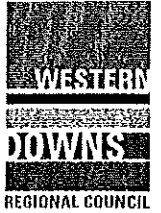


Customer Service 1300 728 500  
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## Media Release 20 December 2010

### Flood waters to peak at 3 metres in Dalby

Dalby's Myall Creek is expected to peak at three metres this morning between 10am and 12pm causing moderate flooding to the town.

"Flood waters are currently at 2.4 metres and on the rise. At a peak of three metres the water will be one metre over the Patrick Street Bridge which is already cut. However, the flood waters are not expected to affect the Charles Drew Bridge," said Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown.

"At this stage no homes will require evacuation; however residents living along the Myall Creek are encouraged to move vehicles to the Dalby Showgrounds to avoid flood damage.

"Motorists are urged check Council's and the Main Roads websites for road closures before travelling and asked not to attempt to cross flooded roadways," he said.

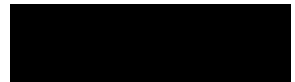
Council has activated its Flood Coordination Centre, residents seeking more information can call 4662 6666.

The next flood update will be issued at 10.30am.

**Media Contact:**



Strategy and Communications Manager



QFCI

Date:

20/4/11 <sup>Jm</sup>

Exhibit Number:

132





## Media Alert

20 December 2010 – Issued 1.35pm

### Dalby in Moderate Flood

Western Downs Regional Council continues to closely monitor steadily rising flood waters in Dalby with the Myall Creek expected to peak at 3.5 metres this afternoon.

"The level of the Myall Creek is currently 2.94 metres and the latest Bureau of Meteorology warning predicts a maximum peak of 3.5 metres later this afternoon, which will see water 1.5 metres over the Patrick Street Bridge," said Council's spokesperson for Community Services Cr Charlene Hall.

"The Warrego Highway remains open with the Charles Drew Bridge open to east and west bound traffic. The Charles Drew Bridge will remain open unless the current flood conditions change.

"Due to the extreme danger of swift water, debris and snakes Council strongly urges the public not to enter flood waters. Motorists are also asked to adhere to signed road closures for their safety and restrict road travel to emergencies only.

"Council encourages residents living along the Myall Creek to remain cautious and move vehicles to the Dalby Showgrounds or the Dalby Leagues Club to avoid flood damage," Cr Hall said.

Council is working closely with local Police and SES to monitor the flood conditions and will keep the community updated with regular media updates.

Flood waters across the region are also being monitored and the latest advice is that levels of the Condamine River and Charleys Creek are not a threat to the town of Chinchilla.

▪ Dalby services currently affected by flooding include:

All Dalby and District Landfills are closed to all access  
Both Dalby Shoppingworld car parks are closed

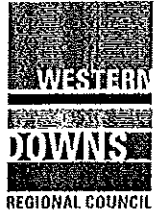
▪ Current Dalby and District road closures:

Branch Creek Road  
Edward Street Weir  
Patrick Street Bridge  
Dalby Cooyar (Myall Creek, Smoothies Bridge)  
Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)  
Dalby Jandowae (Jimbour Creek)  
Wilds Road  
Blaxland Irvingdale Road (Myall Creek)  
Dalby Nungil Road (Irvingdale Road, Myall Creek)  
Dalby Kogan Road (Wilkie Creek)  
Jimbour – Cooranga North Road (Bowen Creek)

▪ The next flood update will be issued at 4pm

For further information or assistance residents can contact the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666.





## Media Alert

20 December 2010 – Issued 2.30pm

### New Flood Peak Prediction for Dalby

Western Downs Regional Council confirms that Dalby town remains on flood alert with the latest Bureau of Meteorology warning predicting a 3.5 metre peak of the Myall Creek.

"The Myall Creek is currently at 2.6 metres and is expected to rise rapidly as it heads toward a peak of 3.5 metres at 3pm this afternoon," said Council's spokesperson for Community Services Cr Charlene Hall.

"At the peak, water will be 1.5 metres over the Patrick Street Bridge, and homes in low lying areas along Myall Creek are now on evacuation alert.

"Residents living along the Myall Creek are encouraged to move vehicles to the Dalby Showgrounds to avoid flood damage and motorists are asked to adhere to signed road closures for their safety," Cr Hall said.

Council is working closely with local Police and SES to monitor the flood conditions and will keep the community updated with regular media updates.

~~Residents are urged not to enter flood waters due to the extreme danger of swift water, debris and snakes~~

With flood waters affecting the region, levels of the Condamine River and Charleys Creek in Chinchilla are also under observation with further updates expected later this afternoon.

- Dalby services currently affected by flooding include:

All Dalby and District Landfills are closed to all access  
Both Dalby Shoppingworld car parks are closed

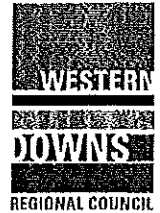
- Current Dalby and District road closures:

Branch Creek Road  
Edward Street Weir  
Patrick Street Bridge  
Dalby Cooyar (Myall Creek, Smoothies Bridge)  
Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)  
Dalby Jandowae (Jimbour Creek)  
Wilds Road  
Blaxland Irvingdale Road (Myall Creek)  
Dalby Nungil Road (Irvingdale Road, Myall Creek)

- The next flood update will be issued at 2.30pm

For further information or assistance residents can contact the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666.





## Media Alert

20 December 2010 – Issued 4pm

### Dalby flood waters hold steady

Flood waters in Dalby have held at three metres for the last two hours and the Bureau of Meteorology have now issued a revised maximum peak of 3.2 metres at Myall Creek later this afternoon.

"Council has been monitoring flood levels within the Myall Creek catchment area since the early hours of this morning. It now appears that the record peak at Clydesdale hasn't made the expected impact downstream with Myall Creek to peak at 3.2 metres," said Council's spokesperson for Community Services Cr Charlene Hall.

"At this level, no evacuations are expected and residents are urged to stay in their homes and restrict road travel to emergencies only.

"Even at three metres there is still an incredible amount of water throughout the town and Council urges residents to stay clear of flood waters due to the danger of swift water, debris and snakes.

"Council's Disaster Coordination Centre will remain open until 9pm this evening and residents in need of crisis accommodation, flood assistance or information should call 4662 6666," Cr Hall said.

The Warrego Highway remains open with the Charles Drew Bridge open to east and west bound traffic. The Charles Drew Bridge will remain open unless the current flood conditions change.

The Dalby Showgrounds and the Dalby Leagues Club are available to residents to move vehicles in order to avoid the risk of flood damage.

Council is working closely with local Police and SES to monitor the flood conditions overnight and will keep the community updated with media updates as required.

- Dalby services currently affected by flooding include:

- Ergon Energy advises power outages to 78 customers at Trinity Green, Catherine Street, James Cook Drive and the Dalby Bowls Club
- All Dalby and District Landfills are closed to all access
- Both Dalby Shoppingworld car parks are closed

- Current Dalby and District road closures:

- Branch Creek Road
- Edward Street Weir
- Patrick Street Bridge
- Dalby Cooyar (Myall Creek, Smoothies Bridge)
- Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)
- Dalby Jandowae (Jimbour Creek)
- Wilds Road
- Blaxland Irvingdale Road (Myall Creek)
- Dalby Nungil Road (Irvingdale Road, Myall Creek)
- Dalby Kogan Road (Wilkie Creek)
- Jimbour – Cooranga North Road (Bowen Creek)
- Condamine Highway (Condamine to Kogan closed)

- The next flood update will be issued at 6pm

For further information or assistance residents can contact the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666.





## Media Alert

20 December 2010 – Issued 6.30pm

### Dalby flood peak not declared

Western Downs Regional Council continues to monitor flood waters in Dalby that have held at three metres for the last four hours.

"Until the water starts to fall the flood peak in Dalby will not be declared. At this stage the maximum peak is not expected to rise above 3.2 metres and this could take several hours," said Council's spokesperson for Community Services Cr Charlene Hall.

"While no evacuations are expected, Council's Disaster Coordination Centre will remain open until 9pm this evening to provide assistance and information to residents.

"Nightfall will bring a new level of danger and residents are strongly urged to stay in their homes, away from flood waters and restrict road travel to emergencies only.

"Council crews, local SES and Emergency Management Queensland will continue to closely monitor flood waters overnight and ask that the public stay home and stay safe," Cr Hall said.

Flood waters across the region are also being closely monitored with the latest road closure being the Warrego Highway at Warra. Charley's Creek continues to rise however is not threatening Chinchilla at this stage.

The Warrego Highway remains open with the Charles Drew Bridge open to east and west bound traffic.

Residents in need of crisis accommodation, flood assistance or information are asked to call 4662 6666.

Council is working closely with local Police and SES to monitor the flood conditions overnight and will keep the community updated with media updates as required.

▪ Dalby services currently affected by flooding include:

Ergon Energy advises power outages to 78 customers at Trinity Green, Catherine Street, James Cook Drive and the Dalby Bowls Club  
All Dalby and District Landfills are closed to all access  
Both Dalby Shoppingworld car parks are closed

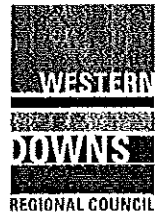
▪ Current Dalby and District road closures:

Branch Creek Road  
Edward Street Weir  
Patrick Street Bridge  
Dalby Cooyar (Myall Creek, Smoothies Bridge)  
Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)  
Dalby Jandowae (Jimbour Creek)  
Wilds Road  
Blaxland Irvingdale Road (Myall Creek)  
Dalby Nungil Road (Irvingdale Road, Myall Creek)  
Dalby Kogan Road (Wilkie Creek)  
Jimbour – Cooranga North Road (Bowen Creek)  
Condamine Highway (Condamine to Kogan closed)

\* Chinchilla road closures

Red Hill Road  
Clarkes Road  
Burnt Bridge Road  
Greenswamp Road  
Banana Bridge Road  
Elhma Boundary Road  
Monmouth Road  
Avenue Road  
Burncluith Road  
Chinchilla Wondai Road

For crisis accommodation, flood assistance or information residents can contact the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666.



## Media Alert

21 December 2010 – Issued 9am

### Flood waters recede in Dalby

Western Downs Regional Council reports that flood waters in Dalby are now receding steadily with levels currently at 2.34 metres, having reached a peak of three metres last night.

"While the Myall Creek is expected to drop quickly throughout the day, Council is now monitoring overland flows that are affecting the edges of town," said Council's spokesperson for Community Services Cr Charlene Hall.

"The Warrego, Moonie and Bunya Highways are now open, however water remains on the road in some parts and motorists are asked to proceed with care.

"Council urges motorists travelling on rural roads throughout the region to beware of water over roads and to drive to the conditions.

"The SES remained on call overnight to assist the community however reported no major incidents. Council makes special thanks to the SES crew from Warwick who arrived yesterday afternoon to relieve local crews," Cr Hall said.

Council will continue to work closely with SES and Emergency Management Queensland to monitor flood conditions throughout the region and provide assistance to the community as required. Charley's Creek has risen slightly this morning however is not threatening Chinchilla at this stage.

Residents in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666.

▪ Dalby services currently affected by flooding include:

Ergon Energy advises power outages to 20 customers at James Cook Drive, Dalby Swimming Pool and the Dalby Bowls Club  
All Dalby and District Landfills are closed to all access  
Both Dalby Shoppingworld car parks are closed

▪ Current Dalby and District road closures:

Branch Creek Road  
Edward Street Weir  
Patrick Street Bridge  
Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)  
Wilds Road  
Blaxland Irvingdale Road (Myall Creek)  
Dalby Kogan Road (Wilkie Creek)  
Jimbour – Cooranga North Road (Bowen Creek)  
Condamine Highway (Condamine to Kogan closed)  
Hillmead Road  
Ranges Bridge

\* Chinchilla road closures

Red Hill Road  
Clarkes Road  
Burnt Bridge Road  
Greenswamp Road  
Banana Bridge Road  
Elhma Boundary Road  
Monmouth Road  
Avenue Road  
Burncluith Road  
Chinchilla Wondai Road

▪ The next flood update will be issued at 12.30pm

**Media Contact:**



Strategy and Communications Manager





## Media Alert

21 December 2010 – Issued 12.15pm

### Clean Up Commences in Dalby

With flood waters steadily receding in the Myall Creek, Western Downs Regional Council is now turning its attention to clean up efforts in Dalby.

"The Myall Creek is now at 1.99 metres, having dropped 350 millimetres since 8.20am this morning which is an average of 100 millimetres an hour. At this rate it is expected that water will be below the Patrick Street Bridge later this afternoon," said Council's spokesperson for Community Services Cr Charlene Hall.

"Receding water has revealed significant flood damage to roads and minor damage to some properties from silt and debris.

"Council work crews are at capacity with priority being given to restoring safety to the main highways and rural roads. Residents are urged to adhere to road closure signage and drive to the conditions due to the hidden danger of submerged potholes and deep washouts.

"To assist residents clean up, Council will reopen the Dalby Landfill at 3pm today and have eased water restrictions to allow the use of hand-held hoses until Friday 24 December.

"With Council and SES resources stretched thin responding to the most significant flood event the region has seen in 27 years, residents are asked to be as self reliant as possible.

"Residents are advised that Council will not be providing additional kerbside flood debris collection services, however the scheduled garbage and recycling collection service will proceed as normal.

"It's in times of natural disaster like this that community spirit really shines and it's great to see people helping themselves and their neighbours," Cr Hall said.

Council will continue to work closely with local SES and Emergency Management Queensland to monitor overland flows throughout the region and provide assistance to the community as required.

For a current list of road closures in the Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles and Wandoan districts please see overleaf.

Residents in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666.

- Dalby services currently affected by flooding include:

Ergon Energy advises power outages to 3 customers at James Cook Drive  
Both Dalby Shoppingworld car parks are closed

- The next flood update will be issued at 4.30pm

#### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager



▪ Current Dalby and District road closures:

Branch Creek Road  
Edward Street Weir  
Patrick Street Bridge  
Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)  
Wilds Road  
Blaxland Irvingdale Road (Myall Creek)  
Dalby Kogan Road (Wilkie Creek)  
Jimbour – Cooranga North Road (Bowen Creek)  
Condamine Highway (Condamine to Kogan closed)  
Hillmead Road  
Ranges Bridge

\* Chinchilla and District road closures

Red Hill Road  
Clarkes Road  
Burnt Bridge Road  
Greenswamp Road  
Banana Bridge Road  
Elhma Boundary Road  
Monmouth Road  
Avenue Road  
Burncluith Road  
Chinchilla Wondai Road  
Chinchilla Kogan Road

▪ Current Miles and Wandoan District road closures:

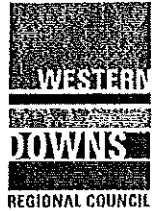
Leichhardt Hwy (Miles to Taroom) - Open with caution  
Roma Taroom Road  
Jackson Wandoan Road - Tchanning Creek  
Condamine Meandarra Road - Forthingham Gully  
Kogan Condamine Road - Weimambilla Creek  
Roma Condamine Road - Dogwood Creek - Open with caution  
Freemans Road - Columboola Creek  
Geldards Road - Columboola Creek  
Harphams Road - Dogwood Creek  
Yulabilla Road - Condamine River  
Hookswood Road - Dogwood Creek  
Myall Park Road - Wallen Creek  
Goonalah Extension Road - Closed to Heavy Vehicles  
Wallen Creek Road - Wallen Creek - Open with caution  
Harrison Road - Dulacca Creek  
Coates Road - Wallen Creek  
Glenaubyn Road - Wallen Creek  
Willets Road Road - Tchanning Creek  
Clarke Creek Road - Tchanning Creek  
Dulacca North Hall Road - Tchanning Creek  
Butlers Extension Road - Dulacca Creek  
Yeovil Road - Juandah Creek  
Booral Road - Jaundah Creek  
Ryals Roads  
Bundi Road  
Horse Creek Road  
Clifford Road  
Pine Hills Road  
Nathan Road – Open with caution

- The next flood update will be issued at 4.30pm

**Media Contact:**

Strategy and Communications Manager





## Media Alert

21 December 2010 – Issued 5pm

### Chinchilla on flood alert

With clean up efforts well underway in Dalby, Western Downs Regional Council is now preparing for predicted record flood levels in Chinchilla.

"The Myall Creek continues to fall with current levels at 1.69 metres, however further downstream flood waters are continuing along the Condamine River towards Chinchilla," said Council's spokesperson for Utilities Cr Bill McCutcheon.

"The latest flood warning from the Bureau of Meteorology predicts a peak this Friday at Charleys Creek similar to levels recorded back in the 1981 floods with a 10 metre peak at the Chinchilla Weir.

"Charleys Creek is currently at 4.5 metres and has been rising steadily since yesterday, while the Chinchilla Weir is currently at 8.8 metres. The Condamine River at Loudoun Bridge is currently holding steady at 9.1metres.

"Residents living on the northern side of Chinchilla are encouraged to prepare for increased flood levels by the end of the week. Council will continue to monitor water levels overnight and issue an updated status in the morning.

Meanwhile, Council is urging Dalby residents to strictly adhere to road closure signs while work crews continue to repair flood damaged roads.

"Council asks residents to remain patient as work crews focus their efforts to restore safety to flood damage roads," said Council's spokesperson for Community Services Cr Charlene Hall.

"The Patrick Street Bridge will remain closed until a structural inspection determines the extent of damage and it can be safely reopened to traffic.

"In the CBD Marble Street from Stuart Street to Finks Lane remains closed due to a road collapse and Patrick Street is closed from the Dalby Shoppingworld to Sydney Street.

"To assist residents clean up, Council has reopened the Dalby Landfill and have eased water restrictions to allow the use of hand-held hoses until Friday 24 December," Cr Hall said.

Council will continue to work closely with local SES and Emergency Management Queensland to monitor overland flows throughout the region and provide assistance to the community as required.

For a current list of road closures in the Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles and Wandoan districts please see overleaf.

Residents in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666 which will reopen at 7.30am Wednesday morning.

- Dalby services currently affected by flooding include:

Ergon Energy advises power outages to 3 customers at James Cook Drive  
Both Dalby Shoppingworld car parks are closed

- The next flood update will be issued at 9am Wednesday 22 December

#### Media Contact:

Strategy and Communications Manager

▪ Current Dalby and District road closures:

Branch Creek Road  
Edward Street Weir  
Patrick Street Bridge  
Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)  
Wilds Road  
Blaxland Irvingdale Road (Myall Creek)  
Jimbour – Cooranga North Road (Bowen Creek)  
Condamine Highway (Condamine to Kogan closed)  
Hillmead Road  
Ranges Bridge

\* Chinchilla and District road closures

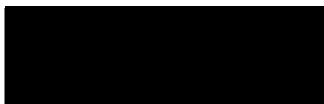
Red Hill Road  
Clarkes Road  
Burnt Bridge Road  
Greenswamp Road  
Banana Bridge Road  
Elhma Boundary Road  
Monmouth Road  
Avenue Road  
Burncluith Road  
Chinchilla Wondai Road  
Chinchilla Kogan Road

▪ Current Miles and Wandoan District road closures:

Leichhardt Hwy (Miles to Taroom) - Open with caution  
Roma Taroom Road  
Jackson Wandoan Road - Tchanning Creek  
Condamine Meandarra Road - Forthingham Gully  
Kogan Condamine Road - Weimambilla Creek  
Roma Condamine Road - Dogwood Creek - Open with caution  
Freemans Road - Columboola Creek  
Geldards Road - Columboola Creek  
Harphams Road - Dogwood Creek  
Yulabilla Road - Condamine River  
Hookwood Road - Dogwood Creek  
Myall Park Road - Wallen Creek  
Goonalah Extension Road - Closed to Heavy Vehicles  
Wallen Creek Road - Wallen Creek - Open with caution  
Harrison Road - Dulacca Creek  
Coates Road - Wallen Creek  
Glenaubyn Road - Wallen Creek  
Willetts Road Road - Tchanning Creek  
Clarke Creek Road - Tchanning Creek  
Dulacca North Hall Road - Tchanning Creek  
Butlers Extension Road - Dulacca Creek  
Yeovil Road - Juandah Creek  
Booral Road - Jaundah Creek  
Ryals Roads  
Bundi Road  
Horse Creek Road  
Clifford Road  
Pine Hills Road  
Nathan Road – Open with caution

- The next flood update will be issued at 9am Wednesday 22 December

**Media Contact:**



Strategy and Communications Manager





## Media Alert

22 December 2010 – Issued 10am

### Disaster Coordination Centre Opens in Chinchilla

Western Downs Regional Council confirms that Chinchilla is on flood alert with the latest Bureau of Meteorology warning predicting moderate flooding with a peak of six metres in Charleys Creek by Friday.

