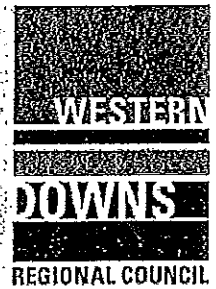
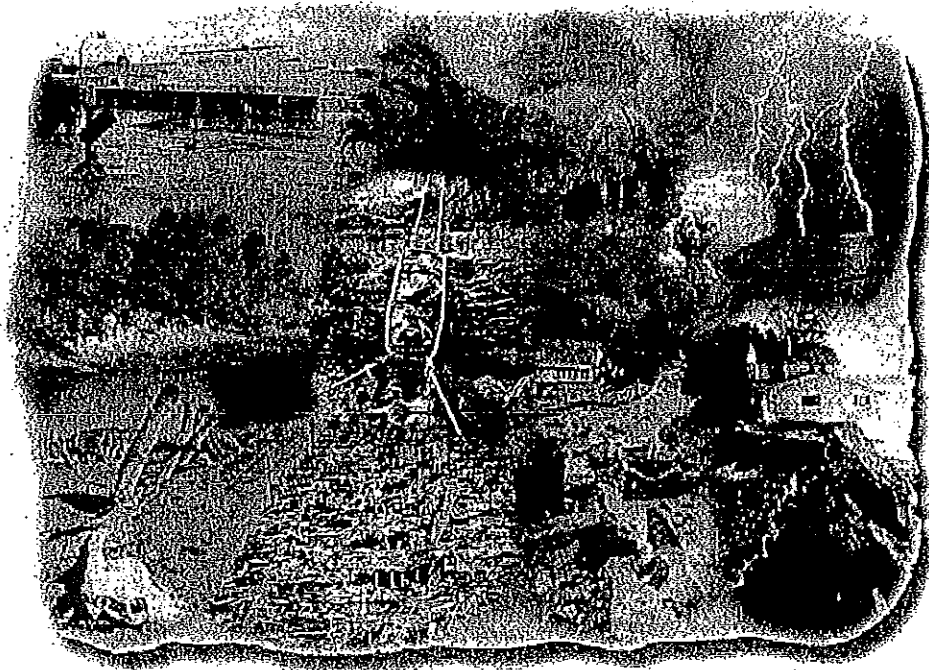


OUR COMMUNITIES | OUR FUTURE



# Western Downs Local Disaster Management Plan



QFCI

Date:

20/4/11

JM

July 2010 - Draft

Exhibit Number:

133

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# **Western Downs Local Disaster Management Plan**

## **Foreword from Chair of WDLDMG**

Western Downs Regional Council has an active Disaster Management philosophy which embraces mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies.

The Western Downs Local Disaster Management Group aims to provide the Western Downs Regional Communities with the tools to ensure a full and effective response, recovery and speedy return to a safe and secure environment for all residents as soon after a disaster as possible.

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## **Authority to Plan**

Western Downs Regional Council has a legislative responsibility to develop a Disaster Management Plan in accordance with *Section 57(1) Disaster Management Act 2003*.

*"s57 Plan for disaster management in local government area*

*(1) A local government must prepare a plan (a local disaster management plan) for disaster management in the local government's area.*

*(2) The plan must include provision for the following—*

- a) the State group's strategic policy framework for disaster management for the State, and the local government's policies for disaster management;*
- b) the roles and responsibilities of entities involved in disaster operations and disaster management in the area;*
- c) the coordination of disaster operations and activities relating to disaster management performed by the entities mentioned in paragraph (b);*
- d) events that are likely to happen in the area;*
- e) strategies and priorities for disaster management for the area;*
- f) the matters stated in the disaster management guidelines as matters to be included in the plan; and*
- g) other matters about disaster management in the area the local government considers appropriate".*

*"s58 A local disaster management plan must be consistent with the disaster management guidelines"*

## Approval of Plan

This plan has been produced by and with the authority of Western Downs Regional Council pursuant to *Section 57, 58 and 61 Disaster Management Act 2003*.

The Western Downs Regional Council accepts their roles and responsibilities as described in the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

This plan is the result of the co-operative efforts of the Western Downs Local Disaster Management Group after consultation with those agencies and organisations identified therein. This plan will be reviewed in accordance with *Section 59 Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Western Downs Regional Council has adopted this plan by resolution at the General Meeting of Council in xx/xx/x009 in accordance with Section 80(1)(b) of the Disaster Management Act 2003 (QLD).

.....  
Cr Ray Brown  
*Mayor Western Downs Regional Council*  
*Chair WDLDMG*

.....  
Cr Mick Cosgrove  
*Deputy Mayor Western Downs Regional Council*  
*Deputy Chair WDLDMG*

.....  
Phil Berting  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
*Western Downs Regional Council*  
*Executive Officer WDLDMG*

.....  
Stephen Hegedus  
*Director Corporate Services*  
*Deputy Executive Officer WDLDMG*

.....  
*Endorsed by DDMG*  
*Disaster District Coordinator*

## Amendment Register and Version Control

This document is a controlled document and is not to be altered, amended or changed in any way other than those amendments issued by the Western Downs Local Disaster Management Group. From this, the plan is intended to be a "live" document, open to suggested amendments.

Plans will be amended as follows:

- Proposals for amendment to this plan should be made in writing to;

The Executive Officer  
Western Downs Local Disaster Management Group  
PO Box 551  
DALBY 4405

- With the exception of minor changes, typographical changes and changes to position titles all suggestions for amendments to the plan will be submitted to the WDLDMG for discussion.
- If not supported a written response will be provided to the submitter.
- When necessary amendments to the plan will be ratified by Council.

Version	Date	Prepared by	Comments
1.5	July 2010	GC Preston	This is the first draft plan for the Western Downs Regional Council

### Distribution List

Refer to Appendix C

### Definitions

Refer to Appendix D

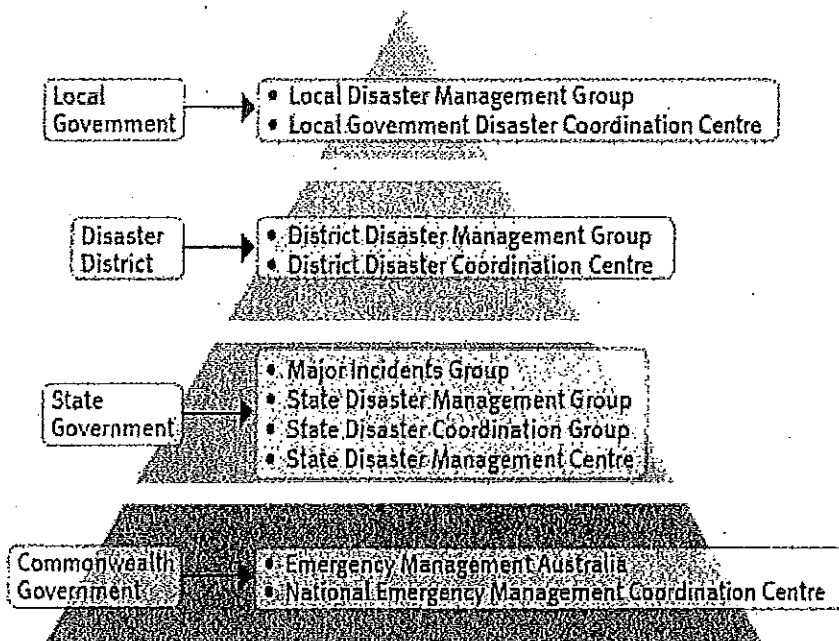
### Abbreviations

Refer to Appendix E

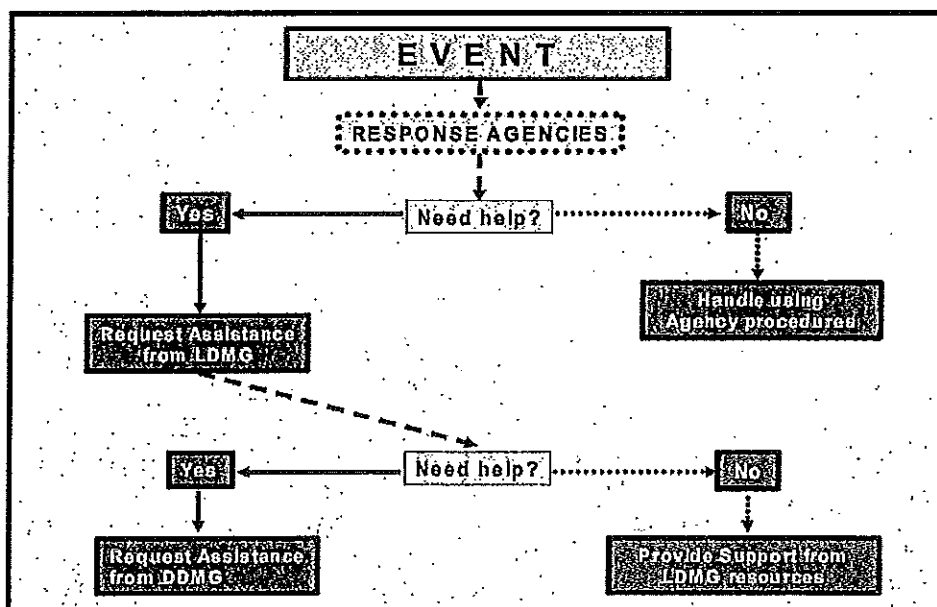


## The Disaster Management System in Queensland

### STRUCTURE



The following chart depicts the Disaster Management System in operations at the local level



# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Aim of Plan

The aim of this Plan is to minimise the effects of, and co-ordinate the response to, and the recovery from, a disaster or major emergency affecting the communities of the Western Downs Regional Council.

Local Government underpins the Queensland Disaster Management System as the key management agency at the local level.

The primary focus of the Western Downs Disaster Management System is to mitigate the effects of disasters on the community wherever possible or practical, and being prepared to respond when disasters occur. Plans and management arrangements have been developed with a community focus.

The plan shall:

- Ensure there is a consistent approach to disaster management in the various districts of Western Downs Regional Council;
- Create an auditing tool for disaster management functions;
- Demonstrate a commitment for the safety of our community;
- Ensure there is a central coordination of disaster management in Western Downs Regional Council districts;
- Demonstrate mitigation efforts and accountability for the purpose of eligibility for available funding;
- Reduce the impact of a disaster; and
- Reduce community consequences following an event.

## 1.2 Key Objectives

The broad objectives of the Western Downs Local Disaster Management Plan are to:

- Detail specific objectives to meet the overall purpose of the plan; and
- Include specific statements relating to Preparation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR).

## PREVENTION

- Increase adherence to and introduction of systems, procedures and regulations that reduce disaster risks; and
- List the studies that have been conducted, provide a short summary and identify other studies which need to be conducted.
- Ensure the community is aware of methods of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster so as to reduce the impact.

