sporting and Recreational Grounds

A full list of sporting and recreational grounds can be found by searching 'Sport and Recreation' on council's website somerset.qld.gov.au


Transport

Public transport options are limited across the SRC area and largely rely on supply from private enterprise. The predominate options are:

- Coaches – TRANSLink Ipswich, Coast and Country (Toogoolawah and Wamuran), Minden Bus Service, Christensen's Coaches (Kilcoy).
- Specialist vehicles – Esk, Lowood, Toogoolawah, Kilcoy Taxis, Blue Care.



Figure 5: Damage on the Brisbane Valley Highway south of Geoff Fisher Bridge from the Feb-Mar 2022 Severe Weather



3. Essential Services and Infrastructure

3.1. Spatial Mapping of Infrastructure

A complete and geographical overlay of essential services and infrastructure can be accessed at the [Queensland Public Safety Agencies ArcGIS Online Organisation \(QPSAAO\)](#)²⁵. This information is available to Somerset LDMG members and advisors via the SRC Disaster Management Officer. There are some restrictions due to information sensitivity.

3.2. Airfields

Throughout the region there are a number of locations where a rotary winged aircraft can land safely in emergent situations, including sporting fields and schools. A fixed wing aircraft can land at the following air strips:

- **Ramblers Drop Zone** at [Toogoolawah](#).
- **Watts Bridge Memorial Airfield** at [Lower Cressbrook \(Toogoolawah\)](#), often used by QFD as an airbase.
- **Kilcoy Airfield** Kennedys Road, [Winya](#).
- **Coominya Flight Training**. 62 Kiernan Lane [Coominya](#) 4311.
- **Bradfield**. 907 Atkinsons Dam Road, [Atkinsons Dam](#) 4311. Private airfield for business only.

3.3. Communications

Telecommunications and Internet

4G and 5G are available throughout the region with some blackspots due to hilly terrain, especially across the northern and western areas of the region. Mobile phone coverage over the region has improved over time, however there are still blackspots in some locations. Some of these reported blackspots are mapped on the QPSAAO for operational planning.

Mobile phone service providers include Optus, Telstra and Vodafone (including other retailers reselling these services).

Council utilises 2-way radio transmission towers located at Mount Brisbane and Jimna. Power is via battery with trickle charge from solar cells. Physical access, whilst available, is subject to landowner permission. The main repeater site is located at Gregors Creek and is on mains power with battery backup.

²⁵Queensland Public Safety Agencies ArcGIS Online Organisation (QPSAAO):
www.publicsafetyqld.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html

Government Wireless Network (GWN) is an integrated secure radio network for Queensland's public safety agencies such as QPS, QFD, SES and QAS.

Major towns have Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) as a minimum, with NBN fibre-to-the-node in towns such as Lowood, Fernvale and Kilcoy. NBN Fixed Wireless is expanding throughout the region. It should be noted that there is a known risk that NBN services (including phone) may be lost during power outages, both in the premises (business or household) and/or node. Telstra, Optus, Vodafone and NBN Co sites (both fixed wireless, towers and nodes) are mapped on the QPSAAO for operational and preparedness planning.

Starlink services are rapidly expanding across Australia, offering high-speed internet access in many locations that previously had little or no connectivity. By using a Starlink connection, users can also make mobile phone calls through Wi-Fi Calling, provided their device is connected to the Starlink router. This allows reliable communication even in areas without traditional mobile network coverage.

Television

Free-to-air television is available in most of the region. Foxtel and other satellite subscription Pay television services are also available throughout.

Radio Stations

There are a number of radio stations that can be heard throughout the region, however the main stations with the best coverage are as follows.

- [612 ABC \(AM Radio\)²⁶](#)
- [River 94.9 \(FM radio\)²⁷](#)

During disasters and other emergencies, the LDMG encourages residents to listen to these stations. These will be the primary radio stations that the LDMG and emergency services will use during events impacting the SRC area.

3.4. Medical and Aged Facilities

There are two distinct Queensland Health Hospital and Health Services that operate across the Somerset region. These are Metro North (Kilcoy Hospital) and West Moreton (Esk Hospital). The predominant medical facilities across the region are shown in the table below:

Category	Locations
Public Hospital	Esk - 22 bed, Kilcoy- 30 bed
Private Facilities	Esk, Fernvale, Lowood, Toogoolawah and Kilcoy
Aged Care Facilities	Lowood, Tarampa, Toogoolawah and Kilcoy

3.5. Power

Mapping of the power assets are provided on the QPSAAO. High and low voltage (275,000, 220,000, 132,000 volts) power transmission lines from Tarong and Splityard Creek power stations to Swanbank power station and Redbank substation traverse the SRC region. 33,000 volts and Single Wire Earth Return lines service the SRC region and power outages

²⁶ ABC Brisbane: www.abc.net.au/brisbane

²⁷ River94.9: www.river949.com.au

are rare on the high voltage transmission lines. During storms and bushfires the low voltage lines can be out of service for up to 24 hours depending upon the location and nature of the damage.

Significant infrastructure changes by Energex since 2011 have resulted in a more secure and resilient electricity network. Outages occur less frequently and can generally be isolated to affect minimal customers where possible and allow for more efficient restoration.

3.6. Roads and Bridges

The Somerset LGA has an extensive network of state controlled and local roads. There is approximately 818km of sealed and 544km of gravel roads. Of these, 438km are state controlled roads. Major highways that are located within the region are:

- Brisbane Valley Highway: Warrego Highway (Blacksoil) to D'Aguilar Highway (near Harlin)
- D'Aguilar Highway: Bruce Highway to Burnett Highway at Yarraman
- Warrego Highway: at Minden Range.

These are in addition to the extensive regional and main road networks that exist. All state roads and bridges, including their construction type, and other engineering information is mapped on the QPSAAO.

In the floods of 2011, 2013 and 2022, a significant number of Council bridges were impacted and ultimately replaced or repaired. Many former timber bridges were replaced with more resilient structures such as concrete. In 2010 SRC had 97 timber bridges, there are now only two timber road bridges remaining.

3.7. Water supply, Sewerage Treatment and Dams

Treatment Plants and Distribution

The treatment plants, including clear water tanks and pumps, are owned and operated by Seqwater. Treatment of raw water to potable water standard is the responsibility of Seqwater. Seqwater's standalone treatment plants at Esk, Somerset Township, Kilcoy, Lowood, Linville, and Jimna treat water to supply the individual townships.

Distribution of drinking water and water quality monitoring in all areas is the responsibility of Urban Utilities.

Dams

The Somerset LGA is home to several dams providing safe and reliable water supply to areas of southeast and southwest Queensland. Each dam has an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) developed by the owner in consultation with various stakeholders, including the Somerset LDMG.

- Cressbrook Dam is one of the three water storages used to supply Toowoomba and the surrounding region. Whilst it is located in the Toowoomba LGA and is managed by Toowoomba Regional Council, downstream impacts can be experienced in the township of Toogoolawah and areas along Cressbrook and Kipper Creeks. An [Emergency Action Plan](#)²⁸ has been prepared by Toowoomba Regional Council.

²⁸ Seqwater, Cressbrook Dam Emergency Action Plan: www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1619700/cressbrook-eap.pdf

- Somerset Dam is a gated dam that was built for the dual purposes of water supply for the region and for flood mitigation. An [Emergency Action Plan²⁹](#) has been prepared by Seqwater.
- Wivenhoe Dam was built for the dual purpose of providing a safe and reliable water supply for the region and flood mitigation. It is a gated dam which allows Seqwater to make controlled water releases during times of heavy rain. An [Emergency Action Plan³⁰](#) has been prepared by Seqwater.
- Atkinson Dam is part of the Lower Lockyer irrigation system. It is an ungated dam, meaning that when it reaches 100 per cent capacity, water flows over the spillway and safely out of the dam. An [Emergency Action Plan³¹](#) has been prepared by Seqwater.
- Splyard Creek Dam has an ungated spillway across the Pryde Creek whose sole purpose is for the generation of hydroelectricity. An [Emergency Action Plan³²](#) has been prepared by CleanCo Queensland.

Sewerage Treatment Plants

Collection systems and treatment plants are operated by Urban Utilities and are located in the towns of Esk, Toogoolawah, Kilcoy and Lowood. All systems are gravitational with pump stations. All plants are mapped on the QPSAAO. The Esk plant produces treated water that is reused by third party users.



Figure 6: Wivenhoe Dam Release

²⁹ Seqwater, Somerset Dam Emergency Action Plan: www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1619771/somerset-eap.pdf

³⁰ Seqwater, Wivenhoe Dam Emergency Action Plan: www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1619786/wivenhoe-eap.pdf

³¹ Toowoomba Regional Council, Atkinson Dam Emergency Action Plan:

www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1619632/atkinson-eap.pdf

³² www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1619772/splyard-creek-eap.pdf

Hazards, Risk Assessments and Mitigation

4.1. Somerset LDMG QERMF Implementation (2022)

To achieve an 'all hazards' approach to disaster risk management, SRC undertook an assessment of hazard risk utilising the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework (QERMF) prepared by the Queensland Fire Department. The QERMF assists key stakeholders working within the QDMA to review existing natural disaster risk management processes and assist in enhancing resilience. More information is available on the in the [QERMF Risk Assessment Process Handbook](#)³³.

Annual Exceedance Probability

The Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) is the probability of a hazard occurring once in a year and is calculated by utilising historical data for the local area. The below provides the AEP of the hazards that were identified during the QERMF 2022 implementation.

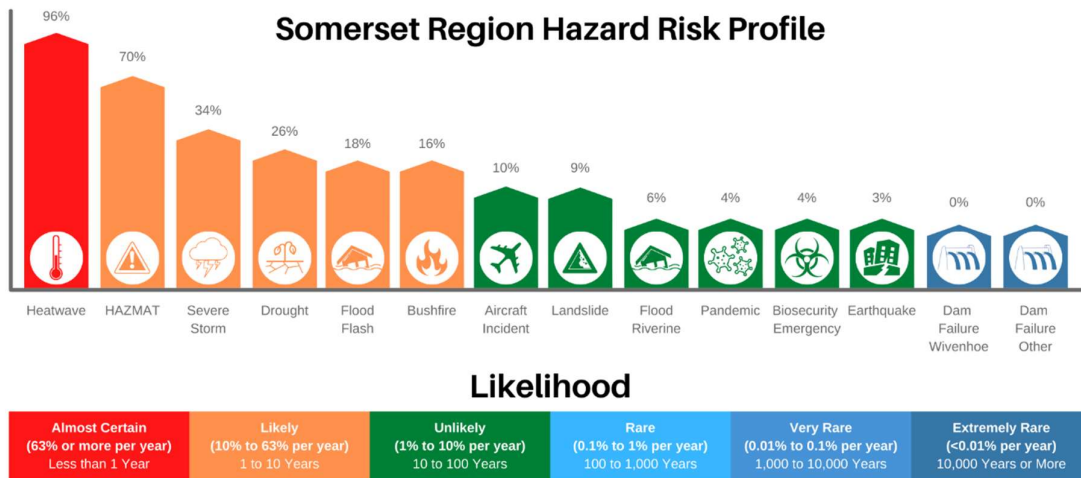


Figure 7. QERMF Hazard Risk Profile

As part of the 2022 QERMF process, all agencies across the LDMG were invited to provide detail on their mitigation programs against each of the hazards listed in relation to their vulnerable elements. A complete list of all vulnerable elements, by hazard type, and their mitigation activities are contained within the QERMF workbooks, which are available through the SRC Disaster Management Officer.

A summary of each of the hazards based on the 2022 QERMF implementation considering the Somerset LDMG are provided below.

³³ Queensland Government, QERMF Risk Assessment Process Handbook: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/339402/H1102-QFES-Risk-Assessment-Process-Handbook.pdf

4.2. Heatwave

Definition	A heatwave occurs when the maximum and the minimum temperatures are unusually hotter than average over a three-day period. This is considered in relation to the local climate and past weather at the location.
Trends	By 2070, the projected range of warming is 1.2 to 3.8°C, depending on future emissions. The region's summer average temperature is 24°C. This could rise to over 25°C by 2030 and to over 27°C by 2070. There is likely to be a substantial increase in the temperature reached on the hottest days, and an increase in the frequency of hot days and the duration of warm spells, including increased frequency and duration of heatwaves ³⁴ .
Likelihood	Heatwave is the highest risk to the SRC LGA and has been calculated to be 96% AEP. This places heatwave risk in the 'Almost Certain' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	Higher demand on power for cooling and other uses will increase strain on the power network, especially during hot nights. Projected changes in heatwave frequency, duration, and intensity are likely to contribute to further increased demand. With increased and sustained temperatures there is a higher risk of bacterial contamination within water infrastructure such as reservoirs and bores.
Access and Resupply	Road and rail networks are vulnerable to damage during periods of intense heat. Damage may result in road closures and affect heavy haulage. Service cancellations or delivery delays for rail transport and freight services may result. People walking and using active transport are more likely to be exposed, and more vulnerable to heat related illness.
Community and Social	Cultural and linguistic barriers may increase vulnerability due to social isolation, limited understanding of heatwave risk, and key messaging.
Medical	Significantly increased mortality rates are likely among vulnerable populations. Vulnerable populations include the elderly, the very young, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, people outdoors, people working in hot and/or humid environments and those with compromised physical and mental wellbeing.
Significant Industries	Sustained high temperatures may reduce crop yield and quality, and affect the productivity, health and wellbeing of livestock. Vulnerability of ecosystems and impacts to biodiversity may affect tourism. Visitation and enjoyment of attractions and experiences may decline.
Environmental	Higher temperatures may result in increased occurrence of algal blooms and fish kill incidents in freshwater ecosystems. Mass deaths of heat sensitive species and birds may occur, and the risk of extinction for some species may increase.
Mitigation	
Powerlink and Energy Queensland (Energex) have strong mitigations and business continuity plans to maintain power to the region and state. Emergency Services and medical facilities have strong BCPs and redundancies in place to manage the impacts of heatwave.	