"The Warrego Highway remains open with Charleys Creek currently at 4.85 metres, 100 millimetres under Charleys Creek Bridge and is expected to rise steadily over the next few days," said Council's spokesperson for Utilities Cr Bill McCutcheon.

"With predicted levels similar to the 1981 flood, Council activated its Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Chinchilla this morning in preparation for rising flood levels.

"Residents and commercial properties in low lying areas adjacent to Charleys Creek are now on evacuation alert and encouraged to move vehicles to the Chinchilla Showgrounds to avoid flood damage," said Cr McCutcheon.

Council is working closely with local Police and SES to monitor flood levels along the Condamine River and will keep the community updated with regular media updates.

In Dalby, the clean up continues with the Myall Creek now a metre below the Patrick Street Bridge.

"This morning Council is conducting a structural inspection of the bridge, however it will remain closed until it can be opened safely," said Council's spokesperson for Community Services Cr Charlene Hall

"Works crews continue to focus their efforts on repairing flood damaged roads and residents can assist by obeying road closure signage.

"Residents are taking full advantage of access to the Dalby Landfill while the weather holds to clean up flood affected properties.

"Council is doing its best to determine a seven day weather forecast which has been downgraded to a prediction of 50 millimetres of rain expected over the Myall Creek catchment area," said Cr Hall.

For a current list of road closures in the Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles and Wandoan districts please see overleaf.

Residents in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 7056.

The next flood update will be issued at 2pm today.

#### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager



▪ Current Chinchilla and District road closures:

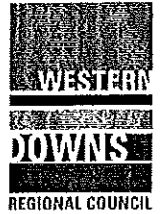
Chinchilla Wondai Road  
Chinchilla Kogan Road  
Chinchilla Tara Road  
Red Hill Road  
Clarkes Road  
Burnt Bridge Road  
Greenswamp Road  
Banana Bridge Road  
Elhma Boundary Road  
Monmouth Road  
Avenue Road  
Burncluith Road

▪ Current Dalby and District road closures:

Branch Creek Road  
Edward Street Weir  
Patrick Street Bridge  
Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)  
Warra Canaga Creek Road  
Wilds Road  
Blaxland Irvingdale Road (Myall Creek)  
Jimbour – Cooranga North Road (Bowen Creek)  
Condamine Highway (Condamine to Kogan closed)  
Hillmead Road  
Ranges Bridge

▪ Current Miles and Wandoan District road closures:

Leichhardt Hwy (Miles to Taroom) - Open with caution  
Roma Taroom Road  
Jackson Wandoan Road - Tchanning Creek  
Condamine Meandarra Road - Forthingham Gully  
Kogan Condamine Road - Weimambilla Creek  
Roma Condamine Road - Dogwood Creek - Open with caution  
Freemans Road - Columboola Creek  
Geldards Road - Columboola Creek  
Harphams Road - Dogwood Creek  
Yulabilla Road - Condamine River  
Hookwood Road - Dogwood Creek  
Myall Park Road - Wallen Creek  
Goonalah Extension Road - Closed to Heavy Vehicles  
Wallen Creek Road - Wallen Creek - Open with caution  
Harrison Road - Dulacca Creek  
Coates Road - Wallen Creek  
Glenaubyn Road - Wallen Creek  
Willets Road Road - Tchanning Creek  
Clarke Creek Road - Tchanning Creek  
Dulacca North Hall Road - Tchanning Creek  
Butlers Extension Road - Dulacca Creek  
Yeovil Road - Juandah Creek  
Booral Road - Jaundah Creek  
Ryals Roads  
Bundi Road  
Horse Creek Road  
Clifford Road  
Pine Hills Road  
Nathan Road – Open with caution



## Media Alert

22 December 2010 – Issued 4.15pm

### Chinchilla prepares for overnight flood peak

Chinchilla's Charleys Creek is predicted to peak at just over six metres overnight causing moderate flooding to the town in the early hours of Thursday morning.

"Flood waters are currently at 4.9 metres and steadily rising. At a peak of six metres the water will be half a metre over Charleys Creek Bridge cutting the Warrego Highway between Chinchilla and Miles," said Council's spokesperson for Utilities Cr Bill McCutcheon.

"At its peak, predicted flood waters will affect approximately 50 premises however no evacuations of homes are expected. Doorknocking of premises within the flood zone commenced earlier today to ensure residents have plenty of time to move vehicles and valuables.

"Council has transferred the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre to Chinchilla where local knowledge of similar flood levels during the 1981 floods is invaluable to preparations.

"Flood levels of the Condamine River upstream from Charleys Creek are being closely monitored as a short peak is expected which should see water fall away quickly.

"Council is also monitoring predictions of a major flood peak of the Condamine River at Condamine over the weekend and will issue further information as soon as it comes to hand," said Cr McCutcheon.

Chinchilla residents are advised that Council's garbage and recycling collection service will proceed as normal this week with the exception of circumstances where access is blocked due to flooding.

Residents are also able to access the Chinchilla Landfill which remains open.

Weather forecasts for the Christmas period are yet to be confirmed and Council will provide information as soon as possible. Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40.

In Dalby, the clean up continues with the Patrick Street Bridge now reopened to traffic.

For a current list of road closures in the Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles and Wandoan districts please see overleaf.

Residents in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 7056.

The next flood update will be issued at 9am Thursday 23 December.

#### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager



▪ Current Chinchilla and District road closures:

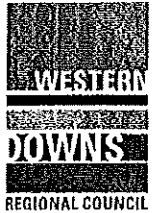
Burra Burri Creek Road  
Chinchilla Wondai Road  
Chinchilla Kogan Road  
Chinchilla Tara Road  
Red Hill Road  
Clarkes Road  
Burnt Bridge Road  
Greenswamp Road  
Banana Bridge Road  
Ehlma Boundary Road  
Monmouth Road  
Avenue Road  
Burncluith Road  
Warra Kogan Road  
Pelican Back Road

▪ Current Dalby and District road closures:

Branch Creek Road  
Edward Street Weir  
Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)  
Warra Canaga Creek Road  
Wilds Road  
Jimbour – Cooranga North Road (Bowen Creek)  
Condamine Highway (Condamine to Kogan closed)  
Ranges Bridge (Kogan Road)

▪ Current Miles and Wandoan District road closures:

Leichhardt Hwy (Miles to Taroom) - Open with caution  
Roma Taroom Road  
Jackson Wandoan Road - Tchanning Creek  
Condamine Meandarra Road - Forthingham Gully  
Kogan Condamine Road - Weimambilla Creek  
Roma Condamine Road - Dogwood Creek - Open with caution  
Freemans Road - Columboola Creek  
Geldards Road - Columboola Creek  
Harphams Road - Dogwood Creek  
Yulabilla Road - Condamine River  
Hookwood Road - Dogwood Creek  
Myall Park Road - Wallen Creek  
Goonalah Extension Road - Closed to Heavy Vehicles  
Wallen Creek Road - Wallen Creek - Open with caution  
Harrison Road - Dulacca Creek  
Coates Road - Wallen Creek  
Glenaubyn Road - Wallen Creek  
Willetts Road Road - Tchanning Creek  
Clarke Creek Road - Tchanning Creek  
Dulacca North Hall Road - Tchanning Creek  
Butlers Extension Road - Dulacca Creek  
Yeovil Road - Juandah Creek  
Booral Road - Jaundah Creek  
Ryals Roads  
Bundi Road  
Horse Creek Road  
Clifford Road  
Pine Hills Road  
Nathan Road – Open with caution



## Media Alert

23 December 2010 – Issued 10.00am

### Peak not reached in Chinchilla

The six metre peak predicted in Chinchilla's Charleys Creek last night was not reached with the creek currently at 5.15 metres and steadily rising.

"This morning the water is 200 millimetres under the Charleys Creek Bridge and is unlikely to cut the Warrego Highway to Miles before this afternoon," said Council's spokesperson for Utilities Cr Bill McCutcheon.

"The Condamine River continues to rise steadily and the George Gray Bridge on the Chinchilla Tara Road remains closed, with water 750 millimetres over the bridge.

"With the already saturated catchment area upstream of Chinchilla receiving heavy rain last night, Council is working closely with the Bureau of Meteorology to monitor predicted impacts to the town over the weekend.

"At this stage, the threat of major flooding to the town seems unlikely unless the catchment area receives sustained heavy rain over the Christmas period.

"In any event, business owners and residents are well prepared and Council appreciates their quick response to move valuables and sandbag known flood areas," said Cr McCutcheon.

The latest weather forecasts are for the current rain in Chinchilla to disperse by lunchtime with possible thunderstorms this evening. An updated forecast for the Christmas period will be issued later this afternoon.

Residents seeking information or flood assistance can call the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Chinchilla on 4662 7056.

Alternatively, a pre-recorded Flood Information Line is available on 4662 7440 providing regular updates on river levels within the Condamine River and Charleys Creek catchment.

For a current list of road closures in the Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles and Wandoan districts please see overleaf.

The next flood update will be issued at 2pm Thursday 23 December.

#### Media Contact:

Strategy and Communications Manager

▪ Current Chinchilla and District road closures:

Burra Burri Creek Road  
Chinchilla Wondai Road  
Chinchilla Kogan Road  
Chinchilla Tara Road  
Red Hill Road  
Clarkes Road  
Burnt Bridge Road  
Greenswamp Road  
Banana Bridge Road  
Ehlma Boundary Road  
Monmouth Road  
Avenue Road  
Burncluith Road  
Warra Kogan Road  
Pelican Back Road

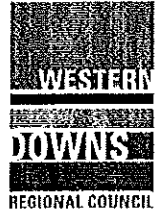
▪ Current Dalby and District road closures:

Branch Creek Road  
Edward Street Weir  
Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)  
Warra Canaga Creek Road  
Wilds Road  
Jimbour – Cooranga North Road (Bowen Creek)  
Condamine Highway (Condamine to Kogan closed)  
Ranges Bridge (Kogan Road)

▪ Current Miles and Wandoan District road closures:

Leichhardt Hwy (Miles to Taroom) - Open with caution  
Roma Taroom Road  
Jackson Wandoan Road - Tchanning Creek  
Condamine Meandarra Road - Forthingham Gully  
Kogan Condamine Road - Weimambilla Creek  
Roma Condamine Road - Dogwood Creek - Open with caution  
Freemans Road - Columboola Creek  
Geldards Road - Columboola Creek  
Harphams Road - Dogwood Creek  
Yulabilla Road - Condamine River  
Hookwood Road - Dogwood Creek  
Myall Park Road - Wallen Creek  
Goonalah Extension Road - Closed to Heavy Vehicles  
Wallen Creek Road - Wallen Creek - Open with caution  
Harrison Road - Dulacca Creek  
Coates Road - Wallen Creek  
Glenaubyn Road - Wallen Creek  
Willetts Road Road - Tchanning Creek  
Clarke Creek Road - Tchanning Creek  
Dulacca North Hall Road - Tchanning Creek  
Butlers Extension Road - Dulacca Creek  
Yeovil Road - Juandah Creek  
Boral Road - Jaundah Creek  
Ryals Roads  
Bundi Road  
Horse Creek Road  
Clifford Road  
Pine Hills Road  
Nathan Road – Open with caution





## Media Alert

23 December 2010 – Issued 2.20pm

### Flood waters still on the rise in Chinchilla

Western Downs Regional Council confirms that Chinchilla remains on flood alert with levels of the Condamine River and Charleys Creek still rising steadily.

"The Condamine River is currently 7.3 metres at the Condamine Bridge and Charleys Creek is now 5.22 metres with water lapping the bridge," said Council's spokesperson for Utilities Cr Bill McCutcheon.

"The Bureau of Meteorology has not ruled out a six metre peak which would see half a metre of water over Charleys Creek Bridge, cutting the Warrego Highway between Chinchilla and Miles.

"With the information at hand it seems likely that the Warrego Highway will remain open until later this afternoon.

"Rain in Chinchilla is now breaking up and the likelihood of thunderstorms this afternoon has diminished, however more rain is forecast over the Christmas period.

"Council strongly urges motorists to adhere to road closure signage for their own safety and drive to the conditions as wet roads can be extremely dangerous," said Cr McCutcheon.

Council is working closely with local Police and SES to prepare businesses and residents in affected areas for rising flood levels.

Residents seeking information or flood assistance can call the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Chinchilla on 4662 7056.

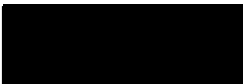
Alternatively, a pre-recorded Flood Information Line is available on 4662 7440 providing regular updates on river levels within the Condamine River and Charleys Creek catchment.

Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40 or visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au).

For a current list of road closures in the Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles and Wandoan districts please see overleaf.

The next flood update will be issued at 5pm Thursday 23 December.

#### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager



▪ **Main Roads Closures**

Chinchilla Wondai Road  
Chinchilla Kogan Road  
Chinchilla Tara Road  
Jimbour – Cooranga North Road (Bowen Creek)  
Condamine Highway - Condamine to Dalby closed  
Roma Taroom Road  
Jackson Wandoan Road - Tchanning Creek  
Condamine Meandarra Road - Forthingham Gully  
Condamine-Roma Road - Dogwood Creek  
Condamine-Kogan Road - Weimbilla Creek  
Leichhardt Hwy (Miles to Taroom) - Open with caution

▪ **Current Chinchilla and District road closures:**

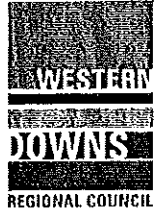
Burra Burri Creek Road  
Red Hill Road  
Clarkes Road  
Burnt Bridge Road  
Greenswamp Road  
Banana Bridge Road  
Ehlma Boundary Road  
Monmouth Road  
Avenue Road  
Burncluith Road  
Warra Kogan Road  
Pelican Back Road

▪ **Current Dalby and District road closures:**

Branch Creek Road  
Edward Street Weir  
Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)  
Warra Canaga Creek Road  
Warra – Kogan Road  
Dalby – Kogan Road - Rangers Bridge  
Dalby – Cecil Plains Road – Ashall Creek  
Wilds Road  
Bunya Mountains Road  
Old Warrego Highway – Rangers Gully  
Jinghi Jinghi Creek Road – Off Jandowae Connection Road

▪ **Current Miles and Wandoan District road closures:**

Roma Taroom Road  
Jackson Wandoan Road - Tchanning Creek  
Freemans Road - Columboola Creek  
Geldards Road - Columboola Creek  
Harphams Road - Dogwood Creek  
Yulabilla Road - Condamine River  
Hookwood Road - Dogwood Creek  
Myall Park Road - Wallen Creek  
Harrison Road - Dulacca Creek  
Coates Road - Wallen Creek  
Glenaubyn Road - Wallen Creek  
Willetts Road Road - Tchanning Creek  
Clarke Creek Road - Tchanning Creek  
Dulacca North Hall Road - Tchanning Creek  
Butlers Extension Road - Dulacca Creek  
Yeovil Road - Juandah Creek  
Booral Road - Jaundah Creek  
Ryals Roads  
Bundi Road  
Horse Creek Road  
Clifford Road  
Pine Hills Road  
Fotheringham's Gully  
Goonalah Extension Road - Closed to Heavy Vehicles  
Wallen Creek Road - Wallen Creek - Open with caution  
Nathan Road -- Open with caution



## Media Alert

23 December 2010 – Issued 5pm

### Emergency services on standby overnight

Western Downs Regional Council, local SES volunteers and Police remain on flood alert this evening in Chinchilla with levels of the Condamine River and Charleys Creek still rising slowly.

"The Condamine River remains steady at 7.3 metres at the Condamine Bridge and 10.85 metres at the Chinchilla Weir. Charleys Creek has risen slightly to 5.28 metres with water still lapping the bridge on the Warrego Highway," said Council's spokesperson for Utilities Cr Bill McCutcheon.

"While upstream the levels at the Beruna and Seven Oaks gauging stations are falling, heavy rainfall recorded in the upper Charleys Creek catchment last night may still result in fast rises.

"At this stage it seems unlikely that the Warrego Highway will be closed at Charleys Creek however motorists are advised to call Main Roads on 13 19 40 to seek advice on possible road closures before departing.

"Further uncertainty surrounds the forecast of heavy rains across the region over Christmas. The impact of more rain on the already saturated ground is highly unpredictable and will largely depend on how quickly the current levels recede.

"Rain is forecast to return late Friday across the Western Darling Downs, developing into thunderstorms and possible heavy rain over the weekend.

"Council strongly urges motorists to adhere to road closure signage for their own safety and drive to the conditions as wet roads can be extremely dangerous.

"The support of residents and businesses in relocating valuables and sandbagging is appreciated by Council. However, while the situation has stabilised residents should remain on alert," said Cr McCutcheon.

Residents seeking information or flood assistance can call the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Chinchilla on 4662 7056.

Alternatively, a pre-recorded Flood Information Line is available on 4662 7440 providing regular updates on river levels within the Condamine River and Charleys Creek catchment.

Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40 or visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au).

For a current list of road closures in the Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles and Wandoan districts please see overleaf.

The next flood update will be issued at 9.30am Friday 24 December.

#### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager



▪ **Main Roads Closures**

Chinchilla Wondai Road  
Chinchilla Kogan Road  
Chinchilla Tara Road  
Condamine Highway - Condamine to Dalby closed  
Dalby – Cecil Plains Road – Ashall Creek  
Dalby – Kogan Road - Rangers Bridge  
Bunya Mountains Road  
Warra Canaga Creek Road  
Roma Taroom Road  
Jackson Wandoan Road - Tchanning Creek  
Condamine-Roma Road - Dogwood Creek  
Leichhardt Hwy (Miles to Taroom) - Open with caution

▪ **Current Chinchilla and District road closures:**

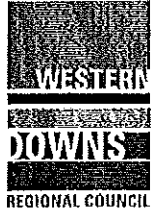
Burra Burri Creek Road  
Red Hill Road  
Clarks Road  
Burnt Bridge Road  
Greenswamp Road  
Banana Bridge Road  
Ehlma Boundary Road  
Monmouth Road  
Avenue Road  
Burncluith Road  
Warra Kogan Road  
Pelican Back Road

▪ **Current Dalby and District road closures:**

Branch Creek Road  
Edward Street Weir  
Dalby Cecil Plains (Ashall Creek)  
Warra – Kogan Road  
Wilds Road  
Jimbour – Cooranga North Road (Bowen Creek)  
Old Warrego Highway – Rangers Gully  
Jinghi Jinghi Creek Road – Off Jandowae Connection Road  
Cedarvale Road is closed near the Norbell Road  
A 0.5 km section of the Warrego Highway (East of the Cecil Plain-Dalby Road) has been reduced down to 40km/h due to the road conditions.