## PREPAREDNESS

- Identify and implement risk treatment strategies that have been determined by studies;
- Increase community safety through public awareness, information and education;
- Detail how a multi agency, all hazards approach will be used by WDLDMG and how some agencies will provide guidance for the group on specific hazards.
- Identify resources to maximize response;

- Establish relationships to increase disaster management capability and
- Ensure the community is aware of methods of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster so as to reduce the impact.

## **RESPONSE**

- Ensure there is a centralised local co-ordination of disaster management;
- Try to minimize the impact on the community of a disaster event through good response;
- Assist with the re-establishment of the community as effectively and efficiently as possible;
- Detail the strategic manner in which elements of the WDLDMG will deal with day to day disaster management business and how information shall be communicated on events that impact on the group; and
- Demonstrate a commitment to the safety of the Western Downs Regional Council communities.

## **RECOVERY**

- Adequately provide immediate post event assistance and advice to the affected community;
- Ensure the recovery priorities of the community are met;
- Ensure the community is aware of action that can be taken after the impact to assist with a speedy recovery and return to normality;
- To provide advice /or support to the Dalby District Recovery Committee and State Disaster Management and Recovery Agencies;
- To reduce the community consequences following an event;
- Ensure a consistent approach to disaster management; and
- Demonstrate a commitment to the safety of the Western Downs Regional Council communities.

### **1.3 Local Government Policy for Disaster Management**

This plan is consistent with the State Disaster Management Group Strategic Policy Framework which focuses on a comprehensive, all hazards approach with all levels of government working in partnership to reduce the effects of disasters.

### **1.4 Integration with Council's Corporate, Strategic and Operational Planning Processes**

Disaster Management is an integral part of Western Downs Regional Council's core business and is referred to in the Corporate Plan.

*People and Communities – provide safe, well serviced communities for people to live, grow and connect within.*

*Empowering Our Team – Develop a Regional Disaster Management Plan.*

### **1.5 Western Downs Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group**

The Western Downs Local Disaster Management Group has been established in accordance with *Section 29 Disaster Management Act 2003* which states:

***"s29 Establishment***

*A local government must establish a Local Disaster Management Group (local group) for the local government's area".*

The functions of the Group are set out in *Section 30 Disaster Management Act 2003* which states:

**"s30 Functions**

- (1) A local group has the following functions for its area:
- a) *to ensure that disaster management and disaster operations in the area are consistent with the State group's strategic policy framework for disaster management for the State;*
  - b) *to develop effective disaster management, and regularly review and assess the disaster management;*
  - c) *to help the local government for its area to prepare a local disaster management plan;*
  - d) *to identify, and provide advice to the relevant district group about, support services required by the local group to facilitate disaster management and disaster operations in the area;*
  - e) *to 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;*
  - f) *to manage disaster operations in the area under policies and procedures decided by the State group;*
  - g) *to provide reports and make recommendations to the relevant district group about matters relating to disaster operations;*
  - h) *to identify, and coordinate the use of, resources that may be used for disaster operations in the area;*
  - i) *to establish and review communications systems in the group, and with the relevant district group and other local groups in the disaster district of the relevant district group, for use when a disaster happens;*
  - j) *to ensure information about a disaster in the area is promptly given to the relevant district group;*
  - k) *to perform other functions given to the group under this Act;*
  - l) *to perform a function incidental to a function mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (k).*
- (2) In this section—

*relevant district group, for a local group, means the district group for the disaster district in which the area of the local group is situated."*

**1.6 Membership Details**

The Local Disaster Management Group consists of the following positions and the relevant persons are appointed in accordance with *Section 33 Disaster Management Act 2003*. The membership of the Group is to be reviewed annually.

**CORE MEMBERS**

CHAIRPERSON	Mayor, WDRC or delegate
DEPUTY CHAIR	Deputy Mayor WDRC or delegate
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Chief Executive Officer, WDRC
DEPUTY XO	Director Corporate Services, WDRC Director Engineering Services, WDRC

Safety Coordinator, WDRC

Director Economic and Community Development, WDRC

Environmental Health Manager, WDRC

Corporate Support Manager, WDRC

District Disaster OPSO/Police Liaison Officer, QPS

Area Director, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

Officer in Charge, Queensland Ambulance Service

Area Operations Officer Darling Downs, Ergon Energy

Area General Manager, Telstra

Chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee, Toowoomba  
and West Morton Health Service District

Area Director, EMQ

Chinchilla Customer Service Centre Manager

Miles Customer Service Centre Manager

Tara Customer Service Centre Manager

#### **ADVISERS**

Local Controller SES, Dalby District

Local Controller SES, Tara District

Local Controller SES, Miles District

Local Controller SES, Chinchilla District

Director of Nursing, Dalby Hospital

Group Manager Utilities WDRC

Group Manager Works WDRC

Principle Service Officer, Department of Communities

Area Engineer, Department Main Roads

Other Appointments as required

Observers and guests may attend the meeting and participate in discussions but do not form part of the Western Downs Local Disaster Management Group or have voting rights.

Any member of the WDLDMG may appoint a delegate to attend the meetings on the member's behalf, and the delegate will have the authority to make decisions and commit resources affecting that organisation.

Refer to *Appendix F* for contact details.

The State Disaster Management Group and the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) are to be advised annually of membership of the Group under the requirements of *Section 37 Disaster Management Act 2003*.

### **Appointment of Executive Officer**

The Executive Officer (XO) and Deputy XO shall be appointed by Western Downs Regional Council.

The Disaster Management Executive shall have the following membership;

- Chairperson of the Western Downs Local Disaster Management Group;
- Deputy Chairperson; and
- Executive Officer; and
- Deputy Executive Officer.

### **Emergency Management Queensland**

The role of Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ), with respect to disaster management, is to provide advice and assistance to all agencies and committees within the Queensland disaster management system, and administrative and executive support to the State Disaster Management Group (SDMG).

### **Frequency of Meetings**

The WDLDMG shall meet twice annually including a meeting to be held in September prior to the storm season.

### **Reporting Requirements**

The WDLDMG shall report its activities to:

- Western Downs Regional Council in an annual report prepared by the Executive Officer. The annual report shall be in accordance with the requirements of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*. Copies of the report shall be forwarded to the DDC and the Regional Director EMQ; and
- DDMG and Area Director EMQ – Prior to each meeting of the DDMG a Disaster Management Status Report as set out in *Queensland Disaster Management Guidelines 2005 - Disaster Management Status Report* template shall be submitted to the DDC.

Operational reporting shall be as required during and after an event in accordance with *A.2 Local Disaster Coordination Centre - Operational Plan*.

### **1.7 Roles and Responsibilities of WDLDMG Members**

Refer to *Appendix B* for membership list and the Roles and Responsibilities for members.

### **1.8 Review and Renew Plan**

A review of the plans in accordance with *Section 59 Disaster Management Act 2003* is to be conducted by the Executive Officer of the WDLDMG subsequent to:

- The performance of the Plan following activation as a result of a disaster;
- Exercises designed to practice or test aspects of the plans;
- Alterations to the roles or responsibilities of any agency involved in the plans.

- Operational procedures that have been changed;
- External disasters or introduction of new technology which suggest a review should be carried out;
- An officer responsible for overseeing a task no longer fills that position;
- Minor changes such as typographical changes and changes to position titles may be made to the plan from time to time; and
- The Plan shall be reviewed annually every September if other review methods as mentioned above are not undertaken.

## **1.9 Review of Disaster Management Arrangements**

The WDLDMP shall be reviewed annually by a working group from the WDLDMG as follows:

- August – working group review and amend as required the main plan;
- September – amended plan submitted to WDLDMG for acceptance; and
- October – amended plan submitted to Councils for approval and then forwarded to the DDMG for endorsement

The contact list for WDLDMG and associated groups shall be updated at each WDLDMG meeting.

## **1.10 Review of Operational Plans**

The Operational Plans are to be reviewed by a working group led by the designated responsible agencies as follows:

- August - working group review and amend Operational Plans as required;
- September – draft amended plans submitted to WDLDMG for acceptance; and
- October – amended plans submitted to Council for approval as part of the main plan

## **1.11 Local Emergency Coordination Committee**

On the 15 March 2008 as part of the Queensland governments reform of local governments (Local Government Reform Implementation Regulation 2008), new local government boundaries came into affect. This reform has had significant impact in the reduction of Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMG) within local government areas.

Local Emergency Coordination Committees (LECC) have been established in line with the *Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements, Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework and the Disaster Management Act 2003*.

The purpose of the Local Emergency Coordination Committee is to establish a core group within the local community, who possess the local knowledge/expertise to ensure that disaster management and disaster operations within the local district are managed.

The LECC is the key committee to manage major incidents impacting on a local district and initially manage a disaster in the local area. LECC are ideally placed to provide specific Disaster Management at the community level given its local knowledge/expertise and understanding of social, environmental and economic issues for the local area.

Local Emergency Coordination Committees shall be established at Chinchilla, Miles and Tara.

The membership for the LECC is:

Customer Service Centre Manager	Chair/LDMG Rep
Customer Service Centre Delegate	Deputy Chair
Area Engineer	Member
LDMG Representative	Member
Police OIC	Member
QFRS Station Officer	Member
QAS OIC	Member
SES Local Controller/Group Leader	Member
EMQ Representative	Advisor
Hospital/Health Service Representative	Member

Other government and non government agencies may be called upon by the LECC to provide advice and assistance as required.



## 2. DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

### 2.1 Community Context

The following is relevant information and considerations.

Western Downs Regional Council is amongst the highest local government performers in Queensland and Australia. Traversed by major highways astride the headwaters of the Murray-Darling, Western Downs Regional Council is a rural centre invigorating growth through continued agricultural, manufacturing and resource diversification. Western Downs Regional Council is alive with activity.

Over the past five years, Western Downs Regional Council has experienced an increase in population, reversing the trend of rural decline. The estimated residential population of Western Downs Regional Council was 30,230 in June 2007. The next four years, to 2011, will see estimated growth projections almost double to 1.1% average growth, significant growth for a rural region.

A hub of National and State Highway networks radiate in all directions from Dalby Township. These networks include the Warrego Highway to the east to Toowoomba and to the west through Chinchilla and Miles to Roma, the Bunya Highway, to the north and the Moonie Highway to the south-west to Moonie and St George. The Condamine Highway branches off the Warrego Highway 20 kilometres west of Dalby to Kogan and Condamine. The Surat Development Road branches off the Moonie Highway at Kumbarilla through Glenmorgan to Sarat. The Leichhardt Highway traverses the Region from south to north through Moonie, Condamine, Miles and Wandoan to the north and extends southerly from Moonie to connect with major interstate highways through western New South Wales.

The main east west railway line from Brisbane traverses through Dalby, Chinchilla and Miles to the west.

