



Redland
CITY COUNCIL

LATE REPORT

TROPICAL CYCLONE ALFRED EVENT - PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, 19 March 2025
commencing at 9:30am**

The Council Chambers
91 - 93 Bloomfield Street
CLEVELAND QLD

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13 REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

13.1 TROPICAL CYCLONE ALFRED EVENT - PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Objective Reference: A11920851

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Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

To provide the Redlands Coast community with an update on Redland City Council's preparedness and response to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event from the period of Tuesday 25 February 2025 to Sunday 16 March 2025 inclusive and outline the approach to recovery including ongoing advocacy to State and Federal governments.

BACKGROUND

The Redland Local Government Area (LGA), comprising 537 square kilometres, is home to approximately 161,000 residents. Some 40 per cent of land within the city is protected green space. Mainland suburbs include Alexandra Hills, Birkdale, Capalaba, Cleveland, Mount Cotton, Ormiston, Redland Bay, Sheldon, Thorneside, Thornlands, Victoria Point and Wellington Point.

Part of what makes the city unique is its 335-kilometre length of coastline, with six inhabited islands that are primarily accessible by watercraft, including North Stradbroke Island, Coochiemudlo Island and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands (Karragarra, Lamb, Macleay and Russell islands). While Redland LGA does not have major riverine systems running through the city like its neighbouring LGAs of Brisbane and Logan, with Moreton to the north and Gold Coast to the south, Redland has an expansive network of creeks and dams that are fed by these systems that drain into Moreton Bay.

Some of the city's naturally wonderful assets are the same attributes that pose the greatest risk when it comes to potential impact from the growing number of natural disasters in Queensland.

The event

Tropical Cyclone Alfred was predicted to be a Category 2 system that was expected to maintain intensity until coastal interaction. It was eventually forecast to cross the Queensland coast early on the morning of Saturday 8 March 2025, just north of Brisbane.

Forecasts from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) were revised multiple times in the final few days as the cyclone's path, speed and strength changed as it approached the coast. The advice from BOM and the State Government was for Redland LGA to plan for expected impacts including:

- Storm surge impacts leading to coastal flooding, the impacts of which were dependent on the exact time and location the cyclone crossed the coast
- Locally intense rainfall from the afternoon of Friday 7 March 2025, continuing into Saturday 8 March 2025, including risk of flash flooding

- Possible six-hourly rainfall totals between 200-250mm and 24-hourly totals between 350-450mm
- Destructive wind gusts up to 130km/hour impacting Moreton Bay islands and exposed coastal locations on the northern Gold Coast until the morning of Saturday 8 March 2025.

In the lead-up to landfall, wave heights of up to 11.55m were observed off North Stradbroke Island on Thursday 6 March 2025.

At 6.00am on Friday 7 March 2025, Tropical Cyclone Alfred was moving slowly north and expected to cross the mainland coast between Maroochydore and Bribie Island during the morning.

Alexandra Hills observed damaging gusts of 74kph on Friday 7 March 2025.

At approximately 11.00pm on Friday 7 March 2025 the system crossed Moreton Island as a Category 1 cyclone and by the mid-morning on Saturday 8 March 2025 was downgraded to a low-pressure system, and from then was referred to as Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred when it made landfall on the mainland.

On Sunday 9 March 2025 the low-pressure system remained close to the coast around Bribie Island. It made landfall as a low-pressure system on Sunday and into Monday 10 March 2025. It continued to weaken as it moved further inland, however 521mm of rainfall fell in Redland over five days up until Monday 10 March 2025.

Cyclone Alfred, the first tropical cyclone to make landfall in south-east Queensland in half a century, was unusual for this reason, and also because its arrival was prolonged and speed was slowed in the lead up to crossing the Redlands Coast. Whilst this gave some additional time for preparation activities, it meant some residents lost power quite early, city-wide interruptions to mobile and NBN services were experienced hampering communications, and our island residents became isolated as barges and ferries ceased operations due to high force winds and conditions.

The magnitude of this event is defined by some of the statistics recorded over the 2 weeks during the preparation and response phases. The State Emergency Services (SES) recorded 1200 jobs for their volunteers to respond to, local fuel stations ran out of diesel before then closing temporarily, buses and trains ceased operating, Energex reported in excess of 41,000 customers without power and more than 9000 of these were isolated island communities, all schools in the Redlands were closed for four days, the Lesley Harrison Dam spilled after it exceeded 100% capacity, peaking at 187.6% and 78 road closures were recorded.