³⁴Queensland Government, Climate Change in the South East Region, Department of Environment and Science: www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0023/67631/seq-climate-change-impact-summary.pdf

4.3. HAZMAT Incident

Definition	HAZMAT incidents have the potential to cause harm to persons, property, or the environment. HAZMAT incidents (such as chemical spill, dangerous goods, incidents etc.) often pose significant difficulties to emergency responders and frequently require multi-agency response and technical expertise to manage their safe resolution ³⁵ .
Trends	There have been no significant HAZMAT incidents in the Somerset region that have required the support of the LDMG. The events identified to determine the AEP were classified as chemical spill or leak, hazardous materials (including suspected CBR), however all HAZMAT incidents have been small in nature and complexity and have been able to be managed with the initial responding QFD crews.
Likelihood	The AEP of hazardous materials incidents have been calculated to be 70%. This places HAZMAT risk in the 'Likely' category, however the risk to the region is low as most events are localised.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	Significant infrastructure at the location of the HAZMAT incident may sustain damage, depending on the type of incident. Neighbouring infrastructure may also sustain damage, depending on the impact (e.g., explosion), however this is still expected to be localised.
Access and Resupply	Hazardous materials are transported across the Somerset region by truck each day. Should a HAZMAT incident occur on a main road there may be significant delays as the roads are closed for clean-up and/or repair.
Community and Social	Should a HAZMAT Incident occur, communities may be impacted if they are required to evacuate their properties due to the incident. There are no particular at-risk areas to note.
Medical	In the event of a HAZMAT incident, QAS would be the primary medical response organisation and patients would likely be transferred out of region to Ipswich or Brisbane.
Significant Industries	Long term effects to significant industries in the area are not expected.
Environmental	HAZMAT incidents, depending on the type of material and scale of incident, could have significant environmental impacts. Facilities that house hazardous materials are required to have comprehensive emergency response procedures, including in the event of a spill, and ways to contain these.
Mitigation	
There are no major hazard facilities recorded in the Somerset LGA, however there are a number of other facilities that store small amounts of hazardous materials, for example the water treatment plants throughout the region and a medical waste facility operated by Queensland Health. Each location/industry has comprehensive emergency response procedures and works closely with the Queensland Fire Department, who has a dedicated HAZMAT response capability.	

³⁵ Queensland Government, Queensland Fire Department, Chemical Incidents: www.fire.qld.gov.au/prepare/chemical

4.4. Severe Thunderstorm

Definition	Thunderstorms which produce any of the following are classified as severe in Australia - large hail (2 cm in diameter or greater); damaging wind gusts (90 km/h or greater); tornadoes; or heavy rainfall conducive to flash flooding ³⁶ .
Trends	Somerset LGA has a long history of severe thunderstorms, often bringing damaging hail and flash flooding. With storm intensity projected to increase in the future, the risk of property damage may also rise.
Likelihood	Severe thunderstorm is the third highest risk to the Somerset Region and has been calculated to be 34% AEP. This places severe thunderstorm risk in the 'Likely' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	Severe thunderstorms have the potential to damage key infrastructure with large hail and high winds. Secondary hazards exist in relation to power outages across the region. Damage to infrastructure could be severe and redundancies may be required to host alternate infrastructure for business continuity.
Access and Resupply	Access and resupply issues relate to matters such as trees or power lines over roads. These are likely to be short in duration with the deployment of Council and other agencies to resolve these often-localised incidents.
Community and Social	Community and social assets can be impacted during severe thunderstorms. Given the age of many of the properties in the region, there is potential for damage to roofs, windows etc. which may lead to the requirement for short term recovery and displacement of community.
Medical	Most of the medical facilities in the region are maintained by the State, and there is limited risk of large-scale impact on reduction of services due to severe thunderstorms. Key health and aged care sites have back up generation to maintain critical services.
Significant Industries	The agricultural industries are at the highest risk of damage from severe thunderstorms, as these can significantly damage crops and farming infrastructure. Other significant industry across the region is relatively resilient to severe thunderstorms. Whilst damage may occur to assets, significant industry is likely to be able to operate under business continuity plans.
Environmental	Environmental damage can be seen during events, where they cause damage or destroy local ecosystems, bring trees down which have been standing for decades and alter the environments of the natural assets across the region such as D'Aguilar National Park. They can also cause creek and catchment damage with debris entering watercourses affecting riparian zones and cause large scale clean-up operations.
Mitigation	
The proposed solar farm between Harlin and Kilcoy (500MW+) would be at some risk should large hail impact the region. Other Power Stations have little vulnerability to severe thunderstorms. Energy Queensland has a response plan which is scalable from local, regional and State levels to reconnect power. The Energy Queensland website provides significant information on outages to the community. The LDMG undertakes community education under the 'Get Ready Queensland' initiative to advise residents on what actions they can undertake to prepare. The Somerset SES is a sustainable Unit with modern equipment and trained personnel to respond to requests for assistance. The SES are also able to request additional support from across the South East and State if required.	

³⁶ Commonwealth Government, Bureau of Meteorology: www.bom.gov.au/resources/learn-and-explore/severe-weather-knowledge-centre/thunderstorms

4.5. Drought

Definition	Drought is a prolonged, abnormally dry period when the amount of available water is insufficient to meet our normal use. Because people use water in so many different ways, there is no universal definition of drought. It is measured in different ways and at different timescales.
Trends	With the likely substantial increase in the temperature reached on the hottest days, and an increase in the frequency of hot days and the duration of warm spells, by late this century, under a high emissions scenario, it is likely that the Somerset region will experience more time in drought. The region has seen 35 drought declarations over 126 years – many of these declarations have lasted for 3+ years at a time, increasing in duration in the recent years.
Likelihood	Drought is the fourth highest risk to the Somerset region and has been calculated to be 26% AEP. This places drought risk in the 'Likely' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	Drought should have minimal effect on the majority of infrastructure, however, can lead to industry slowing or shutting down given the primary employment categories in agriculture and meat processing across the region. Reduced water availability has flow on effects to fire response capability.
Access and Resupply	Drought has limited impact on access and resupply to the Region. Where appropriate the use of grazing along roadways can be utilised to maintain the rural industries while also reducing bushfire risk.
Community and Social	Drought can have high impacts on the community and social structure. Primary producers may need to reduce stock (due to lack of feed, water and money to provide these) which then has a flow on affect to meat processing. This can lead to larger scale economic reduction and more impact on the urban areas as people move away from farming and into the urban centres. Reduction in the farming industry can also impact food supplies locally and nationally.
Medical	Prolonged drought and its impact on generational farmers have seen an increased need for mental health services.
Significant Industries	Drought has significant impact on the agricultural industry, impacting water supplies crucial for growing crops, feed and other farm uses. Current conditions have driven up feed and water prices, due to high demand and limited availability. This is impacting all farmers and can lead to economic decline and reduction in significant industry as farmers leave the area. There are also likely tourism impacts in areas such as Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams and Lakes with areas being closed for tourism purpose.
Environmental	During periods of drought existing threats to flora and fauna are exacerbated, changes to natural habitats occur and there is a changing dynamic of invasive species, pests and diseases. The assessment acknowledges the direct link between environmental and tourism outcomes. As environmental assets are impacted by drought, tourism can reduce leading to poor regional outcomes.
Mitigation	
Seqwater has a Water Security Program 2023 ³⁷ and Drought Response Plans ³⁸ in place. The Water Security Program is Seqwater's plan to provide southeast Queensland with drinking water over the next 30 years. This includes planning for extreme weather — both flood and drought. The program is a requirement under the Water Act 2000 ³⁹ . Bore water is available for some agricultural areas when there are supply restrictions from Atkinson Dam.	

³⁷ Seqwater, South East Queensland's Water Security Program 2023: www.seqwater.com.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/J018969%20Seqwater%20Water%20Security%20Program%20FINAL%201-3_0.pdf

³⁸ Seqwater Drought Response Plans: www.seqwater.com.au/water-security

³⁹ Water Act 2000: www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2000-034

4.6. Flooding – Flash

Definition	Flooding occurring within about six hours of rain, usually the result of intense local rain and characterised by rapid rises in water-levels, is known as flash flooding.
Trends	The Somerset LGA is built between many minor watercourses such as Redbank Creek, Cressbrook Creek, Ivory Creek, Kilcoy Creek, Sheep Station Creek, Neurum Creek and Oaky Creek. Flash flooding can occur locally by severe thunderstorms or by more persistent systems such as East Coast lows which produce the rainfall levels required.
Likelihood	Flash flooding is the fifth highest risk to the Somerset region and has been calculated to be 18% AEP. This places flash flooding risk in the lower end of the 'Likely' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	Critical infrastructure built along the various creek systems across the area are prone to flash flooding. Overland flooding (when the soil is at maximum moisture levels) can also contribute to flash flooding, which could inundate infrastructure across the Somerset LGA.
Access and Resupply	Access and resupply routes are less at risk for this hazard compared to riverine flooding, due to their features of 'water up, water down' in a quick manner, however there is potential for road damage on infrastructure not built to withstand such an event.
Community and Social	Some schools located in flood prone areas may be affected by flash flooding. Evacuation of houses and business premises may be required. Damage may occur to these properties as a result of flooding.
Medical	Any impact on medical facilities across the Somerset LGA would likely be localised and not cause a LDMG response.
Significant Industries	Flash flooding can impact agricultural land throughout the Somerset LGA and has done so in recent history.
Environmental	Washouts and other debris within waterways can impact the environment through erosion and bank destabilisation.
Mitigation	
SRC has commissioned a number of flood studies to assist in planning and disaster management on behalf of the LDMG. A number of mitigation works, such as roadworks and replacement of vulnerable bridges have been undertaken since the 2010-11 flood event. Agencies such as the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR), Energy Queensland and SRC have strong response plans for flooding events. The Somerset LDMG undertakes a range of community resilience programs under 'Get Ready Queensland' to prepare the local communities hazards including flooding.	

4.7. Bushfire

Definition	Unplanned vegetation fire, which includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires, with and without a suppression objective ⁴⁰ . A bushfire can cause injury, loss of life and/or damage property or the natural environment
Trends	Bushfires are a feature across the Somerset region, with fires recorded every year across the SRC LGA from 2010. Large fires which threatened properties were seen in 2018 and 2019 in Redbank Creek, Cressbrook, Patrick Estate, Wivenhoe Pocket, Jimna, Esk and other areas, where prepare to leave messages were issued. In 2025 a bushfire threatened properties in Lake Wivenhoe.
Likelihood	This assessment has identified bushfire as being the sixth risk to the Somerset Region calculated to be 16% AEP. This places bushfire risk at the lower end of the 'Likely' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	There is a range of infrastructure across the Somerset LDMG area which could be impacted by fire, across varying potential intensity bushfire prone land. This includes power and communications assets and the water network.
Access and Resupply	Road Access areas along the Brisbane Valley Highway, D'Aguilar Highway and Warrego Highway (at Minden). Given a good deal of Somerset LGA is lined with creeks and rivers, riparian zones that also run parallel with roads can both increase fire spread through "wicking" and close local strategic roads.
Community and Social	There are remote localities in the Somerset LGA which are exposed to "Very High Potential Bushfire Intensity" such as Jimna, Linville, Villeneuve, and Moore. Areas in and around Somerset Dam, Esk are also at risk. Fire history suggests that fires may travel from the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area through Lockyer National Park and enter the Somerset LGA, which requires a coordinated approach between both LDMGs and QFD to protect communities to the east and northeast of the National Park. Similarly, fires can travel from the Toowoomba Regional Council area and impact the south-west part of our region such as what occurred in the Pechey fires of 2019.
Medical	There are no medical facilities directly in very high potential bushfire intensity prone land, however Esk Hospital is close to bushland buffer zone. Access between medical facilities needs to be considered with arterial roads being potentially impacted.
Significant Industries	The impact of bushfire on the landscape has a direct relationship with drought and heatwave intensity. Given both risks are increasing and the impact on the agriculture industry (as the biggest employer across the Somerset LGA) it needs to be considered how best fires can be prevented and their spread minimalised.
Environmental	Some plant species are vulnerable to damage or extinction when fires burn at an extreme or catastrophic level. Long term changes to the vegetation landscape can result from fire events.
Mitigation	
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Rural Fire Service, HQPlantations, DTMR, Seqwater and other landholders have strong bushfire mitigation plans and undertake mitigation actions. The Somerset Area Fire Management Group, coordinated by Queensland Fire Department, meets regularly to monitor risk, identify high risk areas and collaborate to plan, implement and report bushfire mitigation activities. Mitigation strategies such as fire break and trail maintenance, controlled burns, planting of fire-resistant species in bushfire prone areas and community education and engagement activities are performed regularly throughout the Somerset region.	

⁴⁰ Queensland Government, Queensland Fire Department Bushfire Plan: www.fire.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-12/Queensland-Bushfire-Plan.pdf

4.8. Aircraft Incident

Definition	An aircraft incident, for the purpose of this assessment, is a crash or other event that involves an aircraft and leads to a disruption of the community.
Trends	The flight path for Brisbane Airport tracks directly over the northeastern corner of the Somerset LGA with 76 flights a day. In the Kilcoy area Between 2006 and 2025, there were 5 aircraft accidents and 32 incidents ⁴¹ .
Likelihood	This assessment has calculated the likelihood to be 10% AEP. This places the risk at the high end of the 'Unlikely' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	In the event of a large-scale aircraft incident, there could be significant, localised, infrastructure damage at the site of the incident.
Access and Resupply	Significant access and resupply issues could be realised in the event of a major aircraft accident that impacts a major transport route e.g. the D'Aguilar Highway.
Community and Social	There may be the requirements to evacuate the surrounding areas of the incident site while Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) investigations occur, along with plans to rebuild any community infrastructure and housing that could be damaged as a result.
Medical	It is likely that medical capacity at Kilcoy Hospital would be quickly overwhelmed and State arrangements would need to be enacted.
Significant Industries	Significant local industry in and around the incident area could be disrupted during a large-scale aviation accident.
2010 Environmental	There are a range of environmental considerations that are exposed from a large-scale aviation accident. Bushland areas around the incident location may present a fire risk and the spill of jet fuel into catchments may contaminate water supplies.
Mitigation	
The five airfields in the area are generally used for private usage and any incident would have little to no impact on the greater community. Emergency services and other agencies have response plans in place should a major aircraft incident occur, with support available from the District and State if required.	