#### Geography

A major feature of the entire Western Downs Regional Council is the underlying Surat Basin coalfield. This is being developed by various exploration and development companies for gas extraction, coal seam methane gas water projects, open cut coal mining and underground burning of the coal to produce gas and associated products.

#### Chinchilla District

The Chinchilla District comprises of the previous Shire of Chinchilla and has an area of 8689 square kilometres and the town of Chinchilla is located 300 kilometres northwest of Brisbane and 160 kilometres from Toowoomba.

The major features of the natural environment relevant to natural disaster risk management are the river systems and the regional geology. The topography is generally flat to undulating.

An annual problem occurring during the summer months (November-March) and can occur in the major waterways including the Condamine River, Charleys, Wambo, Rocky, Branch and Hellhole Creeks.

#### Dalby and District Area

The Dalby and District Area is made up of the previous Council areas of the Dalby Town Council and Wambo Shire Council and has an area of 5759 sq.kms. The town of Dalby is

located 211 km. north west of Brisbane, is 84 km from Toowoomba and is the key centre of the northern Darling Downs, the corporate office is located in Dalby. Altitude is 347 metres above sea level. The topography of the Town and Environs is extremely flat rising in the north with steeper slopes in the north east to the western part of the Bunya Mountains.

The major features of the natural environment relevant to natural disaster risk management are the river systems and the regional geology.

Dalby is located in the floodplain of Myall Creek, an area characterised by low gradients with floodwaters being widespread. Natural drainage lines have been modified by urban and rural residential development.

A large part of Dalby and District is located in the floodplain of the Condamine River and that of its tributaries. These areas are characterised by low gradients with floodwaters being widespread. Natural drainage lines have been modified by farming. The implementation of the Upper Condamine Floodplain Management Plan has been successful in reducing and even reversing drainage modifications resulting from channels, levees and fences.

The soils in the area are also prone to erosion, but changes in farming practices to strip cropping in recent years have significantly reduced this problem.

Creek bed and bank erosion is a typical occurrence, and the previous Wambo Shire River Improvement Trust had limited funds with which to address this and other waterway management issues. The riparian zones along the watercourses provide significant flora and fauna corridors.

Creek bed and bank erosion is a typical occurrence. The riparian zones along the watercourses provide significant flora and fauna corridors.

There is some high ground,. Much of the land has been cleared for farming which is dominated by cropping (grains and cotton) and grazing. A coal open cut mine is located at Macalister within the Condamine River floodplain.

### Miles District

The Miles District is 11,828 sq. kms. and comprises of the previous Council areas of Murilla Shire 6,074 square kilometres and Division Two of the Taroom Shire 5,754 sq. kms.

Miles is located approximately 350 km west of Brisbane, at the crossroads of the Warrego and Leichhardt Highways.

Farming/Agriculture has traditionally formed the main industry in Murilla Shire, however, other industries have emerged in recent years (including bentonite mine and sawmilling, cattle and pig feedlot, tourism and development of the Surat Basin Energy Reserves.

The Condamine River is the main watercourse within the district with several smaller creeks feeding into it. The Miles District is exposed to flood with most towns being isolated periodically due to backwaters from these creeks. The period of isolation increases when the Condamine River floods and consequently the backwaters level also increases.

The northern part of the Miles District comprises of all of Division Two of the previous Taroom Shire and has as its centre the township of Wandoan.

The topography is mainly undulating with the crossing of the Great Dividing Range between Miles and Wandoan.

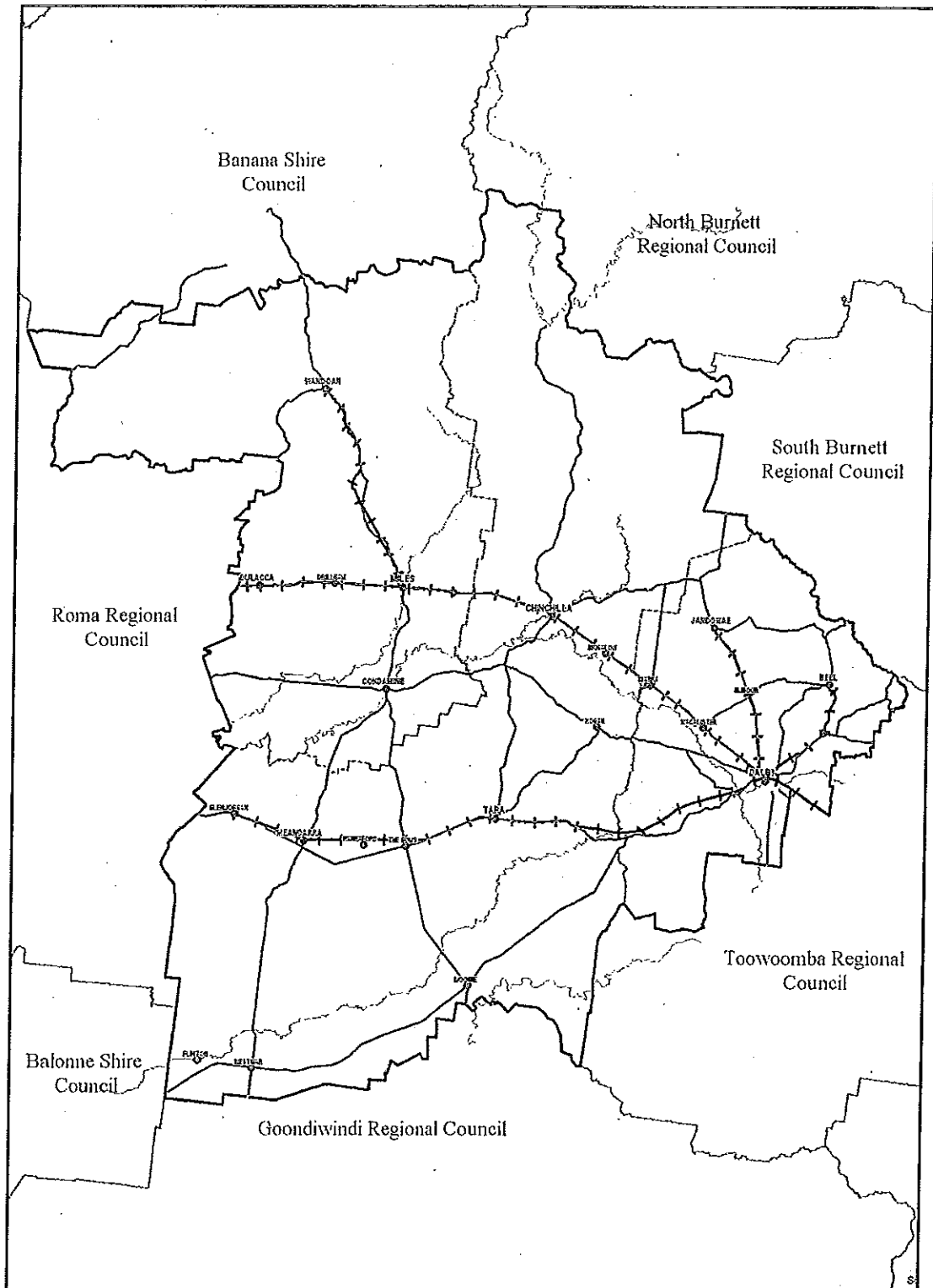
### Tara District

The Tara District is 11,661 sq.kms. and comprises of the previous Council area of Tara.

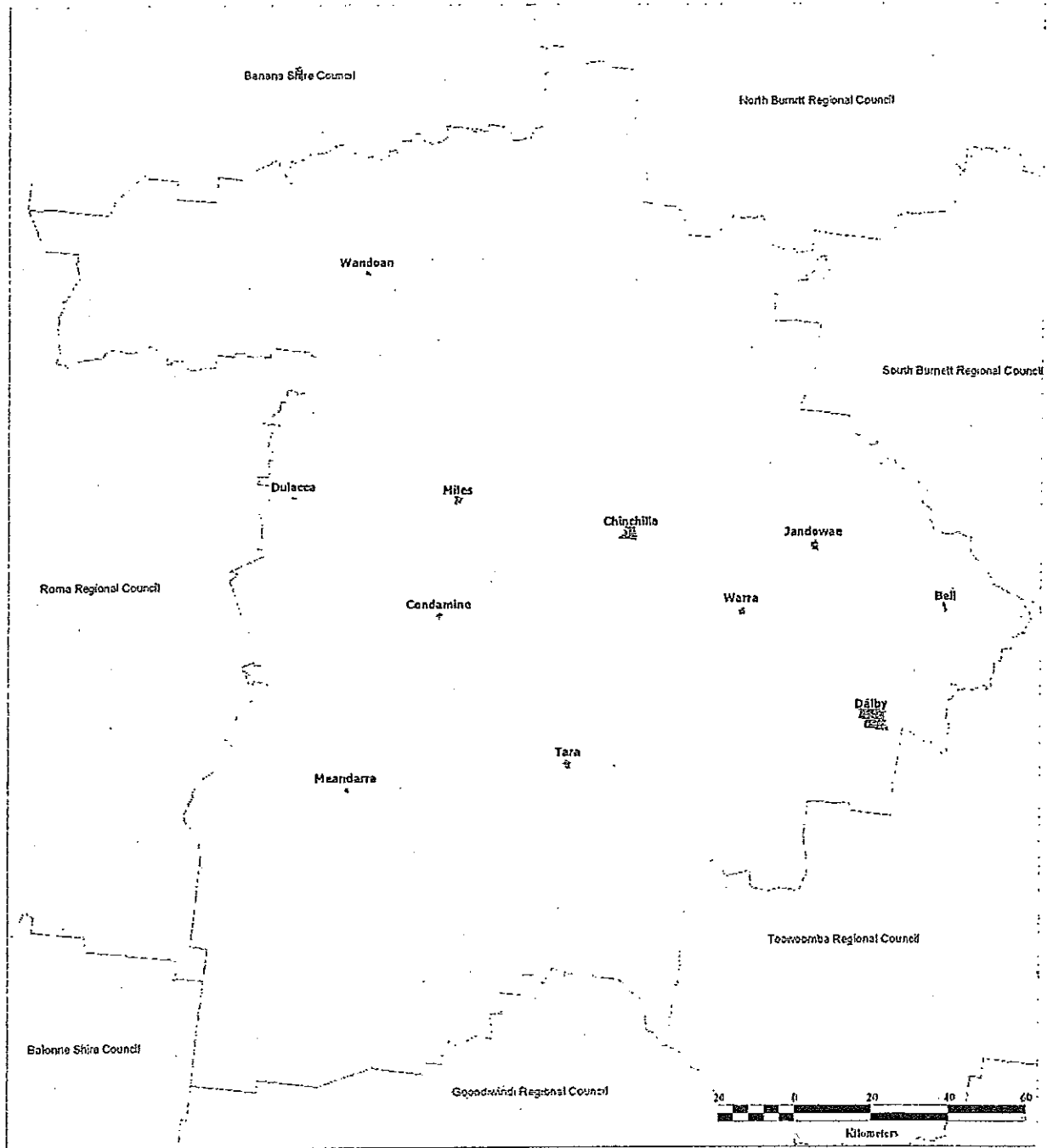
Tara District is located on the Western Downs at the headwaters of the Undulla Creek, Moonie River and Weir River Systems. A large "Rural Residential Subdivision Area" of approximately 2200 lots of principally 12 hectares is situated to the north and north-east of Tara.