▪ **Current Miles and Wandoan District road closures:**

Roma Taroom Road  
Jackson Wandoan Road - Tchanning Creek  
Freemans Road - Columboola Creek  
Geldards Road - Columboola Creek  
Harphams Road - Dogwood Creek  
Yulabilla Road - Condamine River  
Hookwood Road - Dogwood Creek  
Myall Park Road - Wallen Creek  
Harrison Road - Dulacca Creek  
Coates Road - Wallen Creek  
Glenaubyn Road - Wallen Creek  
Willets Road - Tchanning Creek  
Clarke Creek Road - Tchanning Creek  
Dulacca North Hall Road - Tchanning Creek  
Butlers Extension Road - Dulacca Creek  
Goonalah Extension Road - Closed to Heavy Vehicles  
Wallen Creek Road - Wallen Creek - Open with caution  
Yeovil Road - Juandah Creek  
Booral Road - Jaundah Creek  
Ryals Roads  
Bundi Road  
Horse Creek Road  
Clifford Road  
Pine Hills Road  
Nathan Road – Open with caution



## Media Alert

24 December 2010 – Issued 11.15am

### Western Downs prepares for a wet Christmas

The immediate threat of moderate localised flooding in Chinchilla and Dalby has passed however residents of the Western Downs region are now preparing for a soggy festive season.

Western Downs Regional Council Deputy Mayor Mick Cosgrove said this morning that more rain is expected to develop this afternoon and continue over the Christmas weekend.

"The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting falls of up to 50 millimetres across the Western Darling Downs so Council will continue to closely monitor river heights over the holiday period," said Cr Cosgrove.

"Despite a slight rise in Charleys Creek to 5.33 metres overnight the Warrego Highway from Chinchilla to Miles remains open and the threat of moderate flooding is diminishing.

"In Dalby the Myall Creek is expected to rise to 1.7 metres by 3pm this afternoon as a result of heavy rain in the Bell and Kaimkillenbun area yesterday. This rise should not cause concern to residents as it will remain well under the Patrick Street Bridge.

"Residents can be assured that Local Disaster Management Groups in Chinchilla and Dalby will remain on standby over Christmas, ready to be called back to action if flood levels look to threaten the region," said Cr Cosgrove.

The Deputy Mayor praised the combined efforts of Council staff, SES volunteers, the Police, local emergency services and the Bureau for effectively coordinating the flood response.

"It's been a busy week for the region's Local Disaster Management Groups and Council sincerely appreciates the excellent work done to keep the community safe and informed.

"Our community also deserves thanks for the overall level of cooperation given by businesses and residents to SES and Council crews in response to flood preparations.

"As flooding has caused considerable road damage Council urges motorists to travel safe this Christmas. Please drive to the conditions, strictly adhere to road closure signage and do not attempt to cross flooded waterways", said Cr Cosgrove.

Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40 or visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) and are encouraged to monitor weather forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

For flood and storm assistance contact the SES on 132 500 and in a life-threatening emergency which includes people becoming trapped in floodwaters call triple zero (000) immediately.

For a current list of road closures in the Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles and Wandoan districts please see overleaf.

#### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager



▪ **Main Roads Closures**

Chinchilla Wondai Road  
Chinchilla Kogan Road  
Chinchilla Tara Road  
Condamine Highway - Condamine to Dalby  
Dalby – Cecil Plains Road – Ashall Creek  
Dalby – Kogan Road - Rangers Bridge  
Bunya Mountains Road – Open with caution  
Warra Canaga Creek Road  
Warra – Kogan Road  
Roma Taroom Road  
Jackson Wandoan Road - Tchanning Creek  
Condamine-Roma Road - Dogwood Creek  
Leichhardt Hwy (Miles to Taroom) - Open with caution

▪ **Current Chinchilla and District road closures:**

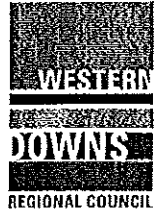
Burra Burri Creek Road  
Red Hill Road  
Clarkes Road  
Burnt Bridge Road  
Greenswamp Road  
Banana Bridge Road  
Ehlma Boundary Road  
Monmouth Road  
Avenue Road  
Burncluith Road  
Warra Kogan Road  
Pelican Back Road

▪ **Current Dalby and District road closures:**

Edward Street Weir  
Wilds Road  
Springvale Road  
Old Warrego Highway – Rangers Gully  
Jinghi Jinghi Creek Road – Off Jandowae Connection Road  
Cedarvale Road – Open with caution  
A 0.5 km section of the Warrego Highway (East of the Cecil Plain-Dalby Road) has been reduced down to 40km/h due to the road conditions.

▪ **Current Miles and Wandoan District road closures:**

Roma Taroom Road  
Jackson Wandoan Road - Tchanning Creek  
Freemans Road - Columboola Creek  
Geldards Road - Columboola Creek  
Harphams Road - Dogwood Creek  
Yulabilla Road - Condamine River  
Hookwood Road - Dogwood Creek  
Myall Park Road - Wallen Creek  
Harrison Road - Dulacca Creek  
Coates Road - Wallen Creek  
Glenaubyn Road - Wallen Creek  
Willets Road - Tchanning Creek  
Clarke Creek Road - Tchanning Creek  
Dulacca North Hall Road - Tchanning Creek  
Butlers Extension Road - Dulacca Creek  
Goonalah Extension Road - Closed to Heavy Vehicles  
Wallen Creek Road - Wallen Creek - Open with caution  
Yeovil Road - Juandah Creek  
Booral Road - Juandah Creek  
Ryals Roads  
Bundi Road  
Horse Creek Road  
Clifford Road  
Pine Hills Road  
Nathan Road – Open with caution



## Media Alert

### 27 December 2010 – Issued 8am

#### Widespread flooding on the Western Downs

An average rainfall of 60 millimetres across the Western Downs in the last 24 hours has resulted in major flooding in Chinchilla overnight, moderate flooding in the Miles District and moderate flooding is predicted for Dalby this afternoon.

"At 6.30am this morning Charleys Creek in Chinchilla was at 6.40 metres and rising," said Western Downs Regional Council Deputy Mayor Mick Cosgrove.

"With water now a metre over Charleys Creek Bridge the Warrego Highway is cut to all traffic between Chinchilla and Miles. The Warrego Highway is also cut between Dalby and Chinchilla due to flooding.

"In the last 24 hours Miles received an average rainfall of 90 millimetres and flood waters are rising very quickly. The RJ Simmons Bridge over the Warrego in Miles is likely to be cut later this afternoon, while the Condamine Bridge at Condamine is already closed to all traffic and the Leichhardt Highway north of Miles is also closed.

"The Myall Creek in Dalby is rising quickly with a peak of at least 2.5 metres predicted this afternoon and the Patrick Street Bridge is already closed to all traffic.

"Chinchilla and Dalby's Local Disaster Management Groups have been activated, enforcing road closures, keeping the community informed and closely monitoring the rising flood levels.

"It's been a long time since the Western Downs has received such widespread rain and like the rest of Queensland there's more to come over the next few days. The prediction is that flood levels will continue to rise and residents in low lying areas should make appropriate arrangements to ensure they are flood prepared.

"Residents are also advised that garbage collection services in Condamine, Kogan, Miles and Wandoan are cancelled today due to flooding. Use of the region's landfills should be restricted to emergency use only.

"Council asks that residents stay indoors and restrict road travel to a minimum as flooding has caused considerable road damage. For their own safety it's vital that motorists strictly adhere to road closure signage and do not attempt to cross flooded waterways.

"Council will continue to work closely with the SES, Police and local emergency services to ensure residents are kept informed and safe," said Cr Cosgrove.

Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595. Residents can also monitor weather forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

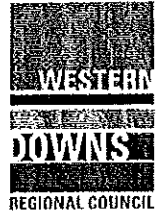
For flood and storm assistance contact the SES on 132 500 and in a life-threatening emergency which includes people becoming trapped in floodwaters call triple zero (000) immediately.

#### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager





## Media Alert

27 December 2010 – Issued 12.15pm

### Western Downs Region on Flood Alert

Western Downs Regional Council confirms that the region remains on flood alert with river heights along the Condamine River and associated catchment areas still rising due to continued rain.

Deputy Mayor Mick Cosgrove strongly urges motorists to restrict road travel where possible with the majority of roads throughout the region cut due to flooding.

"Road travel throughout the region has been brought to a standstill due to rising flood levels and significant road damage. Council cannot insist strongly enough that motorists stay off the roads due to the danger of driving on flood affected roads.

"The latest update from the Bureau predicts further widespread rain with moderate to heavy falls locally. Council will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with local emergency services to keep the community informed.

"Council asks that residents stay at home and prepare for localised flooding in all low lying areas of the region," said Cr Cosgrove.

### Chinchilla Update

Charleys Creek is currently at 6.7 metres and still rising with flood levels now exceeding the 1983 flood and heading toward a possible record peak.

All roads to and from Chinchilla are now closed and residents are strongly urged to stay out of flood waters due to health concerns.

At this stage there has been 10 voluntary evacuations, however more are expected if flood levels continue to rise.

Ergon Energy is taking the safety precaution of cutting power to homes already evacuated or as water reaches floorboards. Residents requiring assistance from Ergon Energy should call 13 10 46.

Residents in the Chinchilla district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 7056.

### Dalby Update

Dalby's Myall creek is currently 2.69 metres and predicted to reach at least a 3 metre peak this afternoon, the same flood level the town experienced on Monday last week.

At this stage no homes will require evacuation; however residents in low lying areas along Myall Creek are encouraged to move valuables off ground level and relocate vehicles to the Dalby Showgrounds or Dalby Leagues Ground to avoid flood damage.

Access to Dalby from Brisbane is now cut with water closing the Warrego Highway at Jondaryan and Oakey.

While access to the Dalby Landfill remains open, due to the wet conditions residents are asked to restrict use to emergencies only.

Residents in the Dalby district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666.

### Miles and Wandoan Update

All roads to and from Miles are now closed with the Condamine River and Dogwood Creek still rising and bridges cut in both Miles and Condamine.



At this stage no homes in Miles will require evacuation; however residents in low lying areas are encouraged to move valuables and vehicles to higher ground to avoid flood damage.

Residents are also advised that garbage collection services in Condamine, Kogan, Miles and Wandoan are cancelled due to flooding.

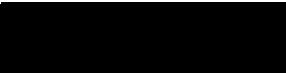
**Tara and District Update**

All roads to and from Tara are now closed, however at this stage the township of Tara is not expected to require evacuations.

Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595. Residents can also monitor weather forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

For flood and storm assistance contact the SES on 132 500 and in a life-threatening emergency which includes people becoming trapped in floodwaters call triple zero (000) immediately.

**Media Contact:**



Strategy and Communications Manager





## Media Alert

27 December 2010 – Issued 6.45pm

### Flood Water in Dalby on the rise to 4 metres

Western Downs Regional Council has confirmed that a significant flood alert is current for Dalby with the Myall Creek expected to peak between 3.5 and 4 metres by midnight tonight.

"The Myall Creek is currently 3.44 metres and still rising, flood water has inundated several homes in low lying areas and emergency services is busy responding to requests for evacuations," said Deputy Mayor Mick Cosgrove.

"While the predicted peak is under the 1981 flood height of 4.5 metres, Council is expecting the number of evacuations to increase as night falls.

"As well as rising river heights, the Police have confirmed that a dam on the northern side of town has burst its banks causing flooding on the northern side of town.

"Concerned residents should evacuate to friends, family or Council's Evacuation Centres at the Dalby Showgrounds or Dalby South School.

"The Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre will remain operation this evening and residents requiring assistance or flood information can call 4662 6666.

With the majority of the region now in flood, Council has activated its District Disaster Groups and is currently dealing with multiple evacuations of residents across the region.

Deputy Mayor Mick Cosgrove strongly urges motorists to restrict road travel where possible with the majority of roads throughout the region cut due to flooding.

"Nightfall will bring a new level of danger and residents across the region are strongly urged to stay in their homes, away from flood waters and restrict road travel to emergencies only.

"Council will continue to monitor the regional flood situation and work closely with local emergency services to keep the community informed," said Cr Cosgrove.

Residents in the Chinchilla district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 7056.

Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595. Residents can also monitor weather forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

For flood and storm assistance contact the SES on 132 500 and in a life-threatening emergency which includes people becoming trapped in floodwaters call triple zero (000) immediately.

#### Media Contact:

Strategy and Communications Manager



## Media Alert

27 December 2010 – Issued 9pm

### Western Downs region on flood watch

Western Downs Regional Council confirms that Dalby, Chinchilla and Miles remain on flood alert this evening with flood levels still rising in all centres.

Deputy Mayor Mick Cosgrove said that the Myall Creek in Dalby is currently 3.54 and rising with an expected peak of 4 metres by midnight tonight which will see up to 100 residents affected by flood water.

"The Local Disaster Coordination Centre has already received over 50 requests for evacuations and emergency services are busy responding to those calls.

"Concerned residents should evacuate to friends, family or seek shelter at Council's Evacuation Centres at the Dalby Showgrounds or Dalby South School. Residents preparing to relocate to the centres should take bedding and food where possible.

"Ergon Energy advises residents evacuating or with homes in threat of water inundation to turn off power as a safety precaution. Residents requiring assistance to turn off power at the switchboard should contact Ergon Energy on 13 10 46 for directions.

"Ergon anticipates that it may turn off power to high risk areas within Dalby town for public safety.

"The Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Dalby will remain open all night and emergency services are preparing to respond to evacuation requests throughout the night. Residents requiring assistance or flood information can call 4662 6666.

"The dangers of flood waters at night cannot be stressed strongly enough and Council urges residents to stay indoors, away from the swift flowing water which contains debris and snakes," said Cr Cosgrove.

The latest weather forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology predicts that rain should begin to subside over the next few days. However sustained flooding is expected throughout the region.

The Charles Drew Bridge in Dalby remains closed to all traffic and is not expected to reopen until Tuesday at the earliest.

### Chinchilla Update

Charleys Creek is currently at 7 metres and still rising with flood levels now well in excess of the 1983 flood and heading toward a possible record peak.

All roads to and from Chinchilla remain closed and residents are strongly urged to stay out of flood waters due to health concerns.

At this stage 20 people have been voluntarily evacuated, however more are expected if flood levels continue to rise.

Residents in the Chinchilla district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 0400 716 249.

### Miles and Wandoan Update

All roads to and from Miles remain closed with water currently 11.9 metres at the Dogwood Bridge and still rising. The Condamine River is also still rising and remains over the bridge at Condamine cutting the Condamine – Roma Road.

At this stage only a few homes in Miles may require evacuation with precautionary sandbagging completed for residents and businesses in low lying areas.

Residents are advised that garbage collection services in Condamine, Kogan, Miles and Wandoan are cancelled due to flooding.

**Tara and District Update**

All roads to and from Tara remain closed, however at this stage the township is not expected to require evacuations.

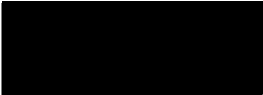
Deputy Mayor Mick Cosgrove strongly urges motorists to restrict road travel where possible with the majority of roads throughout the region cut due to flooding.

"Council and local emergency services will be working throughout the night to assist flood affected residents and closely monitor the regional flood situation to keep the community informed," said Cr Cosgrove.

Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595. Residents can also monitor weather forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

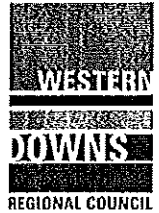
For flood and storm assistance contact the SES on 132 500 and in a life-threatening emergency which includes people becoming trapped in floodwaters call triple zero (000) immediately.

**Media Contact:**



Strategy and Communications Manager





## Media Alert

28 December 2010 – Issued 6.00am

### Disaster situation declared in Dalby

A disaster situation was declared in Dalby last night with the swollen Myall Creek effectively splitting the town in two overnight and still holding a steady peak of 3.54 metres this morning.

With serious flooding also affecting the Chinchilla and Miles districts Western Downs Regional Council Deputy Mayor said this morning that Council is seeking a disaster situation status be declared for the entire region.

"The Disaster Coordination Centre in Dalby responded to 46 evacuation requests with 13 actual evacuations performed overnight. In Chinchilla 20 residents have been voluntarily evacuated, 14 residents in Warra were evacuated yesterday evening and so far only one resident in Miles has required evacuation.

"Evacuation centres in Dalby provided shelter for 120 people while the evacuation centre in Chinchilla remained on standby overnight.

"Council estimates that over 100 houses in Dalby experienced some level of water inundation last night, however the worst of the flooding in the Myall Creek appears to have past.

"With river heights holding steady upstream the Myall Creek is not expected to fall below 3 metres before 9pm tonight. Therefore Council is preparing to keep the evacuation centres at the Dalby Showgrounds and Dalby South State School open for a second night.

"On behalf of Council I cannot praise the efforts of Council staff, SES volunteers, the police, the Fire Brigade, Red Cross, Ergon Energy, local emergency services and Emergency Management Queensland highly enough. It's been a coordinated team effort with local disaster management groups working tirelessly throughout the night in all centres across the Western Downs," said Cr Cosgrove.

Road travel throughout the region remains at a standstill with the majority of major and rural roads expected to remain closed for several days.

"The best advice for motorists is to stay at home, away from the wet and flooded roads. Even when the water begins to recede significant road damage is expected that will take several days to repair to a safe level.

"For their safety residents and sightseers are asked to strictly adhere to road closure signage and not to enter flooded waterways due to the risk of swift water, hidden debris and snakes.

The latest weather forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology reports that rain is effectively clearing in South East Queensland with the trough pushing north and no further heavy rain forecast.

The Charles Drew Bridge in Dalby remains closed to all traffic and is not expected to reopen until Tuesday at the earliest.

Residents requiring flood assistance or information can call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666.

### Chinchilla Update

Charleys Creek is currently at 7.25 metres and still slowly rising with flood levels now well in excess of the 1983 flood and heading toward a new record peak to match the 1942 flood peak of 7.95 metres.

Rising river heights upstream from Sunday's rain is being closely monitored and may cause a further peak in Charleys Creek within the next two days.

All roads to and from Chinchilla remain closed and residents are strongly urged to stay out of flood waters due to health concerns.

Residents in the Chinchilla district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 7056.

**Miles and Wandoan Update**

All roads to and from Miles remain closed with water reaching 12 metres at the Dogwood Bridge and holding steady. The Condamine River is also still rising and remains over the bridge at Condamine cutting the Condamine – Roma Road.

At this stage only a few homes in Miles may require evacuation with precautionary sandbagging completed for residents and businesses in low lying areas.

Residents are advised that garbage collection services in Condamine, Kogan, Miles and Wandoan are cancelled due to flooding.

**Tara and District Update**

All roads to and from Tara remain closed, however at this stage the township is not expected to require evacuations.

Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595. Residents can also monitor weather forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

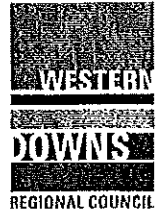
For flood and storm assistance contact the SES on 132 500 and in a life-threatening emergency which includes people becoming trapped in floodwaters call triple zero (000) immediately.

**Media Contact:**



Strategy and Communications Manager





## Media Alert

28 December 2010 – Issued 5.45pm

### Western Downs disaster response in full swing

The coordination of a district disaster response on the Western Downs is now in full swing with major flooding isolating the principle townships of Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles and Tara.

Western Downs Regional Council Mayor Ray Brown said he is astounded by the extent of flooding across the region after viewing flood waters inundating Chinchilla from the air this morning and inspecting flooding in Dalby from the ground this afternoon.

"Personally, I've never seen flooding like this on the Western Downs. It really does have to be seen to be believed, and to appreciate the massive job faced by our Local Disaster Management Groups to coordinate the response effort.

"On behalf of Council I would like to thank Deputy Premier Paul Lucas, Minister for Police and Emergency Services Neil Roberts and Deputy Commissioner of Police Ian Stewart who visited Chinchilla this morning to inspect the situation.

"With Chinchilla and Dalby both declared disaster situations it was great that the State Government was able to witness this extreme flood event first-hand.