⁴¹ Commonwealth Government, Australian Transport and Safety Bureau, PowerBI, www.app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiaWY1ZjY0MjltZDUwMi00YTQyLTkyYictMzQ4MDM3M2QwNDC2liwidCI6IjI3MzFmOTg3LTg1MDEtNDk5Ni1iZDI3LTBhMGEyY2Y2ZjhjYjU9

4.9. Landslip

Definition	A Landslip is the movement of a mass of rock, debris or earth down a slope ⁴² .
Trends	There have been four recorded landslip events for the Somerset region, all were in the north: near Esk, east of Fulham, at Kilcoy and west of Moore. Each of these events, the cause was prolonged rainfall, indicating the clear link between this being a secondary hazard to heavy rainfall events. Other locations can be susceptible to landslip, such as Esk Hampton Road and Kilcoy Murgon Road near Jimna.
Likelihood	This assessment has calculated the likelihood to be 9% AEP. This places the risk in the 'Unlikely' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	The risk to critical infrastructure across the region is limited.
Access and Resupply	The most populated areas of Jimna, Moore, Linville, Esk and the eastern side of Fernvale are the highest risk areas across the region. Due to the undulation of the area and the key transport routes passing through the ranges, there is significant risk for Landslips to block the Brisbane Valley Highway or D'Aguilar Highway which could disrupt traffic flow between the major centres and villages across the Somerset region.
Community and Social	Where landslips occur and transport routes are affected, there is the possibility of communities becoming isolated or taking longer to resupply. Typically, landslips are destructive so in the case of areas such as the western side of Esk, this could see communities displaced if a large event occurred.
Medical	There would be minimal impact on the medical services in the event of a landslip.
Significant Industries	The risk to significant industries across the region is limited.
Environmental	Landslips can overwhelm and even pollute streams and waterbodies with excess sediment. In extreme cases they can dam streams and rivers, impacting both water quality and fish habitat. Landslips can wipe out large tracts of forest, destroy wildlife habitat, and remove productive soils from slopes.
Mitigation	
As part of the planning scheme, landslip is considered in the approval for urban and regional planning, reducing the risk of private or commercial property being impacted by landslip.	

⁴² Commonwealth Government, Geoscience Australia: www.ga.gov.au/education/classroom-resources/landslide-awareness-brochure/landslide-awareness.pdf

4.10. Flood - Riverine

Definition	Riverine flooding is a result of heavy and sustained rainfall over a region that is generated by tropical cyclones, lows or monsoon troughs. Riverine flooding happens when there is too much water and the flow capacity of creeks or rivers (known as waterways) become overwhelmed and burst their banks.
Trends	There have been five major flooding events in the Somerset Region over 72 years, with the 2010-11 and 2022 flooding events being the most impactful.
Likelihood	The major flooding hazard for the Somerset Region has been calculated to be 6% AEP. This places major flooding risk in the 'Unlikely' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	Infrastructure built in at-risk areas may be impacted by flooding, however urban planning and development should limit the amount of built infrastructure without resiliency in these areas. Infrastructure in areas such as Lowood, Fernvale and Esk are at highest risk of riverine flooding.
Access and Resupply	Access and resupply can be disrupted for days to weeks with major flooding across the area. Whilst work continues to increase the resilience of the infrastructure, the sheer design of the landscape across the Somerset LGA lends itself to local and state roads being inundated where they breach bridge levels and road design.
Community and Social	Properties built in at-risk areas may be impacted by flooding, however urban planning and development should limit the amount of built infrastructure without resilience to flooding. Communities may be isolated for over a week and may require a blended approach of resupply and / or evacuation depending on localised hazards.
Medical	Medical facilities may become inundated or isolated. This requires Kilcoy Hospital and Esk Hospital to plan for operations, which will likely rely on the LDMG to provide support to enact these plans.
Significant Industries	The agricultural industry, and most prominently the horticulture industry, are at the highest risk of damage from flooding, as these can significantly damage crops and farming infrastructure. Given the link to water supply and locations of agricultural enterprise across the region, risks exist to a secondary economic disaster occurring concurrently with this hazard.
Environmental	Environmental impacts can be long lasting to the agricultural industries across the Somerset region with soil displacement and a large increase of biosecurity threats with free dispersion of invasive weeds etc. Secondary hazards such as landslips are likely to have longer term environmental impacts.
Mitigation	
<p>SRC has commissioned a number of flood studies to assist in planning and disaster management for the region. Many mitigation works, such as roadworks and replacement of vulnerable bridges, have been undertaken since the 2010-11 flood event. Seqwater has plans in place for the management of Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams during flood events to lower the risks of flooding. Agencies such as the DTMR, Energy Queensland and SRC have strong response plans for flooding events. The Somerset LDMG undertakes a range of community resilience programs under 'Get Ready Queensland' to prepare the local communities for hazards including flooding.</p>	

4.11. Pandemic

Definition	<p>Pandemics are epidemics on a global scale. For a disease to have pandemic potential it must meet three criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humans have little or no pre-existing immunity to the causative pathogen; • Infection with the pathogen usually leads to disease in humans; and • The pathogen has the capacity to spread efficiently from person to person⁴³.
Trends	There have been seven pandemics in Australia in the last century. The most significant in recent time, COVID-19.
Likelihood	The pandemic hazard for the Somerset region has been calculated to be 4% AEP. This places pandemic risk in the 'Unlikely' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	Pandemics do not directly impact infrastructure, however, can have an impact on the workforce which operate or maintain them.
Access and Resupply	Pandemics do not directly impact access and resupply however can impact on the workforce which operate or maintain networks.
Community and Social	The pandemic hazard has a direct impact on people, the community and its social structure. Longer term pandemics have the ability to reduce community resilience through people being directed to isolate during lockdowns. Impacts on the elderly and those who are more vulnerable can be profound.
Medical	Pandemics have the ability to overwhelm medical facilities and those who work in these facilities. Staff are considered highly vulnerable as they have a higher exposure to the virus than the normal population. Aged care facilities and hospitals are especially vulnerable to pandemics given the age and medical conditions of patients within them.
Significant Industries	Pandemics have the potential to slow or stop industry operations as a result of outbreaks. This is largely managed through public health orders by the State. Vulnerabilities to food or animal processing plants in particular exist during pandemics.
Environmental	Pandemics do not directly impact environmental assets, however, can impact on the workforce which seek to maintain them. This has the potential to slow or stop operations such as hazard reduction or other works occurring which can then present a secondary risk to another hazard.
Mitigation	
With the COVID-19 Pandemic occurring through 2020-22, SRC and other agencies have strong pandemic plans in place. These have been tested and refined and many sites can be operated remotely or with adequate social distancing in place to reduce the spread of disease.	

⁴³ Queensland Government, Queensland Health, Pandemic Sub-Plan:
www.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0030/444684/pandemic-sub-plan.pdf

4.12. Biosecurity Emergency

Definition	A biosecurity emergency is an event that is, was or may become a significant problem for human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment, and it was or may be caused by a pest, disease or contaminant ⁴⁴ .
Trends	There have been three Biosecurity Emergencies across the state, and these have cost the local and/or state governments and economies billions of dollars in damage repair costs, producer losses, social pressures, business closures and/or job losses. In Somerset Regional Council the top three employment categories are Meat Processing (6.8% vs. 0.5% as the Queensland average), Beef Cattle Farming (3.6% vs. 0.8% as the Queensland average) and Road Freight Transport (3.2% vs. 1.3% as the Queensland average) ⁴⁵ .
Likelihood	The biosecurity emergency hazard for the Somerset region has been calculated to be 4% AEP. This places biosecurity emergency in the 'Unlikely' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	Biosecurity emergencies do not generally directly impact infrastructure however can impact on the industries which operate or rely on it.
Access and Resupply	It is unlikely that there would be any issues in relation to access and resupply during these types of events, as they are generally responded to by Biosecurity Queensland on lands affected. The only potential impact would be possible delays on major routes, where quarantine stations are established.
Community and Social	The impact on the community and social fabric of SRC could be catastrophic of a large-scale biosecurity emergency.
Medical	From a medical perspective, biosecurity emergencies could have devastating community and social impacts, where they lead to the destruction of major industries, increasing the prevalence of mental illnesses.
Significant Industries	The top three employment categories of meat processing, beef cattle farming and road freight transport would be heavily impacted should a biosecurity emergency impact the agricultural or horticultural industries.
Environmental	The direct and ongoing impact on the environment may take many years to recover from, depending on the source (plant, animal etc.) and the associated response to it.
Mitigation	
SRC has a mature biosecurity plan which defines the various stages of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to a biosecurity emergency. Biosecurity Queensland, as part of Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), have strong links into the community and agricultural industries and a biosecurity emergency response would be supported by the State and Commonwealth governments.	

⁴⁴ Queensland Government, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/biosecurity-act-2014/terms

⁴⁵ Commonwealth Government, Australian Bureau of Statistics, www.quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/communityprofile/LGA36580?opendocument

4.13. Earthquake

Definition	Earthquakes are the vibrations caused by rocks breaking under stress. The size or magnitude is determined by measuring the amplitude of the seismic waves recorded on a seismograph and the distance of the seismograph from the earthquake ⁴⁶ .
Trends	There have been four seismic events, greater than magnitude 3.0, across the Somerset region in the past 112 years.
Likelihood	The earthquake hazard for the Somerset region has been calculated to be 4% AEP. This places earthquake risk in the lower end of the 'Unlikely' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	A computer simulated earthquake (ShakeMap) generated with a local magnitude 5.6 equivalent to the 28 December 1989 event in Newcastle, and applied to the Somerset region, shows that there would only be superficial, if any, damage to infrastructure. There has been no damage to power transmission or gas line infrastructure from previous seismic events.
Access and Resupply	While there is potential to see impacts to major arterials, bridges and other access routes during a major earthquake across the Somerset region, the data does not support the occurrence of such an event. No notable incidents have been recorded for earthquake damage across the major arterial or local road networks from previous seismic events.
Community and Social	There may be psychological issues in relation to the community which need to be managed post an earthquake event.
Medical	It is expected that there would be limited to no impact on the medical facilities or services as a result of an earthquake of this magnitude.
Significant Industries	It is expected that there would be limited to no impact on significant industries as a result of an earthquake of this magnitude.
Environmental	There is likely to be limited to no environmental damage as a result of an earthquake of this magnitude.
Mitigation	
Agencies such as DTMR and QFD have mature response and recovery plans in place for all hazards. Queensland Health have redundancy plans which are able to be activated for patient movement if hospitals across the Somerset region are impacted. The LDMG has a mature LDMP which could be activated to deal with community impact if there were displaced residents.	

⁴⁶ Commonwealth Government, Geoscience Australia: www.ga.gov.au/education/natural-hazards/earthquake

4.14. Dam Failure (Sunny Day) – Wivenhoe Dam

Definition	A dam failure is an uncontrolled release of water from a reservoir through a dam as a result of structural failures or deficiencies in the dam. Dam failures can range from fairly minor to catastrophic and can possibly harm human life and property downstream from the failure ⁴⁷ .
Trends	Wivenhoe Dam has not suffered any failures since it was built in 1984.
Likelihood	Dam Failure of Wivenhoe Dam has been calculated to be an AEP of close to 0% placing it in the 'Rare' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	A dam failure will likely cause considerable damage to infrastructure downstream of the Dam (Lowood, Fernvale and surrounds) due to extreme flood level rise, high velocity and debris that could potentially be generated from the failure.
Access and Resupply	A dam failure will likely cause considerable damage to the road network downstream of the Dam (Lowood, Fernvale and surrounds) due to extreme flood level rise, high velocity and debris that could potentially be generated from the failure.
Community and Social	Under a sunny day failure there is 65,000 people at risk downstream in total. For the Somerset LGA, residents in Lake Wivenhoe and Wivenhoe Pocket (417 residents) become threatened within one hour, with Patrick Estate (181), Rifle Range (197), Mount Tarampa (401), Clarendon (232) and Coominya (1,029) and Lowood (4,082) flooding within 1-3 hours. In the event of a failure, this is likely to cause destruction and significant damage to the community, its assets and social fabric and would require a high level of support by the LDMG for an ongoing timeframe.
Medical	There are no direct impact on hospitals due to dam failure however it is expected that the hospital system would be strained with an increase in casualties and injuries.
Significant Industries	The local agricultural industry is likely to be impacted between the dam wall at Wivenhoe and the Warrego Highway. It could be expected that areas close to the dam wall would be a complete loss and full redevelopment may be required.
Environmental	Extensive environmental damage could be expected with vegetation damage, salt scalds and displacement of soils and lands in the immediate areas to the south of the dam in the event of a sunny day failure.
Mitigation	
The dam operators have comprehensive emergency action plans in the event of a dam failure or other events involving the dams. Seqwater is committed to maintaining a comprehensive dam safety management program aimed at ensuring the continued safe and reliable operation of all dams and does not expect that a catastrophic dam failure event will occur.	