The town of Tara has a history of periodic flooding in low lying areas, associated with heavy storm run-off rains. Communities within the District can also be isolated.

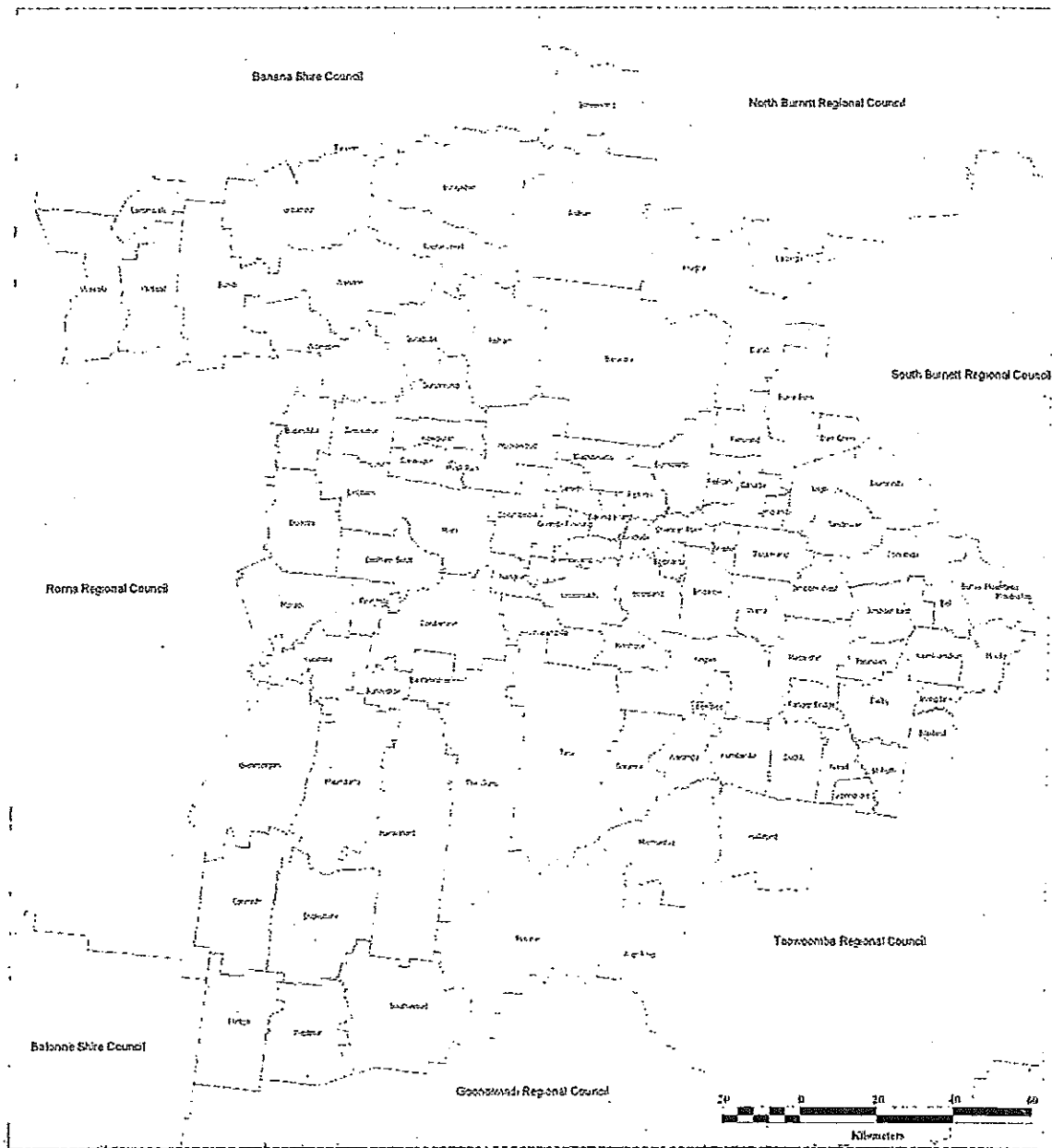
# Map of Western Downs Regional Council Area



# Western Downs Regional Council Main Population Areas



# Western Downs Regional Council Locality Map



## Climate and Weather

As the Western Downs Regional Council region lies between 220 and 430 km. inland from Brisbane at the latitude of 27.2°S, the climate is sub-tropical with most rain falling in the summer months. Whilst the climate influence is predominately southeast and southwest air flow, the area may be impacted occasionally by tropical cyclones passing close to or crossing the coast.

The average annual rainfalls and temperatures are as follows;

DISTRICT	AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL	AVERAGE MAX TEMP	AVERAGE MIN TEMP
Chinchilla	613 mm	25°C	8°C
Dalby	676 mm	27°C	12°C
Miles	650 mm	27°C	12°C
Tara	613 mm	31°C	17°C
Wandoan	672 mm	28°C	13°C

The above are average figures over a number of years and may vary quite significantly from year to year, for example for Dalby with monthly means ranging from 29mm in August to 94mm in December. The highest monthly rainfall recorded is 364mm (February) and the highest annual total is 1,273mm. The lowest monthly rainfall is zero (all months except November, December, and January) and the lowest annual total is 268mm.

The average monthly maximum temperatures for Dalby and environs range between 31.6°C in January to 18.6°C in July.

The average monthly minimum temperatures for Dalby and environs range between 18.8°C in January to 4.4°C in July.

It is not uncommon to experience temperatures down to zero and above 35°C.

## Population

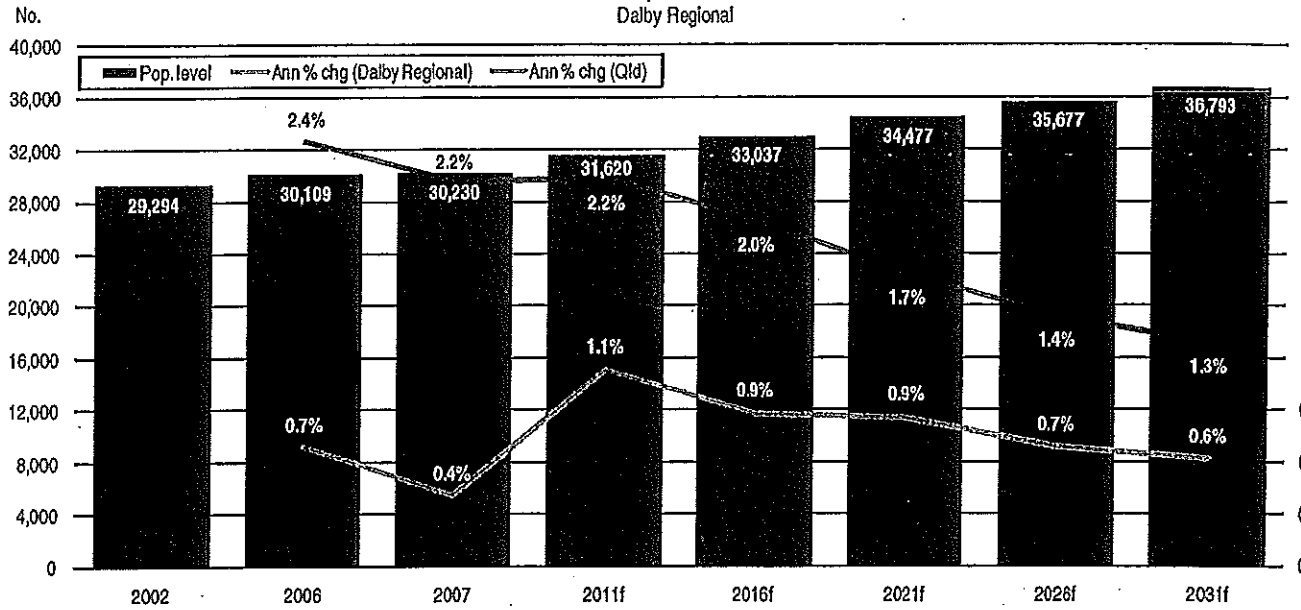
The estimated resident population of Western Downs Regional LGA was 30,230 in June 2007, an increase of 121 persons from the level recorded in June 2006. This represented growth of 0.4% over the year to June 2007, which was lower than the average growth for Queensland (2.2%).

Over the past five years, Western Downs Regional LGA has experienced an increase in population of 936 persons, representing average annual growth of 0.6%. This again was lower than the average annual population growth for Queensland (2.4%) over the same period.

Over the period to 2031, the population of Western Downs Regional Council is expected to increase by 6,563 persons – or an average annual rate of 0.8% – to a population of approximately 36,793 persons. The growth rate for Western Downs Regional Council LGA is lower than that forecast for Queensland (1.7%).

In 2007, Dalby Regional LGA accounted for 0.7% of the population of Queensland; by 2031, this share is projected to decrease slightly to 0.6%.