Timeline of preparedness and response to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event

The Redland City Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is responsible for coordinating the multi-agency disaster response and recovery activities as well as supporting the local government area through the event.

Council administers the LDMG and is responsible for the functioning of the group and delivery of response and recovery services to the community.

Tuesday 25 February 2025

At 3.28pm the Redland City Council (Council) Disaster Management Unit notified the Mayor, as Chair of the LDMG, the Deputy Mayor, as Deputy Chair of the LDMG and Chair of the Redland Local Disaster Recovery Group (LDRG), the LDMG agencies and key Council Officers of the potential impact of Tropical Cyclone Alfred and outlined preparatory measures and public information that were being enacted as a response.

Friday 28 February 2025

At 3:42pm Council advised residents to stay up to date on Severe Tropical Cyclone Alfred via a range of communication channels, including the Council news website, Redlands Coast Today, social media and internal communications. All Councillors were also separately advised via email from the Chief Executive Officer at the same time, outlining the warnings and advice from the Bureau of Meteorology, sandbagging locations and other preparedness activities.

Saturday 1 March 2025

At 10:56am Council's Disaster Management Unit notified the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Redland City Local Disaster Management Group agencies and key Council Officers of the strengthening intensity of Severe Tropical Cyclone Alfred, alerting all to the potential for abnormally high tides to cause significant coastal erosion, hazardous surf warnings and gale force winds.

Sunday 2 March 2025

At 10:25am the Redland Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) moved to ALERT, and at 11.45am Acting Mayor, Julie Talty approved the Redland City Local Disaster Management Group to move to LEAN FORWARD. At 12:00pm, Council was represented at the first Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) meeting by the Acting Mayor, Julie Talty, and at 2pm, the LDCC moved to STAND UP. At 3.11pm, Tropical Cyclone Alfred was a Category 2 system, situated offshore of the central Queensland coast, predicted to move into the southern Coral Sea and to weaken over the next day.

Monday 3 March 2025

At 11.00am the LDMG moved to STAND UP, as ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred was at a Category 1 system but expected to intensify to a Category 2 Cyclone Monday night and likely to maintain a Category 2 intensity as it was to approach south-east Queensland late on Thursday 6 March 2025. At 1:00pm, the Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) and Deputy LDC commenced daily meetings with the Disaster District Management Group (DDMG).

Tuesday 4 March 2025

Mayor Mitchell returned to her role of Mayor and resumed her role as Chair of the LDMG at 7:15am and took over attendance at QDMC meetings. Deputy Mayor and Chair of the LDRG, Julie Talty approved the LDRG to move to LEAN FORWARD at 10:22am and to STAND UP at 12.00pm on Wednesday 5 March 2025.

With the unpredictable nature of the weather event, all groups continued to meet, monitor, prepare and respond over the coming days and week, issuing regular communications to the community and Council about preparedness and response efforts underway.

Wednesday 5 March 2025

The LDCC moved to a 24/7 operation to ensure round the clock support for the community during preparation and response phases of the event, as well as to coordinate activities, prepare situation reports and briefing notes to ensure accurate and timely information was prepared for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, LDMG and other stakeholders including the QDMC and DDMG. The Business Continuity Plan and related resources were also activated to support the LDCC and business operations.

Friday 14 March 2025

At 10:00am, the DDMG moved to STAND DOWN.

At 4:00pm, the Mayor approved the LDMG moving back to LEAN FORWARD. The LDCC also moved to LEAN FORWARD at this time and continued to operate, from 8am – 4pm each day over the weekend, returning to normal business operations the following week. The LDRG continued to operate at STAND UP.

ISSUES

Preparedness and response

Council, through the LDMG, LDCC and LDRG, is responsible for coordination a multi-agency response and recovery in times of disaster including severe weather events such as Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

The following overviews outlines Council's preparedness and response to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event in support of the Redlands Coast community:

Preparation and training

As part of the regular Disaster Management Preparedness Program, each year the LDMG participate in a scenario-based exercise designed to explore and test its multi-agency coordination and management of a disaster event.

Well before Tropical Cyclone Alfred formed off the Queensland Coast, training and preparation for an event of this type had been undertaken.

In November 2022, the LDMG participated in a scenario-based exercise, Exercise Miberran, for a hypothetical Category 3 cyclone to cross the coast of south-east Queensland.