"The Local Disaster Coordination Centres are now busy coordinating with the District Disaster Committee to undertake evacuations as well as food and emergency medical deliveries to residents isolated by flood waters.

"The latest urgent development is advice to Warra residents not to drink the potable water supply due health risks associated with possible contamination caused by flooding at the water treatment plant.

"This issue is related to Warra residents only who are advised to use bottled water if possible. However the town water supply can be used in the case of emergency if boiled for three minutes.

"Adding to the situation has been the difficulty in communicating with residents as the local radio stations are unable to broadcast due to flooded transmission lines.

"Council coordinated with the State Disaster Coordination Centre to send an emergency alert to Warra residents earlier this afternoon," said Mayor Brown.

### Dalby Update

The Myall Creek in Dalby has fallen slightly to 3.29 metres, however is not expected to fall below three metres before 9pm tonight.

"Council's Evacuation Centres at the Dalby Showgrounds and Dalby South State School will remain open this evening and are currently accommodating 150 evacuated residents," said Mayor Brown.

"Well over 100 houses in Dalby remain affected by water inundation; however it does appear that the worst of the flood peak has past.

"Residents are advised to stay at home and away from flooded waterways with roads expected to remain closed for at least the next 24 hours. The Charles Drew Bridge remains closed, passable by high clearance 4WD vehicles only.

"For their safety I strongly urge residents and sightseers to follow the direction of road closure signage and not to enter flooded waterways due to the risk of swift water, hidden debris and snakes," said Mayor Brown.

Ergon Energy reports that power has been turned off to 207 homes in Dalby.

Residents in the Dalby district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666 which will remain open until 8pm tonight and reopen at 8am Wednesday.

### **Chinchilla Update**

Charleys Creek has fallen slightly to 7.20 metres, however with river heights rapidly rising upstream Council is concerned that a second peak could reach Chinchilla within the next two days.

"While flooding in Chinchilla appears to be steady at the moment, major flooding in the upper catchment area is expected to reach Charleys Creek within the next 48 hours resulting in a 7.5 metre peak," said Mayor Ray Brown.

"At this peak Council estimates that 100 premises could be inundated with water and preparations have already been made to ready the town and its residents.

"So far 58 people have been voluntarily evacuated in Chinchilla, including 13 from Warra yesterday, with 25 of these being accommodated within the town," he said.

All roads to and from Chinchilla remain closed and residents are strongly urged to stay out of flood waters due to health concerns.

Ergon Energy reports that power has been turned off to approximately 30 homes in Chinchilla. However facing extreme circumstances, Ergon was able to keep the main sewerage pump station operational which is greatly appreciated by Council.

Residents in the Chinchilla district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 7056 which will remain open until 8pm tonight and reopen at 8am Wednesday.

### **Miles and Wandoan Update**

All roads to and from Miles remain closed with the Dogwood Creek currently steady at 11.9 metres, 1.8 metres over RJ Simmons Bridge. Only one evacuation has occurred in Miles and the low lying areas of the town have been sandbagged as a precaution.

The Condamine River is currently steady at 11.9 metres, 1.8 metres over the Condamine Bridge and the SES are assisting the local feedlot operators to ferry workers across the river until the flood recedes.

While the township of Wandoan has not been affected by inundation, the district's road network has been significantly damaged due to flooding.

### **Tara and District Update**

All roads to and from Tara remain closed, however at this stage the township is not expected to require evacuations.

This afternoon the St George SES was engaged to assist in the evacuation of 10 residents within the township of Flinton due to rising flood waters in the Moonie River.

The latest weather forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology reports that rain is effectively clearing in South East Queensland with the trough pushing north and no further heavy rain forecast.

Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595. Residents can also monitor weather forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

For flood and storm assistance contact the SES on 132 500 and in a life-threatening emergency which includes people becoming trapped in floodwaters call triple zero (000) immediately.

### **Media Contact:**



Strategy and Communications Manager







## Media Alert

29 December 2010 – Issued 10.20am

### Dalby on Emergency Water Supply

While the sun may be shining on the flood soaked Western Downs this morning, Dalby residents woke to face a new emergency situation with the rising Condamine River flooding the town's water treatment plant overnight.

"Dalby's water treatment plant has been forced to shutdown due to flooding and on current usage rates the town has approximately two days water supply from its two reservoirs," Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said.

"The critical problem is that the Condamine River is currently 10.95 metres, 1.85 above the approaches to Loudoun Bridge, and still rising. To bring the water treatment plant back online will take at least a week and this cannot commence until flooding recedes which is not predicted to happen for a number of days.

"Emergency level six water restrictions are effective immediately in an effort to make the water last as long as possible and Council is urgently exploring alternative water supplies.

"Under level six restrictions residents are asked to use water sparingly for emergency domestic use only, like drinking and showering, and postpone non-critical uses such as clothes washing for as long as possible. All outside watering is banned.

"The forced shutdown could not have happened at a worst time with the Myall Creek falling over a metre overnight to 1.99 metres and residents starting to clean up after the flood.

"The use of hand-held hoses is banned under level six restrictions and residents are encouraged to use alternative water supplies like rain tanks and bore water to commence the flood clean up.

"Council is seeking the assistance of the District Disaster Committee to source alternative water supplies that can be used to assist residents in the flood clean up. These arrangements will be advised as soon as possible.

"A request has also been sent this morning to the State Disaster Coordination Centre for an emergency alert to be sent to Dalby residents advising of the level six water restrictions," Cr Brown said.

Meanwhile, the coordination of a district disaster response on the Western Downs continues with Council working closely with local disaster management groups to monitor the rise of the Condamine River and predicted impacts on Chinchilla, Miles and Condamine.

"This morning Charleys Creek had fallen to 6.85 metres and holding steady however Chinchilla remains on standby for a second peak as a result of major flooding upstream yesterday," Mayor Ray Brown said.

"At this stage the town's water treatment and sewerage treatment plants remain unaffected by flood water.

"This morning Miles was out of danger with the Dogwood Creek falling over a metre overnight however the township of Condamine is now in threat with the river reaching record heights of 13.2 metres, 3.1 metres over the bridge.

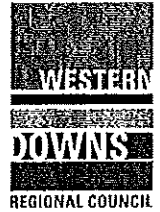
"At this stage two houses have already been inundated and four remain under threat," he said.

All roads to and from Chinchilla, Miles and Tara remain closed and residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595.

For flood assistance or information residents can call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centres operating today in Dalby on 4662 6666 and in Chinchilla on 4662 7056.

Media Contact:

Strategy and Communications Manager



## Media Alert

### 29 December 2010 – Issued 4.30pm

#### Waterless clean up commences in Dalby

The flood clean up has commenced in Dalby with the Myall Creek currently at 1.39 metres, however in an ironic twist efforts are being hampered with emergency water restrictions now in place.

Earlier today Western Downs Regional Council notified residents connected to Dalby's town water supply via Emergency SMS Alert that the use of potable water is restricted to domestic use only due to flooding at the treatment plant.

Mayor Ray Brown said that town water supplies were critically low due to the forced closure of the water treatment plant last night.

"Once the 9 mega litres held in the town's reservoirs have been used, there will be no more until the water treatment plant is brought back online. The plant is currently under half a metre of water and cannot be accessed for inspection, let alone recommissioning.

"It could be days before the flood waters recede and at this stage Council estimates that the plant will not be able to pump water of any standard for at least a week.

"It's vital that residents use town water sparingly for domestic use only and a total ban on outside watering means residents need to seek alternatives such as private rain water tanks and bore water.

"Council's Disaster Coordination Centre is liaising with the local supermarkets to replenish stocks of bottled water with supply trucks on route to Dalby from Brisbane.

"The District Disaster Committee is also providing assistance to source alternative water sources that can be used by residents, the rural fire brigade and local emergency services in flood clean up efforts," Cr Brown said.

To assist residents dispose of flood damaged items and debris the Dalby Landfill was reopened at midday today and a special kerbside collection program is arranged for flood affected areas.

"In addition to Council's scheduled garbage collection service this week, flood affected areas in Dalby will receive kerbside collection of flood waste only including affected household items and flood debris.

"The special service will commence 6am this Friday in the nominated flood affected area only. Residents must have items for collection on the kerbside no later than 6am this Friday," Cr Brown said.

If residents require assistance to remove flood damaged items please contact the coordination centre on 4662 6666.

Due to the disruption of scheduled collections this week JJ Richards will collect bins in Dalby today that were not serviced on Tuesday. Bell, Jandowae, Colkerri, Kaimkillenbun and Jimbour should also receive a collection service today, however if bins are not serviced residents are asked to leave them at roadside for collection tomorrow.

Council recommends residents visit the Queensland Health website [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au) and follow the links to disaster information for handy hints on how to safely undertake flood clean up.

With the Warrego Highway now open to Brisbane and residents able to return home, the majority of evacuees have left Council's Evacuation Centres. The remaining evacuees have been relocated to the Dalby Showgrounds and the South State School centre is now closed.

For flood assistance or information residents can call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centres operating today in Dalby on 4662 6666 and in Chinchilla on 4662 7056.

#### Media Contact:

Strategy and Communications Manager

## Media Alert

**29 December 2010 – Issued 7.30pm**

### **Deputy Premier and Police Commissioner inspect flood damage**

Deputy Premier Paul Lucas and Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson visited the flood ravaged town of Dalby earlier today to personally inspect the damage and witness the local disaster management response.

Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said the visit was an opportunity to highlight the critical situation the town now faces due to the closure of its Water Treatment Plant last night due to flooding.

"Even with the quick response from residents who have halved their water consumption today since level six restrictions were announced, Council stresses that residents need to reduce consumption even further to ensure reserves last as long as possible.

"I cannot stress enough the seriousness of the water shortage situation for Dalby.

"This is undoubtedly the worst flooding our region has seen in over twenty five years and its widespread impact on homes, businesses, infrastructure, agricultural and road networks is enormous. I couldn't begin to estimate the cost of flood damage so far, and we're not out of the woods yet with the Condamine River a record flood event.

"The Local Disaster Coordination Centres have been hectic all day coordinating with the District Disaster Committee to undertake evacuations as well as food and emergency medical deliveries to residents isolated by flood waters.

"Emergency Management Queensland and the Police have coordinated numerous evacuations and food drops via helicopter in the Duckloo and Moonie areas. Tomorrow the resupply of isolated properties and communities across the region will commence.

"The Minister, Commissioner and myself on behalf of Council sincerely thank residents, volunteers, Council staff and State Government agencies who have all worked tirelessly over what has been an extended flood event.

Council acknowledges the massive effort faced by residents, staff and volunteers over the coming weeks with clean up efforts still ahead for the Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles and Tara districts as flooding recedes.

"A regional natural disaster of this extent raises significant challenges and will take quite some time to recover from.

"I support the Minister's statement urging residents to respect the danger of swift water but not entering flood waters and becoming another rescue statistic.

"I reiterate comments made by the Commissioner earlier today asking motorists to drive to the condition of flood damaged roads which will take an extended period to repair to a safe level," said Mayor Brown.

### **Dalby Update**

The flood clean up has commenced in Dalby with the Myall Creek currently at 1.19 metres and steady.

To assist residents dispose of flood damaged items and debris the Dalby Landfill was reopened at midday today and a special kerbside collection program is scheduled for flood affected areas of Dalby.

The special service will commence 6am Friday 31 December in the nominated flood affected area only. Residents must have flood damaged items for collection on the kerbside no later than 6am this Friday.

Council has one Evacuation Centre remaining open this evening at the Dalby Showgrounds. The Warrego Highway is now open from Dalby through to Brisbane; however the Patrick Street Bridge will remain closed until repaired.

Residents in the Dalby district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666 which will open 8am Thursday.

### **Chinchilla Update**

Charleys Creek has receded to 6.74 metres and falling slowing however with the Condamine River still in full flood Council continues to closely monitor the situation.

The Cooranga Creek at Warra rose again today, forcing evacuated residents to stay another night in Chinchilla.

The Red Cross, Lifeline and the Department of Communities will be available from 9am tomorrow at the Chinchilla Cultural Centre for residents seeking flood relief.

Roads to and from Chinchilla remain closed and residents are strongly urged to stay out of flood waters due to health concerns.

Residents in the Chinchilla district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 7056 which will open at 8am Thursday.

### **Miles and Wandoan Update**

All roads to and from Miles remain closed however flooding at the Dogwood Creek has eased to 10.4 metres, .3 over the RJ Simmons Bridge.

The Condamine River continues to rise rapidly at 13.8 metres currently, 3.7 over the bridge and heading toward a record peak of 14.25 metres. The township of Condamine is now being closely monitored with one home already inundated with flood water.

### **Tara and District Update**

All roads to and from Tara remain closed, however at this stage the township is not expected to require evacuations.

Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595. Residents can also monitor weather forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

For flood and storm assistance contact the SES on 132 500 and in a life-threatening emergency which includes people becoming trapped in floodwaters call triple zero (000) immediately.

### **Media Contact:**



Strategy and Communications Manager



## Media Alert

### 30 December 2010 – Issued 10.45am

#### Myall Creek to rise again

Dalby's Myall Creek is predicted to start rising this morning to a peak of 1.7 metres by early this afternoon due to a burst ring tank that has caused flooding in the south branch of the creek's catchment.

Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said residents should not be alarmed as water is not expected to rise above the Patrick Street Bridge.

"Police have confirmed that an 1800 mega litre ring tank north of Oakey burst yesterday afternoon. At the predicted peak only minor flooding is expected to occur in Dalby.

"This will not affect tomorrow's kerbside collection in flood affected areas and residents are reminded to have flood damaged items on the kerbside no later than 6am Friday morning," said Mayor Brown.

Council confirms that Emergency Level Six Water Restrictions remain in place with Dalby still facing a water shortage crisis due to the forced closure of the Water Treatment Plant yesterday.

"This morning Council staff reached the plant by flood boat to inspect and assess the flood damage. More information will be released this afternoon once a recovery strategy has been developed.

"Yesterday's water consumption was 1.88 mega litres and the town reservoirs are now at 60% capacity. At this level of consumption the current water supply will last three days.

"Cartage of water from Oakey and Jandowae commenced this morning however this will only supplement the supply by 800 kilolitres a day.

"I cannot stress enough the urgent need for residents to use water sparingly for emergency domestic use only in an effort to make the supply last as long as possible. A total ban remains for outside watering," said Mayor Brown.

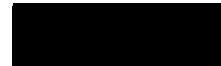
Residents requiring flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666.

For updates on road conditions contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595.

#### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager



Customer Service 1300 728 500  
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## Media Alert

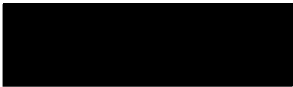
30 December 2010 – Issued 11am

### Urgent Alert to Motorists

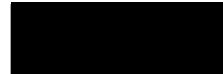
Motorists are alerted that due to flood damage Queensland Transport and the Police are enforcing an eight tonne load limit on the Brigalow – Canaga Road and the Jandowae – Inverai Road.

To obtain a permit to exceed the load limit please contact Western Downs Regional Council on 4662 6666.

### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager





## Media Alert

30 December 2010 – Issued 11.50am

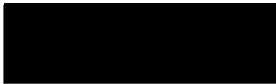
### Urgent Alert to Residents of the Tara District

Residents and motorists are alerted that the township of Tara has run out of unleaded petrol with pumps at all three fuel suppliers empty.

Limited stocks of diesel fuel remain.

It is unknown when roads will reopen and fuel supplies cannot be restocked until then.

### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager





## Media Alert

30 December 2010 – Issued 4.15pm

### Township of Condamine to be evacuated

History will be created today when the township of Condamine, four hours west of Brisbane, is evacuated due to record breaking flooding in the Condamine River.

Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown confirmed that an evacuation team is being mobilised to airlift the entire township of Condamine this afternoon to Dalby.

"It's a first for the town and unpopular with some residents, however the decision to mandatory evacuate the town has been made to protect the welfare of the community," Mayor Brown said.

"The Bureau predicts the rising Condamine River will peak at over 15 metres, flooding the town by Saturday.

"This record flood peak will leave the town completely isolated without power and water for at least a week. One hundred people stranded in these conditions would very quickly lead to serious health risks, let alone the difficulty of resupply.

"Therefore the request for emergency evacuation was made and helicopters are currently being sourced to get residents out by nightfall.

"The evacuation centre at the Dalby Showgrounds is on standby to house evacuees for an extended period and community service agencies have been coordinated to provide support," he said.

The Condamine River is currently at 14.25 metres, four metres over the bridge. The Bureau of Meteorology predicts an initial peak of 14.5 metres tonight which will hold until late tomorrow and then rise again to over 15 metres on Saturday.

"With the Condamine River already in full flood the record peak at Condamine is expected to hold until Tuesday next week before it slowly begins to drain," Mayor Brown said.

"Local emergency services held a town meeting earlier this afternoon to inform residents and coordinate the on-the-ground logistics of the airlift.

"I can reassure residents that a police and emergency services presence will remain in the town to keep it secure after the residents have been evacuated," Mayor Brown said.

For more information residents can call the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666 until 6pm this evening and from 8am Friday.

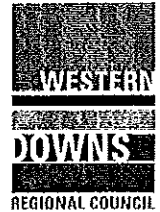
### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager







## Media Release

30 December 2010 – Issued 7.30pm

### Mayor heartened by offers of support

Faced with the enormous challenge of coordinating a disaster response effort across its 38,000 square kilometre flood ravaged region, Western Downs Regional Council is extremely heartened by offers of support from around the country.

Mayor Ray Brown said the generosity shown in the support of those affected by record flooding and the incredible work ethic of all those involved in the massive disaster response effort made him proud to be an Australian.

"In times of adversity, the aussie fighting spirit shines through and each day this disaster situation continues I see it first-hand.

"The offers of assistance haven't stopped since the flooding started on Monday, and they just keep coming. From Army Blackhawk helicopters evacuating residents in Condamine to donated food and bottled water used to resupply isolated communities.

"There are far too many offers to name and thank individually, but all are greatly appreciated.

"Special mention must also be made to Council and emergency services staff as well as volunteers who have availed themselves to assist in the operation.

"Each day brings new challenges, but I'm comforted by the morale and support of the entire disaster response team," Mayor Brown said.

### Dalby Update

Dalby's Myall Creek began rising this afternoon and is expected to peak at 1.5 metres, half a metre below the Patrick Street Bridge.

The systematic clean up and reinstatement of Dalby's Water Treatment Plant will commence in the morning with the deployment of a recovery team including water treatment technicians, plumbers and electricians.

To ensure water reserves last until the plant is back online, daily consumption cannot exceed one mega litre.

To achieve this residents are restricted to emergency domestic use only with a total ban on outside watering. The use of evaporative air conditioners should be avoided and the washing of clothes postponed.

Residents are reminded to have flood damaged items only for collection on the kerbside no later than 6am tomorrow morning when Council's kerbside collection will commence in flood affected areas only.

The Dalby Landfill remains open. Council's garbage and recycling collection service will occur as scheduled.

Residents in the Dalby district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666 which will open 8am Friday.

### Chinchilla Update

With flood waters continuing to recede in Chinchilla the town is now facing a water shortage crisis with several suspected main breaks depleting the town's water supply.

With inspection and repair impossible due to flooding, water restrictions effective immediately have been put in place. Residents are restricted to domestic use only with outside watering permitted only in flood affected areas for clean up.

With clean up starting to commence, the Chinchilla Landfill was reopened today. A special kerbside collection for flood damaged items only will be arranged for early next week.

Council's garbage and recycling collection services missed on Tuesday due to flooding were undertaken today.

With the town still isolated by road closures, fuel rationing has begun to ensure emergency services vehicles are kept operational.