Population  
Dalby Regional



Note: f = forecast

Source: ABS 3218.0, Dept of Infrastructure & Planning, OESR

Estimated Residential Population					
	Level 2007	Ann % chg	5-Year Ann % chg	Level 2031	Avg Ann Growth, 2007-31
Dalby	10,423	0.6	0.7	12,158	0.7
Jandowae	812	1.1	1.0	1,017	1.0
<b>Dalby District</b>	<b>16,011</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>19,734</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Chinchilla	4,007	1.1	1.0	4,935	1.0
<b>Chinchilla District</b>	<b>6,371</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>7,873</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Miles	1,265	0.7	0.8	1,639	1.2
Wandoan	406	0.2	1.0	583	1.7
<b>Miles District</b>	<b>3,971</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>5,053</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Tara	858	-0.5	-0.2	974	0.5
<b>Tara District</b>	<b>3,877</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>4,133</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Dalby Regional</b>	<b>30,230</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>36,793</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Queensland	4,181,431	2.2	2.4	6,273,885	1.7

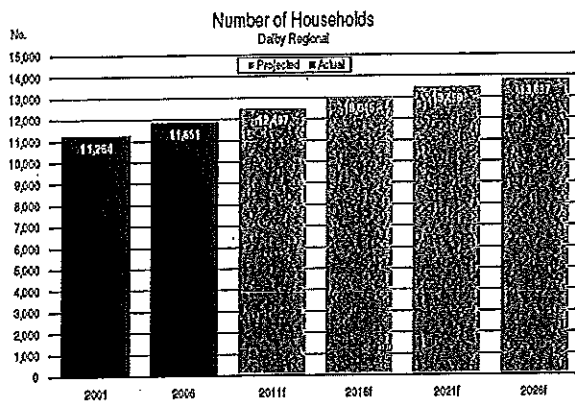
Source: ABS 3218.0, Dept of Infrastructure & Planning, OESR



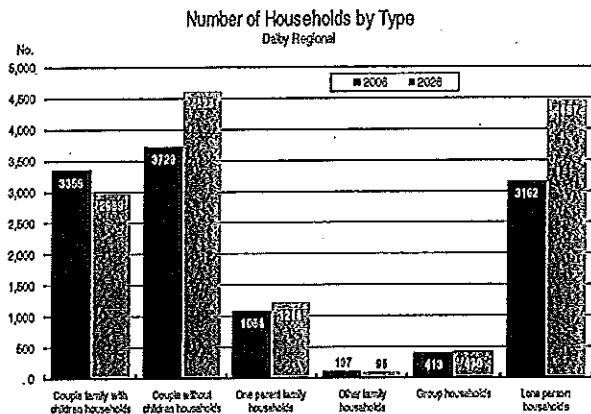
## Household Projections

Household projections to the year 2026 indicate that the number of households in the Western Downs Regional LGA will increase from 11,851 households in 2006 to 13,387 in 2026. This represents a total increase of 1,986 households, or an average annual increase of 0.8% over the period, which is lower than the average for Queensland over the same period (1.7%).

With regard to household type, lone person households will experience the largest percentage growth over the period from 2006 to 2026, increasing on average annually by 1.8%. Couple households without children (1.1%) and one parent family households (0.6%) are forecast to have the next highest average annual increases.



Source: Dept of Infrastructure & Planning, Lawrence Consulting



Source: Dept of Infrastructure & Planning, Lawrence Consulting

The predominant language spoken in the Region is English in 94% of the homes, other languages spoken are quite varied.

### Chinchilla District

The Chinchilla District population is 6,371 (2007 figure) with Chinchilla town having a population of 4007.

### Dalby and District

Dalby District has an approximate population of 16,011 (2007 figure) with Dalby Town having a population of 10,500.

In Dalby town the age profile is 0-4 years 8.4% and over 65 years 16.8% with a median age of 33 years. In the surrounding rural area the 0-4 years and over 65 years age groups represent 7.2% and 11.2% of the total population respectively.

### Miles District

The Miles District population is 3,971 (2007 figure) comprising of the previous Councils of Murilla 2,771 (2007 figure) and Taroom Division 2 1,200 (2007 figure). Miles town has a population of 1,265.

### Tara District

The Tara District population is 3,877 (2007 figure) with Tara town having a population of 858.

An approximate break up for the main population centres is;

TOWN	ESTIMATED POPULATION (2007 Figures)	TOWN	ESTIMATED POPULATION (2007 Figures)
Chinchilla	4007	Flinton	30
Condamine	250	Miles	1265
Westmar	18	Drilham	55
Moonie	50	Dulacca	250
Tara	858	Macalister	40
The Gums	20	Jimbour	60
Meandarra	260	Jandowae	812
Glenmorgan	50	Kaimkillenbun	70
Kumbarilla		Guluguba	15
Dalby	10,423	Wandoan	406
Kogan	79	Bell	352
Warra	145	Brigalow	65

### Community Capacity

Businesses in the region have begun to diversify from traditional markets in the agricultural sector into components, parts and services for the energy sector. Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing dominates the economy, representing 22.6% of the Regional Council's \$1.3 billion GRP (2006/07). Despite the region's food processing sector holding competitive advantages over other Queensland and Australian regions in meat, grains and horticultural production, Agriculture declined by over 20% on 2005/06 GRP. Strong growth and development is evident across the region in Electricity, Gas and Water Supply, up 30.3% to \$41.7 million while Professional Services, Transport and Manufacturing also experienced greater than 15% annual growth. The energy resources sector, which comprises coal, coal seam gas, coal seam gas water, ethanol and power station development, has the potential to more than triple the gross regional product.

Almost 10% of the Manufacturing GRP in Queensland is within Western Downs Regional Council, a significant and growing contribution to Queensland's economy. Western Downs Regional Council has industry concentration and therefore net exports of goods and services in the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; Mining; Electricity, Gas, Water & Wastes Services and Construction sectors.

Within this growing economy, increased pressures on the labour market are reflected in low unemployment figures. The Western Downs Regional Council unemployment rate for the June Quarter 2008 was 3.1%, lower than Queensland (3.7%) and Australia (4.2%). Employed persons make up over half (53.8%) of the population, increasing in line with projected population growth of 0.8% average annual change.

Within this culture of change, residents in Western Downs Regional Council enjoy the benefits of country living, friendly and active communities without the pressures of time or traffic experienced in city environments. The median house price in the Western Downs Regional Council was \$225,000 in the year to June 2008, an increase of 7.7%. Despite increased median value of 176.3% over the past 5 years, Western Downs Regional Council's median house price is approximately 54.5% below those in the Brisbane metropolitan area and compare favourably with median house prices in Toowoomba, Lockyer Valley, Goondiwindi and South Burnett Regional Council's.

Residential building approvals decreased 52.4% in comparison to the previous year while total value decreased 40.8%. Significantly however, the average value of dwelling approvals for new houses increased 14.7% over the previous year and 53.6% since 2003-04. The total value of residential building approvals in the Western Downs Regional Council in the year to June Quarter 2008 was approximately \$22.6 million.

As the region's economy builds, residents are expected to benefit from the opportunities and development occurring within local communities and industry. Western Downs Regional Council, a proud region united by opportunity and lifestyle.

The Region has two main shopping and business/commercial centres at Dalby and Chinchilla servicing the community. Smaller centres are located at Miles and Tara with the local townships having general stores etc.

The major towns in the Region cater for local needs and contain shopping facilities, Council Customer Service Centres, hospitals, retirement villages, primary and secondary schools, sporting facilities and churches.

Western Downs Regional Council Corporate Office is located at 107 Drayton Street, Dalby, with Customer Service Centres located at Chinchilla, Miles, Tara and Engineering Services at 26 Wood Street, Dalby.

The Council has four main depots which are located at Dalby (Dalby-Jandowae Road), Chinchilla (cnr. Canaga and Railway St), Miles (Leichhardt Hwy) and Tara (Beardmore St). Smaller depots are located at Condamine, Meandarra, Wandoan, Jandowae, Bell, parks depot Dalby and a camp at Westmar.

Police Stations are located at Dalby, Bell, Jandowae, Chinchilla, Miles, Warra, Wandoan, Tara, and Meandarra.

Broadcast radio and TV services are provided from studios in Toowoomba and Roma, there is a community radio operating in Dalby.

The traditional telecommunications system comprises mainly underground cables and telephone exchanges operated by Telstra.

Many of the private UHF and VHF networks such as taxis, police, emergency services, council, etc. operate from local base stations with transmission aerials located at various sites throughout the Region with the main transmission towers at Dalby, Mt. Mowbullian, Jandowae, Chinchilla, Miles, Durabilla, Weranga and Tara.

The Western Downs Regional Council community is not self sufficient, it depends on outside sources for its food, energy and material requirements. Such dependence imposes limits to the community resilience.

## **Industry**

Dalby and Chinchilla are the main shopping and business/commercial centres servicing the Western Downs Regional Council Region. The Region comprises of rich agricultural land for both crop and meat production.

Crops grown locally include cotton, sorghum, wheat, barley, sunflowers, chickpeas, maize and mung beans. Meat production includes beef, lamb and pork.

The grain receiving depot in Dalby is the largest in Queensland, and Dalby also holds the largest one-day livestock market in Australia.

There are also significant local industrial and agricultural manufacturing facilities in Dalby. There is a growing tourism industry in the region with attractions such as the Australian Cotton Week Festival, Chinchilla Melon Festival and local wineries.

Coal is mined at Macalister and a number of other mines are proposed in the region, the largest being proposed by Xstrata at Wandoan. There is a developing industry with the coal seam methane gas and liquid natural gas with the associated pipeline to Gladstone as well as the Surat Basin Rail Project from Wandoan to Gladstone. A bio refinery is operating in Dalby.

Power stations are located at Braemar and Kogan with others currently under construction.

### **Mining, Exploration and Construction Residential Camps**

With the exploration and development of the mining, gas and associated industries there are numerous residential camps established for both exploration and construction purposes.

These camps are of varying size ranging from 200 to 500 residents. The camps may be established for short or long term and generally do not require Council approval. This is of concern as the numbers of personnel living in isolated camps is not known and would be at threat in the event of a major bushfire. A protocol is to be established to require the industry to advise Council prior to the setting up of these camps.

### **Public and Other Major Buildings, Spaces, and Events**

Throughout the Region there are a number of public and other major buildings, open spaces, major events etc including:

#### *Public and Other Buildings*

##### **Chinchilla District**

- Chinchilla Customer Service Centre;
- Chinchilla Police Station;
- Chinchilla Court House;
- Cultural Centre; and
- Aquatic and Fitness Centre.

##### **Dalby Urban and Rural District**

- Dalby Regional Corporate Office;
- Dalby Cultural Centre;
- Engineering Customer Service Centre, Wood Street Dalby;
- Dalby Police Station and Court House;
- DPI Fisheries;
- Jandowae Community and Cultural Centre; and
- Dalby PCYC.

##### **Miles District**

- Miles Customer Service Centre;
- Dogwood Crossing;
- Miles Police Station;
- Miles Historical Village;
- Miles Diggers Complex; and
- Wandoan Cultural Centre.

#### Tara District

- Tara Customer Service Centre;
- Tara Police Station;
- Tara Memorial Hall; and
- Tara CWA Building.

#### *Major Public Spaces*

Throughout the Region there are a number of major public open spaces as listed below;

#### Chinchilla District

- Chinchilla Showgrounds;
- Chinchilla Racecourse;
- Chinchilla Recreation Reserve; and
- Chinchilla Football Ground.

#### Dalby Urban and Rural District

- Dalby, Bell and Jandowae Showgrounds;
- Dalby, Bell, Jandowae, and Warra Racecourses; and
- Thomas Jack Park, Dalby.

#### Miles District

- Showgrounds at Miles and Wandoan;
- Centenary Oval Miles; and
- Racecourses at Miles and Wandoan.

#### Tara District

- Jack Chappel Memorial Oval, Tara;
- Dillon Park, Meandarra;
- Moonie recreation Reserve;
- Glenmorgan Recreation Reserve; and
- The Gums Recreation Reserve.