⁴⁷ University of Calgary: www.energyeducation.ca/encyclopedia/Dam_failures

4.15. Dam Failure (Sunny Day) – Other Major Dams

Definition	A dam failure is an uncontrolled release of water from a reservoir through a dam as a result of structural failures or deficiencies in the dam. Dam failures can range from fairly minor to catastrophic and can possibly harm human life and property downstream from the failure ⁴⁸ .
Trends	There have not been any dam failures at Somerset Dam, Splityard Creek Dam or Atkinson Dam since they were built.
Likelihood	Dam Failure of Somerset Dam, Splityard Creek Dam or Atkinson Dam has been calculated to be an AEP of close to 0% placing it in the 'Rare' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	The loss of the dam at Somerset during a sunny day failure would unlikely cause significant damage to infrastructure due to the flows into Wivenhoe and Stanley River. A failure at Splityard Creek Dam would see minimal impact on local infrastructure in and around the Dam. In the case of a failure at Atkinson Dam, there is a potential for Mount Tarampa State School to have minor flooding experienced.
Access and Resupply	The impact of a sunny day failure at Somerset Dam, sees roads such as Wivenhoe Somerset Road, Esk Kilcoy Road and Brisbane Valley Highway impacted in and around the bridges. For a dam failure of Splityard Creek, Wivenhoe-Somerset Road and Brisbane Valley Highway are likely to be impacted. For a failure at Atkinson Dam, roads such as Atkinson's Dam Road, Coominya Connection Road, Clarendon Road and Forrest Hill Fernvale Road will be impacted.
Community and Social	The impact of a sunny day failure at Somerset Dam, shows the potential for 7 people at risk. Water is dispersed predominantly into Lake Wivenhoe and the Stanley River and the impact to the community is minimal (however the consequential impacts to Wivenhoe need to be considered). A failure at Splityard Creek Dam shows approximately 47 people at risk. The impact is limited due to its size, and minimal impacts to the northern areas of Fernvale and eastern sides of Wivenhoe Pocket is affected. In the case of a sunny day failure, there potentially is 30 people at risk around Coominya and Clarendon, Patrick Estate, Lowood and Wivenhoe Pocket.
Medical	There are no direct impact on hospitals due to dam failure, however it is expected that the hospital system would be strained with an increase in casualties and injuries.
Significant Industries	The local agricultural industry is likely to be impacted downstream of the dam wall/s. It could be expected that areas close to the dam wall would be a complete loss and anticipation would be reasonable that a full redevelopment may be required.
Environmental	Extensive environmental damage could be expected with vegetation damage, salt scalds and displacement of soils and lands in the immediate areas downstream of the dams in the event of a sunny day failure.
Mitigation	
The dam operators have comprehensive emergency action plans in the event of a dam failure or other events involving the dams. Seqwater is committed to maintaining a comprehensive dam safety management program aimed at ensuring the continued safe and reliable operation of all dams and does not expect that a catastrophic dam failure event will occur.	

⁴⁸ University of Calgary: www.energyeducation.ca/encyclopedia/Dam_failures

4.16. Security or Terrorism threats / incidents

Definition	A security or terrorism threat or incident, for the purpose of this assessment, is a person led attack on people or infrastructure that leads to a disruption of the community.
Trends	There have not been any major security incidents or terrorism threats within the Somerset LGA, however, there have been recent disruptions in Southeast Queensland LGAs. ⁴⁹
Likelihood	The threat of terrorism in Australia has been elevated since 2014 and this is likely to continue for some time. ⁵⁰ Australia's general terrorism threat level is PROBABLE - there is a greater than fifty per cent chance of an onshore attack or attack planning in the next twelve months. ⁵¹ However, SRC is an unlikely target for a major security or terrorism threat or incident, placing it in the 'Rare' category.
Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	The most likely location for an attack is a crowded place (shopping centres / major events) in a major city. Key government infrastructure and power stations are a likely target for a large scale security or terrorism threat. How perpetrators identify targets to attack can be driven by the ideology, or grievance of the attacker, and may include symbolic locations such as government buildings, places of worship or specific events. ⁵² In the event of a security or terrorism incident, there could be significant, localised, infrastructure damage or disruption at the site of the incident.
Access and Resupply	Significant access and resupply issues could be realised should the event impacts a major transport routes e.g. D'Aguilar Highway or Brisbane Valley Highway. Impacts to the infrastructure for Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams would result in significant disruptions to water infrastructure. Refer to the Wivenhoe Dam failure and Other Major Dam failure risk assessments.
Community and Social	Any terrorism or security incident will be managed by Queensland Police with a likely PSPA declaration restricting access to the locality as per the <i>Public Safety Preservation Act 1986</i> . There may be the requirements to evacuate the surrounding areas of the incident site while Queensland Police investigations occur, along with plans to rebuild any community infrastructure and housing that could be damaged as a result. There are likely to be psychological issues in relation to the community which need to be managed post event.
Medical	It is possible that medical capacity at Kilcoy and Esk Hospitals would be quickly overwhelmed, and State arrangements would need to be enacted.
Significant Industries	Significant local industry in and around the incident area could be disrupted during a large-scale security or terrorism incident.
Environmental	There are a range of environmental considerations that are exposed from a large-scale security or terrorism incident, depending on the nature of the attack: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushland areas may be at risk of fire • Flooding may result from key infrastructure damage • Pollution or biohazardous material may be released.

⁴⁹ Queensland Police: www.mypolice.qld.gov.au/news/2026/01/22/man-charged-following-counter-terrorism-investigation-southeast-queensland/

⁵⁰ Queensland Government, Queensland Counter-Terrorism Strategy: www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/documents/2020/Sep/CTStrategy/Attachments/Strategy.PDF

⁵¹ Queensland Government, Queensland Counter-Terrorism Strategy: www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/documents/2020/Sep/CTStrategy/Attachments/Strategy.PDF

⁵² Commonwealth Government, Current National Terrorism Threat Level: www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/national-threat-level/current-national-terrorism-threat-level

Mitigation

Governments at every level are working closely with the Australian community to prevent terrorism and violent extremism, combat online violent extremist content and promote early intervention programs. Industry and individuals also have a critical role to play in shaping a secure domestic environment⁵³.

The Australian National Security Hotline was established for the public to report suspicious behaviour or activity. In recent years, Australian agencies have successfully disrupted a number of attacks through collaborative efforts to prevent acts of terrorism.

Queensland's approach to countering terrorism forms part of Australia's broader multilayered strategic approach to national security, with Queensland Police being the lead agency.

4.17. Space Weather

Definition	Space weather is the effect of the space environment on technology and the near-Earth space environment. Solar events that cause space weather impacts include solar flares, coronal mass ejections (CME) and particle radiation events. Extreme space weather could produce the following impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surges of electric current capable of disrupting satellites in orbit.• An increase in ions impacting satellites, overwhelming sensors, damaging solar cells and degrading wiring and other equipment.• Changes to orbital dynamics, such as satellite drag, impacting the lifespan of low-Earth orbit satellites.⁵⁴• Communication, radio and GPS failures caused by the impacts listed above.
Trends	The Somerset region has not been impacted by any space weather events. On 23 July 2012, a large coronal mass ejection occurred. While the eruption missed Earth, it was one of the fastest coronal mass ejections ever observed. If this eruption was directed towards Earth, it is estimated it would have caused \$600 billion to \$2.6 trillion in damages to the USA alone. In 1989 a geomagnetic storm caused a 9-hour blackout in Quebec. In 1859 an extreme geomagnetic storm (known as the Carrington Event) impacted technology from Europe to North America and Australia. This event induced current surges through telegraph lines, which caused shocks, sparks and fires.
Likelihood	Space weather is difficult to predict. The sun's magnetic field goes through a complete cycle every 11 years. Halfway through the cycle the sun's activity reaches its maximum, which is when sunspots increase in size and number, and solar flares and coronal mass ejections are most likely to affect earth. The current cycle peak is between 2023 and 2026 and the Bureau of Meteorology has forecasted solar activity for the years ahead. Geoscience Australia states that while the probability of an extreme geomagnetic storm occurring is low, it is almost inevitable that one will occur eventually. Storms the with the magnitude of the Carrington Event are expected to occur every 150 years. This risk is currently classified as 'Rare'. ⁵⁵

⁵³ Commonwealth Government, Current National Terrorism Threat Level: www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/national-threat-level/current-national-terrorism-threat-level

⁵⁴ Commonwealth Government, The Bureau of Meteorology, Space Weather Impacts: www.sws.bom.gov.au/Educational

⁵⁵ [Australian Government, Geoscience Australia](http://www.australian.gov.au)

Potential Exposure and Vulnerability Impacts	
Infrastructure	<p>Space weather poses a serious threat to communications and technological systems (power, radio, mobile phone, satellite). Space weather can impact technology by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • varying the Earth’s magnetic field • enhancing electrical fields and currents in the atmosphere and the ground • increasing the amount of radiation entering the upper atmosphere. <p>Should an event with the magnitude of the Carrington Event occur, all communications systems within Somerset region are likely to be disrupted, power infrastructure would be damaged, vehicle and machinery operations would be disrupted and spot fires would be expected.</p>
Access and Resupply	Significant access and resupply issues could be realised during a significant event, mainly due to the loss of communication and transport infrastructure.
Community and Social	Following a significant event, communication will be impacted, leading to negative community outcomes. Queensland Police and other emergency services would be relied upon to communicate with the community.
Medical	It is possible that medical capacity at Kilcoy and Esk Hospitals could be disrupted following a significant event and State arrangements would need to be enacted.
Significant Industries	Significant local industry in and around the incident area could be disrupted during a significant space weather event.
Environmental	<p>There are a range of environmental considerations that are exposed from a significant space weather event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushland areas may be at risk of fire from damaged power lines. • Flooding may result from key infrastructure damage. • Radiation exposure.
Mitigation	
<p>Governments worldwide are working to enhance their preparedness for space weather. There are mechanisms in place to monitor space weather and provide advance warning should an event occur. In the 3-4 days it would take for a Coronal mass ejection to impact earth, agencies could enact protocols to protect key infrastructure, where possible.</p> <p>In May 2024, the Australian Government conducted ‘Exercise Aurora’ to test Australia’s capability to respond to a significant space weather event. The following priorities were identified in response to this exercise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refining Australia’s Space Weather impact assessment, which helps to educate and inform key government agencies and critical infrastructure providers. • Testing national emergency coordination arrangements for an extreme space weather event. • Assessing Australia’s current technology capabilities. • Testing national plans and procedures to determine if they are fit-for-purpose. • Building awareness of the latest intelligence systems and products. • Strengthening relationships between agencies. • Identifying opportunities to address planning, decision-making and response gaps. <p>Should a significant space weather event occur, SRC will receive guidance from the Bureau of Meteorology and other agencies via the Ipswich Disaster District.</p>	



5. Prevention

5.1. Somerset Region Risk Mitigation and Reduction

In addition to the mitigation summaries in [Section 4](#) of this plan, below is a summary of other activities the LDMG engages in to reduce the overall risk to the relevant hazards across the Somerset region.

5.2. SRC Planning Scheme and Land Use Strategy

SRC prepares and maintains the SRC Planning Scheme, which can be accessed by visiting somerset.qld.gov.au and search 'planning scheme'.

The SRC Planning Scheme includes plans, references for land-use management, codes for development, and requirements relating to the assessment of proposed developments. The SRC Planning Scheme contributes to disaster risk reduction within identified hazard-prone/constraint areas, in particular:

- potential bushfire hazard areas (this allows for the identification of an appropriate class of building construction)
- waterways (allowing for minimum building setbacks)
- areas of unstable soils and areas of potential landslip hazard
- natural hazard (flood) management areas (allows for the identification of appropriate development standards so that private and community infrastructure can be sited above recommended flood levels).

There are current land use planning maps for SRC [North⁵⁶](#) and [South⁵⁷](#).

5.3. Building Codes

Building codes, regulations and standards are designed to ensure consistent, safe, and sustainable development of buildings and infrastructure. Building is regulated by SRC under *the [Building Act 1974⁵⁸](#)* and the *[Building Regulation 2006⁵⁹](#)*. The codes, regulations and standards cover areas including drainage, fire separation and construction in flood hazard areas. More information on building standards can be found by visiting somerset.qld.gov.au and search 'building'.

⁵⁶ SRC Planning Scheme North Map: www.somerset.qld.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/our-services/documents/somerset-region-planning-scheme/srps-zone-maps/zm001a_regional_zone_map_north.pdf

⁵⁷ SRC Planning Scheme South Map: www.somerset.qld.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/our-services/documents/somerset-region-planning-scheme/srps-zone-maps/zm001b_regional_zone_map_south.pdf

⁵⁸ *Building Act 1974* : www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-1975-011

⁵⁹ *Building Regulation 2006*: <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/2019-08-09/sl-2006-0227>

5.4. Insurance

Residents, businesses and other organisations are encouraged to evaluate their risks and consider appropriate levels of insurance.

The [Insurance Council of Australia](https://www.insurancecouncil.com.au)⁶⁰ provides practical information to help residents, businesses and other organisations find out more about insurance and make decisions to meet their needs. It also covers how to understand risks, what to consider when choosing a product and an insurer, how to manage the cost of a premium, and how to lodge a claim.

The Insurance Council of Australia coordinates liaison between government and the insurance industry during the recovery phase of a disaster event. This focuses on:

- Providing senior industry representation to each state and federal recovery group.
- Providing a 24-hour escalation path for insurance queries from the impacted community.
- Providing key insurance data and decision support to the community and government.
- Providing clear public communication about the insurance response to the event.
- Providing liaison between insurers, assessors, brokers, trades and suppliers at an industry level on issues of collective importance in delivering services to the impacted community.



Figure 8. Flooding across Esk Kilcoy Road during the Feb-March 2022 Severe Weather Event

⁶⁰ Insurance Council of Australia: www.insurancecouncil.com.au/consumers/insurance-explained/



6. Preparedness

6.1. Preparedness – A shared responsibility

Disaster management is a shared responsibility and as such it is important that the community, local government and other agencies are as prepared as possible. By building capacity into the existing communities, the preparedness and resilience of the region can be improved.

Residents are encouraged utilise the resources on the [Get Ready Queensland](#) website to help them understand their risk and make a plan should they be impacted by a natural disaster or event.

LDMG member organisations are responsible for ensuring the community is aware of relevant hazards and risks, how to prepare for, respond to and recover from them.

Preparedness activities which the Somerset LDMG engages in include:

- Sharing information and videos via SRC's communication channels.
- Developing and implementing community awareness programs, such as:
 - Get Ready Week participation
 - Bushfire preparedness activities in high-risk areas
 - Capacity building workshops for spontaneous volunteer management
 - Forums with key agencies within the senior's community
 - Presentations to local schools regarding local risks and disaster preparedness
 - Partnering with DAF to hold presentations for primary producers on the potential impacts of foot and mouth disease and other biosecurity concerns.
- Developing effective information management and collection of historical data events.
- Developing concise and effective community communications methods.
- Ensuring that accurate and current plans are in place.

6.2. Community Education and Information

Communications

A resilient and prepared community is paramount to disaster management arrangements for the Somerset region. Notification of events to the community are important during the preparation stage. SRC utilises the following mediums to regularly promote disaster preparedness messages:

- [Youtube](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- somerset.qld.gov.au
- Community events
- Subscription messaging services
- Radio

The table below outlines the agency responsible for notifying the community about specific threats.