A close watch continues on the river heights at the Warra Kogan Bridge and Brigalow Bridge.

Residents in the Chinchilla district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 7056 which will open at 8am Friday.

#### **Miles and Wandoan Update**

This morning flood waters had receded to below the RJ Simmons Bridge and following inspection and repair the bridge was reopened with a five tonne load limit.

The Miles Landfill reopened today to assist residents commencing the flood clean up.

The mandatory evacuation of residents from Condamine has commenced with Army Blackhawk helicopters assisting in the airlift operation of approximately 30 evacuees into Dalby tonight.

The Condamine River at Condamine is already at a record height of 14.25 metres with the Bureau of Meteorology predicting an initial peak of 14.5 metres tonight which will inundate half the town. A further peak of 15 metres is predicted to occur on Saturday, flooding the entire town until Tuesday next week.

#### **Tara and District Update**

All roads to and from Tara remain closed and therefore Council's scheduled garbage and recycling collection services cannot be provided to Tara, Tara rural residential estates, Meandarra, Flinton, Moonie and Westmar until access is returned.

The Tara Landfill is operational to assist residents commencing the flood clean up.

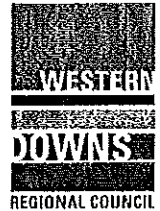
Residents and motorists are alerted that Tara has run out of unleaded petrol with pumps at all three fuel suppliers empty. Limited stocks of diesel fuel remain. It is unknown when roads will reopen and fuel supplies cannot be restocked until then.

Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595. Residents can also monitor weather forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

For flood and storm assistance contact the SES on 132 500 and in a life-threatening emergency which includes people becoming trapped in floodwaters call triple zero (000) immediately.

#### **Media Contact:**

 Strategy and Communications Manager 



## Media Alert

31 December 2010 – Issued 11.45am

### Urgent Alert to Residents Connected to Dalby Town Water Supply

Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown is stressing the need for Dalby residents connected to town water to restrict water use to an absolute minimum.

"Yesterday the town consumed 2.1 mega litres of water, leaving only 7.6 mega litres in the reservoirs this morning," Mayor Brown said.

"That's only three and half days supply at this usage rate which places the town in serious risk of running out of water before the flooded Water Treatment Plant is recommissioned.

"Residents need to restrict water consumption to 100 litres per person per day which means essential uses such as drinking and showering only, no outside watering and unfortunately no flood clean up.

"I cannot stress the importance of saving every drop in an effort to conserve drastically limited supplies.

"Please shorten your showers, turn off evaporative air conditioners, postpone washing clothes, turn off automatic watering systems and use alternative sources like rain or bottled water where possible," he said.

The systematic clean up and reinstatement of Dalby's Water Treatment Plant commenced this morning with the deployment of a recovery team including water treatment technicians, plumbers and electricians.

"It's a tedious process to inspect, clean, flush and sterilize the plant and restore damaged electrical systems. Then a series of rigorous water quality tests must be completed before potable water is supplied to the town again," Mayor Ray Brown said.

"Understandably, it's too early to know when the plant will be back pumping water.

"Council appreciates the efforts already made by residents to reduce consumption however this is a crisis situation and everyone needs to be more vigilant," he said.

A convoy of 14 water tankers will continue to truck treated water from Toowoomba, Oakey and Jandowae adding an additional 800 kilo litres per day to the reservoirs until the plant is back online.

### Media Contact:

[Redacted] Strategy and Communications Manager [Redacted]



## Media Alert

31 December 2010 – Issued 3.35pm

ATTENTION: Editors, News Directors and Chiefs-of-Staff

### Dalby Town Water Supply Now Critical

Due to today's spike in water consumption Dalby's water supply is now critically low and at risk of being depleted before the flooded Water Treatment Plant is recommissioned.

Residents are restricted to emergency household use only – Drinking, Toilets and Showering.

No evaporative air conditioners, no outside watering and no flood clean up.

Residents in need of assistance for flood clean up can call the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre as alternative sources are available to assist in clean up efforts.

Residents are asked to use alternative water sources where possible such as rain water, bore water or bottled water.

An Emergency SMS Alert will be sent to residents this afternoon.

#### Media Contact:



Strategy and Communications Manager





## Media Release

31 December 2010 – Issued 6.30pm

### Flood devastation continues for the Western Downs

The cost of record floods saturating the communities of the Western Downs continues to rise along with the water that has inundated homes and businesses, claimed personal property, destroyed crops, trashed roads and halted essential services.

"While the damage bill will be enormous, the community and entire disaster coordination team are grateful that this disaster has not claimed any lives," Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said.

"This evening our thoughts are with the residents of Condamine, Chinchilla, Warra, Flinton and the surrounding areas that remain in flood tonight.

"At 5pm this evening the Condamine River was 15.1 metres and still rising with the entire town now inundated. The police and a small emergency services crew that remain are doing a tremendous job caring for animals and livestock.

"Tonight the remaining 40 evacuees, 28 of whom are from Condamine and 12 stranded from Tara, will be relocated to more appropriate long-term accommodation at Dalby's agricultural college.

"Deputy Premier Paul Lucas, Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson and Minister for Police and Emergency Services Neil Roberts visited the Evacuation Centre today to show their support and reassure evacuees that community services support was available to them," he said.

Meanwhile the town of Dalby faces a critically low water supply following a spike in consumption today.

"An emergency SMS alert was sent to residents this afternoon and neighbour announcements undertaken urging residents to restrict use to emergency household use only – that's drinking, toilets and showering only," Mayor Brown said.

"Council's recovery crew is working around the clock to get the flood damaged Water Treatment Plant back online but existing supplies have to last until then.

"Water tankers will also continue to truck treated water to the reservoirs in an effort to meet the demand," he said.

The massive disaster response and recovery effort will continue across the Western Downs over the weekend with the focus on resupply and inspection of flood damaged bridges and roads.

"Numerous resupplies by air were made today to isolated communities and properties in the Miles, Wandoan and Tara districts, and these will continue for as long as needed.

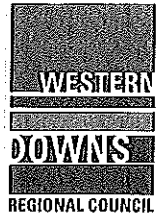
"However I must stress that resupply requests should be a last resort so that valuable emergency resources can be focused on assisting those in genuine need.

"In closing, I would like to share a message I received today from the Governor General Quentin Bryce who extends her best wishes and thoughts to the people of the Western Downs in this time of need," he said.

Residents in need of flood assistance or information can call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centres in Dalby on 4662 6666 or Chinchilla on 4672 7056 from 9am Saturday 1 January 2011.

#### Media Contact:

Strategy and Communications Manager



## Media Alert

### 1 January 2011 – Issued 1pm

#### **Reduce water usage or supply will be cut**

Western Downs Regional Council will be forced to cut water supply to Dalby outside of peak usage times unless residents reduce water consumption immediately.

Mayor Ray Brown said this morning that Dalby's remaining water supply is critically low at 4.7 mega litres.

"The message to residents is simple, reduce water usage immediately or Council will be forced to cut water supply during off-peak periods," Mayor Brown said.

"Water usage from 7am to 11am was 594 kilolitres, at this rate the town will consume 3.5 mega litres in the current 24 hour period - effectively draining the total supply by tomorrow.

"The Water Treatment Plant is expected to be pumping at 40% capacity tomorrow if all goes to plan, producing only 2.5 mega litres – less than the current daily consumption.

"People have to realise that getting the plant back online will not solve Dalby's water crisis.

"The water supply cannot be replenished while the town is consuming over 3 mega litres a day and the plant can only produce 2.5 mega litres a day.

"This is not a hoax, the situation is very real. If the water supply is cut people will not be able to access drinking water from the tap, shower or flush toilets outside of peak times," he said.

Under Emergency Level Six Water Restrictions water usage is restricted to – Drinking, Toilets and Showering.

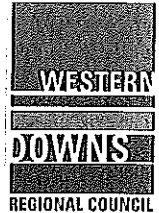
No evaporative air conditioners, no outside watering and no flood clean up.

Residents are asked to use alternative water sources such as rainwater, bore water or bottled water.

Alternative sources are available to assist in clean up efforts – please call the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666 for more information.

#### **Media Contact:**

Strategy and Communications Manager



## Media Release

1 January 2011 – Issued 7pm

### Damage bill mounts as flood waters hold

The communities of the Western Downs continue to show incredible resilience in the wake of record breaking floods that have caused heartache and havoc throughout the region.

Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said tonight that despite the devastation Council is grateful that no lives had been lost, and heartened by the strength of character shown by the affected communities.

"Each day that flood waters continue to rise, the damage bill escalates along with the losses suffered by our residents and businesses. Despite this, I have been amazed by the community spirit and generosity extended to those in need," Mayor Brown said.

"This evening our thoughts remain with the residents of Condamine, Chinchilla, Flinton and the surrounding areas that are still flood affected.

"At 5pm this evening the Condamine River was close to reaching its predicted peak of 15.5 metres, a metre over the 1942 flood record. Concerns are now held for livestock with feedlots in the area losing hay and grain in the flood waters.

"A close watch is also being kept on the town of Flinton with the Moonie River expected to peak tonight at 5.3 metres, a level similar to the March 2010 flood. The remaining six residents are safe and self-sufficient," he said. Dalby residents received another emergency alert this afternoon with the critically low water supply being depleted faster than it can be replenished.

"Unless residents reduce their water usage drastically, Council will be forced to cut supply outside of peak demand times.

"Turning off the water supply is a last resort but may be the only way to show people that the water crisis is real.

"Council has arranged alternative water sources to assist residents clean up after the flood. This service is available by calling the disaster coordination centre on 4662 6666," he said.

With an outbreak of mosquitoes and sandflies expected to follow the receding flood waters a team from Queensland Health are being mobilised.

"Queensland Health will arrive in the region on Monday to assist Council survey the potential insect problem and determine viable prevention and treatment options," Mayor Brown said.

Flood affected residents and businesses facing financial or personal hardship are advised that both Federal and State Government assistance is available.

"Australian Disaster Relief Payments of \$1,000 per adult and \$400 per child are now available through Centrelink for residents who had flood water enter their home, a strict criteria applies.

"Centrelink will have staff working every day, including Sunday and Monday, from 8.30am to 4.30pm at the Chinchilla Cultural Centre and its Dalby office," he said.

For more information call Centrelink on 180 22 66 or visit [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) to download claim forms and fact sheets.

"Today I received a message from Minister for Community Services Karen Struthers assuring residents that Department of Communities staff are on hand to provide financial and practical assistance," Mayor Brown said.

For assistance from community services residents can contact the Personal Hardship Hotline on 1800 173 349.

### **Dalby Update**

No flooding remains in Dalby with the clean up continuing. Council worked around the clock to reinstate the flood damaged Water Treatment Plant which is expected to be pumping water at 40% capacity by the morning.

Despite lowering water pressure as much as possible and carting treated water from external sources, Dalby's water supply will remain critically low for several weeks until the supply can be replenished.

Residents are restricted to emergency domestic use only with a total ban on outside watering. The use of evaporative air conditioners should be avoided and the washing of clothes postponed.

Alternative water sources are available to assist residents in flood clean up, call 4662 6666 to register.

Warra residents remain on a boil water alert and bottled water has been delivered to the town.

Residents in the Dalby district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666 which will open 9am Sunday.

### **Chinchilla Update**

Charley's Creek at Chinchilla continues to fall slowly but water remains over the bridge this evening. The Warrego Highway has been reopened with the lights in place on Charleys Bridge to assist motorists.

The clean up effort has commenced in Chinchilla with Council working in partnership with local SES, volunteers and work crews from the energy sector.

Offers of assistance are greatly accepted, in particular furniture and bedding for those who have lost everything. Council has arranged a special kerbside collection program in flood affected areas that will commence 7am Tuesday 4 January 2011. Residents must have flood damaged items for collection on the kerbside no later than 7am Tuesday.

Council's scheduled garbage and recycling collection service will recommence as soon as possible to areas that can be accessed safely. Where possible residents should present bins for collection on the normal scheduled collection day.

Residents in the Chinchilla district in need of flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 7056 which will open at 9am Sunday.

### **Miles and Wandoan Update**

Late this afternoon the Leichhardt Highway was reopened to Wandoan, but no further.

Tonight 36 evacuees from Condamine remain at the Evacuation Centre at the Dalby agricultural college.

### **Tara and District Update**

Tara remains isolated from Dalby and Chinchilla and resupply to properties isolated by flood is continuing. Residents and motorists are alerted fuel supplies in Tara remain at a critically low level.

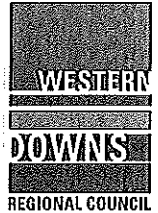
Residents requiring updates on road conditions should contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595.

For flood recovery assistance contact the SES on 132 500.

### **Media Contact:**

██████████ Strategy and Communications Manager ██████████





## Media Release

2 January 2011 – Issued 6pm

### Counter disaster effort underway

Western Downs Regional Council is working in partnership with its flood affected communities, emergency services and community support agencies in what can only be described as a gigantic counter disaster effort.

"Tonight we're praying that the worst of the flooding is over for our region and for recovery efforts to continue as smoothly as possible" Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said.

"This afternoon Council assembled a Working Disaster Recovery Committee to coordinate the clean up operation at Condamine and the safe return of residents as soon as possible.

"Two Condamine residents who were evacuated will join the committee as local knowledge will greatly assist the effective mobilisation of recovery crews, equipment and services.

"At 10am this morning the river at Condamine had receded to 14.98 metres and was falling very slowly. The aim is to have the recovery team ready to go as soon as the roads reopen, which is expected to be late Wednesday," he said.

Dalby's water supply crisis remains extreme with Council confirming this afternoon that the Water Treatment Plant was back online, pumping water at only 40% capacity.

"Dalby residents can expect to remain on Level Six Water Restrictions for several weeks until the reservoirs can be replenished," Mayor Brown said.

"Usage is still restricted to domestic use only, with a total ban on outside watering. However, alternative water sources are available for flood clean up by calling Council on 4662 6666," he said.

The massive flood clean up continues in Chinchilla and Warra with Council and the community working alongside numerous volunteer agencies including SES and work crews from the energy sector.

"Council has received generous donations of clothing which are being distributed from the Chinchilla Cultural Centre to those in need," Mayor Brown said.

"Residents are reminded to have flood damaged items for collection on the kerbside by 7am Tuesday," he said.

Flood affected residents and businesses facing financial or personal hardship are advised that both Federal and State Government assistance is available.

Australian Disaster Relief Payments of \$1,000 per adult and \$400 per child are now available through Centrelink for residents who had flood water enter their home, a strict criteria applies. To assist residents Centrelink staff are working every day from 8.30am to 4.30pm at the Chinchilla Cultural Centre and its Dalby office.

For more information call Centrelink on 180 22 66 or visit [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) to download claim forms and fact sheets.

Assistance for personal hardship is available by calling the Department of Communities hotline on 1800 173 349.

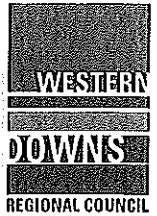
For all livestock issues and fodder drop requests contact the DERM on 0428 101 826.

A 24 hour emergency hotline has also been established by the Australian Insurance Council on 1300 728 228.

Residents in need of flood assistance or information can call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centres in Dalby on 4662 6666 or Chinchilla on 4672 7056 from 9am Monday 3 January 2011.

#### Media Contact:

Strategy and Communications Manager



## Media Release

3 January 2011 – Issued 5pm

### Abbot visits Western Downs to inspect flood damage

Tony Abbott visited the Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Dalby this afternoon to witness the massive counter disaster operation underway across the flood ravaged region first-hand.

The Leader of the Opposition was joined by Member for the Maranoa Bruce Scott, Leader of the Nationals Warren Truss, State Opposition Leader John Paul Langbroek and Local Member Ray Hopper in the visit

"Council took the opportunity to not only show the extent of the urban damage bill but also highlight to Mr Abbot the need for assistance to the devastated agricultural sector," Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said.

"I expressed my concerns on the need to keep pressure on both governments for assistance particularly the need for infrastructure funding to rebuild the Western Downs.

"For our residents that rebuilding process has already begun with many forced to start again having lost not only their homes but their livelihoods to flood waters.

"It's a heartbreaking process and I've been amazed by the resilience and community spirit shown by those affected the most," he said.

### Miles and Wandoan District Update

A Western Downs Local Disaster Coordination Centre has been activated in Miles today to manage the recovery operation in Condamine, to contact the centre call 4628 5521.

This evening the townships of Condamine and Flinton remain isolated with the main roads and highways within the region reopened with caution and restricted load limits. Motorists are urged to drive to the conditions as flood damage is severe.

At 9am this morning the river at Condamine was 14.4 metres and 26 houses were still inundated. The Disaster Recovery Committee is working toward counter disaster crews, equipment and services returning to Condamine with residents on Wednesday 5 January when the roads reopen, which dependant on the weather holding.

### Dalby District Update

Main Roads reopened the Moonie Highway this afternoon following emergency repairs to the Loudoun Bridge; however a five tonne load limit applies.

This morning Dalby's water reservoirs were at 43% with Council carting 2.1 mega litres and the Water Treatment Plant producing 2.8 mega litres yesterday. Residents are commended for remaining diligent and conserving water with yesterday's usage 2.4 mega litres.

Level Six Water Restrictions will remain in place for at least another week until the reservoirs are replenished. Alternative water sources are available for flood clean up, residents in need of assistance can call 4662 6666.

Warra residents are advised that a boil water warning still applies, boil water for three minutes before consuming.

### Chinchilla District Update

Clean up efforts continue in Chinchilla with Council and the community working alongside numerous volunteer agencies including SES and work crews from the energy sector.

A special kerbside collection commences tomorrow, residents must have flood damaged items for collection on the kerbside by 7am.

Thanks to generous donations Council is distributing clothing to those in need from the Chinchilla Cultural Centre.

**General Advice to Flood Affected Residents**

Flood affected residents and businesses facing financial or personal hardship are advised that assistance is available from both several government agencies.

Australian Disaster Relief Payments are now available through Centrelink for eligible flood victims, for more information call Centrelink on 180 22 66 or visit [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) to download claim forms and fact sheets.

Residents experiencing personal hardship due to flooding can call the Department of Communities on 1800 173 349.

Ergon Energy asks all rural customers with water inundation into their homes to call 13 22 96 for safety advice.

For all livestock issues and fodder drop requests contact the DERM on 0428 101 826.

A 24 hour emergency hotline has also been established by the Australian Insurance Council on 1300 728 228.

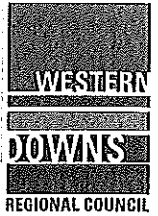
Residents in need of flood assistance or information can call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centres in Dalby on 4662 6666, Chinchilla on 4672 7056 or Miles on 4628 5521 from 9am Tuesday 4 January 2011.

**Media Contact:**



Strategy and Communications Manager





## Media Release

4 January 2011 – Issued 7.15pm

### Water crisis and Condamine top priorities

Western Downs Regional Council welcomed Agriculture Minister Joseph Ludwig, Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts and Queensland Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson this morning to tour the Local Disaster Coordination Centre and flood damaged Water Treatment Plant in Dalby.

Mayor Ray Brown said the visit was part of Council's push to highlight the scale of the region's counter disaster operation and show first-hand the extent of flood damage to roads, infrastructure, agriculture, industry and the community.

"The Ministers were particularly interested in Dalby's water situation and requested a progress report on the recovery operation planned for Condamine," Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said.

"On surveying the extent of damage to the Water Treatment Plant both Ministers were impressed with the efforts of Council's water technicians, electricians, plumbers and contractors who worked tirelessly to bring it back online.

"However, Dalby's water crisis is far from over. The second reverse osmosis plant and the conventional treatment plant remain offline and only three of Council's thirteen bores are operating with the rest still under water.