In November 2024, the original exercise was extended to include the recovery element – Exercise Miberran (The Recovery), which considered the recovery process required from day 1 to year 1 following the cyclone event.

Multi-agency coordination

Redland City Council, through the Redland LDMG worked collaboratively with a wide range of agencies and external bodies in the lead up to, during and post the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event. These agencies included (in alphabetical order):

- Australian Red Cross
- Australian Defence Force (ADF)
- Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Redland Bay
- Amity Trader

- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
- Brisbane City Council
- Community Champions (Coochiemudlo Island, North Stradbroke Island and Southern Moreton Bay Islands)
- Department of Education
- Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers
- Department of Small Businesses
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Disaster Relief Australia (DRA)
- Energex
- Ergon
- GIVIT
- Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) – Council to Council (C2C) Program – Mackay Regional Council, Douglas Shire Council and Townsville City Council
- Marine Rescue QLD
- Marine Safety QLD
- Mater Health
- Minjerribah Camping
- Minjerribah Moorgumpin Aboriginal Elders in Council (MMEIC)
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
- NBN Co
- Optus
- Primary Health Network
- Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC)
- Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)
- Queensland Fire Department (QFD) comprising of Fire and Rescue QLD and the QLD Rural Fire Service
- Queensland Health / Metropolitan South Region including Redlands Hospital
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWIS)
- Queensland Rail
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA)
- Queensland Police Service (QPS)
- Rapid Response Team
- Redland City Council

- Salvation Army
- SeaLink
- Seqwater
- State Emergency Services (SES) including crews from Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia
- St John's Ambulance
- Stradbroke Flyer
- Surf Life Saving Queensland
- Telstra
- Transdev
- Translink
- Volunteer Marine Rescue (Raby Bay, Dunwich and Victoria Point)
- Volunteering Queensland.

Additional resourcing

In addition to the inter-agency support provided by the agencies listed above, additional support was received through formalised Requests for Assistance (RFA) made through the LDCC, Australian Defence Force personal and volunteers from Disaster Relief Australia were made available to supplement Council's operational capacity for response and recovery activities on the mainland and the islands. The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) also provided Council staff through their Council-2-Council program, with staff flying in to assist from Townsville City Council, Mackay Regional Council and Douglas Shire Council, to bolster LDCC capacity and provide much needed help in support of fatigue management plans as the event continued. Council contractors and an innumerable number of community volunteers also came together to assist Council's work and help our community members during this event.

Flood mapping and modelling

Potential impacts from storm surge on low lying coastal areas was estimated and mapped to help residents in our community to prepare for the weather event, relative to the warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology. These predictions on mapped areas of the Redlands LGA were not an exact science, however these maps were an estimation of where potential flooding and storm tide surge may occur (excluding potential overland flooding), and this was reviewed and revised as necessary, subject to changes in advice from the Bureau of Meteorology. Flood maps were shared via social media and Council's Redlands Coast Disaster Dashboard, so the community could inform themselves and Get Ready.

With the help of Queensland Police Service (QPS), all properties identified as impacted by storm surge at 0.5M above the highest astronomical tide (HAT) line, and other properties known to Council that flood as a result of overland flow stemming from heavy rainfall in previous events, were door-knocked to advise of the risk of storm surge and potential flooding, ensuring anyone needing assistance was connected with the relevant support services, prior to the storm surge impacts being realised. An App was developed by our Information Management unit to support and enable this door knocking activity, giving QPS officers an interactive app so they could easily

see the exact street addresses for storm surge impacted properties, and complete a check mark against properties once they were visited.

Communication

Council, through the LDCC, worked around the clock to ensure that updated key messaging could be provided to the community throughout the cyclone event.

From Monday 3 March 2025 to Friday 14 March 2025 inclusive, comprehensive communications activities were delivered through a myriad of Council channels.

These included:

- 119 Redlands Coast Alerts (including community alerts, closed roads and weather alerts) prepared and distributed via text and/or email
- 2 Emergency Alerts distributed from the State Disaster Coordination Centre via text and/or voice message
- 14 Australian Warning System messages
- 34 media releases
- 167 social media posts (Facebook)
- 39 sets of speaking points for Mayor as LDMG Chair for television, radio and other media interviews
- 18 videos
- 18 posters/flyers/signs
- 10 CEO messages to Council staff, many of whom were also impacted by the cyclone.

