

Noosa Shire Council

2019 Bushfires - Local Recovery Plan

Approved by Local Disaster Recovery Coordinator



Recovery narrative

About our community

Situated at the northern tip of Queensland's Sunshine Coast, Noosa Shire covers an area of 871km² and is home to more than 54,000 people. The Traditional Owners and original custodians of the land are the Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi people.

Noosa Shire has an economy that is diversifying beyond a thriving tourism industry. It is recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere and has a proud history of preserving its natural environment. Thirty-five per cent of the Shire is protected as either national park, reserve or conservation area.

About the disaster event

In September and November 2019, the Noosa Shire experienced unprecedented weather conditions, which attributed to severe bushfires occurring in the shire. These fires impacted properties, public assets, critical infrastructure, small businesses and the local environment. As a result of these impacts, approximately 8000 people were evacuated from their properties and additional firefighting resources from the surrounding area were deployed to respond to these bushfires.

A total of 13,700 hectares was burnt during this period across the Noosa Shire.

Local Recovery Group

Chaired by: Cr Joe Jurisevic
 Local Recovery Coordinator: Kerri Contini
 Human Social: Alison Hamblin
 Infrastructure: Adam Britton
 Environment: Craig Doolan
 Economic: Anthony Dow

Key stakeholders

Noosa Shire Council
 Queensland Police Service
 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
 Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
 Australian Red Cross
 Lifeline

Measures of success

Human and social

- Evacuation centres established quickly to provide safe refuge.
- Immediate post-disaster community support provided to impacted people including assistance with emergency hardship payments.
- Follow-up community activities implemented to monitor mental health implications and provide support where required.
- The community kept up-to-date with key information during the recovery process.
- Community resilience increased for future disasters.

Economic

- Impact assessment for businesses undertaken.
- Support provided for affected businesses.
- Media campaigns to build on confidence in the tourism sector particularly those businesses that were impacted developed and delivered.

Environment

- Environmental impact assessment for flora and fauna has been completed.
- Environmental impact assessment for wildlife has been completed.
- Review of Council's fire management plan has been completed.
- Environmental waste has been disposed of safely.

- Resource informing community about Council's fire management plan as well as the purpose of hazard reduction burns outside of fire season has been produced and released.

Building

- An impact assessment to understand damage to properties has been completed.
- The community has been supported with the facilitation of the reconstruction of homes where necessary.
- An impact assessment to understand damage to community facilities has been completed.
- Damage to community facilities has been repaired.
- The Queensland Building and Construction Commission Bushfire Rebuild Register has been shared with the community.