"Level six water restrictions remain in place and Dalby residents must keep up their efforts to conserve water.

"In relation to Condamine, all roads to the town remain closed with the river still in extreme flood and receding very slowly. At 9am this morning it was 13.7 metres, 3.6 metres over the bridge and flowing rapidly.

"Initial plans for the safe return of residents tomorrow were optimistic and have been postponed until Thursday, subject to the condition of roads and the weather holding.

"Commissioner Atkinson reassured residents that a Police presence would remain in Condamine to maintain security and assist in the coordinated return of residents and emergency services when it's safe to do so.

"Condamine residents who self-evacuated must call the Miles coordination centre on 4628 5521 to register to be part of the coordinated return to the town. For their own safety residents will not be allowed to return before Thursday.

"This evening Council, like the rest of south east Queensland, will keep a close watch on the Bureau's prediction of significant rainfalls within the next 48 hours," he said.

### Miles and Wandoan District Update

This evening the townships of Condamine and Flinton remain isolated with all road access closed due to flooding.

All Condamine residents planning to return to the town once roads are reopened must register with the Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Miles by calling 4628 5521 to be part of the coordinated return to the town.

The Disaster Recovery Committee is working toward counter disaster crews, equipment and services returning to Condamine with residents on Thursday 6 January subject to roads being reopened and the weather holding.

Council expects to have the town water supply operational by Friday however it will be restricted to domestic use only with a total ban on outside watering. Alternative sources such as water trucks will be on site for flood clean up.

Due to the burden extra people will place on emergency services, sightseers are asked not to visit the town until the recovery operation has been finalised.

The Murilla Community Centre is accepting cash donations on 07 4627 2027 to be distributed as food vouchers to flood victims in Condamine.

### **Dalby District Update**

This morning Dalby's water reservoirs were at 61% with Council carting 1.8 mega litres and the Water Treatment Plant producing 2.8 mega litres yesterday. Level Six Water Restrictions remain in place.

Consumption in the last 24 hours increased to 3 mega litres and residents are reminded to remain diligent. Washing of clothes should be kept to essential items only and the use of evaporative air conditioners avoided.

Alternative water sources are available for flood clean up, residents in need of assistance can call 4662 6666.

Council crews are prioritising maintenance works to the severely damaged road networks, bridges and major infrastructure.

Warra residents are advised that a boil water warning still applies, boil water for three minutes before consuming.

Kerbside collection in flood affected areas of Warra commenced this afternoon and will continue tomorrow. Residents are asked to have flood damaged household items for collection on the kerbside by 7am.

### **Chinchilla District Update**

Community spirit has rallied in Chinchilla with business and community groups working in partnership with Council to clean up 28 houses and 30 businesses that were inundated.

To assist those who have lost everything in the flood, donations of household furniture, beds, mattresses and linen is greatly needed. To donate please call the Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Chinchilla on 07 4662 7056.

Thanks to generous donations Council is distributing clothing to those in need from the Chinchilla Cultural Centre.

### **Tara District Update**

Due to the five tonne load restriction on the Loudoun Bridge Council's scheduled garbage and recycling collection service will not proceed on Wednesday as planned.

### **General Advice to Flood Affected Residents**

Council's scheduled garbage and recycling collection service will recommence in areas as and when road access is allowed and load limits have been lifted. Residents who have missed kerbside collections for flood affected areas are asked to call their Local Disaster Coordination Centre.

Council is coordinating a mosquito and sandfly control program and seeking assistance from other Local Governments with access to the expertise and control equipment.

Flood affected residents and businesses facing financial or personal hardship are advised that assistance is available from both several government agencies.

Australian Disaster Relief Payments are now available through Centrelink for eligible flood victims, for more information call Centrelink on 180 22 66 or visit [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) to download claim forms and fact sheets.

Residents experiencing personal hardship due to flooding can call the Department of Communities on 1800 173 349.

Ergon Energy asks all rural customers with water inundation into their homes to call 13 22 96 for safety advice.

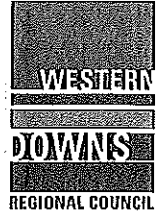
For all livestock issues and fodder drop requests contact the DERM on [REDACTED]

A 24 hour emergency hotline has also been established by the Australian Insurance Council on 1300 728 228.

Residents in need of flood assistance or information can call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centres in Dalby on 4662 6666, Chinchilla on 4672 7056 or Miles on 4628 5521 from 9am Wednesday 5 January 2011.

### **Media Contact:**

[REDACTED] Strategy and Communications Manager [REDACTED]



## Media Release

5 January 2011 – Issued 5.20pm

### Weather hampers return to Condamine

Thunderstorms and rain across the Darling Downs today added difficulty to the coordination of Council's recovery operation for the entry of emergency services crews and the return of residents to Condamine tomorrow.

Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said late this afternoon that as long as the weather held and road conditions permitted, the planned recovery operation into Condamine would go ahead Thursday morning.

"Only residents and official recovery personnel will be granted access tomorrow as part of the coordinated return to the town," Mayor Brown said.

"With the district declared a disaster situation, Queensland Police are manning access points into the town to prevent unsafe as well as unauthorised entry.

"This morning at 11.45am the river was 12.3 metres, which is still 2.2 metres over the Condamine Bridge.

"The health and safety of residents and the qualified recovery team is Council's primary concern and that's why a controlled re-entry to the town has been coordinated.

"Apart from the obvious risk of entering flooded crossings, additional health risks associated with flood clean up include tetanus, fungal infections and gastro related illnesses.

"The last thing anyone wants or needs in what is already an emotionally stressful situation, is an outbreak of disease. That's why the cooperation of residents and emergency service providers is paramount," he said.

Mayor Brown said that Western Downs Regional Council welcomed the Premier's appointment today of Major General Mick Slater to lead the Queensland Flood Recovery Taskforce.

"The formation of this taskforce will greatly assist our local and district disaster management groups on the ground now in what is still a gigantic recovery and rebuilding task across the region," he said.

### Miles and Wandoan District Update

This evening the townships of Condamine and Flinton remain isolated with all road access closed due to flooding.

All Condamine residents planning to return to the town once roads are reopened must register with the Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Miles by calling 4628 5521 to be part of the coordinated return to the town.

The Disaster Recovery Committee is working toward counter disaster crews, equipment and services returning to Condamine with residents on Thursday 6 January subject to a health safety clearance and weather conditions.

Council expects to have the town water supply operational by Friday however it will be restricted to domestic use only with a total ban on outside watering. Alternative sources such as water trucks will be on site for flood clean up.

Due to the burden extra people will place on emergency services, sightseers are asked not to visit the town until the recovery operation has been finalised.

The Murilla Community Centre is accepting cash donations on 07 4627 2027 to be distributed as food vouchers to flood victims in Condamine.

St Vincent De Paul is also providing clothing and food vouchers to flood affected residents and are available anytime on 07 4627 1267.

### **Dalby District Update**

This morning Dalby's water reservoirs were at 79% with Council carting 1.3 mega litres and the water treatment plant producing 2.8 mega litres yesterday. Level Six Water Restrictions remain in place.

"The efforts of residents to reduce water usage yesterday to 2.4 mega litres is greatly appreciated by the community and have allowed the reservoirs to catch up," Mayor Ray Brown said.

"The unstable weather and flood conditions are hampering efforts to repair main breaks to outlying bores needed to provide additional supply to the water treatment plant.

"For the removal of level six restrictions we need to have the other Reverse Osmosis plant and the majority of bores back online. In the meantime, residents are asked to remain diligent," he said.

Alternative water sources are available for flood clean up, residents in need of assistance can call 4662 6666.

Council crews are prioritising maintenance works to the severely damaged road networks, bridges and major infrastructure. The patience of motorists is appreciated while safety is restored to the road network.

Warra residents are advised that a boil water warning still applies, boil water for three minutes before consuming.

### **Chinchilla District Update**

The sun may not be shining today in Chinchilla but the community spirit certainly is with business and community groups working in partnership with Council to clean up the 28 houses and 30 businesses affected by flooding.

To assist those who have lost everything in the flood, donations of household furniture, beds, mattresses and linen is greatly needed. To donate please call the Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Chinchilla on 07 4662 7056.

Thanks to generous donations Council is distributing clothing to those in need from the Chinchilla Cultural Centre.

### **Tara District Update**

Motorists are advised that the Moonie Highway was closed again this afternoon at the Long Swamp, therefore blocking access from Dalby to Tara.

### **General Advice to Flood Affected Residents**

Council's scheduled garbage and recycling collection service will recommence in areas as and when road access is allowed and load limits have been lifted. Residents who have missed kerbside collections for flood affected areas are asked to call their Local Disaster Coordination Centre.

Council is coordinating a mosquito and sandfly control program and seeking assistance from other local governments with access to the expertise and control equipment.

Australian Disaster Relief Payments are now available through Centrelink for eligible flood victims, for more information call Centrelink on 180 22 66 or visit [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) to download claim forms and fact sheets.

Residents experiencing personal hardship due to flooding can call the Department of Communities on 1800 173 349.

Ergon Energy asks all rural customers with water inundation into their homes to call 13 22 96 for safety advice.

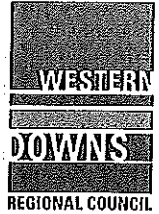
For all livestock issues and fodder drop requests contact the DERM on [REDACTED]

A 24 hour emergency hotline has also been established by the Australian Insurance Council on 1300 728 228.

Residents in need of flood assistance or information can call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centres in Dalby on 4662 6666, Chinchilla on 4672 7056 or Miles on 4628 5521 from 9am Thursday 6 January 2011.

### **Media Contact:**

[REDACTED] Strategy and Communications Manager [REDACTED]



## Media Release 6 January 2010

### Repairs to flood damaged roads a priority

Western Downs Regional Council is pulling out all stops to repair severely flood damaged roads and bridges with the region's vast road network left in a dangerous condition due to continued storms and flooding.

"Our roads have taken a real battering with main highways and crucial main roads still under water or left in a state of disrepair. In many cases large sections of road have been washed away," said Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown.

"The top priority is to repair the worst affected areas and most dangerous sections to make them safer for motorists.

"All available roadwork crews have been mobilised to assess flood damage and perform urgent works on critically affected roads and bridges on a prioritisation basis.

"Council is working closely with Main Roads crews so that all roads of importance are restored as soon as possible.

"This along with the unstable weather at the moment could lead to delays in attending to local roads and residents are asked to remain patient as roads will only be reopened to traffic when it's safe to do.

"I urge motorists to drive to the conditions and adhere to road signage that has been specifically placed to ensure their safety at all times throughout the day and night," he said.

Western Downs Regional Council reports the following road closures due to flooding as at 4pm today:

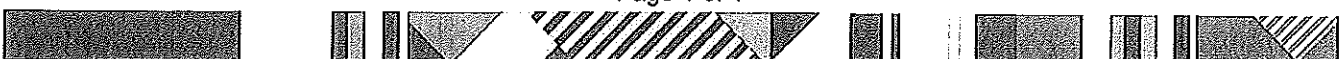
- Warrego Highway (Toowoomba-Dalby) at Gowrie Creek between Jondaryan and Bowenville
- Chinchilla Tara Road at Condamine Bridge
- Chinchilla Wondai Road 10kms north of Chinchilla
- Condamine Meandarra Road at Fotheringhams Gully, Condamine and Undula Creek
- Dalby Cecil Plains Road at Ashall Creek
- Dalby Kogan Road at Wilkie Creek
- Kogan Condamine Road at Wiembilla Creek and Condamine Bridge
- Leichhardt Highway - Miles to Condamine
- Leichhardt Highway - The Gums to Condamine
- Roma Taroom Road
- Warra Canaga Creek Road
- Warra Kogan Road

Other main roads throughout the Western Downs are open with caution. Motorists are urged to drive with care and not to enter floodwaters.

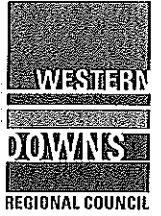
For the latest on road closures and road condition reports contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595.

To report road damage please contact Council on 1300 728 500 or your local Customer Service Centre.

- Ends -







## **Media Alert**

**6 January 2011 – Issued 12.30pm**

**ATTENTION: Editors, News Directors and Chiefs-of-Staff**

### **Warrego and Moonie Highways closed**

The Warrego Highway is closed west of the Cecil Plains Road due to flash flooding at Bowenville.

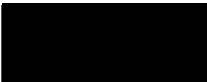
The Moonie Highway is closed from Watt Street to the Surat Development Road with access to local traffic only, due to flooding at the Long Swamp and Fressers Gully.

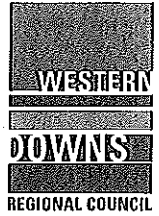
Both highways will be reopened as soon as conditions allow.

**Media Contact:**



Strategy and Communications Manager





## **Media Alert**

### **6 January 2011 – Issued 6.35pm**

ATTENTION: Editors, News Directors and Chiefs-of-Staff

### **New flood peak of 2.3 metres tonight in Dalby**

In less than an hour the Bureau of Meteorology has revised the predicted peak of Dalby's Myall Creek to 2.3 metres at midnight tonight.

"The water level is rising rapidly and is now predicted to reach 2.3 metres tonight rather than tomorrow," Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said.

"Residents in low lying areas are advised to expect water into their yards and are urged to move vehicles and valuables to higher ground immediately.

"At the revised peak of 2.3 metres no houses should be inundated and water will be half a metre over the already closed Patrick Street Bridge.

"The Edward Street Weir will remain closed, and Marble Street will also close.

"Council will continue to monitor river heights in the upper catchment area tonight and advise residents if conditions change due to further rain," Mayor Brown said.

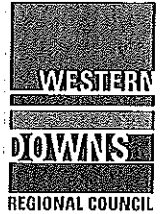
Residents requiring flood assistance or information are asked to call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666.

To monitor weather forecasts visit the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

For updates on road conditions contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595.

#### **Media Contact:**

Strategy and Communications Manager



## Media Release 7 January 2011

### **Dalby Swimming Pool closed for repairs**

The Dalby Swimming Pool last week was forced to temporarily shut its gates throughout one of its busiest months of the year after the pool and some associated equipment was inundated by flood water.

Western Downs Regional Council advises the town's popular leisure facility will be closed to the public until further notice as the main pool and some of the mechanical and electrical plant suffered damage.

The main pool has been affected by a large amount of fine sediment and a clean up operation is expected to commence early next week.

Mayor Ray Brown emphasised that the closure is temporary and Dalby residents will be notified when the pool will be reopened after much needed repairs and the clean up are completed.

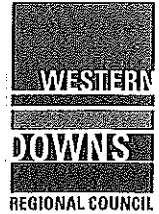
"Unfortunately Council had no option but to close the facility until further notice in the interest of public safety and due to insufficient water available in the town supply to refill the pool," he said.

"With a couple of weeks of school holidays left, Council understand this is bound to dampen the plans of many Dalby parents and their children.

"Council and Pool management regret any inconvenience caused. Every effort is being made to repair the affected equipment and reopen the pool as quickly as possible."

-Ends-





## Media Release

7 January 2011 – Issued 9.30am

### Rain, rain go away

Residents of Dalby on the Western Downs are bracing themselves for the third flood event in ten days with the Myall Creek surpassing last night's expected peak, continuing to rise to 2.39 metres at 8am this morning.

"By 9am the creek is expected to hit the revised peak of 2.5 metres which is below the level reached in the flood leading up to Christmas. It should then recede steadily throughout the day," Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said.

"Residents in low lying areas were notified last night to prepare for water into yards and garages but no houses are expected to be inundated. Vehicles and valuables should be moved to higher ground to avoid flood damage.

"With the Dalby Tourist Park affected by flood, alternative arrangements have been made for travellers in caravans at the Dalby Showgrounds.

"Apart from dampening spirits, the continued rain is also causing havoc to our road networks with the Warrego Highway between Dalby and Toowoomba open under escort only this morning which is causing delays.

"Council will continue to monitor how much rain falls today in the catchment area. The best we can hope for is that the Bureau's prediction of light showers over the next few days proves to be correct.

"With the ground already totally saturated even light falls can quickly lead to minor localised flooding," he said.

As at 9am this morning Main Roads reports the following roads closed:

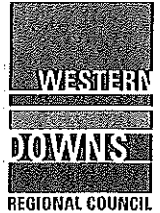
- Chinchilla Wondai Road
- Condamine Meandarra Road
- Dalby Cecil Plains Road at Ashall Creek
- Dalby Kogan Road at Wilkie Creek and Rangers Bridge
- Kogan Condamine Road
- Leichhardt Highway - Condamine to Moonie
- Roma Taroom Road
- Warra Canaga Creek Road
- Warra Kogan Road

As at 9am this morning Main Roads reports the following roads open with caution:

- Warrego Highway (Toowoomba-Dalby) – under escort only
- Warrego Highway (Dalby to Chinchilla) – open with extreme caution at Macalister
- Dalby Jandowae Road – open with caution
- Bunya Highway - open with caution
- Bunya Mountains Road - open with caution
- Moonie Highway - open with caution. 4WD only at the Long Swamp. Five tonne load limit
- Chinchilla Tara Road – open with caution. Status reviewed hourly
- Jackson Wandoan Road - open with caution
- Leichhardt Highway (Goondiwindi to Moonie) – open with caution
- Leichhardt Highway (Wandoan to Miles) – open with caution
- Leichhardt Highway (Taroom to Wandoan) – open with five tonne load limit

For the latest road closures residents can call the local Mains Roads call centre on 4661 6333 to speak to an operator.

- Ends -



## Media Release

7 January 2011 – Issued 6.30pm

### Governor-General visits Condamine and Chinchilla

The Governor-General Quentin Bryce made a special visit to the Western Downs today spending time with flood affected residents in Condamine and Chinchilla.

Western Downs Regional Mayor Ray Brown said this afternoon that the Governor-General and Mr Michael Bryce's visit had greatly lifted the spirits of those hit the hardest by the worst flooding the region has seen in recent history.

"Her Excellency took the time to personally meet with residents and business owners who have endured extreme flood conditions and are now showing incredible strength of character to rebuild what they have lost.

"The Governor-General's visit was a real boost to morale where it's needed the most," Mayor Brown said.

The Governor-General's party was joined by Federal Member for Maranoa Bruce Scott to view flood damage to properties and infrastructure in Condamine and Chinchilla as well as the region's expansive road network.

"Ms Bryce and Mr Bryce were touched by the stories shared with them and expressed their support for our region as it begins the rebuilding process," Cr Brown said.

"Her Excellency also spoke with emergency services staff and community volunteers who have been on-the-ground throughout the disaster effort and gave sincere thanks to all involved.

"The visit provided a welcome relief to what has been a traumatic week for our region and Council thanks Her Excellency for showing her support in this time of need," he said.

- Ends -

## Media Release

### 7 January 2011

#### **Water level slowly receding in Dalby's Myall Creek**

Tonight residents of the Western Downs town of Dalby are breathing a sigh of relief as the water level in Myall Creek continues to gradually recede from 2.19 metres as at 4pm this afternoon.

"The Myall Creek did not reach the Bureau of Meteorology's revised peak this morning of 2.5 metres and is expected to continue to drop weather permitting," Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown said.

"I thank Dalby residents for their efforts to reduce water consumption as the levels of the reservoir increased throughout the day to 79% and we are now on target to produce the required daily minimum supply of 4.3 mega litres."

Local Disaster Coordination Centres have been overwhelmed by a flood of offers and donations.

Cr Brown said items will be needed shortly and asks those wishing to donate furniture to wait until items of need can be identified.

Due to the numerous donations pouring in to support flood victims Council has established a Flood Disaster Trust Fund and is accepting cash donations on 07 4662 6666.

Lifeline in Dalby and Chinchilla are accepting donations of household furniture and advise that no clothing is required.