The Redlands Coast Disaster Dashboard (<https://disaster.redland.qld.gov.au/>) was the central online location where the community could find the latest key information relating to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event including alerts (maps including a Tropical Cyclone Alfred Flood Risk Map), road conditions and power outages.

- The Disaster Dashboard received 429,254 total views, with 124,315 active users, while the Redlands Disaster Plan received 82,280 views, with 35,229 active users
- Council's website (www.redland.qld.gov.au) and key pages were viewed 225,875 by over 78,000 active users
- The Redlands Coast Today website (www.redlandscoasttoday.com.au) received 294,195 views initiated by over 176,000 active users
- Council's social media (Facebook) posts resulted in over 3.4million impressions.

Sandbagging

More than 75,000 sandbags and 1,200 tonnes of sand were distributed from eight locations from Tuesday 25 February 2025 to Wednesday 5 March 2025, helping our island and mainland communities protect themselves, their families and their homes.

The locations of the sandbagging stations were:

Mainland

- Capalaba Regional Park, Capalaba

- Bayview Conservation Park Staging Area, Redland Bay
- Nuway Landscape Supplies, Thornlands

Islands

- Dunwich Council Depot, North Stradbroke Island
- Russell Island Council Depot
- Macleay Island Council Depot
- Lamb Island Council Shed
- Coochiemudlo Island Fire Station.

Places of refuge

Six places of refuge were opened at 7:00am on Thursday 6 March 2025 to provide shelter to community members who were unable to shelter in place safely. The places of refuge, which remained open until 6am on Wednesday 12 March 2025, were utilised by 47 residents as follows (note: 10 residents were in places of refuge on 7 March however locations were not recorded):

- Mainland: Cleveland Assembly Hall/Alexandra Hills Community Hall (2)
- North Stradbroke Island: Dunwich Community Hall (20)
- Macleay Island: Macleay Island Community Hall (0)
- Russell Island: BIMSARA Hall (12)
- Lamb Island: Pioneer Hall (3)
- Coochiemudlo Island: Coochiemudlo Recreation Club (0).

Day drop-in centres

Five Day drop-in centres were operational from 6.00am to 6.00pm from Wednesday 12 March 2025 with reduced hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm on Thursday 13 March 2025, with charging points available for residents who were without power. Day drop-in centres, were located at:

- Alexandra Hills Community Hall
- North Stradbroke Island – Dunwich Community Hall
- Macleay Island Community Hall
- Lamb Island Community Hall
- Coochiemudlo Recreation Hub.

Contact centre

Council's Integrated Customer Contact Centre (ICCC) team operated extended hours from Monday 4 March 2025 to Thursday 13 March 2025, opening from 6.00am to 9.00pm and including the weekend of Saturday 8 March 2025 to Sunday 9 March 2025.

These operating hours were supported by a 24/7 presence from Council's after-hours service provider. Call volumes peaked on Wednesday 12 March 2025.

From 6.00am to 9.00pm the ICCC received the following call volumes on the days below:

- Saturday 8 March 2025 – 98
- Sunday 9 March 2025 – 191
- Monday 10 March 2025 – 453
- Tuesday 11 March 2025 – 556
- Wednesday 12 March 2025 – 623
- Thursday 13 March 2025 – 530.

Calls for assistance to the ICCC were reduced by approximately one-third due to the introduction of an Interactive Voice Responsive (IVR) system that allowed customers to self-serve key information on topics such as waste through recorded messages, and to also opt to complete their requests themselves online.

Libraries

Council's libraries were heavily utilised as a place for the community to reconnect and charge devices following the passing of the cyclone

Approximately 10,000 customers –double the usual visitation levels – visited mainland libraries from Monday 10 March 2025 to Wednesday 12 March 2025 as follows:

- Cleveland – 2,925
- Capalaba – 4,163
- Victoria Point – 2,725.

Projects under construction

Council ensured construction project sites were secured before the arrival of Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Actions included:

- Removal of loose materials: collection and securely storing any loose construction materials, tools, and debris that could become airborne in strong winds.
- Reinforced temporary structures: scaffolding, fencing, and other temporary structures were properly braced or dismantled if they could not be secured including removal of scrim.
- Secured equipment: anchored heavy machinery and equipment to prevent them from tipping or being displaced.
- Inspected drainage systems: cleared and inspected drainage systems to prevent flooding on-site.
- Perimeter fencing: ensured fencing was sturdy and free of gaps to prevent unauthorised access and reduce the risk of debris escaping the site.