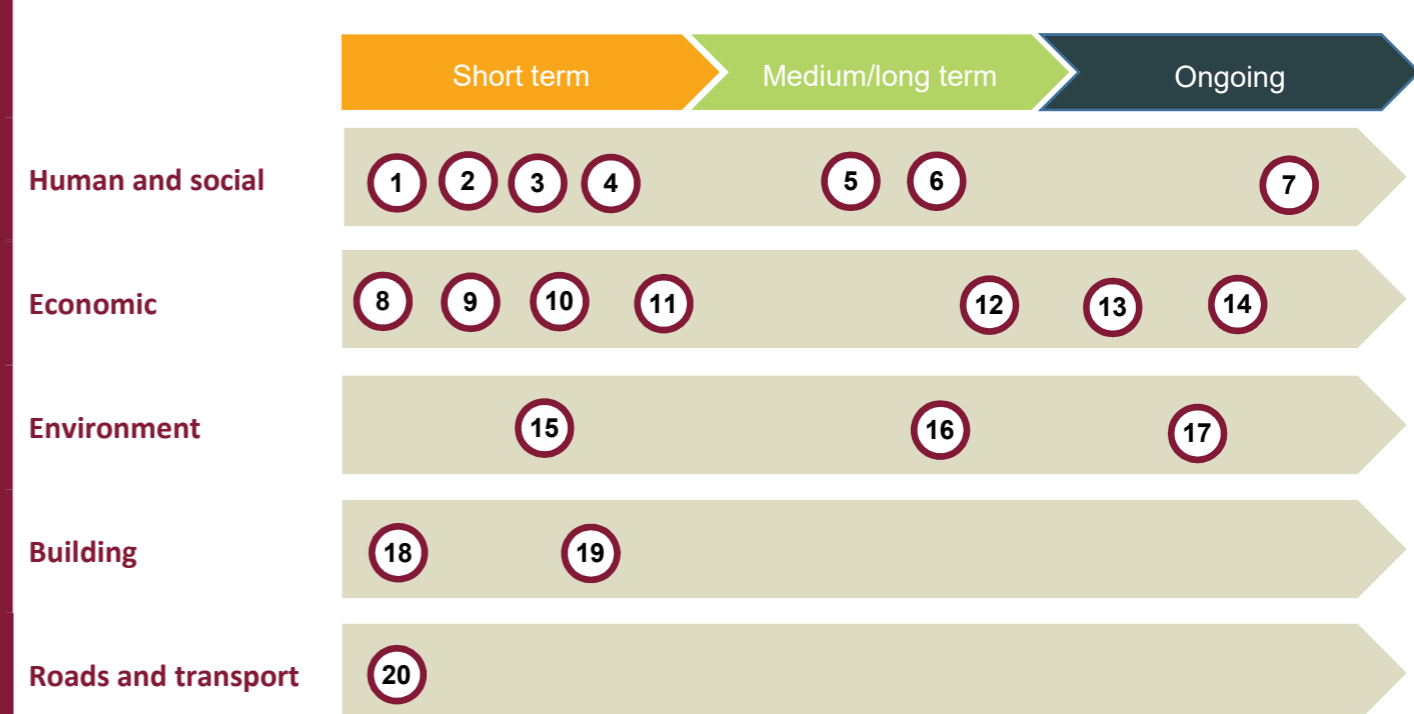
Roads and transport

- Impact assessment of the road transport network has been completed.
- All roads have been reopened.

Recovery objectives

- 1 All evacuated residents are returned to their homes safely.
- 2 Restoration of essential services - Power, water, waste, and telecommunications.
- 3 Mental health and community well-being support for community.
- 4 Support and assist people to access emergency hardship grants and funding approvals.
- 5 Utilise community events to engage with the community and provide further mental health support as needed.
- 6 Maintain community messaging to provide updates during recovery.
- 7 Build community resilience for future disasters (all hazards).
- 8 Undertake economic impact assessment.
- 9 Support primary producers.
- 10 Restore and build confidence in the tourism market in effected areas e.g. camping, retreats etc.
- 11 Restore and build on confidence in the tourism market for the Noosa Shire.
- 12 Support small business.
- 13 Empower local businesses to improve their resilience to disasters.
- 14 Build on the confidence in the tourism market.
- 15 Undertake environmental impact assessment.
- 16 Establish provisions for environmental rehabilitation in burnt areas.
- 17 Review fire management plans and develop community resilience and awareness.
- 18 Undertake impact assessments of damaged properties and infrastructure.
- 19 Restoration of community facilities and networks.
- 20 Undertake impact assessment of road transport network.

Recovery timeframes



Peregian Beach Bushfires - September 2019

Human and social

- Residents in the entire Peregian Beach suburb and neighbouring suburbs in Sunshine Coast LGA.
- Evacuation centre numbers:
 - a. Noosa Leisure Centre – 220 people
 - b. The J – 350 people.

Economic

- Power outage to Peregian Beach commercial district.
- Food loss to retail and hospitality businesses.

Environment

- Local wildlife impacted.
- 366 hectares burnt in Peregian area.

Building

- One house destroyed, low level infrastructure damage to several properties e.g. fence destruction.

Roads and transport

- David Low Way closed.

Cooroibah/Noosa North Shore Bushfires – November 2019

Human and social

- Residents in the northern area of Cooroibah, Noosa Banks, Daintree Estate, Forest Links Estate (Yellowwood Close/Blacknutt, Kurrajong), Noosa North Shore (McKinnon Drive between Tronson Road and Louis Brazzo Drive) evacuated approximately 6000 people.
- Evacuation Centre Numbers
 - Noosaville Library – 35 people
 - Noosa Leisure Centre – 350 people
 - The J – 110 people
 - Cooroy Library – 20 people
 - Christian Outreach Church – 90 people
 - Girraween Sports Complex – 2 people
- Power outage to Cooroibah (232 properties), Ringtail Creek (39 properties) and Tewanin (3 houses).

Economic

- Noosa North Shore ferry operations impacted.
- Cancellation of bookings to North Shore accommodation and hospitality.
- Closure of Tewanin commercial district for 24 hours.

Environment

- Local wildlife impacted.
- 1,100 hectares burnt in Cooroibah.

Building

- Power disconnected to the pump stations on Lakeway Drive Cooroibah.
- One house destroyed, two unapproved dwellings destroyed and four sheds impacted.

Roads and transport

- McKinnon Drive closed north from Butler Street.

Human and social

- Establish community recovery hub for people who require support including assistance with emergency hardship payments.
- Conduct community outreach for those people who are not in a position to access recovery centre
- Utilise community events and networks to check in with the community to monitor mental health implications and provide support as required.
- Keep the community up-to-date with key milestones during recovery.
- Develop a community messaging campaign focusing on building resilience for future disasters from an all hazards approach.

Economic

- Work closely with State agencies and collect impact data for rural residential properties.
- Work closely with State agencies and collect impact data for primary producer properties.
- Develop media campaigns to build on confidence in the tourism sector particularly businesses that were impacted.

Environment

- Conduct an environmental impact assessment for flora and fauna.
- Conduct an environmental impact assessment for wildlife.
- Conduct a review of Council's fire management plan.
- Create a resource that informs community on what Council's fire management plan entails as well as the purpose of hazard reduction burns outside of fire season.
- Disposal of environmental waste.

Building

- Conduct an impact assessment to understand damage to properties.
- Support the community with facilitating their reconstruction of homes where necessary.
- Conduct an impact assessment to understand damage to community facilities.
- Repair any damage to community facilities.
- Share the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Bushfire Rebuild Register with the community to ensure building codes are met.

Roads and transport

- Conduct an impact assessment of the road transport network.
- Reopen roads that were closed during the events.