Disaster Centre in Dalby has closed. Miles and Chinchilla still remain open.

#### **Miles and Wandoan District Update**

Condamine Bridge at Condamine is currently open to light vehicles.

Yesterday afternoon the twenty-six evacuees residing at the Dalby Agricultural College were returned to Condamine. The group were transported from Dalby to Miles by bus and then airlifted by chopper into Condamine at 3pm.

A Recovery Team including Emergency Management Queensland, SES, Police, community services support personnel and Council staff entered Condamine yesterday morning to set up the Recovery Centre in time for the arrival of residents.

Alternative accommodation for emergency services staff and residents unable to stay in their homes due to flood inundation has been provided at a local energy company camp site.

Self evacuated residents are asked to register at the Recovery Centre located at the State School on their return to the town as support services will be available upon registration.

Council continues to work on the Condamine town water supply however when online it will be restricted to domestic use only with a total ban on outside watering. Alternative sources such as water trucks will be on site for flood clean up.

As a safety precaution against water contamination a Boil Water Alert applies and bottled water is on hand for residents. Residents are advised to drink bottled water only. Please check for leaks and breakages and report to the Recovery Centre. Council cautions residents not to use rainwater tanks that have been inundated by flood water.

Landfill is expected to be open once bridge access allowed. Flood damaged items should be deposited on the kerbside.

The Murilla Community Centre is accepting cash donations on 07 4627 2027 to be distributed as food vouchers to flood victims in Condamine.

St Vincent De Paul is also providing clothing and flood vouchers to flood affected residents and are available anytime on 07 4627 1267.

Dalby has experienced a rise in the level of Myall Creek overnight, however this level is slowly dropping and no buildings were inundated.

This morning Dalby's water reservoirs were at 75% with Council carting 1.3 mega litres and the water treatment plant producing 2.8 mega litres yesterday. Level Six Water Restrictions remain in place.

"The efforts of residents to reduce water usage yesterday to 2.4 mega litres is greatly appreciated by the community and have allowed the reservoirs to catch up," Mayor Ray Brown said.

"The unstable weather and flood conditions are hampering efforts to repair main breaks to outlying bores needed to provide additional supply to the water treatment plant.

"For the removal of level six restrictions we need to have the other Reverse Osmosis plant and the majority of bores back online. In the meantime, residents are asked to remain diligent," he said.

Alternative water sources are available for flood clean up, residents in need of assistance can call 4662 6666.

Council crews are prioritising maintenance works to the severely damaged road networks, bridges and major infrastructure. The patience of motorists is appreciated while safety is restored to the road network.

Council is sourcing additional labour to assist with dangerous wash outs and bridge damage, carrying out rectification works in coordination with the Main Roads in localised flooding areas.

A heavy vehicle weight limit of five tonne is now in force on the Moonie Highway at Loudoun Bridge and the Bunya Highway.

Warra residents are advised that a Boil Water Alert still applies and are advised to boil water for three minutes before consuming.

#### **Chinchilla District Update**

The sun was shining today in Chinchilla and the community spirit certainly is with business and community groups working in partnership with Council to clean up the 28 houses and 30 businesses affected by flooding.

To assist those who have lost everything in the flood, donations of household furniture, beds, mattresses and linen is greatly needed. To donate please call the Local Disaster Coordination Centre in Chinchilla on 07 4662 7056.

Thanks to generous donations Council is distributing clothing to those in need from the Chinchilla Cultural Centre.

#### **Tara District Update**

Motorists are advised that the Moonie Highway is currently open but may close if floodwaters rise.

#### **General Advice to Flood Affected Residents**

Council's scheduled garbage and recycling collection service will recommence in areas as and when road access is allowed and load limits have been lifted. Residents who have missed kerbside collections for flood affected areas are asked to call their Local Disaster Coordination Centre.

Council is coordinating a mosquito and sandfly control program and seeking assistance from other local governments with access to the expertise and control equipment.

Australian Disaster Relief Payments are now available through Centrelink for eligible flood victims, for more information call Centrelink on 180 22 66 or visit [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) to download claim forms and fact sheets.

Residents experiencing personal hardship due to flooding can call the Department of Communities on 1800 173 349.

Ergon Energy asks all rural customers with water inundation into their homes to call 13 22 96 for safety advice.

For all livestock issues and fodder drop requests contact the DERM on [REDACTED]

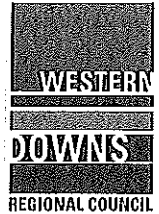
A 24 hour emergency hotline has also been established by the Australian Insurance Council on 1300 728 228.

Residents in need of flood assistance or information can call the Western Downs Disaster Coordination Centres in Chinchilla on 4672 7056 or Miles on 4628 5521.

#### **Media Contact:**







## Media Release

9 January 2011 – Issued 9.10pm

### Residents warned to brace for more floods

Residents of the Western Downs town of Dalby have been warned to brace for more flash flooding today with river catchments swollen by heavy rain that lashed the district yesterday yet to reach their peaks.

With continued thunderstorms and rain expected across much of the Dalby district today, Western Downs Regional Council and emergency services crews are bracing for the Myall Creek to peak.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown said Council will continue to monitor river heights in the upper catchment area throughout the day and would advise residents if conditions change due to further rain.

"I stress there is no expectation at this time that nearby houses will be inundated with water.

"The extent of the current rain situation could mean localised flooding in low lying areas will occur."

Cr Brown advises residents who experienced flooding previously to move vehicles and other property such as boats and caravans to higher ground out of the path of encroaching water on their property.

The Weather Bureau has advised that falls may be heavier than predicted and information via press releases will be forthcoming as the situation continues to be monitored.

"Council is working closely with the Weather Bureau to ascertain likely water levels and as that information comes to hand we will keep the general public informed and up-to-date on the flood situation," Cr Brown said.

Residents requiring flood assistance or information are asked to call the SES on 132 500.

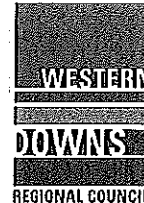
To monitor weather forecasts visit the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

For updates on road conditions contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595.

### Media Contact:

Media Officer

Customer Service 1300 728 500  
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## Media Alert

10 January 2011 – Issued 10.10am

### Council confirms Dalby drinking water supply not affected

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown this morning has advised that the ongoing flood conditions in the Dalby area have not affected residents normal drinking water supply.

"I am pleased to report that the town's water supply is now operating pretty much as routine.

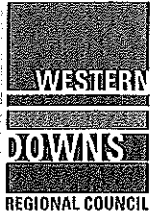
"Residents who are connected to the local supply can rest assure that the drinking water supplies has not been impacted and potable water is available as normal.

"The water treatment plant is operational and has not been affected by any recent water inundation. The Dalby bulk supply is currently maintaining its sufficient output to supply the town."

Cr Brown however reminds residents that Level Six restrictions remain in place.

"Residents need to restrict water consumption to 100 litres per person per day which means essential uses such as drinking and showering only, no outside watering and unfortunately no flood clean up."

-Ends-



## Media Release

10 January 2011 – Issued 7.10pm

### **New flood peak of 3.8 metres later tonight in Dalby**

Residents of Dalby escaped major flooding at the weekend, but are now preparing to endure their fifth and biggest flood event in almost two weeks.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown said Myall Creek is currently at 3.74 metres and anticipates it to peak at 3.8 metres later this evening.

"Our latest indication from the Bureau of Meteorology is that the Creek will reach a new flood peak of 3.8 metres at some stage this evening.

"The Myall Creek water level is rising rapidly after heavy rainfall yesterday dumped a large amount of water in the upper Clydesdale and Moffatt catchments.

"The Bureau say this heavy rain will see fast river rises move downstream which will result in moderate to major flash flooding along the Myall Creek."

Mayor Brown encourages residents living along Myall Creek to remain cautious and to move their vehicles and valuables to higher ground immediately.

"At the new peak of 3.8 metres and with water levels predicted to further rise, some houses in close proximity to the Myall Creek are expected to be inundated. I advise residents living in low lying areas to evacuate to higher ground as a precaution.

"An emergency SMS alert was sent to residents this afternoon urging residents to self-evacuate to family and friends or to an evacuation centre.

"The Charles Drew Bridge has been closed to all east and west bound traffic. The bridge is open to emergency services vehicles only.

"The Edward Street Weir, Patrick Street Bridge to Cunningham Street, Marble Street and Jimbour Street remain closed."

Cr Brown said Council will continue to monitor river heights in the upper catchment area throughout the evening and will advise residents if conditions change.

"Council is working closely with local police and SES to monitor the flood conditions and will keep the community updated with regular updates," he said.

Any concerned residents with enquiries should contact the Dalby Disaster Coordination Centre on telephone 07 4662 6666.

### **Chinchilla District Update**

Heavy rainfall in the northern catchment has triggered a flood watch for Charley's Creek in Chinchilla. Emergency services personnel have activated anticipating a flood event to develop during the night.

### **Condamine District Update**

A significant downpour of rain has occurred this afternoon in Condamine adding to the frustration of the clean up crews. Residents of Condamine are recommended to boil their water until a clean bill of health in relation to a potable water supply is confirmed. This is also the case for the township of Warra.

Residents requiring flood assistance or information are asked to call the SES on 132 500.

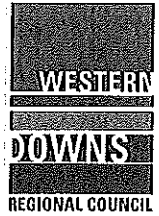
To monitor weather forecasts visit the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

**Media Contact:**



Media Officer





## Media Release

11 January 2011 – Issued 12.35pm

### Myall Creek holds steady this morning

The Myall Creek in Dalby was hovering steady at 3.5 metres this morning after reaching its highest peak since the Christmas flood of 3.8 metres last night.

"Water levels have fallen slightly and are currently holding at around 3.5 metres since 6am this morning," Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown said.

"However with more rain forecast by the Bureau further rises are predicted where levels could reach a renewed peak of 3.8 metres during tonight or early tomorrow morning."

Western Downs Regional Council will continue to monitor the steadily flowing Myall Creek throughout the day in anticipation of further rises following overnight storms in the local area.

Charles Drew Bridge remains closed to all east and west bound traffic. The bridge is open to Emergency and Council vehicles only.

Any concerned residents with enquiries should contact the Dalby Disaster Coordination Centre on telephone 07 4662 6666.

### Dalby District Update

As of yesterday evening 200 evacuees are now residing at evacuation centres set up in Dalby. Currently there are 80 evacuees at the Dalby Agricultural College, 20 evacuees at the Dalby Showgrounds and 100 evacuees at Dalby South School.

Loudoun Bridge is at 9.94 metres and rising. Causeway at Water Treatment Plant is 0.38 metres over. Downstream one lane of Loudoun Bridge is submerged.

Alarming heights are being recorded at the Condamine River at the Dalby Water Treatment Plant. This will severely impact upon the town's water supply. Council advises residents that Level Six restrictions remain in force and are asked to limit as much as they can their use of water.

### Chinchilla District Update

Heavy rainfall of up to 200 millimetres was reported in Charley Creek catchment yesterday just upstream of the Chinchilla area. The Bureau of Meteorology estimate fast rises will continue during today with levels at 6.1 metres and rising.

### Condamine Update

The Condamine River is showing alarming rises at this time with flood levels are forecast to reach the high levels of late December 2010 at Condamine. Fast rises and major flooding are expected in the Condamine River downstream during today and Wednesday. Major flooding continues with renewed rises expected during the next several days.

Residents of Condamine are recommended to boil their water until a clean bill of health in relation to a potable water supply is confirmed. This is also the case for the township of Warra.

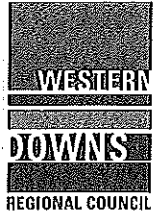
Residents requiring flood assistance or information are asked to call the SES on 132 500. To monitor weather forecasts visit the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

For updates on road conditions contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595.

### Media Contact:

Media Officer

Customer Service 1300 728 500  
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## Media Alert

11 January 2011 – Issued 4.20pm

### Charles Drew Bridge re-opened temporarily

Dalby is no longer cut off with Drayton Street re-opened with a temporary one-lane Charles Drew Bridge taking traffic over the Myall Creek.

The bridge providing main access to both sides of the town was opened to east and west bound traffic this afternoon after flood waters which swamped its approaches receded.

Traffic controllers are operating on either side of the bridge to control the one-lane traffic.

The bridge was closed yesterday morning after localised flash flooding occurred along its approaches on Sunday night.

Western Downs Regional Council asks residents to limit travel to essential travel only as it is anticipated that the bridge may require closing later this evening with the Creek expected to rise slowly through the night.

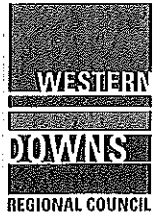
#### Media Contact:



Media Officer



Customer Service 1300 728 500  
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## **Media Alert**

### **11 January 2011 – Issued 7.00pm**

#### **Charles Drew Bridge will close again at 8pm**

Charles Drew Bridge in Dalby will close again at 8pm this evening and will not reopen until further notice.

The bridge will be closed to all general traffic except Emergency Services and Council vehicles.

This closure is due to the revised information from the Bureau of Meteorology modelling which indicates that Myall Creek will rise to 3.8 metres overnight resulting in likely inundation of bridge approaches.

It is recommended that anyone intending to travel to the east or west side of the Myall Creek to do so within the next hour.

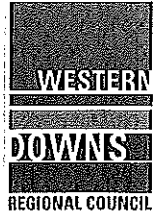
Western Downs Regional Council asks residents to limit travel to essential travel only due to ongoing flood conditions in the local area.

Any concerned residents with enquiries should contact the Dalby Disaster Coordination Centre on telephone 07 4662 6666.

#### **Media Contact:**

Media Officer

Customer Service 1300 728 500  
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## Media Release

### 12 January 2011 – Issued 2.20pm

#### Boil Water Alert at Chinchilla

Residents connected to the Chinchilla town bulk water supply are advised to boil water before drinking.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown advised that the boil water alert was a precautionary measure.

"Unfortunately, as a result of the recent flooding, there are high levels of organic matter in the raw water. The disinfection systems have struggled to keep up to the load, and Council this morning had sent an SMS boil water advice to residents as a safety precaution," Cr Brown said.

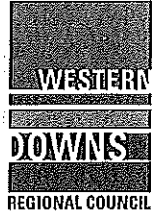
"Residents should allow water to boil vigorously for three minutes prior to drinking or using it to brush their teeth or wash fruit or veges.

"Council expects the safe supply to be restored soon and residents will be notified accordingly."

#### Media Contact:

Media Officer





## Media Release

12 January 2011 – Issued 4.00pm

### Dalby Peak lower than first expected

There was some good news out of Dalby today where water levels in Myall Creek increased slightly overnight but not to the expected peak that had been predicted.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown said Myall Creek peaked at 3.49 metres this morning and it is not expected to reach the predicted peak of 3.8 metres.

"The Bureau of Meteorology has advised based on observation and modelling this morning that water levels in the Creek will start to fall this afternoon, which is good news," he said.

Western Downs Regional Council again advises residents not to enter flood water due to potential health concerns.

Any concerned residents with enquiries should contact the Dalby Disaster Coordination Centre on telephone 07 4662 6666.

### Dalby District Update

Two hundred evacuees are now residing at evacuation centres set up in Dalby. Currently there are 69 evacuees at the Dalby Agricultural College, 20 evacuees at the Dalby Showgrounds and 140 evacuees at Dalby South School.

Loudoun Bridge is at 9.94 metres and predicted to rise to 10.5 metres on Saturday. If the water level reaches a peak of 11 metres the Water Treatment Plant will be in danger of being inundated again. This will severely impact upon the town's water supply and Council encourages residents to cut back their water use. Council also remind residents that Level Six restrictions remain in force.

Drayton Street is now open to Four Wheel Drive vehicles and Emergency Services and Council vehicles only via one-lane traffic control across Charles Drew Bridge.

### Chinchilla District Update

Residents of Chinchilla were relieved that Charley's Creek had reached a peak of 7.45 metres today.

Following flash flooding yesterday the Chinchilla Water Treatment Plant was inundated. As a safety precaution against water contamination Chinchilla residents are advised that a Boil Water Alert applies and are asked to boil water for three minutes before consuming.

Chinchilla Weir is at 12.93 metres with further rises in water level predicted to reach a peak under 14 metres on Friday.

### Condamine Update

The flood water level in the township of Condamine is currently at 12.35 metres with further rises to occur during this afternoon reaching a new peak of 13 metres on Thursday and during the weekend climbing to 14.8 metres.

Residents of Condamine are recommended to boil their water until a clean bill of health in relation to a potable water supply is confirmed.

Residents requiring flood assistance or information are asked to call the SES on 132 500.

To monitor weather forecasts visit the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

For updates on road conditions contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595

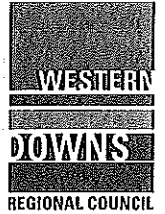
**Media Contact:**



Media Officer



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www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## Media Alert 12 January 2011

### Fuel ban lifted in Dalby – rationing now in place

A total ban applied on the purchase of all fuel within the township of Dalby this morning has been lifted but restrictions at the bowsers remain in force.

Residents are advised that a fuel purchase limit up to the value of \$20 is now in place at all service stations across the town.

The Local Disaster Coordination Group lifted the ban earlier this afternoon after a further review found there were sufficient fuel supplies available to supply the town on a limited scale.

Residents with further enquiries should contact the Dalby Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666.

#### Media Contact:

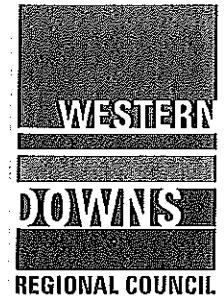
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Fact Sheet

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## Notification of Fuel Rationing

### BY ORDER OF LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP

**ALL FUEL** will not be for sale unless prior approval has been given by the direction of the Local Disaster Management Group.

Fuel is **ONLY** to be used for Emergency Operations.

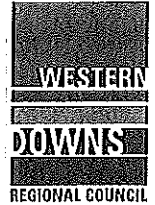
Due to short supply of all fuels within the confines of the Dalby and Chinchilla townships this notice will be in effect until further notice.

Approval **MUST** be made by contact with the Dalby Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666 or Chinchilla Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 7056.

PA Berting  
Local Disaster Coordinator



Customer Service 1300 728 500  
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## Media Alert

12 January 2011 – Issued 12.40pm

### Urgent Alert to Residents of Dalby and Chinchilla – No Fuel for sale in Dalby and Chinchilla

Residents and motorists are alerted that no fuel is for sale in the townships of Dalby and Chinchilla by order of the Local Disaster Coordination Group this morning.

Fuel is permitted for emergency operations only and approval must be sought by contacting the Dalby Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 6666 or Chinchilla Disaster Coordination Centre on 4662 7056.

It is unknown when roads will reopen and fuel supplies cannot be restocked until then.

To view the 'Notification of Fuel Rationing' please visit the Western Downs Regional Council website [www.wdrc.qld.gov.au](http://www.wdrc.qld.gov.au)

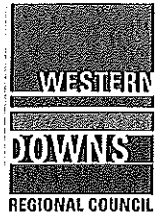
**Media Contact:**



Media Officer



Customer Service 1300 728 500  
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## Media Release 14 January 2011

### Dalby water plant closed down

Dalby residents remain on the toughest water restrictions, after the town's water treatment plant was flooded for the second time in three weeks and has been shut down.

The Condamine River burst its banks again this week forcing Council to close the Water Treatment Plant after floodwater entered the reservoir.

The Condamine River flows from Warwick and Toowoomba, and is continuing to rise despite floodwaters receding in Dalby.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown advises residents that Level Six restrictions remain in force, with use limited to absolutely essential purposes with no outside use or flood clean up permitted.

Mayor Brown said the operators are unable to gain access to the plant due to the inundation, and the plant will remain shut down until the water recedes.