Maintaining essential services

A significant focus for our Council officers and teams during and after the cyclone was maintaining and restoring essential services to our community. A summary of Council-controlled essential services impacted by the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event follows:

Council was subsequently able to maintain water quality and supply to majority residents throughout the event. Water outages were reported for 164 properties for up to two days.

Of the city's seven wastewater treatment plants, six remained operational, with the Capalaba plant temporarily offline due to pipework damage. All plants are now back at 100 per cent capacity.

Sewer networks and manhole overflows totalled 138, with 100 clean ups completed as of Sunday 16 March 2025. Extra trucks and Council crews have been in place to clean up on weekdays and on weekends, with barricades in place to prevent public access to any impacted areas.

Transport infrastructure

From Friday 7 March 2025 to Monday 10 March 2025, 78 locally controlled roads were closed across the city due to dangerous conditions such as flooding, fallen trees and fallen power lines.

All roads have been reopened, with five roads having 'proceed with caution' hazards in place.

Several traffic signals across the city were not working due to power outages, which caused considerable problems on the road network for many days. While the road infrastructure suffered little direct damage because of Tropical Cyclone Alfred, there is expected to be an increased rate of deterioration of the road surfacing due to water inundation of the road pavement.

Council's roads, drainage and marine teams were mobilised to inspect conditions and deploy traffic management as required until impacted transport corridors could be reopened.

This included inspection of more than 3000 assets including roads, kerbs/pits, school car parks, footbridges/boardwalks and all ferry/barge facilities and ramps.

Approximately 2,000 assets required some works such as cleaning debris, minor repairs and fixing potholes, with 243 jobs to be completed.

There have been no significant issues preventing operations post the event, noting pathways and cycleways are continuing to be assessed.

Waste

Council has taken multiple actions to support the community to manage additional waste generated from the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event. These actions include:

- Excess food waste drop-off sites
- Green waste drop-off sites, with a response team mobilised to monitor customer requests and volunteer responses
- Extended Recycling and Waste Centre opening times
- Prioritisation of waste disposal to help manage public health
- Resumption of kerbside waste, recycling and green waste collection services.

Kerbside green waste collection commenced this week (commencing Monday 17 March 2025) on the mainland and across all the islands, with larger items able to be dropped off at Council's recycling, waste Centre or bulk green waste drop-off centres.

Organisational Resilience

Investment in Enterprise Management Systems

Council's strategic investment to uplift its Enterprise Management Systems to cloud technology over the past 18 months well-positioned the organisation to provide uninterrupted support to the LDMG, LDCC as well as maintain business continuity throughout the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event.

Other strategic enhancements included improved network connectivity through the Redland City Fibre Network (RCFN), Starlink, NBN, all connected using software-defined networking. This connectivity-agnostic network delivery enabled Starlink responses throughout the event when other telecommunications channels were not available, with deployment of units to Cleveland SES, Redland Bay SES, Council's Dunwich Depot, Mount Cotton Wastewater Treatment Plant as well as Lamb Island (for public use) and Russell Island (for Council and public use).

Council officers had full access to platforms, regardless of internet connection type and location throughout the event.

With renewed telephony contracts, improved public Wi-Fi infrastructure at libraries and the introduction of the AWS Connect application for the ICCC, Council saw previously unattainable flexibility and agility throughout the response to service the community.

Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and Business Recovery Plans (BRPs)

Council continues to regularly review its BCP and BRPs in regard to managing risks from severe weather events, particular pre-storm season that runs from approximately October to April each year. The last reviews were presented to the Operational Risk Management Committee on 10 February 2025 which put Council in good stead to respond and recover from ex-TC Alfred.

Recovery

At the time of this report, the LDRG remain at *STAND UP* and continue to meet daily to support the recovery phase.

As recovery is a complex and potentially protracted process, to assist with overall and effective coordination, aspects of recovery at Council are conceptually grouped into four inter-related functions applicable in an all-hazards environment including:

- Recovery of human-social aspects
- Recovery of infrastructure and essential services
- Recovery of economic and financial aspects
- Recovery of the natural environment.

With any disaster event it is likely there will be significant overlap between the four functions of recovery.