#### **Special Events**

Throughout the Region there are a number of special events held including racecourse race days, Australia Day Celebrations and other events as listed below:

#### Chinchilla District

- Chinchilla Melon Festival;
- Chinchilla Show;
- Chinchilla race days;
- Chinchilla Camp Draft; and
- May Day Celebrations.

#### Dalby Urban and Rural District

- Dalby, Bell and Jandowae Shows;
- Dalby Cotton Week;
- Functions at Jimbour House;
- Jandowae Timber Town Festival;
- Stock Horse Sales Dalby Showgrounds; and
- Numerous events at the Dalby Showgrounds.

#### Miles District

- Miles and Wandoan Shows;
- Race days at Miles and Wandoan; and
- Historical Village Foundation Day.

#### Tara District

- Tara Show; and
- Multi Cultural Festival

#### Local Infrastructure

- Dalby Airport, Chinchilla Airport;
- Airstrips at Miles, Tara, Moonie, Meandarra and Wandoan;
- Warrego Highway, Bunya Highway, Moonie Highway, Condamine Highway and the Leichhardt Highway;
- Queensland Rail links to the east and west;
- Jimbour Quarry;
- Dalby Urban and Rural District has:
  - 2562 km of road network including 984 km of unsealed and 315 km of formation only;
  - 14 road and pedestrian bridges;
  - 46 km of bikeways/footways;
  - 4244 Ha. recreational parks and reserves;
  - 55 km of underground drainage;
  - 21 km lined and unlined drains;
  - 204 km water supply pipelines; and
  - 96 km sewerage pipelines.
- Chinchilla District has:
  - 2485 km of road network including 1717 km of unsealed;
  - 15 road and pedestrian bridges;
  - 26 Ha. recreational parks and reserves;
  - xxx km of underground drainage;
  - xx km lined and unlined drains;
  - 78 km water supply pipelines; and
  - 47 km sewerage pipelines.
- Miles District has:
  - 1073 km of road network including 611 km of unsealed and 234 km of formation only;
  - 5 road and pedestrian bridges;
  - 11 km of bikeways/footways;
  - 178 Ha. recreational parks and reserves;
  - 3 km of underground drainage;
  - 28 km lined and unlined drains;
  - 34 km water supply pipelines; and
  - 14 km sewerage pipelines
- Tara District has:
  - 2325 km of road network including 1310 km of unsealed and 126 km of formation only;
  - 11 road and pedestrian bridges;
  - 8 km of bikeways/footways;
  - 5 Ha. maintained parks;
  - 4 km of underground drainage;
  - 1 km lined and unlined drains;
  - 26 km water supply pipelines; and
  - 35 km sewerage pipelines.

- Wandoan area has:
  - 923 km of road network including 310 km of unsealed and 350 km of formation only;
  - 14 road and pedestrian bridges;
  - 1 km of bikeways/footways;
  - 88 Ha. recreational parks and reserves;
  - 2.4 km of underground drainage;
  - 2 km lined and unlined drains;
  - 19 km water supply pipelines; and
  - 12 km sewerage pipelines.

## Essential Services

### Power Supply

- The main source of electrical power supply is from the Queensland grid, which is supplied primarily from base-load power stations at Swanbank, Tarong, Callide, Stanwell and Gladstone. The power station at Wivenhoe Dam and the Braemar Power station provide peak load capacity.

Powerlink Queensland is the operator of the high voltage transmission lines that supply the area. Ergon Energy is the operator of the reticulation network, which provides power to consumers.

### Telecommunications

- The traditional telephone communications system comprises mostly underground cables and telephone exchanges operated by Telstra.

Recent additions to the telecommunications infrastructure are a number of mobile telephone towers, which are operated by Telstra, Optus, and other service providers.

### Water Supply

- The Dalby town water supply includes 13 bores, one weir, a treatment plant, 8.18 km of rising main, two low level reservoirs, one high service pump station, two elevated reservoirs and 168 km of distribution mains;
- Miles town water supply includes 1 bore, 2 weirs on Dogwood Creek, a treatment plant, 3.9 km of rising main, 2 low level reservoirs, 1 high service pump station, 1 elevated reservoirs and 17.9 km of distribution mains;
- Chinchilla town water supply includes 2 weirs on Condamine River and Charley's Creek, a treatment plant, 10.2 km of rising main, 3 low level reservoirs, 2 high service pump stations, 1 elevated reservoir and 58.8 km of distribution mains;
- Tara town water supply includes 3 bores, a treatment plant, 1.7 km of rising main, 1 low level reservoir, 1 high service pump station, 1 elevated reservoir and 10.9 km of distribution mains; and
- Potable water supply for each of the smaller townships is drawn from local watercourses and bores.

### Sewerage and Sewerage Treatment

- The wastewater scheme for Dalby town services approximately 3,800 premises through 82 km of gravity sewers, 8 sewerage pump stations, 2.57km of rising main and the Dalby Wastewater Treatment Plant. The treatment plant currently processes approximately 2.5ML/day. The current long term projection is that this flow will not grow above the plant's nominal capacity of 3ML/day within the next ten years unless there is a major change in the Town's demographics;

- The wastewater scheme for Chinchilla town services approximately 2,180 premises through 43.3 km of gravity sewers, 7 sewerage pump stations, 4.3km of rising main and the Chinchilla Wastewater Treatment Plant. The treatment plant currently processes approximately 0.7ML/day;
- The wastewater scheme for Miles town services approximately 550 premises through 10.7 km of gravity sewers, 4 sewerage pump stations, 3.5km of rising main and the Miles Wastewater Treatment Plant. The treatment plant currently processes approximately 0.3ML/day;
- The wastewater scheme for Tara town services approximately 386 premises through 7 km of gravity sewers, 1 sewerage pump station, 3.4km of rising main and the Tara Wastewater Treatment Plant. The treatment plant currently processes approximately 0.3ML/day;
- The smaller townships of Jandowae, Wandoan and Meandarra have reticulated sewerage systems. The remaining townships and rural properties having septic tank systems.

#### Gas Supply

- Reticulated gas supply is available to 75% of the Dalby town area serving approximately 3080 customers. Bottled LPG is used for the rest of the Region.

#### Critical Facilities

- The following emergency service facilities are available in the region:
  - Dalby Public hospital;
  - Jandowae Hospital;
  - Chinchilla Health Services;
  - Miles Health Services, Hospital;
  - Tara District Hospital;
  - Wandoan Health Services;
  - QAS at Chinchilla, Dalby, Tara, Miles; Wandoan, and Meandarra
  - SES depots at Dalby, Jandowae, Miles, Tara, Chinchilla, Condamine, Dulacca and Wandoan;
  - QPS at Chinchilla, Dalby, Bell, Jandowae, Miles; Wandoan, Tara and Meandarra; and
  - QFRS at Chinchilla, Dalby, Tara, Miles and Wandoan.

#### Hazardous Sites

- The Warrego, Bunya, and Moonie Highways and Queensland Rail links to the east and west all carry bulk hazardous substances in a variety of containers;
- There are major hardware stores located in the Dalby Region;
- Bulk grain storage silos are located at Dalby, Kaimkillinbun, Jimbour, Miles, Dulacca, Macalister and Jandowae;
- Gas transmission pipeline from Roma to Brisbane and Gas Gate Station;
- Numerous gas exploration wells;
- INCITEC Storage Depot (anhydrous ammonia);
- Major chemical stores (cotton);
- Aerodrome chemical store and contaminated wash down tanks; and
- Gurulmundi Secure Landfill.



## 2.2 Hazards

The *Dalby Natural Disaster Risk Management Report 2006* and *Dalby Natural Disaster Mitigation Plan 2006* were adopted by the previous Dalby Council in 2006.

The *Wambo Natural Disaster Risk Management Report 2006* and *Wambo Natural Disaster Mitigation Plan 2006* were adopted by the previous Wambo Shire Council.

The *Chinchilla Shire Natural Disaster Risk Management Report* was adopted by the previous Chinchilla Shire Council in.

The *Murilla Shire Natural Disaster Risk Management Report* was adopted by the previous Murilla Shire Council in 2002.

The previous Tara Shire Council adopted the *Tara Natural Disaster Risk Management Study* and the *Natural Disaster Mitigation* in 2002.

The studies were undertaken to provide updated information on natural disaster risks within the previous Council areas and took into consideration any earlier studies.

Studies were not undertaken in the previous Shire of Taroom.

A significant element of the process was the consideration of how a reduction in disaster risk can protect the community against loss of infrastructure, damage to the natural environment, compromised standard of living and economic failures brought about by disasters.

Other studies and relevant reports are:

- Dalby Flood Mitigation Update Dec. 2002;
- Dalby Council Myall Creek Flood Study June 2007 including a Planning Report;
- Dalby/Wambo Local Disaster Management Plan –2007;
- Planning Scheme for Wambo Shire 2005;
- Dalby Town Plan 2007; and
- AS/NZS 4360:2004 – Risk Management

The full documents can be viewed by contacting the Executive Officer for WDLDMG on 4672 1101.

The *Risk Management Record in Section 2.4* is a brief summary of identified risks to the Western Downs Regional Council Communities.

## **2.3 Risk Descriptors**

### **Vulnerable Sector**

The following are the sectors of Western Downs Regional Council that are at risk and are identified in the risk management record:

- People;
- Infrastructure and Property; and
- Environment

### **Potential Risk**

The potential risks to Western Downs Regional Council people, infrastructure, environment and economy are:

- Possible injury and fatalities;
- Infrastructure including private buildings damaged and destroyed;
- Damage to the environment; and
- Affect on the economy as a result of reduction in tourism and industry

### **Likelihood**

The likelihood of the event occurring in Annual Recurrence Interval (ARI):

- A – almost certain ARI 10;
- B – likely ARI 50;
- C – possible ARI 100;
- D – unlikely ARI 500; and
- E – rare ARI 1000

### **Consequence**

The following are the potential risk scenarios of a disaster on Western Downs Regional Council:

#### **Insignificant Risk**

- No fatalities;
- Medical treatment required;
- Small number displaced for a short period, some damage;
- Little disruption to the community;
- Some impact on the environment, with no lasting effects; and
- Some financial loss.

#### **Minor Risk**

- Small number of fatalities;
- Hospitalisation required;
- Minor temporary displacement;
- Significant damage;
- Some community disruption;
- Serious impact on environment with no long term effects; and
- Significant financial loss.

### **Moderate Risk**

- Multiple fatalities;
- Numerous injuries requiring hospitalisation;
- Significant numbers displaced for short periods;
- Serious damage requiring some external assistance;
- Community functioning with difficulty;
- Severe impact on environment with long term effects; and
- Serious financial loss.

### **Major Risk**

- Numerous fatalities;
- Extensive injuries, with significant hospitalisation;
- Large numbers displaced for significant duration.;
- Severe damage that requires external resources;
- Community only partially functioning;
- Severe permanent damage to the environment; and
- Severe financial loss.