Hazard	Responsible Agency
Animal/Plant Disease	Relevant agency (e.g. DAF)
Biological/Radiological	Queensland Health
Dam Failure	SEQWater, QPS
Fire (urban and rural)	QFD
Flooding	BOM and SRC
Hazardous Materials	QFD
Heatwave	Queensland Health
Major Transport Accident (road and air)	DTMR, QPS
Pandemics and Epidemics	Queensland Health
Severe Storm/East Coast Low/ Cyclone	BOM
Space Weather	BOM
Terrorism	QPS
Water Contamination	Urban Utilities and SRC

Early Warning Network

The Early Warning Network is a free service provided by SRC to notify subscribers of severe weather events that could impact their residential address. All residents are encouraged to register by visiting somerset.qld.gov.au and search 'disaster management'.

Disaster Dashboard

SRC provides the [Disaster Dashboard](#) as a tool to inform the community during a disaster event. By linking with agency networks, SRC provides real time information that can help residents plan for a disaster event, such as:

- Public bulletins, power outages and road closures
- Current bushfire incidents
- Flood camera images
- Active evacuation centres
- Facebook/twitter feeds for SRC
- Latest weather warnings from BoM
- Significant weather threat map (as at 9am each morning).

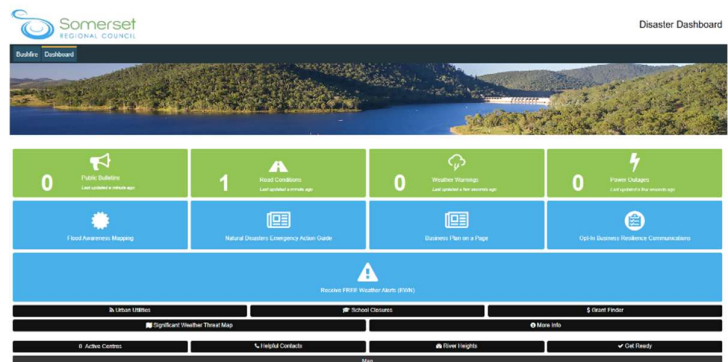


Figure 9. SRC Disaster Dashboard

Flood Cameras

Residents and travellers can monitor the transport network during a flooding event by accessing the SRC flood cameras, which have been installed at several crossings around the region. The SRC flood camera can be found by visiting somerset.qld.gov.au and search 'flood cameras'.

Flood Studies

SRC commissioned a number of flood studies to assist in planning and disaster management for the region. The SRC flood studies can be found by visiting somerset.qld.gov.au and search 'flood studies'.

Flood Reports

Council has used existing modelling to develop an online property specific flood certificate system which will help give residents a better understanding of their own flood risk. The flood certificates portal can be found by visiting somerset.qld.gov.au and search 'flood certificates'.

Other agency information

Below are a series of online tools provided by partner agencies to assist in preparedness and improving situational awareness.

Agency	Resource
Queensland Government	QLDAlert disaster.qld.gov.au/
	Get Ready Queensland getready.qld.gov.au/
Seqwater	Seqwater Dam Release Notification Service seqwater.com.au/dam-release-notification-service
Bureau of Meteorology	Severe weather warnings, heatwave warnings, tropical cyclone advice and tsunami warnings. The community is encouraged to subscribe to these and monitor weather events via the bom.qld.gov.au or the BoM App available from Google Play or Apple.
	MetEYE forecasting tool bom.gov.au/australia/meteye/
	Marburg Radar: reg.bom.gov.au/products/IDR502.loop.shtml Mt Staplyton Radar: reg.bom.gov.au/products/IDR663.loop.shtml
	River Rainfall Data (Stanley, Brisbane, Bremer, Ipswich/Brisbane Creeks, Pine/Caboolture) bom.gov.au/cqi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDQ60286.html

Agency	Resource
Queensland Fire Department	Safety and Education Programs fire.qld.gov.au/safety-education
Rural Fire Service Queensland	fire.qld.gov.au/about-us/frontline-services/rural-fire-service-queensland
Australian Red Cross	Telecross redcross.org.au/telecross/ Telecross is a free service which provides a reassuring daily phone call to residents to ensure they are safe and well. The service operates 365 days a year throughout Australia assisting older people living alone, people living with disabilities, special needs groups, as well as people who need temporary assistance in the absence of a carer.

Agreed Key LDMG Messages

The following are key messages which the LDMG member agencies agree to promote in the lead up to disaster season each year.

- Disaster preparedness is a shared responsibility and as such there is much that the community can do to prepare themselves for a disaster. Be Prepared.
- Know your risks. For example, if you live in a bushfire prone area, ensure you have a Bushfire Survival Plan. Visit the Rural Fire Service Queensland⁶¹ website and create your plan now.
- Sign up to Council's Early Warning Network⁶² (EWN).
- Prepare your home for severe storms - clearing gutters, trimming trees and anchoring of outdoor items so that they do not become projectiles.
- Tune in to our local radio stations River949 and ABC612.
- "Like" our Facebook⁶³ page for up-to-date messaging.
- Get to know your neighbours.
- Visit Get Ready Queensland⁶⁴ website.

6.3. Response Capabilities

The community is well supported by agencies, organisations, services and sporting clubs as well as a myriad of special interest and hobby groups. Many of these groups support the region's ability to respond during disaster events.

Council Response Capability

SRC employs approximately 218 staff, including:

- Disaster Management Officer
- Disaster Management Support Officer
- Depots located in Lowood, Esk, Toogoolawah and Kilcoy
- Council Administration Centres in Esk, Lowood and Kilcoy

⁶¹ Queensland Fire Department, Rural Fire Service Queensland: www.fire.qld.gov.au/about-us/frontline-services/rural-fire-service

⁶² Somerset Regional Council, Early Warning Network: www.somerset.qld.gov.au/ewn

⁶³ Somerset Regional Council Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/SomersetRegionalCouncil

⁶⁴ Queensland Government, Get Ready Queensland: www.getready.qld.gov.au

- Extensive plant and other resources such as heavy machinery, water trucks, store items (lists are available on request to members of the LDMG).

LDMG Member Agency Response Capability

The locations of Police Stations, Fire and Rescue Stations, SES depots and Rural Fire Brigades are provided below in the figure below.

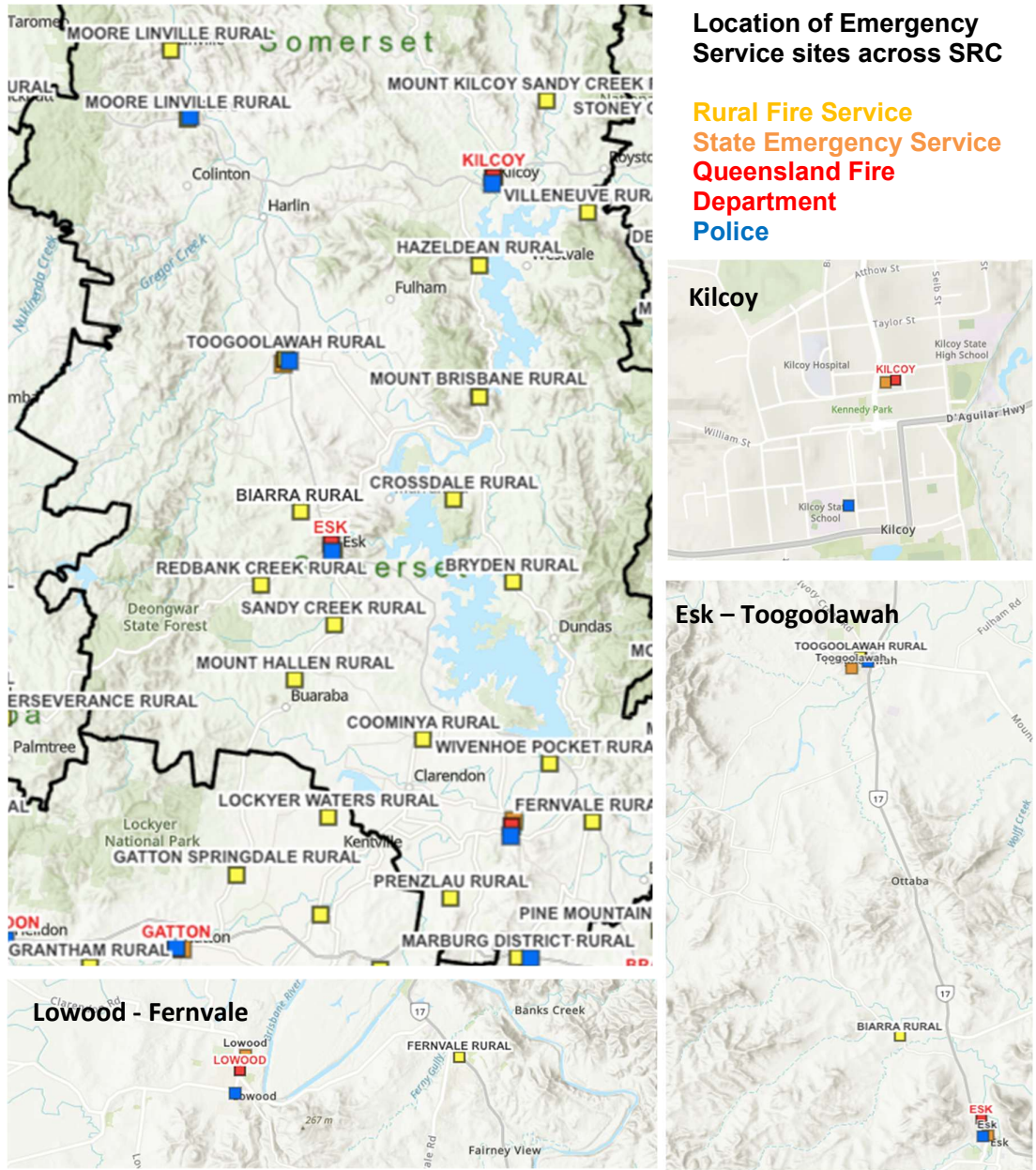


Figure 10. Location of Emergency Service sites across SRC

6.4. Training

Training and education are important in ensuring all agencies within Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements can seamlessly integrate, cooperate and contribute to effective and coordinated disaster operations. Queensland Police provides a range of training packages to ensure the LDMG members and advisors are adequately trained to fulfil their role under the Act. Courses which are mandatory for members to undertake are outlined in the [Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework⁶⁵](#) (QDMTF).

6.5. Exercises

Exercises are used to practise and test this LDMP and any associated sub plans. They are a way of satisfying s59 (2) of the Act. The Somerset LDMG actively participates in exercises with members to ensure that plans are functional and that systems work when needed. Exercises are conducted in line with the [Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience \(AIDR\) Handbook: Managing Exercises⁶⁶](#), and be subject to an evaluation, which is designed to identify lessons to feed into the continuous improvement cycle for the Somerset LDMG.

6.6. Post Event Analysis

The assessment that takes place after an event is critical to ensure continuous improvement of both response and recovery operations within the Somerset LDMG. By assessing what worked and what didn't work the LDMG can ensure future coordination is more effective. This assessment will often be undertaken during the debrief process, immediately following an event.

There are generally two types of debriefs that will be conducted:

- The hot debrief occurs immediately after the event to ensure that relevant information is captured while still fresh in everyone's mind. The hot debrief can occur at multiple times during an operation at the request of the LDC.
- Post event debrief is more formal and gives the opportunity for all involved to have a considered view on the effectiveness of the operation. A post operational report should be completed and endorsed by the Somerset LDMG.

An effective debrief will:

- Seek constructive comments from those involved in the event.
- Establish what went right and what went wrong without apportioning blame.
- Recognise good performance and activities that can be sustained or further developed.
- Ensure that the debrief is recorded to allow for future reporting.
- Focus on improvement.
- Identify any gaps in capacity or capability.

The formation of lessons identified from exercises, and post event analysis should be conducted in line with the [AIDR Handbook: Lessons Management⁶⁷](#), and by doing so, the Somerset LDMG will be compatible with the IGEM Lessons Management Framework (LMF) to contribute to sector wide lessons.

⁶⁵ Queensland Government, Disasters Awareness and Training: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/awareness-and-training

⁶⁶ Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection, Managing Exercises: www.knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/3547/handbook-3-managing-exercises.pdf

⁶⁷ Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection, Handbook Lessons Management <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/lessons-management-handbook/>

6.7. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

SRC currently has MOUs to assist with various components of preparedness and to further support the Somerset LDMG disaster management arrangements, as shown in the table below.

Entity engaged in MoU	Key Details
GIVIT	The management of donated goods and money during an event using a virtual warehouse.
Salvation Army	The provision of emergency catering services within an evacuation centre during the response and recovery phases of an emergency or natural disaster.
Department of Education and Training	Allows for the use of schools to serve as evacuation centres if required.
St John Ambulance	The provision of first aid services to evacuation centres.



Figure 11. Former Chair of the LDMG (Cr Graeme Lehmann) inspecting damage post the Feb-March 2022 Severe Weather Event (March 2022)



7. Response

The purpose of disaster response is primarily for the preservation of life, property and the environment. The Somerset LDMG response strategy includes, but is not limited to:

- Monitoring of events likely to impact the region
- Activation of the LDMG
- Activation of the LDCC
- Using available resources to provide timely and relevant information to the community
- The coordination of resources to assist in responding to the event.

7.1. Notification Pathways

LDMG members receive warnings from several sources to ensure the group is ready to respond to any threat to the SRC area.

Agency Notifications

Lead agencies, as shown in [Section 1](#), should provide notifications to the LDMG when a threat for which they communicate with the public with exists. Notifications can come in the form of emails, phone calls or text messages.

Queensland Emergency Management Report

SRC receives notification through the SDCC by either the Queensland Emergency Management Report (QEMR) which is emailed daily at 10am, or by specific threat warnings which can arrive at any time, generally by email. These reports outline any current or emerging events that may impact Queensland, including additional information on the current status of events throughout the state.

Early Warning Network

Council's partnership with the Early Warning Network provides a report each day indicating severe weather threat levels. These reports are used to heighten awareness should they show an increased risk of an event that could impact the SRC communities.

7.2. Activation

Activation of this LDMP

The LDMG is informed of the day-to-day emergency (incident) response undertaken by primary agencies, including emergency services. Once activated, the LDMG's role is to:

- Efficiently and effectively coordinate the response to an event.
- Minimise the impact of a disaster event on the community.
- Detail the strategic manner in which elements of the LDMG will deal with day-to-day disaster management business.
- Determine how information will be shared on events that may affect the local government area.