Information for the community

Council is committed to supporting residents, community groups, clubs and organisations, and local businesses affected by Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

A Redland Business Recovery web page (www.redland.qld.gov.au/recovery) has been set up to provide useful information for local businesses. It includes a link to a Community Organisations web page for support and advice about safety, security and public health issues.

Community Recovery Hubs

Community Recovery Hubs have been established as one-stop-centres for impacted communities to access food relief, counselling and support services, help to process funding applications, connections to housing and in-person updates from Energex and Optus and insurance advice.

Locations include:

- Thornlands Dance Palais Hall Recovery Hub: 9.00am to 4.00pm open through to and inclusive of Sunday 16 March 2025 and then will move to the Redland Community Centre at Capalaba from Monday 17 March 2025 onward.
- Russell Island Recreation Hall (pop-up): 9.00am to 3.00pm open through to Sunday 16 March 2025 then will move to the Macleay Island Hall commencing Monday 17 March 2025 onward, with some small mobile teams reaching out to Lamb and Karragarra islands during the week.
- Dunwich Community Hall Pop-up: open 9.00am to 3.00pm Friday 14 March 2025 through to Monday 17 March 2025, then returning from Thursday 20 March 2025 to Sunday 23 March 2025, with some mobile teams reaching out to Amity and Point Lookout over the remainder of the week.

- Coochiemudlo Recovery Hub Pop-up confirmed for Tuesday 18 March 2025 and Wednesday 19 March 2025 at the Recreation Club.

Planning is underway to establish sites on pop-up sites on Karragarra and Lamb Islands, with additional sites to be confirmed.

Next steps

Council will continue to focus on a community-led approach to recovery initiatives.

A further update on recovery activities will be provided via report to Council for consideration at its April 2025 General Meeting.

Advocacy

Council has developed an Advocacy Plan in response to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event to strengthen the city's disaster resilience and response capabilities. It includes advocating to State and Federal governments, agencies, and other key stakeholders for:

- Continued support for the Redland LGA during recovery phase/efforts
- Shared outcomes and legacy to increase resilience and support efficient recovery processes
- \$10 million for a purpose-built dedicated cyclone rated disaster coordination centre
- \$2 million for flood warning infrastructure and rainfall and creek gauge networks to provide important warnings and data
- Funding for assessments and upgrades to improve the wind resilience of Council buildings including places of refuge and evacuation centres
- Investment in building telecommunications resilience
- Funding for resilient sport and recreation upgrades
- Ongoing investment in demand building and destination development to enable visitor economy legacy.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Legislative Requirements

A local government has a power to do anything that is necessary or convenient for the good rule and welfare of its local government area under section 9 (1) of *Local Government Act 2009*.

In accordance with s.4A (d and e) of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (the 'Act') "local governments should primarily be responsible for managing events in their local government area; and district groups and the Queensland Disaster Management Committee should provide local governments with appropriate resources and support to help the local governments carry out disaster operations.

Council has a *Redland City Local Disaster Management Plan*, which meets the requirement prescribed under s. 57(1) of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (the 'Act') in that "a local government must prepare a plan (a local disaster management plan) for disaster management in the local government's area."

The controller of this Plan is the chairperson of the Redland City Local Disaster Management Group on behalf of Council. The Disaster Management Unit (DMU) administers the Plan.

It includes the following elements: Administration and Governance; Disaster Risk Assessment; Local Capacity and Capability; Prevention; Preparedness; Response; and Recovery.

In accordance with Section 58 of the Act, the *Redland City Local Disaster Management Plan Part 5 – Local Recovery Plan* is consistent with the disaster management standards and disaster management guidelines and complies with the following documents:

- a) *Disaster Management Act 2003*
- b) *Queensland State Disaster Management Plan (2015)*
- c) *Emergency Management Assurance Framework (2014)*
- d) *Queensland Local Disaster Management Guidelines (2012)*
- e) *Queensland Recovery Guidelines (2011)*.

Risk Management

Local government has the primary responsibility for managing disasters within its boundaries and Council has a committed and proactive approach to meeting this challenge.

Previous disaster events on Redlands Coast have highlighted the importance of having a thorough and clear Local Disaster Management Plan, as well as a dedicated Local Disaster Coordination Centre that can quickly swing into operation as required.

The Strategic Risk Register identifies one of seven strategic risks as involving major climatic events (ref: 100908) impacting services and facilities as controlled by Local Disaster Management Group, Council Business Continuity Plan and business recovery plans, that were all activated prior to the event.