### **Catastrophic Risk**

- Mass fatalities;
- Large numbers requiring hospitalisation;
- General and widespread displacement for extended duration;
- Widespread extensive damage;
- Community unable to function;
- Widespread severe permanent damage to the environment; and
- Widespread severe financial loss.

## 2.4 Risk Management Record

Hazard	Vulnerable sector	Potential risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Level of risk	Action priority
Flood (20 yr ARI)	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure damaged, limited property flooding	Almost certain	Moderate	High	Highest
Flood (50 yr ARI)	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure damaged, Properties flooded	Likely	Major	Extreme	Highest
Flood (100 yr ARI))	People, infrastructure, environment	Severe infrastructure damage, buildings flooded, possible injuries	Possible	Major	High	Highest
Flood (PMF)	People, infrastructure, environment	Severe infrastructure damage, buildings flooded, possible injuries	Rare	Catastrophic	Moderate	
Severe Storm (ARI 50 YR)	People, infrastructure, environment	Property, buildings, infrastructure damaged	Likely	Minor	Moderate	
Severe Storm (ARI 100 yr)	People, infrastructure, environment	Property, buildings, infrastructure damaged	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	
Bushfire (major)	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure, property destroyed, people injured or fatalities	Likely	Minor	Moderate	Low
Earthquake	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure damaged or destroyed	Rare	Catastrophic	Moderate	
Landslip	People, infrastructure, environment	Infrastructure damaged or destroyed	Unlikely	Minor	Low	

Hazard	Vulnerable sector	Potential risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Level of risk	Action priority
Terrorist	People, infrastructure	Infrastructure destroyed, people injured or fatalities People may become ill, environmental damage	Rare	Major	High	
Hazardous Materials	People, infrastructure, environment	Major numbers hospitalised and fatalities	Possible	Minor	Moderate	
Disease Pandemic	People	Possible hospitalisation and fatalities	Rare	Catastrophic	High	
Heatwave	People	Infrastructure destroyed, people injured or fatalities	Likely	Minor	Moderate	
Power Station	People, infrastructure	Possible injuries, infrastructure and environmental damage	Unlikely	Major	Moderate	
Coal Mine Fire	People, infrastructure, environment	Possible injuries, infrastructure and environmental damage	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	
Coal Seam Methane Production Site	People, infrastructure	Possible injuries, infrastructure damage	Unlikely	Moderate	Low	

**NOTE: Risk Treatment Options for Natural Disasters, Risk Treatment Evaluation, Responsible Agency for Treatment, Consequential Actions and Implementation Timeframes are included in the earlier reports for the previous Dalby, Chinchilla, Murilla and Warro Councils.**

### 3. PREVENTION

#### 3.1 Building Codes and Building Use Regulations

In Western Downs Regional Council the following codes and regulations apply:

- *Building Code Australia;*
- *Building Act 1975;*
- *Building Standards Regulation 1993;*
- *Building Regulations 1991;*
- *Building Fire Safety Regulation;*
- *Body Corporate and Community Management Act;*
- *Building Units and Group Titles Act;*
- *Building and Other Legislation Amendment Act;*
- *Building Services Authority Act;*
- *Floodplain Management in Australia: best practice principles and guidelines;*
- *Queensland Development Code; and*
- *State Planning Policy 1/03 guideline: mitigating the adverse impacts of flood, bushfire and landslide*

#### 3.2 Legislation

In addition to the Disaster Management Act 2003 the following Acts are relevant to Western Downs Regional Council Disaster Management:

- *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966;*
- *Ambulance Service Act 1991;*
- *Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988;*
- *Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act 200;1*
- *Disaster Management Act 2003;*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994;*
- *Exotic Diseases in Animals Act 1981;*
- *Explosives Act 1999;*
- *Fire and Rescue Services Act 1990;*
- *Public Health Act 2005;*
- *Integrated Planning Act 1997;*
- *Land Act 1994;*
- *Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984;*
- *Local Government Act 1993;*
- *Native Title (Queensland) Act 1992;*
- *Nature Conservation Act 199;2*
- *Petroleum Act 1923;*
- *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986;*
- *Terrorism (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2002;*
- *Water Resources Act 1989;*
- *Water Act 2000; and*
- *Workplace Health and Safety (Miscellaneous) Regulation 1995*

### **3.3 Public Education**

*Section 30e Disaster Management Act 2003* requires Local Government to be involved in an education program "to 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".

The Western Downs Regional Council is committed to an ongoing public awareness campaign which satisfies the requirements of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and uses the *EMA Disaster Awareness and Education Resource Kit* as one of the source documents.

The following are methods and the medium the Western Downs Regional Council intends using to assist with promoting community awareness:

- BoM Weather Warnings;
- The WDLDMG encourages all members of the LDMG to provide public education programs in their area of responsibility;
- SES Group Leaders provide lectures to various organisations throughout the region;
- EMQ presentations;
- Brochures displayed and available in Council Customer Service Centres and Libraries;
- Articles in local newspapers and Council Newsletters;
- Dalby and Wambo Council web sites and media releases;
- Presentations to vulnerable communities; and
- Presentations to schools and community groups.

Refer also to **A.10 – Public Information and Warnings Operational Plan**.

### **3.4 Insurance Incentives/Disincentives**

It is considered this is an issue for the insurance industry with input from the WDLDMG through its members and the State Government. It may be possible to seek sponsorship from insurance companies to assist in education and incentive programs for mitigating the effects of potential hazards.

Some insurance companies require householders to seek assistance from the SES to secure and cover the damaged areas before they will process any insurance claims.

In a disaster there is significant impact on the whole community caused by under insured and non-insured properties.

### **3.5 Land-Use Management Initiatives**

Dalby Town Council adopted a new Planning Scheme in 2007, which includes reference to State Planning Policy *SP1/03 Guideline: Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide*.

Wambo Shire Council Planning Scheme;

Chinchilla Shire Council Planning Scheme;

Murilla Shire Council Planning Scheme;

Tara Shire Council Planning Scheme; and

Taroom Shire Planning Scheme

It is proposed to have a new Regional Council Planning Scheme adopted in 2010/2011.

### **3.6 Local Government Counter Terrorism Risk Management Guidelines**

The counter-terrorism risk assessment is to be carried out in accordance with *the Local Government Counter-terrorism Risk Management Kit* and the information can be obtained through the Executive Officer.



## 4. PREPAREDNESS

### 4.1 Event Coordination

Overall management of the coordinated response is the responsibility of the Executive Officer of the WDLDMG.

Coordination of the WDLGCC is the responsibility of the Executive Officer WDLDMG.

Activation at the WDLDMG shall be in response to a local event that demands a coordinated community response. The authority to activate the Western Downs Local Disaster Management Plan is vested in the Chair (or delegate) of the WDLDMG in consultation with the Executive Officer. It is the duty of the Chair or Executive Officer to inform the DDC and Area Director, EMQ regarding the Plans activation. The plan may also be activated at the request of the DDC.

The functions of the WDLGCC are:

- To co-ordinate Western Downs Regional Council and community resources in support of agencies involved in response and recovery operations;
- To co-ordinate additional resources allocated to Western Downs Regional Council area through the District Disaster Coordination Centre; and
- To coordinate the collection, collation and dissemination of information to the DDC and the community.

The Primary Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre will be located in the Senior Citizens Centre, corner of Condamine and Roche Streets Dalby.

Should this Centre be inoperable an alternate WDLGCC shall operate from the Western Downs Regional Council Corporate Office, 107 Drayton Street, Dalby or as designated by the Chair or Executive Officer WDLDMG.

If an event occurs that is contained to a Local District the coordination of the response will be at the Local Emergency Coordination Centre for that District. The main WDLGCC shall only be activated to standby mode with the Disaster Management Executive giving support as required.

For Activation of the main WDLGCC and the Standard Operating Procedures refer to **A.1 Activation of Western Downs LDMG Operational Plan** and **A.2 Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre Operational Plan**.

For the Standard Operating Procedures for the local districts refer to appendices;

- A. 2.1 Chinchilla District Local Emergency Coordination Centre;
- A. 2.2 Miles District Local Emergency Coordination Centre; and
- A. 2.3 Tara District Local Emergency Coordination Centre.

Communication procedures are included in **A.2 Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre Operational Plan**.

Local District Communications are identified in the local Standard Operating Procedures.

## **4.2 Warning Systems and Public Education**

The release of information to the community regarding the emergency and associated threats, will normally be approved by the Chair and distributed through the Media Liaison Officer after discussions with the Officer in Charge of the Lead Agency and the Executive Officer.

Refer to **Section 3.3 Public Education** in this plan, and also to **A.10 Public Information and Warnings Operational Plan**

## **4.3 Response Capability**

Western Downs Regional Council has the following resources available to respond to a disaster, a full list is included in **Appendix G – Resource List**.

- Human Resources
  - 160 Dalby District field staff;
  - 56 Chinchilla District field staff;
  - 63 Miles District field staff (incl. Wandoan);
  - 63 Tara District field staff;
  - 109 Dalby District administrative staff;
  - 26 Chinchilla District administrative staff;
  - 44 Miles District administrative staff (incl. Wandoan); and
  - 33 Tara District administrative staff.
  
- Equipment – includes chainsaws, concrete cutting saws, pumps, pneumatic hammers and a variety of hand operated tools usually associated with road construction or maintenance work; and
  
- Plant - ranges from small passenger vehicles to large trucks and trailers, low loaders and includes four-wheel drive and two-wheel drive utilities and small trucks. Other plant includes dozers, graders, backhoes and front-end-loaders.

If additional resources are required they shall initially be sourced through local suppliers that are:

- contracted to Council to provide a service or resource;
- are capable of providing the resources; and
- can support Council in responding to a disaster through the provision of resources

A list of all available resources is included in **A.11 Public Works and Engineering Operational Plan**.

#### **4.4 Exercises**

Every two years one or more of the following exercises shall be held:

- a table top exercise;
- a Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre exercise;
- a small scale exercise involving the SES and the testing of the WDLDC and District LDCC; and
- involvement in a District Disaster Exercise

The purpose of these exercises is to test the resource and response capabilities of the WDLDMG and other agencies, the resource *Measurement of Capability Table 4.3* shall be updated after each exercise.

#### 4.5 Measurement of Capability

The table below sets out a measurement of response capability. This may be achieved through operational activation or by the conduct of exercises.

Date	Type	Process or Event	Participants	Specific lessons learnt and reports	Opportunities for Improvement (Identify these in priority)	Action Plan (actions derived from lessons learnt)	Completion Date (for evaluation of implementation of Action Plan)

## 5. RESPONSE

The principle purpose of the emergency response is the preservation of life and property. Response is defined as the "actions taken in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an emergency to ensure that its effects are minimised, and that people affected are given immediate relief and support" (EMA 2004).