Activation and change of status of the LDMG can be authorised by its Chair, Deputy Chair, LDC or Deputy LDC on receipt of any of the following:

- a warning of an impending threat that would require a coordinated multi-agency response;
- a request from:
 - a lead or primary agency for assistance under this plan
 - a support agency for assistance under this plan
 - the Ipswich DDC
 - an affected neighbouring local government (to provide assistance under mutual aid arrangements)
 - advice from the State of an impending disaster.

Wherever possible the Chair or Deputy Chair should be consulted regarding the activation or change of status.

LDMG Activation Levels

Timely activation of the LDMG is critical for an effective response to an event. The LDMG will activate using an escalation model based on the following four levels outlined below.

Level	Description	Triggers	Actions
Alert	<p>There is awareness of a hazard that has the potential to affect the LGA.</p> <p>No further action is required; however, the situation should be monitored by someone capable of assessing the potential risk.</p>	<p>There is awareness of a risk source (threat) that has the potential to affect the SRC LGA to an extent that a coordinated multi-agency response would be required or requested.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the risk source through communication with the primary agency. • Maintain situational awareness. • Brief the LDC and key staff. • Provide advice of the LDMG response level to the DDC. • Report, by exception only, to the DDC and/or LDMG. • Undertake emergency response activities through LDMG members' core business arrangements.

Level	Description	Triggers	Actions
Lean Forward	<p>This is an operational state prior to 'Stand Up', characterised by a heightened level of situational awareness of a disaster event (either current or pending) and a state of operational readiness.</p> <p>The LDCC is on standby, prepared but not activated.</p>	<p>There is a likelihood that a threat may affect the SRC LGA to an extent that a coordinated multi-agency response would be required or requested.</p> <p>The threat is quantified but may not yet be imminent.</p> <p>There is a need for public awareness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LDC places the Chair and Deputy Chair of LDMG on watching brief. • Establish communication protocols with the primary and warning agencies. • Maintain situational awareness and confirm level and potential of the threat. • Provide advice of the LDMG response level to the DDC. • Issue warning orders to key staff and agencies. • Prepare LDCC but do not activate it. • Determine trigger point for move to stand up. • Conduct initial briefing of LDMG. • Provide ad-hoc reporting by exception only to DDC and/or LDMG. • Initiate public information and warnings.
Stand Up	<p>This is the operational state following Lean Forward, at which resources are mobilised, personnel are activated, and operational activities are commenced.</p> <p>LDCC is activated.</p>	<p>The threat is imminent or has occurred.</p> <p>The community will be or has been affected.</p> <p>Requests for support received by the LDMG.</p> <p>There is a need for coordination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDC briefs Chair and Deputy Chair of LDMG. • LDMG meets. • LDCC is activated and operational. • LDMG assumes control of disaster operations in the LGA. • Implement standard operating procedures. • Provide regular reporting to DDC and/or DDMG. • Recovery needs and operations are scoped.
Stand Down	<p>The transition is made from responding to an event back to normal core business and/or continuance of recovery operations.</p> <p>There is no longer a requirement to respond to the event and the threat is no longer present.</p>	<p>There is no requirement for coordinated response.</p> <p>Community has returned to normal function.</p> <p>Recovery actions are occurring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDC approves stand down. • Conduct final checks of outstanding tasks. • Make the transition to business as usual and/or recovery. • Debrief staff of the LDCC and LDMG. • Make a final situation report to DDC and/or LDMG. • Through the Local Recovery Group (LRG), manage medium to long term recovery operations.

7.3. Local Disaster Coordination Centre

The functional lead agency for disaster coordination, SRC provides a primary LDCC at Council's Esk Library and Gallery, with alternate locations available at Esk (Civic Centre), Kilcoy and Fernvale.

Should all of these sites be unable to function, the LDC, in consultation with the LDMG, will identify an appropriate site for a coordination centre, following assessment of the potential or actual impacts of the particular event.

The LDCC will be setup so that the Incident Management Team (IMT) can effectively manage the event to manage the:

- coordination and planning of disaster operations
- dissemination of public information and warnings

- coordination of reporting to the relevant stakeholders.

Agency Reporting

Agencies will be required to submit reports at regular intervals during an event to ensure that the LDCC maintains situational awareness. Members will be reminded of this obligation with deadlines to ensure that they are submitted to the LDCC with sufficient time to allow for inclusion in the Situation Report (SITREP).

Situation Reporting

The LDCC will use the agency reports submitted, along with own intelligence to construct a SITREP that will be passed to the DDC. Situation reports will usually be sent at least once per day and normally around 1pm. The frequency and times of these can be changed at the discretion of the LDC.

7.4. Public Information and Warnings

The LDMG is responsible for ensuring the community is aware of ways to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster⁶⁸. This involves raising awareness of identified threats and how the public should respond at an individual and/or household level. It may also include warnings and directions, as provided by primary agencies relating to the particular hazard.

The Chair of the LDMG (or delegate) is the official source of public and media information for the LDMG' coordination and support activities.

Primary and functional lead agencies provide media liaison for issues relating to their organisational roles. Individual organisations maintain responsibility for internal reporting on their business in accordance with their established procedures.

Community members may receive warnings and information from a variety of sources – some official, some not. While each issuing agency has their own methods of distributing/publishing their warnings and alerts, the key channels relevant to the Somerset region include: the Somerset Disaster Dashboard, ABC Radio, social media and the QLD Health Newsroom.

More information about the communications methods are provided in [Section 6.2](#). In addition to those, the following should be considered.

Emergency Alert System (EA)

EA is a national telephone warning system used by emergency services to distribute messages to landlines and mobile phones during an emergency.

The system uses location-based technology to ensure that messages are only sent to those in an affected area (this area is identified as a polygon).

⁶⁸ *Disaster Management Act 2003*, s30.

The Somerset LDMG has issued EAs in previous events and has worked with the SDCC to provide pre-approved polygons for use should they be required. The polygons are generally reserved to events that impacts can be predicted, such as areas impacted by flooding. Polygons can be created and provided to the SDCC as required using MapInfo and/or Google Maps KML. It should be noted that with the increase in subscribers to the NBN, and the subsequent reliance of mains power for those services to run, it is possible that delivery of EAs to landlines could be an issue during power outages. For more information refer to [Emergency Alert⁶⁹](#).

EAs rely on the mobile network for transmission and satellite systems. Systems such as Starlink cannot distribute EA messages as they are not connected to the cellular network. For areas without mobile network coverage, it is necessary to proactively monitor other platforms where EA related information is also disseminated/published, such as social media, disaster dashboards, state warnings map, QFD current warnings and incidents and ABC radio.

AusAlert

From October 2026, Australia is expected to start the transition from the EA system to [AusAlert](#). AusAlert will use cell broadcast technology, and will be more reliable, accurate and efficient than current systems.

AusAlert messages are not text messages (SMS). Because they use cell-broadcast technology, alerts can still be sent and received when mobile networks are busy. Devices do not need an active SIM card to receive an alert. Everyone in the targeted area is sent the alert at the same time, meaning alerts can reach millions of mobile devices almost instantly.

Standard Emergency Warning System (SEWS)

When disasters loom or a major emergency happens, residents will be alerted by the sound of the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) before critical television or radio broadcasts.

The SEWS is a wailing siren sound that has been adopted by all States and Territories to alert the community to the broadcast of an urgent safety message relating to an emergency or disaster. The signal is sounded immediately prior to an emergency warning message being played on public media broadcasts in the potential or likely impacted areas⁷⁰.

Australian Warning System (AWS)

The [Australian Warning System](#) is a new national approach to information and Calls to Actions for hazards like bushfire, flood, storm, cyclone, extreme heat and severe weather. The AWS uses a nationally consistent set of icons, as outlined below:

⁶⁹ Emergency Alert: www.emergencyalert.gov.au

⁷⁰ Queensland Government, Queensland Warnings Manual: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0035/549539/queensland-warnings-manual-v.1-101224.pdf

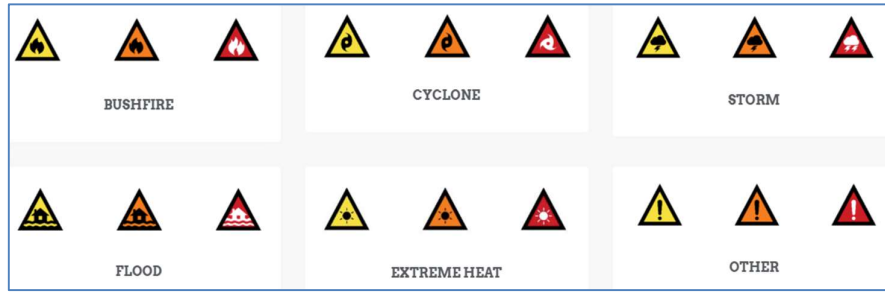


Figure 12. Australian Warning System Icons

The warning provides point-in-time information about a hazard that is impacting or is expected to impact communities. It describes the impact and expected consequences for communities and includes advice on what people should do. The three warning levels are as follows:

Advice (Yellow):	Watch and Act (Orange):	Emergency Warning (Red):
An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.	There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.	An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Public Information and Media Management

During a disaster, it is critical that the public information provided to the media is consistent across all agencies. To ensure the release of appropriate, reliable and consistent information:

- Joint media conferences should be held at designated times involving key stakeholders, including the Chair of the Somerset LDMG, where feasible.
- Key spokespeople should be senior representatives of the LDMG agencies involved in the event.

Consideration of the following should occur:

- The scheduling of media conferences requires a coordinated approach to ensure there is no conflict between state, district or local media stand ups.
- Statistics are a potentially contentious issue requiring careful checking with all agencies before release.
- Each agency should only be commenting on issues relating their roles and responsibilities within this plan.

During an event, the Somerset LDMG will develop a media management strategy that:

- Identifies key messages to share with the community, including reinforcing the LDMG's role in coordinating support to the affected community.
- Identifies preferred spokespeople for factual information (for example, evacuation measures and road closures).

7.5. Resource Coordination

Each organisation in the Somerset LDMG is responsible for ensuring that it has appropriate resources to deliver its agreed roles and responsibilities. Where an organisation's local capacity is exceeded, they are to request assistance from the LDMG.

In a multi-agency response, the Somerset LDMG coordinates and supports the response capability of individual organisations. Where the LDMG is unable to provide the requested support for the organisation, it will follow the established processes to seek assistance from the Ipswich DDMG.

7.6. Disaster Declaration

In accordance with the s64 of the Act, and subject to several factors, a District Disaster Coordinator for a disaster district may, with the approval of the Minister, declare a disaster situation⁶⁶ for a district or for one or more LGAs within the district in whole or in part.

The declaration confers extra powers on particular groups to perform actions, give directions and control movements within the declared area.

In declaring a disaster situation, the Ipswich DDC for a disaster district may, with the approval of the Minister, declare a disaster situation for the district, or a part of it, if satisfied:

- a disaster has happened, is happening or is likely to happen in the disaster district; and
- it is necessary, or reasonably likely to be necessary, for the district disaster coordinator or a declared disaster officer to exercise declared disaster powers to prevent or minimise any of the following:
 - loss of life
 - illness or injury to humans
 - property loss or damage
 - damage to the environment.

It should be noted that is not necessary to declare a disaster situation to activate the disaster management arrangements or to obtain financial assistance through established disaster relief schemes e.g. [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements \(DRFA\)](#)⁷¹ or [State Disaster Relief Arrangements \(SDRA\)](#)⁷².

7.7. Impact Intelligence Gathering

Impact assessment is the organised process of collecting and analysing data after an emergency or disaster to estimate:

- extent of loss of/injury to human life
- damage to property and infrastructure
- the needs of the affected community in terms of response, recovery and future (prevention and preparedness) assistance.

Impact assessments provide the Somerset LDMG with a source of comprehensive, standardised information on the effect an event has had on various elements of the

⁷¹ Queensland Government, Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA): www.qra.qld.gov.au/funding/drfa

⁷² Queensland Government, State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA): www.qra.qld.gov.au/funding-programs/state-disaster-relief-arrangements-sdra

community. This information is then used to identify need, set priorities and make decisions about the response to an emergency or disaster and to take the initial steps leading to recovery. There are two basic types of impact assessment:

- Post-Impact Assessment, which examines the ways in which an event has affected a community.
- Needs Assessment, which examines the type, amount and priorities of assistance needed.

Post Impact Assessment

There are two types of post-impact assessments:

- Damage Assessment (DA), led by QFD.
- Comprehensive Damage Assessment (CDA), led by all relevant agencies across the LDMG.

DAs are undertaken immediately after an event to gather a high-level view of current and potential consequences. Sources of information include:

- Calls for assistance recorded at emergency services communications centres and through SRC's contact centre.
- Information and assessment data provided by LDMG members, representatives, and advisors.
- Media monitoring and reporting.

The DAs provide initial and often unconfirmed information. The information collected is used to provide a broad assessment of the potential overall impact of the event and to set initial priorities. CDAs will commence as soon as possible after an event to accurately establish the impact.

All LDMG members and requested relevant organisations will undertake detailed impact assessments relating to their area of jurisdiction. Depending on need, the Somerset LDMG may coordinate the formation and operation of multi-agency DA teams to systematically collect and analyse impact assessment data.

Needs Assessment

Using data from the initial DAs and CDAs, the Somerset LDMG will conduct a needs assessment to establish the type, quantity and priorities of assistance required by disaster-affected communities.

7.8. Financial Management

The Somerset LDMG member organisations are responsible for their financial management and procurement matters.

SRC will assume responsibility for financial management of the LDCC during the event (outside the costs incurred by agencies in performing their roles and responsibilities).

When an event occurs, each organisation should immediately begin accounting for personnel and equipment costs relating to disaster operations (in accordance with its own policies and procedures) to provide evidence for reimbursement from the various assistance arrangements.

Care and attention to detail must be taken throughout the disaster operations period to maintain logs, formal records, and file copies of all expenditure (including personnel timesheets). This will provide clear and reasonable accountability and justification for future audit and potential reimbursement purposes.