Risk assessments were carried out prior to, during and after the event, in activating and deactivating the Redland City Local Disaster Management Group, Council Business Continuity Plan and individual business recovery plans.

Associated preparatory activities to Council services and facilities were carried out through securing facilities, earlier closures, remote and different working arrangements, resourcing supplies, fuel, communications equipment and mobilising assets, particularly to the islands necessary for response and recovery. Risk assessments were carried out in closing and reopening facilities and services.

On 27 February 2025, just over a week prior to the event, the Disaster Management team briefed the Civic Services Working Group on the climatic conditions and executive and senior managers and stakeholders were holding daily planning meetings prior to the event.

There has been no reported major structural damage to facilities however most services and facilities suffered some impact resulting in multiple property damage claims currently being consolidated, principally related to impact to roads and stormwater drainage, shoreline erosion and tracks and trails, water ingress to facilities, fallen trees and playground shade sails.

Council has also received a record number of private claims within the first week after the incident from approximately 55 residents impacted mostly from stormwater, wastewater and trees on public land.

Council's planning, response and recovery activities had essential operations open throughout the event including Council's Cleveland administration building, Redland Local Disaster Control Centre (LDCC), mainland and island depots, wastewater and water facilities, places of refuge that were operating on a mixture of mains and generator power.

Most services were either fully or partially operating within three days after the event, including the Marine Transport Hubs, Waste Transfer Stations, Integrated Customer Contact Centre (ICCC), Libraries, Animal Shelter, Redland Indigiscapes Environmental Centre.

Within seven days the Redlands Coast Visitor Information Centre, Redland Art Gallery, Redland Performing Arts Centre, community halls, major parks, playgrounds and tracks and trails were beginning to open, with any damaged areas closed off to the public and staff.

Financial

The Community Relief Fund (CRF) has been activated for south-east Queensland local governments affected by Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, CRF provides councils with up to \$1 million to undertake essential immediate clean up and restoration activities.

Councils can use this funding for waste and debris removal from streets, properties, and community assets, and activities to restore public assets.

Council is actively tracking impacts that fall within the scope of the fund and will make an application in due course.

People

To date, more than one-third of Council's workforce have been involved in preparedness and response to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event, with the recovery phase continuing.

Environmental

This report outlines Council's preparedness and response to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event – the report itself does not have any environmental implications.

Social

A community that is prepared for disasters by having necessary arrangements in place to deal with disasters will be a more resilient community and one that will return to the pre-disaster state more quickly than a community that is not prepared.

Recovery arrangements should be flexible and scalable to best suit local needs, and to use resources effectively.

Human Rights

There are no human rights implications associated with the contents of this report.

Alignment with Council's Policy and Plans

- *Redland City Local Disaster Management Plan*
- *Redland City Local Recovery Plan*

CONSULTATION

Consulted	Consultation Date	Comments/Actions
Redland Local Disaster Coordinator	17/03/2025	Reviewed report content.
Executive Leadership Team	17/03/2025	Reviewed report content.
Deputy Local Disaster Coordinator and Service Manager Disaster Management	16/03/2025	Reviewed report content.

OPTIONS**Option One**

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To note Council's preparedness and response to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event.
2. To endorse continued advocacy to the Federal and State governments for ongoing support during the recovery phase.
3. To note Council will publicly thank partner agencies, Council staff and volunteers for providing support to the Redlands Coast community before, during and after the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event.
4. To bring a report for consideration to the April 2025 General Meeting relating to Council's recovery approach to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event.

Option Two

That Council resolves to:

1. To request more information about Council's preparedness and response to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event.
2. To endorse continued advocacy to the Federal and State governments for ongoing support during the recovery phase.
3. To note Council will publicly thank partner agencies, Council staff and volunteers for providing support to the Redlands Coast community before, during and after the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event.
4. To bring a report to the April 2025 General Meeting relating to Council's recovery approach to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves as follows:

- 1. To note Council's preparedness and response to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event.**
- 2. To endorse continued advocacy to the Federal and State governments for ongoing support during the recovery phase.**
- 3. To note Council will publicly thank partner agencies, Council staff and volunteers for providing support to the Redlands Coast community before, during and after the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event.**
- 4. To bring a report for consideration to the April 2025 General Meeting relating to Council's recovery approach to the Tropical Cyclone Alfred event.**