### 5.1 Activation

The authority to activate the Western Downs Local Disaster Management Plan is vested in the Chair (or delegate) of the Western Downs Local Disaster Management Group. It is the duty of the Chair to inform the DDC and Area Director EMQ regarding the Plan's activation.

Activation may occur as:

- As a response to a worsening situation; or
- At the request of the responsible Lead Agency (in situations where no prior warning is possible).

Activation of the WDLDMG is a five stage operation being Alert, Standby, Activation, Stand-down and Debrief. Activation of each stage shall be dependent upon the type of hazard situation. For example, an earthquake or terrorist attack may have an immediate major or catastrophic impact and will require Stage Three activation. A bushfire or flood may be a gradual build up and a staged activation is more likely.

***Refer to A.1 Activation of WDLDMG Operational Plan.***

The Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centres (WDLGCC) shall be activated by the Executive Officer of the WDLDMG.

For Activation and Operating Procedures refer to ***A.2 Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre Operational Plan.***

#### **Authority to Activate**

The authority to activate the Western Downs Local Disaster Management Plan is vested in the Chair (or delegate) of the WDLDMG. It is the duty of the Executive Officer to inform the DDC and Area Director EMQ regarding the Plan's activation.

The Plan provides the basis for the WDLDMG to coordinate the response to a disaster through various response authorities.

Those incidents of local concern, that can be responded to using local resources shall be managed by the Local Emergency Coordination Committee through the affected district's Local Emergency Operations Centre. The LEOC shall be activated by the relevant Customer Service Centre Manager.

When local resources are exhausted, the Dalby District Disaster Management Plan and State Disaster Management Plan provide for external resources to be made available, firstly from the District, and then secondly on a State-wide basis.

Only the Executive Officer and Chairperson are authorised to seek external resources through the DDC.

## 5.2 Accessing Support

In the WDLDC Council shall provide land line telephones, two way radios, desk space and administrative resources to agency liaison officers. Consideration is to be given to computer access at the WDLDC.

### Requests to District Disaster Management Group

- All requests to the DDC will go through either the Executive Officer or Chair of the WDLDMG or their delegate after confirming all available local resources have been exhausted.

### Support from external agencies (public & private)

- All of Council's preferred suppliers as per the list of suppliers held by the Procurement Officer. All emergency service providers both Government and Non-government agencies; and
- Support is requested through the agency Liaison Officers or via the usual Council procedures. Requests to the DDC are as described previously.

Should support be withdrawn for whatever reason all agencies affected shall be advised.

## 5.3 Operational Plans

Plans have been written for specific functions, refer to **Section 7 Appendices - Appendix A – Operational Plans:**

- *A.1 Activation of WDLDMG* – sets out the process for the activation of the WDLDMG.
  - *A.1.1 Activation of the Local Emergency Coordination Committee.*
- *A.2 Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre* – standard operating procedures for activating, staffing and management of the WDLDC during an event.
  - *A.2.1 Chinchilla District Local Emergency Operations Centre – Standard Operating Procedures for the LEOC.*
  - *A.2.2 Miles District Local Emergency Operations Centre – Standard Operating Procedures for the LEOC.*
  - *A.2.3 Tara District Local Emergency Operations Centre – Standard Operating Procedures for the LEOC.*
- *A.3 Financial Management* – establishes the procedure for purchasing, procurement and the process for tracking agency costs for response and recovery from a disaster.
- *A.4 Community Support* – includes the Community Support Sub Plan and provides procedures and processes to be used during both the response and recovery phase of an event.
  - *A.4.1 Chinchilla District Community Support and Evacuation Plan*
  - *A.4.1 Miles District Community Support and Evacuation Plan*
  - *A.4.1 Tara District Community Support and Evacuation Plan*

- *A.5 Evacuation* – this plan sets out the process for evacuation, who makes the decision, how it is activated, who gives direction to evacuate and to which centre.
- *A.6 Evacuation Centre Management* – establishes the roles and responsibilities for the opening up, staffing, registering and in general caring for evacuees.
- *A.7 Impact Assessment* – this plan provides the WDLDMG with the tools to carry out an initial and then a more detailed impact assessment on the effect of the disaster on infrastructure, private property and the people in the community.
- *A.8 Medical Services* – this Plan provides a list and contact details for medical support in Western Downs Regional Council area.
- *A.9 Public Health* – Councils Health Plan sets out the responsibilities of the Environmental Health Officer in the event of a disaster and the support given by Queensland Public Health.
- *A.10 Public Information and Warnings* – provides the guidelines for the public awareness and education programs undertaken by members of the WDLDMG and also the procedure for issuing warnings or advice pre, during or post event.
- *A.11 Public Works and Engineering* – protection and restoration of infrastructure before, during and after an event is paramount and this plan identifies key resources and assistance that can be deployed.
- *A.12 Transport* – transport plays a key role in a disaster in not only ensuring access to the area for response teams but also to evacuate people if required.
- *A.13 Logistics* – resource management, particularly of material resources, is an area that can cause extreme problems in response to a major event. This plan addresses the issues and provides process to be followed during a major event.

#### **5.4 Risk Treatment Arrangements**

As this Disaster Management Plan is based on the *all-hazards* approach there are no threat specific plans as such, each threat is responded to in a similar manner and the key to a successful operation is to manage the consequences of the event to produce the best outcome for the community.

The types of threat or disaster/emergency vary significantly and could be any of the following, severe storm, terrorism, exotic animal disease, bushfire, flood, oil spill, pollution, contamination of town water supply, major road/rail incident, etc. Each type of event will have its own special requirements however the response will be in accordance with the Main Plan and supporting Operational Plans.

The Operational Plans are applicable to all hazards and some or all of the Operational Plans would be implemented depending on the particular event.

Some specific Risk Treatment Arrangements should be prepared for specific risks.

Refer to *Appendix J Risk Treatment Arrangements*.

#### **5.5 Initial Impact Assessment**

The details of who carries out initial inspections and assessments, the procedures for reporting and action to be taken is set out in *A.7 Impact Assessment Operational Plan*.

## 6. RECOVERY

### 6.1 Recovery Principles

Recovery is a remedial and developmental process encompassing the following activities (the source document for Recovery is the *EMA Recovery Manual*):

- Regeneration of the emotional, social and physical well-being of individuals and communities;
- Reducing future exposure to hazards and associated risks;
- Reducing the consequences of the disaster on a community; and
- Taking opportunities to adapt to meet the physical, environmental, economic and psychosocial future needs of the community.

Disaster recovery is most effective:

- When management arrangements recognise that recovery from a disaster is a complex, dynamic and protracted process;
- When agreed plans and management arrangements are well understood by the community and all disaster management agencies;
- When community service and reconstruction agencies have input to key decision making;
- When conducted with the active participation of the affected community;
- When recovery managers are involved from initial briefing onwards;
- When recovery services are provided in timely, fair, equitable and flexible manner; and
- When supported by training programs and exercises.

### 6.2 Recovery Concepts

The major themes of the Recovery Concepts are:

- Community Involvement – recovery processes are most effective when affected communities actively participate in their own recovery;
- Local Level Management – recovery services should be managed to the extent possible at the local level;
- Affected Community – the identification of the affected community needs to include all those affected in any significant way whether defined by geographical location or as a dispersed population;
- Differing Effects – the ability of individuals, families and communities to recover depends upon capacity, specific circumstances of the event and its effects;
- Empowerment – recovery services should empower communities to manage their own recovery through support and maintenance of identity, dignity and autonomy;
- Resourcefulness – recognition needs to be given to the level of resourcefulness evident within an affected community and self-help should be encouraged;
- Responsiveness, Flexibility, Adaptability and Accountability – recovery services need to be responsive, flexible and adaptable to meet the rapidly changing environment, as well as being accountable;
- Integrated Services – integration of recovery service agencies, as well as with response agencies, is essential to avoid overlapping services and resource wastage;



- Coordination – recovery services are most effective when coordinated by a single agency; and
- Planned Withdrawal – planned and managed withdrawal of external services is essential to avoid gaps in service delivery and the perception of leaving before the task has been completed.

### 6.3 Recovery Components

There are four elements of recovery and all components are interdependent of each other and one cannot operate effectively without the others. The Recovery Plan considers in detail each component and addresses the issues identified:

- Community Recovery – families and individuals:
  - Community characteristics;
  - Resources necessary to assist in recovery;
  - What government agencies and non-government organisations would be necessary during recovery; and
  - What financial assistance is available to the community and how to access this financial assistance.
- Infrastructure Recovery – infrastructure and services:
  - Restoration of essential services;
  - Community access to services;
  - Facilitation of restoration of living conditions and security;
  - Prioritising the rebuilding of infrastructure and community lifelines;
  - How to communicate with the community; and
  - How to integrate arrangements with other agencies
- Economic Recovery – business continuity, Industry restoration:
  - What impact will the disaster have on business continuity and job security;
  - Who needs to be involved in rebuilding economic viability in the community; and
  - Management of damaged reputation regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Environmental Recovery – our natural surroundings:
  - Identification of Issues to be considered in managing environmental damage caused by the disaster; and
  - Identification of who should be involved in this process

### 6.4 Interim Recovery Arrangements

These arrangements are attached as *Appendix I – Interim Recovery Arrangements* and provide interim guidelines for recovery from a disaster event and actions the Council may take in the recovery process.

## **7. APPENDICES**

### **Appendix A – Operational Plans**

- A.1 Activation of Western Downs Local Disaster Management Group*
  - A. 1.1 Activation of the Local Emergency Coordination Committee*
- A.2 Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre*
  - A.2.1 Chinchilla District Local Emergency Operations Centre*
  - A.2.2 Miles District Local Emergency Operations Centre*
  - A.2.3 Tara Local Emergency Operations Centre*
- A.3 Financial Management*
- A.4 Community Support*
  - A.4.1 Chinchilla District Community Support and Evacuation Plan*
  - A.4.2 Miles District Community Support and Evacuation Plan*
  - A.4.3 Tara District Community Support and Evacuation Plan*
- A.5 Evacuation*
- A.6 Evacuation Centre Management*
- A.7 Impact Assessment*
- A.8 Medical Services*
- A.9 Public Health*
- A.10 Public Information and Warnings*
- A.11 Public Works and Engineering*
- A.12 Transport*
- A.13 Logistics*

### **Appendix B – Roles and Responsibilities of WDLDMG Members**

### **Appendix C – Distribution List**

### **Appendix D – Definitions**

### **Appendix E– Abbreviations**

### **Appendix F – WDLDMG Contact Directory**

### **Appendix G – Resources List**

### **Appendix H – Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Appendix I – Interim Recovery Arrangements**

### **Appendix J – Risk Treatment Arrangements**