7.9. Logistics management

When the Somerset LDMG requires logistics support and/or resources to meet operational requirements that are beyond local capacity and capability, it sends a request for assistance to the Ipswich District Disaster Coordination Centre (DDCC). At times, administrative boundaries may separate resources from affected communities. In planning, the LDMG considers resources in neighbouring LGAs in addition to those available locally.

7.10. Resupply

The Somerset LDMG is responsible for supporting communities in preparing for temporary isolation. It is also responsible for ensuring procedures are in place for resupply of food and other essentials during times of isolation.

Most events that isolate communities occur on a seasonal basis and their effects on roads and transport networks can be predicted with reasonable accuracy. Communities that are likely to be affected by such events have the responsibility to prepare well in advance for both the event and the expected period of isolation.

To help with this, the LDMG will conduct community education programs that focus on the community and household preparations to be made prior to the expected time of impact.

Planning for resupply operations considers the necessity and urgency of the request. It will need to balance the diversion of limited resources from other activities (such as supporting rescue, evacuation centres or similar) with the needs of the isolated community.

Emergency Supply

‘Emergency Supply’ is the acquisition and management of emergency supplies and services in support of disaster operations. Emergency supply can include:

- Resource support in the establishment of forward command posts, community recovery centres and/or disease control centres, such as furniture, equipment and materials.
- Resource support for community evacuation centres, such as furniture, bedding material and health and hygiene products.
- Bottled water and bulk water supplies.
- Temporary structures such as marquees and portable ablution facilities.
- Small plant equipment hire services, such as chainsaws and pressure washers.

Before requesting emergency supply:

- Every effort will be made to exhaust local supplies.
- Attempts will be made to support local economies.
- Organisations will use their own internal acquisition processes.

QPS is the functional lead agency for emergency supply.

7.11. Accessing Support and Allocating Resources

Requests for support may come from lead agencies, supporting agencies or the community. These requests must be registered and acted on in accordance with the standard operating procedures for the Somerset LDCC.

The LDC may request assistance from local agencies, businesses and community groups for additional resources.

The Somerset LDMG will maintain regular communications with the Ipswich DDMG to coordinate the actions and resources required to respond and recover from the impact of disaster events. It will also maintain communication with local governments that share a boundary with the area. These are the Toowoomba Regional Council, Ipswich City Council, Moreton Bay City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council and South Burnett Regional Council.

Any requests for assistance that cannot be met within local resources will be submitted to the Ipswich DDC. The LDMG Chair or the LDC must endorse these requests.

If the request for assistance cannot be actioned by the DDC, they will request assistance through the SDCC.

Coordination of Primary Lead Agencies

During a disaster, a number of primary and lead agencies are likely to be operating at the same time. For example, a disaster may involve the management of multiple threats and the delivery of multiple disaster management functions, such as evacuation centre management or public health.

Coordination operates horizontally across agencies but does not extend to the control of threats or functions, or to the command of agency resources. The Somerset LDMG's role in coordination is to ensure primary, lead and support agencies have the resources and information needed to carry out their agreed roles.

Primary (Hazard-Specific) Agency

A primary agency is the organisation in control of the management of a specific threat. 'control' relates to managing what should be done, when and by whom. Control operates horizontally across agencies that are contributing to the management of the particular hazard. For example, during a bushfire threat, QFD is the primary agency and will control all agencies that are contributing to management of the bushfire. This includes giving directions and tasks to supporting agencies, allowing access into various zones and/or determining the need for evacuation.

Primary agency status is usually bestowed by legislation, common law, regulations, state plans or by agreement of the LDMG.

Lead (Functional) Agencies

A functional lead agency is the organisation in control of the management of a specific function. For example, when an evacuation centre is required, SRC is the functional lead agency and will control all agencies that are contributing to the management of the

evacuation centre. This includes giving directions and tasks to supporting agencies and opening and allowing access to centres.

A functional lead agency will be supported by other agencies that have agreed roles in the delivery of the disaster management function. For example, in the management of evacuation or emergency shelters, SRC is assisted by agencies such as Australian Red Cross, QPS and SES.

Functional lead agency status is usually bestowed by legislation, common law, regulations, state plans or by agreement of the LDMG. Roles and responsibilities of each agency across the QDMA can be found in the [State Disaster Management Plan⁷³](#).

Related plans for each of the hazard and functional plans can be found in [Appendix D](#).

Support of Primary and Lead Agencies

Members of the LDMG agree to support other organisations through the provision of mutual aid. A support agency assists the primary or lead agency in the delivery of their objectives.

While under the control of a primary or lead agency, support agencies retain responsibility for commanding their resources and ensuring that their own standard operating procedures are correctly implemented.



Figure 13. Grass and scrub fire in Jimna 2021

⁷³ Government, Interim State Disaster Management Plan 2024-25: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/528448/Interim-Queensland-State-Disaster-Management-Plan-2024-25.pdf

8. Relief and Recovery

8.1. Relief

Relief is stage 1 of the recovery process, as shown in the figure below. It is where efforts are provided to meet the immediate needs of persons affected by a disaster, to minimise further loss through the provision of immediate shelter and basic human needs.



Figure 14. Stages of Recovery⁷⁴

⁷⁴ Queensland Government, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Queensland Recovery Plan p.12: <https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/recovery/recovery-governance/queensland-recovery-plan>

8.2. Evacuation and Evacuation Centres

During an emergency situation SRC may open evacuation centres to meet the immediate need for those with no other option, in order to preserve life, wellbeing and safety. They should not be the primary source of shelter or relocation. Preferred evacuation solutions for community members to consider, in priority order, are:

1. A destination of the person's choosing (with family, friends or neighbours).
2. Established accommodation (a hotel, motel or caravan park).
3. An evacuation centre.

The size and number of evacuation facilities available will depend upon the scale and extent of the emergency or disaster situation. The opening of evacuation centres will be coordinated by the LDCC and communicated to the public via the disaster dashboard and other relevant communications channels listed in [Section 6.2. Community Education and Information](#).

Service animals such as Seeing Eye, Guide and Hearing dogs should be evacuated with their owners. Arrangements will be put in place for these animals to be allowed in evacuation centres, however domestic pets are not catered for within the Somerset LGA evacuation centres.

Evacuation centres abide by the Australian Red Cross Preferred Emergency Sheltering Practices, which provide for:

- one toilet for every 20 to 50 people
- 1.2m² – 5m² of floor space per evacuee
- one shower for every 30 to 50 people.

The above capacity limits and other operational approaches to evacuation centre management will be suitably adjusted to mitigate the threat of infection posed by a pandemic.

The decision to evacuate, and the various stages which occur, can be found on p.17 of the [Queensland Evacuation: Responsibilities, Arrangements and Management Manual](#)⁷⁵.

8.3. Isolated communities

Communities that become physically isolated, particularly due to flooded roads, have been identified during the risk management process. These communities do not necessarily require evacuation, but additional support may be needed to help people stay in their homes.

Occupants of areas known to become isolated are strongly encouraged to plan for periods (of at least three days) without access to food, water, medicine, toiletries and essential household items.

8.4. Donations

Council and Queensland Government have partnered with GIVIT to manage all offers of donated goods and services (including corporate offers of assistance) in response to disasters and emergencies in Queensland.

⁷⁵Queensland Government, Evacuation: Responsibilities, Arrangements and Management: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/551043/Evacuation-Manual.pdf

Affected people discuss their needs with organisations and charities, including but not limited to Australian Red Cross, UnitingCare Lifeline and neighbourhood centres. While providing other essential recovery supports, these organisations verify that the needs are genuine and register the items requested with GIVIT. GIVIT then matches these needs with donated goods and services through its online warehouse. This eliminates the need for organisations to store and sort unexpected donations.

GIVIT will also purchase goods with money donated by the public in response to such events. GIVIT accepts donations of money. 100% of funds received by GIVIT during a disaster are spent on urgently needed items. Wherever possible, the items are purchased from businesses in the disaster-affected area to assist recovery of the local economy. To donate, visit the [GIVIT website](#)⁷⁶.

8.5. Volunteering

The desire to volunteer is an indication of the health and resilience of the community. The best way a person can start volunteering is to find out if family, friends and neighbours need assistance first. This should always be done under their direction and with their consent.

It is imperative that volunteers act safely. [WorkCover Queensland](#) provides guidance on how to be safe⁷⁷.

After assisting family, friends and neighbours, volunteers should register with [Volunteering Queensland's \(VQ\) Emergency Volunteer Service](#)⁷⁸ or contact 1800 994 100. Volunteers will then be contacted by VQ if additional volunteers with their skills are required.

8.6. Financial assistance arrangements

There are two sets of financial arrangements that, if activated, provide financial support to Queensland communities affected by a disaster event.

To claim for expenditure reimbursement under SDRA or DRFA arrangements:

- the relevant arrangements must be activated
- the expenditure must meet the eligibility requirements of that measure
- the claimant must provide documentary support for all eligible expenditure detailed in the claim.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

The DRFA is a joint funding initiative of the Australian and State governments to provide disaster relief and recovery payments and infrastructure restoration to help communities recover from the effects of natural disasters and terrorist acts. In Queensland, this program is managed on the whole of government basis by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

Eligible disasters under DRFA include cyclones, floods, Landslips, meteor strikes, storms, bushfires, terrorist act, tornadoes and earthquakes.

⁷⁶ GIVIT: www.givit.org.au

⁷⁷ Workcover Queensland, Storms and floods: www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/safety-and-prevention/hazards/workplace-hazards/dangers-in-your-workplace/storms-and-floods

⁷⁸Volunteering Queensland: www.emergencyvolunteering.com.au/qld

Droughts, frosts, heatwaves and epidemic events relating from poor environmental planning, commercial development or personal intervention are not eligible events under DRFA. Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers is responsible for activating the DRFA.⁷⁹ The DRFA activation relies on the damage, loss and personal hardship information provided by state and local governments.

State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA)

The SDRA is an all-hazards relief program that is 100% State funded and covers natural and non-natural disasters. The purpose of the SDRA is to address personal hardship and community response needs for disaster events where the DRFA is unable to be activated. SDRA relief measures for Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme and Counter Disaster Operations are the same relief measures that are activated under the DRFA, as detailed above.

The SDRA is able to be activated when the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS) identifies that local service providers have reached their capacity to provide a service to people identified as experiencing personal hardship as a direct result of a disaster event, or that there are no local service providers to assist in the event of a disaster.⁸⁰

The Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (supported by QRA) is responsible for activating the SDRA.

8.7. Recovery

Recovery – A shared responsibility

During the recovery phase of an event, residents are encouraged to continue to monitor the [SRC Disaster Dashboard](#) for updates on weather conditions and contact the State Emergency Service (SES) with any requests for assistance with storm damage.

Residents requiring further assistance are encouraged to visit the Queensland Government webpage for [Disaster Recovery Support](#).

Transition to Recovery

Recovery is the coordinated process of supporting disaster-affected communities' psychosocial (emotional and social) and physical well-being; reconstruction of physical infrastructure; and economic and environmental restoration (including restoring the natural environment, associated infrastructure and heritage sites and structures, and the management of pollution and contamination). Recovered is being able to lead a life that individuals and communities value living, even if it is different from the life they were living before the disaster event⁸¹.

⁷⁹ Queensland Government, About the DRFA and eligible disasters: <https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/funding/drfa/about-drfa-and-eligible-disasters>

⁸⁰ Queensland Government, State Disaster Relief Arrangements: <https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/funding-programs/state-disaster-relief-arrangements-sdra>

⁸¹ Queensland Government, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Queensland Recovery Plan p.6: www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-11/queensland-recovery-plan-june-2023.pdf

Approach to Recovery

The Somerset LDMG approach to recovery is aligned with the [National Principles for Disaster Recovery](#)⁸², which has been adopted in Queensland. These principles are:

- understanding the context
- recognising complexity
- using local, community-led approaches
- ensuring coordination of all activities
- employing effective communication
- acknowledging and building capacity
- identifying lessons and building resilience.

Once the [relief](#) stage is complete, the final two phases of recovery are enacted by the Somerset LDMG.

Phase 2: Recovery and Reconstruction

This phase includes medium-term recovery and the execution of planned methodical recovery and reconstruction to enhance the outcomes of disaster-affected individuals, communities, functions and infrastructure. In this phase, coordination of impact assessments, community engagement, communication and collaboration of all recovery partners continues, and recovery progress is monitored by the Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC).

Phase 3: Transition

In the transition phase, recovery and reconstruction is progressively handed over to agencies or organisations – including government, community-based or industry-led sectors that would normally support the functional area. During transition, lessons are identified and implemented to increase the community's resilience. This phase ends when all recovery and reconstruction responsibilities are back to being managed as business as usual and the community realises its post-disaster 'new normal'.

Functions of Recovery

Effective recovery requires an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to analysing needs, engaging the community and planning. Recovery is a complex and potentially protracted process. To help coordinate this, it is grouped into five functions:

- human and social
- economic
- environment
- buildings
- roads and transport.

These often overlap, and recovery arrangements must reflect the interrelationship between them.

⁸² Commonwealth Government, Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience, National Principles for Disaster Recovery: www.knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/national-principles-for-disaster-recovery/

Local Recovery Group

The Somerset Local Recovery Group (LRG) has been established as a standing group under the Somerset LDMG. The appointed Local Recovery Chair (LRC) is the SRC Chief Executive Officer.

Local Recovery Sub Groups

The Somerset LDMG may establish a range of sub groups during recovery. They will be typically led by the relevant SRC manager.

Human and Social

- Personal support and information
- Physical and emotional health
- Psychological, spiritual, cultural and social wellbeing
- Public safety and education
- Temporary accommodation
- Financial assistance to meet immediate individual needs
- Uninsured household loss and damage.

Economic

- Renewal and growth of:
 - the micro economy (within the affected area) and the macro economy (overall economic activity of the state)
 - individual and household entities (for example, employment, income and insurance claims), private and government business enterprises, and industry
 - assets, production and flow of goods and services
 - capacity for the export of goods and services from the affected region.
- Securing the confidence of overseas markets.

Environment

- Restoration and regeneration of:
 - biodiversity (species and plants) and ecosystems
 - natural resources
 - environmental infrastructure
 - amenity/aesthetics (for example, scenic lookouts)
 - culturally significant sites and heritage structures.
- Management of environmental health, waste, contamination and pollution, and hazardous materials.