"The period of shut down will be dependent on when the flood levels fall, and on the extent of damage incurred at the plant.

"There is still major damage from the previous flood peak with 10 of the 13 bores out of operation and automatic controls of the river plant out of service," Cr Brown said.

"The latest forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology is that Condamine River will peak at approximately 11 metres and would remain at that level until Sunday. And it could take up to a week to restore the plant to full capacity once the water has receded.

"This is slightly lower than the previous flood, but will still severely impact upon the town's water supply and Council again desperately requires residents to cut back their water use."

He strongly urged Dalby residents to use water for essential purposes only until further notice.

"Town water definitely must not be used for flood clean up."

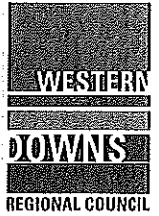
Cr Brown said water carting would commence today to supplement the town supply.

Clean up water from alternative sources can be arranged by contacting the Dalby Disaster Coordination Centre on telephone 4662 6666.

Council will advise residents when further information comes to hand.

#### Media Contact:

Media Officer



## Media Release

### 14 January 2011

#### Extra fuel delivered to town servos

Dalby's petrol stations limited fuel supplies were replenished when a convoy of supply trucks rolled into town yesterday while under escort.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown said police escorted three big fuel tankers into town from Toowoomba carrying thousands of litres of fuel to waiting service stations.

The Local Disaster Coordination Group agreed to lift the restrictions enforced Tuesday on the purchase of fuel.

Mayor Brown praised suppliers, Council staff, Main Roads and Police personnel for their well-coordinated effort to re-open supply lines to the town.

"It was a particularly pleasing sight to see big fuel tankers bringing more fuel into the town, as this will help to alleviate pressure on Dalby's available fuel supplies. It also provides additional supplies just in case roads and highways into the town are cut off again in the event of another rain or flood event.

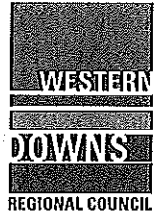
"This will also serve to assist other adjoining towns in the region impacted by fuel shortage issues," he said.

"I also wish to thank local and stranded motorists for their cooperation this week at this crucial time, it is extremely appreciated."

#### Media Contact:

Media Officer

Customer Service 1300 728 500  
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## Media Release

### 14 January 2011

#### **Floodwaters recede but health risks remain**

As water levels continue to recede, residents are being warned to stay away from floodwater.

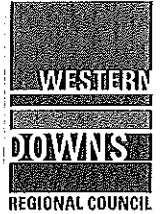
Western Downs Regional Council has issued a safety message to flood volunteers and workers in the wake of the floods.

Council's Environment and Health section offer the following advice to residents assisting with flood clean up across the Western Downs to ensure their safety against potential health risks.

- o Be aware that in some properties, sewers overflowed from manholes. Allow any sewerage to dry out before placing into wheelie bins.
- o Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water after coming into contact with flood water or debris – especially before you eat or drink.
- o Use an antiseptic or similar on any cuts or grazes and seek first aid if necessary.
- o To avoid mosquito bites, use an insect repellent, wear loose fitting light coloured clothes (if possible).
- o Be aware of increased snake activity around flooded areas or within flood debris.
- o Be aware of sharp objects in debris and use personal protective gear such as safety boots, sturdy footwear and gloves.

For further information or advice residents should contact their local Disaster Coordination Centre at Dalby on 4662 6666, Chinchilla on 4662 7056 or Miles on 4628 5521.





## Media Release 14 January 2011

### Residents urged to go easy on water use

Dalby residents are being urged by Western Downs Regional Council to be mindful of their water use following a spike in consumption yesterday.

The town supply is critically low after the local Water Treatment Plant was shut down yesterday due to flooding.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown warns residents that continued high consumption could severely deplete the town's available water supply.

"Residents consumed almost double the amount of what the plant produced yesterday," he said.

Cr Brown said water only entered the treated water tank and the plant itself was not damaged further.

"The shut down was necessary to prevent contamination of the town water supply with floodwater.

"The plant should be back to operating at 60% capacity tomorrow," he said.

The Mayor is calling on residents to significantly limit their water use until the plant is back online.

"The stringent Level Six restrictions will remain in place until we have the second Reverse Osmosis plant and the majority of the bores are back online.

"Convoys of water tankers will also continue to truck treated water to the reservoirs in an effort to meet the town demand.

"In the meantime, I urge residents to be extremely diligent in their use of water. By reducing your water usage you will be helping the reservoirs to catch up."

Residents are restricted to emergency domestic use only with a total ban on outside watering. The use of evaporative air conditioners should be avoided, the washing of clothes postponed and definitely no flood clean up is permitted.

### Dalby District Update

Dalby's water reservoirs this morning were at 56%.

The Condamine River at Loudoun Bridge peaked at 10.7 metres overnight and is slightly receding this morning and will continue falling tomorrow.

Alternative water sources are available for flood clean up, residents in need of assistance should call 4662 6666.

Drayton Street was yesterday reopened to all east and west bound traffic via Charles Drew Bridge. Patrick Street Bridge and the Edward Street Weir remain closed.

This morning the evacuees residing at the Dalby Agricultural College evacuation centre were transported by bus over to the Dalby Showgrounds. Yesterday all evacuees at the Dalby South School had returned to their homes.

Council advises residents who wish to dump their flood damaged furniture, carpets and household items to place these out on the nature strip for collection.

A Boil Water Alert remains in place for Warra residents who are advised to boil water for three minutes before consuming.

### Chinchilla District Update

Charley's Creek at 2pm this morning was 6.04 metres and falling as major flooding around the catchment continues to recede.

Residents connected to the Chinchilla town bulk water supply are advised that a boil water alert remains in place due to a high organic load in the raw water as a result of the flooding. The high organic load results in a high demand on chlorine and makes chlorination more difficult.

As a result, chlorine levels in the system were reduced to a level below the acceptable health limits for drinking water. As a safety precaution, residents are still advised to boil water for three minutes prior to consuming.

"Action has been taken to rectify the problem, but Queensland Health requires three clear days of test results before the boil water alert can be lifted," Mayor Brown said. "Council will keep residents advised of progress."

Water level at Chinchilla Weir at 3.30pm this afternoon was 14.09 metres and expected to fall to 14.03 metres on Saturday.

#### **Miles and Wandoan District Update**

At 9pm last night the Condamine River at Condamine peaked at 14.2 metres. Council expect floodwaters to peak at 14.8 metres on Sunday and to start to fall around Wednesday.

Remaining residents of Condamine are recommended to boil their water until a clean bill of health in relation to a potable water supply is confirmed.

The Condamine Water Treatment Plant has been shut down due to flooding of the Condamine River and will resume operation after floodwaters recede.

Residents requiring flood assistance or information are asked to call the SES on 132 500.

To monitor weather forecasts visit the Bureau of Meteorology's website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

For updates on road conditions contact Main Roads on 13 19 40, visit the website [www.131940.qld.gov.au](http://www.131940.qld.gov.au) or contact the RACQ on 1300 130 595.

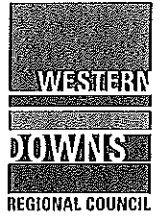
#### **Media Contact:**



Media Officer



Customer Service 1300 728 500  
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## Media Release 16 January 2011

### Dalby Water Plant back in operation

The water supply in Dalby was restored this morning with Western Downs Regional Council staff working around the clock to have the Water Treatment Plant operating again.

The plant began pumping water back into reservoirs after rising floodwater forced its shutdown on Thursday.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown said an operator was onsite this morning and has been able to get the plant running again, with reduced capacity.

"There was a slight inundation of the clearwater tank and this had been quickly rectified. Fortunately, floodwater did not submerge the plant's electrical switchboards as first feared," he said.

"The plant is again producing water, but it has to be operated manually as the level of the floodwater is preventing staff from accessing some of the key infrastructure in order to reinstate an automatic treatment process."

Mayor Brown said Council officers would be able to examine the bore field once the surrounding floodwater recedes.

"Once the flood levels recede officers will be able to get in there, inspect and then recommission the plant to full automatic operation, which will give us our full water supply for Dalby.

"Currently only three of the 15 bores are operational and there is a lot of work needed to be done to get the plant operating to full capacity. However, this won't happen until our staff can access the bores."

The Mayor said the carting of water which was used to supplement the town supply would cease tonight.

"Although the water is back, stringent Level Six restrictions will remain in place so we can continue to ensure a potable drinking water supply in Dalby.

"Council urges residents to use town water for only essential purposes."

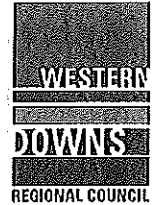
The plant will be operated manually on a 24-hour rotation until it is returned to full operation.

A boil water alert remains in place for the towns of Chinchilla and Warra.

#### Media Contact:

Media Officer

Customer Service 1300 728 500  
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au  
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



## Media Release 17 January 2011

### Help keep mosquito numbers down after rain and floods

Western Downs Regional Council urges residents to take steps to reduce the breeding of mosquitoes following recent widespread rain and flood events.

Mosquito populations in the Western Downs are expected to increase over coming days and weeks, posing a potential health risk, as a number of the mosquito species may be capable of transmitting diseases such as Ross River Virus.

Mayor Ray Brown expects the numbers of mosquitoes to swell in coming weeks and he warns residents to take necessary precautions.

"The recent rain and floods have presented ideal conditions for mosquito breeding and I ask residents to take steps to reduce potential breeding grounds around their homes and protect themselves against mosquito bites."

Council suggests residents take the following steps to help stop mosquitoes breeding around their home and protect themselves:

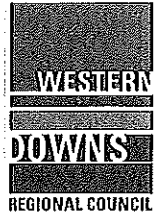
- Tip out stagnant water held in containers such as buckets, tubs and drums
- Check that inlets and outlets on rainwater tanks are screened
- Keep lawns mowed as long grass is a haven for mozzies, vermin and reptiles
- Use a quality repellent
- Avoid being outside at dusk and dawn
- Wear light coloured loose fitting long clothes
- Keep insect screens around the home closed
- Contact a licensed pest technician who may be able to assist in the treatment of ponding waters

Council also wishes to remind residents when cleaning up following the floods to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water and use an antibacterial gel after contact with flood waters or debris in order to minimise the risk of gastrointestinal illness.

For further information contact Council's Environment and Health section on 4672 1172.

#### Media Contact:

Media Officer



## Media Alert 17 January 2011

### Some roads re-open in the Western Downs

Some roads in the Western Downs region have reopened after being cut off from localised flooding last week.

Loudoun Bridge is open with caution under traffic control and a 20km speed limit and a five tonne load limit is in place.

For the latest road closures residents can contact the Main Roads hotline on 13 19 40.

As at 11am Main Roads reports the following roads open with caution:

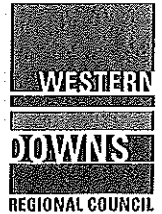
- Warrego Highway (Dalby to Toowoomba)
- Warrego Highway (Dalby to Chinchilla) – with traffic control near Macalister
- Dalby Cooyar Road
- Dalby Jandowae Road
- Bunya Highway – one lane open at Porters Gap under traffic control
- Roma Taroom Road – open with five tonne load limit
- Jackson Wandoan Road – open with five tonne load limit from Leichhardt Highway to approximately 30km southwest toward Jackson
- Moonie Highway – open with five tonne load limit between Watt Street and Nandi Road

As at 11am Main Roads reports the following roads closed:

- Dalby Cecil Plains Road – closed at Ashall Creek
- Dalby Kogan Road – closed at Rangers Bridge and Wilkie Creek
- Kingaroy Jandowae Road
- Leichhardt Highway – closed at Paradise Road intersection (25km south of Miles) to The Gums (south of Condamine)
- Condamine Meandarra Road – closed at Forthinghams Gully to Leichhardt Highway
- Kogan Condamine Road – closed at Weiambilla Creek to Condamine
- Roma Condamine Road – closed at Dogwood Creek to Condamine

### Media Contact:

Media Officer



## Media Alert 18 January 2011

### Plant damage extensive but restrictions eased to Level Five

Western Downs Regional Council advises residents connected to the Dalby town water supply that previous Level Six restrictions have been eased to Level Five from today.

Under Level Five Dalby residents are allowed to use buckets only.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown said while the change of restrictions will provide some light relief, he asks residents to continue to be vigilant in their efforts to conserve water with the town's water plant requiring extensive repairs.

"Water production in Dalby still remains in a tenuous position with 12 out of 15 bores out of service and the second Reverse Osmosis plant unable to produce water."

He said despite water now being pumped from the river, only one pump was operating.

"Council's Utilities staff are working around the clock to get water production back to full capacity, but the damage to the water supply infrastructure is extensive and a lot of work is required before the plant is fully restored.

"I wish to thank Dalby residents for their efforts so far, it is appreciated, and again we ask them for their ongoing help to conserve water wherever possible at this time."

Under Level Five restrictions hosing of hard surfaces, houses and vehicles is not permitted, outside watering and clean up can be done with buckets filled directly from a tap, and evaporative air conditioners may be used sparingly.

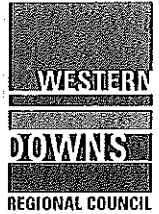
The Mayor said Council this week would continue to closely monitor Dalby town's consumption.

"If consumption exceeds supply capacity and the provision of drinking water is threatened, we will have to revisit the water restrictions. Therefore all unnecessary water use should be avoided."

Residents affected by flood waters can arrange for clean up water from alternative sources by contacting the Dalby Disaster Coordination Centre on telephone 4662 6666.

#### Media Contact:

Media Officer



## Media Release 19 January 2011

### Chinchilla Water Supply given all clear

Queensland Health has given Chinchilla town water supply the all clear after it passed three consecutive tests of negative results for e-coli.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown advises residents connected to the town bulk water supply that the boil water alert issued on January 12 has now been lifted.

Residents were advised last week to boil their water prior to use following the detection of e-coli contamination in the town supply after floodwaters peaked in the township.

Cr Brown said residents are no longer required to boil water prior to consumption.

"Three clear tests have now been achieved and the boil water alert has been removed after the appropriate testing results confirmed the water is safe for consumption.

"Although it was simply a precautionary measure, the appropriate testing had to be carried out to ensure a safe water supply for the residents of Chinchilla.

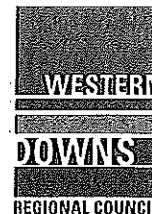
"The results are conclusive, the water is safe and meets the Drinking Water Guidelines.

"I would like to thank Chinchilla residents for their cooperation and understanding, Council takes every effort to ensure the safety and quality of the town's water supply," he said.

#### Media Contact:

Western Downs Regional Council Mayor

Spokesperson for Utilities – Water, Wastewater and Gas



## Media Release 20 January 2011

### Council steps up Mosquito and Insect Control

Western Downs Regional Council has acted quickly to crack down against the breeding of mosquitoes and insects with its pest management control program kicking into top gear.

Pest Control technicians from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council will over the coming week be conducting treatments throughout local townships to destroy elevated populations of mosquito and biting midge (sandflies) in urban locations.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown said following recent rain and floods throughout the region it was highly likely there would be a substantial increase in the numbers of mosquitoes and insects in the coming weeks.

Cr Brown said the control program will be undertaken by highly skilled pest control technicians from Sunshine Coast Regional Council, under the coordination of Western Downs Regional Council environmental health officers.

"Western Downs Regional Council sincerely thanks the Sunshine Coast Regional Council for making these technicians available at short notice for this vital work."

He said the technicians will be mostly utilising an ultra-low volume barrier application method for residual type pesticides and applying larvicides in public spaces only.

"In some areas the technicians have identified a high risk of mosquito-related disease and have commenced essential fogging operations in these areas."

Council advises that generally these treatments will be conducted early in the morning or evening due to high mosquito activity at these times.

Cr Brown said the methods used are universally accepted as being a safe way to control these insects.

"Any residents, especially those suffering with chronic asthma, concerned about the fogging operations are advised to close their windows and allow the fog to subside, which only lasts a couple of minutes. Even without closing windows residents should not be affected by these safe methods," he said.

Council advises that areas of known bee hives will be avoided. Council requests any bee keepers with hives in urban areas to either identify their hives with prominent signage or alert Council on 1300 728 500.

Cr Brown stressed that whilst these control measures are expected to significantly reduce the mozzie numbers, residents should also take steps to reduce mosquito infestations by:

- o Tipping out stagnant water held in containers such as buckets, tubs and drums
- o Checking that inlets and outlets on rainwater tanks are screened
- o Keeping lawns mowed as long grass is a haven for mozzies, vermin and reptiles
- o Using a quality repellent
- o Avoiding being outside at dusk and dawn
- o Wearing light coloured loose fitting long clothes
- o Keeping insect screens around the home closed
- o Contacting a licensed pest technician who may be able to assist in the treatment of ponding waters

Residents with any enquiries should contact Council's Environmental Health Section on 1300 728 500.

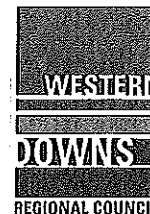
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#### Media Contact:

Western Downs Regional Council Mayor







## Media Release

### 20 January 2011

#### Load limits in place to protect battered roads

Temporary load limits are now in place in the Chinchilla District to counter the impacts of heavy vehicles on flood-battered local roads.

The restrictions apply to all heavy vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Mass over five tonne and 10 tonne. A five ton/axle and a 30 tonne maximum have also been applied to semi-trailers.

Western Downs Mayor Ray Brown said heavy vehicle weight restrictions are normally put in place during or following wet weather to protect sodden local roads from damage.

Cr Brown said Council's top priority was traffic safety.

"The onslaught of wet weather has meant that the local road network is saturated and will take some time to dry out before repair work in some cases can begin," he said.

"Imposing load limits on some of the badly damaged roads is essential while Council road crews carry out maintenance works. Most of the local roads have been under water for periods of up to three to four weeks at a time and have suffered significant pavement damage posing a safety risk to all motorists.

"Council's primary concern is that heavy vehicles with high load weights can run the risk of getting bogged and causing further damage to already deteriorating roads, especially after the recent rain and flooding.

"Council wants to protect these local roads as much as we possibly can to ensure the safety of all road users."

Cr Brown said the load limits will apply for the next two weeks and Council will evaluate and endeavour to remove the weight restrictions when it is safe to do.

Five and 10 tonne vehicle load weight restrictions apply to the following roads in the Chinchilla District:

- Clarkes Road: between dump to end of bitumen, across Charleys Creek – five tonne load limit
- Burra Burri Creek Road: between Chinchilla Wondai Road to Darr Creek – 10 tonne load limit
- Burncluith Road: closed between Chinchilla Wondai and Butts road due to extreme pavement damage
- Red Hill Road: between Chinchilla Wondai Road to Dahlers Road – five tonne load limit
- Pelican Back Road: between Chinchilla Wondai Road to Turners Road – 10 tonne load limit
- Monmouth Road: between Chinchilla Wondai to Hunters Road – five tonne load limit
- Butts Road: closed at Branch Creek due to extreme pavement damage
- Greenswamp Road: between Chinchilla Tara Road to Royalty Road – five tonne load limit
- Chinchilla Kogan Road: closed
- Banana Bridge Road: closed
- Sturgess Baking Board Road: 10 tonne load limit

The following roads have a five ton/axle and a 30 tonne semi trailer maximum.

- Dahlers Road from Auburn Road to Redhill Road
- Redhill Road to Surcingle Road
- Surcingle Road to Burncluith Hall Road
- Burncluith Hall Road to Pelican Back Road
- Pelican Back Road between Butts Road and Nudley School Road
- Burncluith Road between Butts Road and V Bells Road

For further information contact the Chinchilla Customer Service Centre on 4662 7056.

-Ends-

**Media Contact:** Western Downs Regional Council Mayor