Infrastructure (buildings, roads and transport)

- Repairing and reconstructing:
 - residential and public buildings
 - commercial, industrial and rural buildings/structures
 - government structures
 - utility structures, systems and services (water, sewage, energy and communications)

- other essential services.
- Dam safety
- Repairing and reconstructing local roads and transport systems.

The service components of each of the five functions are not necessarily delivered by the lead agency. The lead agency works with multiple private and public sector partners who deal directly with the community and individual families and businesses to achieve recovery. While these five functions provide the framework for the recovery structure, the final structure depends upon the nature and consequences of an event. For example, events such as cyclones may cause large-scale damage to housing and the built environment and therefore may require more emphasis on infrastructure recovery. Other events, such as pandemics, may require more emphasis on the human and social and economic aspects of recovery.

Planning for Recovery

The Recovery Sub Plan provides information on a framework for the coordination of recovery operations across the Somerset LDMG. The procedures outlined in the Queensland Recovery Plan support this framework and the sub plan is part of the LDMP. The strategy it outlines is flexible and designed to address different types and sizes of disaster events, as required.

Recovery can also offer an opportunity to learn and build resilience so that the Somerset region is better prepared for future disaster events. Communities can further develop their capability and resilience through recovery activities that focus on sustainability and growth, community development initiatives, reconstruction efforts, risk reduction strategies, and hardening of infrastructure and the built environment.

The recovery sub plan includes transition arrangements from ‘response’ through to ‘immediate relief arrangements’ to ‘recovery arrangements’, outlining the transfer of all required resources. It also identifies the scope of possible disaster recovery operations and the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the process for short, medium and long-term recovery requirements.



Figure 15. The Australian Defence Force deployed across the region during the Feb-Mar 2022 Weather Event

9. Appendices

9.1. Appendix A - Local Disaster Management Plan version history

Version	Date	Author	Comments
v1.0	1/12/2007	KTG Engineering	Initial version of plan under QDMP Guidelines 2005 and Operational Plan Guidelines 2006.
v2.0	15/02/2012	Somerset Regional Council	Changes to bring in line with amendments to the Act and current arrangements
V2.1	21/11/2012	Somerset Regional Council	Updated as part of Annual Review
V2.2	30/09/2013	Somerset Regional Council	Updated as part of Annual Review
V2.3	31/08/2014	Somerset Regional Council	Updated as part of Annual Review
V2.4	31/08/2015	Somerset Regional Council	Minor changes, including contacts
V3.0	1/10/2018	Somerset Regional Council	Minor changes, including contacts
V4.0	30/06/2022	Somerset Regional Council	2022 review and modernisation of plan
V4.1	30/10/2022	Somerset Regional Council	Minor changes
V5.0	31/07/2024	Somerset Regional Council	Minor changes, including new Chair and added additional Seqwater Dams. Change of QFES (Qld Fire and Emergency Services) to QFD (Queensland Fire Department)
V6.0	17/03/2026	Somerset Regional Council	2026 review and modernisation of plan

9.2. Appendix B – Abbreviations

Term	Definition
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AWS	Australian Warning System
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
AIDR	Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience
the Act	<i>Disaster Management Act, 2003</i>
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CDA	Comprehensive Damage Assessment
DA	Damage Assessment
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DFSDSCS	Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
DDCC	District Disaster Coordination Centre
DES	Department of Environment and Science
DM	Disaster Management
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
DTMR	Department of Transport and Main Roads
EA	Emergency Alert
EAP	Emergency Action Plan
EMAF	Emergency Management Assurance Framework
EWN	Early Warning Network
the Guideline	Disaster Management (DM) Guideline
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HHS	Hospital and Health Service
IMS	Incident Management System
IMT	Incident Management Team
IGEM	Inspector General, Emergency Management
LDC	Local Disaster Coordinator
LDCC	Local Disaster Coordination Centre
LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group
LDMP	Local Disaster Management Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LMF	Lessons Management Framework (IGEM)
LRC	Local Recovery Coordinator
LRG	Local Recovery Group
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

Term	Definition
NBN	National Broadband Network
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
NSR	National Situation Room
PPRR	Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (phases of Disaster Management)
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
QDMA	Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements
QDTMF	Queensland Disaster Training Management Framework
QERMF	Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework
QEMR	Queensland Emergency Management Report
QDMC	Queensland Disaster Management Committee
QFD	Queensland Fire Department
QPS	Queensland Police Service
QPSAAO	Queensland Public Safety Agencies ArcGIS Online Organisation
QRA	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
the Regulation	<i>Disaster Management Regulation (2014)</i>
SDCC	State Disaster Coordination Centre
SDRA	State Disaster Relief Arrangements
SES	State Emergency Service
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning Signal
SDC	State Disaster Coordinator
SDMP	State Disaster Management Plan
SITREP	Situation Report
SPS	Queensland Disaster Management 2016 Strategic Policy Statement
SRC	Somerset Regional Council
the Standard	Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
VQ	Volunteering Queensland

9.3. Appendix C – Definitions

Term	Definition
Alert	Refer to LDMG Activation Levels .
Community	A social group with a commonality of association and generally defined by location, shared experience or function, and with a number of things in common such as culture, heritage, language, ethnicity, pastimes, occupation or workplace ⁸³ .
Community Resilience	The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management ⁸⁴ .
Coordination	The bringing together of organisations and other resources to support an Emergency Management response. It involves the systematic acquisition and application of resources (organisational, human and equipment) in an emergency situation ⁸⁵ .
Coordination Centre	A centre established at state, district or local government as a centre of communication and coordination during times of disaster operations. ⁸⁶ .
Disaster District	A level of disaster management as prescribed by s22 of the <i>Disaster Management Act, 2003</i> .
Disaster management functions	The services essential to managing the impacts and consequences of an event ⁸⁷ .
Disaster mitigation	Measures taken in advance of a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and environment ⁸⁸ .
Disaster operations	The 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 ⁸⁹ .
Disaster preparedness	All activities undertaken in advance of the occurrence of an incident to decrease the impact, extent and severity of the incident and to ensure more effective response activities ⁹⁰ .
Disaster response	The phase of disaster operations that relates to responding to a disaster ⁹¹ .
Disaster response capability	The ability to provide equipment and a suitable number of persons, using the resources available to the local government, to effectively deal with, or help another entity to deal with, an emergency situation or a disaster in the local government's area ⁹² .

⁸³ Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience, Glossary: www.knowledge.aidr.org.au/glossary/

⁸⁴ Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience, Glossary: www.knowledge.aidr.org.au/glossary/

⁸⁵ Queensland Government, Interim Queensland Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline, www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/359465/Interim-QPPRR-Disaster-Management-Guideline.pdf

⁸⁶ Queensland Government, Interim Queensland Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline, www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/359465/Interim-QPPRR-Disaster-Management-Guideline.pdf

⁸⁷ *Disaster Management Act, 2003* s14

⁸⁸ Queensland Government, Interim Queensland Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline, www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/359465/Interim-QPPRR-Disaster-Management-Guideline.pdf

⁸⁹ *Disaster Management Act, 2003* s15

⁹⁰ Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience, Glossary, www.knowledge.aidr.org.au/glossary/

⁹¹ *Disaster Management Act, 2003* s21(2)(c)

⁹² *Disaster Management Act, 2003* s80 (2)

Term	Definition
Disaster recovery operations	The phase of disaster operations that relates to recovering from a disaster ⁹³ .
Disaster relief	The provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs of persons affected by, or responding to, an emergency. It includes the establishment, management and provision of services to emergency relief centres ⁹⁴ .
Disaster risk assessment (expected outcome)	The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries ⁹⁵ .
District Disaster Coordinator	A person appointed under s25 of the <i>Disaster Management Act, 2003</i> who is responsible for the coordination of disaster operations in the disaster district for the District Disaster Management Group.
Emergency	It should be noted that in some jurisdictions the term <i>emergency</i> is used interchangeably with <i>disaster</i> . In Queensland the terms <i>disaster</i> , <i>disaster management</i> and <i>disaster operations</i> are used interchangeably.
Event	Any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, storm tide, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption or other natural happening. • An explosion or fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill, or a gas leak. • An infestation, plague or epidemic. • A failure of, or disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure. • An attack against the State. An event may be natural or caused by human acts or omissions ⁹⁶ .
Functional lead agency	An agency allocated responsibility to prepare for and provide a disaster management function and lead relevant organisations that provide a supporting role ⁹⁷ .
Guidelines	Developed under s63 of the <i>Disaster Management Act, 2003</i> by the Queensland Government. Accessible via disaster.qld.gov.au ⁹⁸ .
Hazard	A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards may be natural, anthropogenic or socionatural in origin. ⁹⁹
Lean forward	Refer to LDMG Activation Levels .
Local Disaster Coordinator	A person appointed under s35 of the <i>Disaster Management Act, 2003</i> who is responsible for the coordination of disaster operations for the Local Disaster Management Group.

⁹³ Queensland Government, Interim Queensland PPRR Guideline s. p.46:

www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/359465/Interim-QPPRR-Disaster-Management-Guideline.pdf

⁹⁴ Queensland Government, Queensland Recovery Plan, www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-11/queensland-recovery-plan-june-2023.pdf

⁹⁵ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction p. 35

⁹⁶ *Disaster Management Act, 2003* s.16

⁹⁷ Queensland Government, Interim State Disaster Management Plan,

www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/528448/Interim-State-Disaster-Management-Plan.pdf

⁹⁸ www.disaster.qld.gov.au/disaster-management-guideline

⁹⁹ Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience, Glossary, <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/glossary/>

Term	Definition
Mitigation	Measures taken in advance of a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and the environment ¹⁰⁰ .
Primary agency (Hazard Specific)	An agency allocated responsibility to prepare for and respond to a specific hazard based on their legislated and/or technical capability and authority ¹⁰¹ .
QDMA	Queensland's disaster management arrangements are based on partnerships between the community, and groups at the local, district, state and Commonwealth levels to deliver coordinated, cooperative and integrated outcomes. Each level within the arrangements is enabled by disaster management groups working collaboratively to deliver effective disaster management across Queensland ¹⁰² .
Recovery	The coordinated process of supporting emergency-affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical well-being. Measures which support emergency-affected individuals and communities in the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, economic and physical well-being ¹⁰³ .
Residual risk	The disaster risk that remains in unmanaged form, even when effective disaster risk reduction measures are in place, and for which emergency response and recovery capacities must be maintained. The presence of residual risk implies a continuing need to develop and support effective capacities for emergency services, preparedness, response and recovery, together with socioeconomic policies such as safety nets and risk transfer mechanisms, as part of a holistic approach ¹⁰⁴ .
Risk	The concept of risk combines an understanding of the likelihood of a hazardous event occurring with an assessment of its impact represented by interactions between hazards, elements at risk and vulnerability ¹⁰⁵ .
Risk identification	The process of finding, recognising and describing risks. Risk identification involves the identification of risk sources, events, their causes and their potential consequences. Risk identification can involve [the use of] historical data, theoretical analysis, informed and expert opinions and stakeholders' needs ¹⁰⁶ .
Risk management	The systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of identifying, analysing, assessing, mitigating and monitoring risk ¹⁰⁷ .

¹⁰⁰ Queensland Government, Queensland Fire Department QERMF Risk Assessment Handbook p.49:

www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/339402/H1102-QFES-Risk-Assessment-Process-Handbook.pdf

¹⁰¹ Queensland Government, Interim State Disaster Management Plan,

www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/528448/Interim-State-Disaster-Management-Plan.pdf

¹⁰² Queensland Government, Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements – Participant Guide: www.disaster.qld.gov.au/awareness-and-training

¹⁰³ Queensland Government, Queensland Recovery Plan, www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-11/queensland-recovery-plan-june-2023.pdf

¹⁰⁴ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction: www.undrr.org/

¹⁰⁵ Queensland Government, Queensland Fire Department QERMF Risk Assessment Handbook p.50:

www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/339402/H1102-QFES-Risk-Assessment-Process-Handbook.pdf

¹⁰⁶ Queensland Government, Queensland Fire Department QERMF Risk Assessment Handbook p.51:

www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/339402/H1102-QFES-Risk-Assessment-Process-Handbook.pdf

¹⁰⁷ Queensland Government, Queensland Fire Department QERMF Risk Assessment Handbook p.51:

www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/339402/H1102-QFES-Risk-Assessment-Process-Handbook.pdf

Term	Definition
Risk register	A table, list or other representation of risk statements describing sources of risk and elements at risk with assigned consequences, likelihoods and levels of risk. Risk registers are produced by risk assessment processes, summarising the outputs of these processes to inform decision making about risks. Risk registers record the identification, analysis and evaluation of emergency risks ¹⁰⁸ .
Stand down	Refer to LDMG Activation Levels .
Stand up	Refer to LDMG Activation Levels .
State Disaster Coordinator	A person appointed under s21(B) of the <i>Disaster Management Act, 2003</i> who is responsible for the coordination of disaster response operations of the State Disaster Coordination Centre, on behalf of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee.
State Recovery Coordinator	A person appointed under s21(E) of the <i>Disaster Management Act, 2003</i> who is responsible for the coordination of disaster recovery operations on behalf of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee.
Vulnerability	The characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard ¹⁰⁹ .

¹⁰⁸ Queensland Government, Queensland Fire Department QERMF Risk Assessment Handbook p.51:
www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/339402/H1102-QFES-Risk-Assessment-Process-Handbook.pdf

¹⁰⁹ Queensland Government, Queensland Department QERMF Risk Assessment Handbook p.51:
www.disaster.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/339402/H1102-QFES-Risk-Assessment-Process-Handbook.pdf

9.4. Appendix D – Sub Plans

The following sub-plans have been developed to support the Somerset LDMP.

- Local Disaster Coordination Centre
- Evacuation
- Evacuation Centre Management
- Isolated Communities
- Bushfire (Threat Specific)
- Flood, Dam Break and Severe Storm (Threat Specific)
- Recovery



Somerset
REGIONAL COUNCIL

2 Redbank Street
PO Box 117 Esk QLD 4312
(07) 5424 4000
mail@somerset.qld.gov.au
www.somerset.qld.gov.au