



LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Community Health
Threat Specific Sub Plan

Document control

This Sub Plan will be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary. The Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) will ensure contact details are kept and up to date.

Minor amendments to this plan can be made by the LDC. Amendments which affect the intent of the plan must be endorsed by the LDMG.

All approved amendments are to be listed below. The LDC will ensure that all copies of the plan are replaced with the most up to date version.

Version	Date	Comments	Approved by
1.1	June 2021	Supersedes Environment and Public Health Sub Plan 2016 (Version 1); Influenza Pandemic Sub Plan, Sub Plan reviewed.	LDMG on 13 January 2022

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full title
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
CCN	Crisis Communication Network
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DDCC	District Disaster Coordination Centre
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
DMGs	Disaster Management Groups
LDC	Local Disaster Coordinator
LDCC	Local Disaster Coordination Centre
LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group
LDMP	Local Disaster Management Plan
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
QSDMP	Queensland State Disaster Management Plan
QPS	Queensland Police Service
RRC	Rockhampton Regional Council

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of the Community Health Threat Specific Sub Plan is to establish the multi-agency collaborative arrangements for managing a community health related event or secondary issue arising from an emergency, that relates to an emergency animal disease outbreak, pandemic, environmental public health concern or heatwave.

This sub plan is to be used in conjunction with the Local Disaster Management Plan and its sub plans. It sets out the agreed responsibilities and actions for the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) to support the lead agency and applies to emergency/disaster events and associated hazards within the Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC) Local Government Area.

Objectives

The objectives of the sub plan are to:

- Describe the roles and responsibilities of leading and supporting a response to a community related health event;
- Describe the coordination arrangements to support requests for assistance; and
- Describe the coordination of communication to ensure public information is shared.

Key contacts

- Chair LDMG
- Local Disaster Coordinator
- District Disaster Coordinator (DDMG)
- District Disaster Executive Officer
- Queensland Health
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Coordinator Disaster Management, Rockhampton Regional Council

Responsibilities

This sub plan recognises the difference in the responsibilities of the lead agency and the LDMG, and at the same time it promotes a collaborative approach to achieve improved community outcomes.

The Queensland Government State Disaster Plan outlines the lead agencies and agency responsibilities within the Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA).

Agency	Responsibilities
EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE	
DAF	<p>The department is responsible for the establishment, maintenance and activation of the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN) and the establishment, maintenance and activation of the State Disease Control Headquarters. <u>AUSVETPLAN</u> is a series of technical response plans that determine Australia's approach to an emergency animal disease. It has been developed by Commonwealth, State and Territory veterinary authorities.</p> <p><u>EADRA - Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement</u> details how Australia's government and industry groups will work together to prepare for and respond to emergency animal disease incursions. It includes a framework for decision making and cost sharing.</p> <p>It also provides guidance to District Disaster Management Groups (DDMG) and Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMG) for the development of their plans to assist the lead agency with emergency animal disease operations as necessary.</p>
LDMG	In addition to specific agency assistance being provided, components of the Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) may be activated to support operations.
DDMG	Because of the nature of operations to combat an exotic animal disease outbreak, and the potential size of the area(s) likely to be involved, it is probable that a number of Disaster Districts will be involved. If this occurs, coordination of supply of such resources support will be effected through the State Disaster Coordination Centre.
<p>PANDEMIC Pandemics are epidemics on a global scale. For a disease to have pandemic potential it must meet three criteria: Humans have little or no pre-existing immunity to the causative pathogen; Infection with the pathogen usually leads to disease in humans; and The pathogen has the capacity to spread efficiently from person to person.</p> <p>The pandemic hazard for the Rockhampton Region has been calculated to be 6% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP). This places pandemic risk in the "Unlikely" category.</p>	
QHealth	Queensland Health has functional responsibility for an influenza pandemic event.
LDMG	Local governments and LDMG agencies will have a dual role during a pandemic. They will be an essential part of the State Disaster Management System responding to the pandemic, and they are also an employer like any other business.
DDMG	Because of the nature of operations to combat a pandemic, and the potential size of the area(s) likely to be involved, it is probable that a number of Disaster Districts will be involved. If this occurs, coordination of supply of such resources support will be effected through the State Disaster Coordination Centre.
Dept of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy	An influenza pandemic will have significant impacts for individuals, families and communities. Some impacts will result directly from illness and death. Other impacts will result from personal, social, or financial disruptions or anxieties. Individuals and communities will have varying capacity for managing the impacts of a pandemic on their lives.

<p>ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH Public health is the act of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health for present and future generations. Environmental health is part of public health and is concerned with the investigation, assessment, and management of the physical, chemical, biological, and social factors in our environment that have the potential to impact upon human health and wellbeing.</p>	
QHealth	Queensland Health has functional responsibility for managing environmental public health events.
LDMG	<p>In addition to specific agency assistance being provided to QHealth, components of the Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) may be activated to support operations.</p> <p>RRC and the LDMG will manage the environmental and health risks that have the potential to affect the Rockhampton Region as a result of a disaster or adverse event under the following key legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011</i> and subordinate Legislation; ▪ <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> and subordinate legislation; ▪ <i>Food Act 2006</i> and subordinate legislation; ▪ <i>Public Health Act 2005</i> and subordinate legislation; ▪ <i>Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003</i> and subordinate legislation; ▪ <i>Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008</i> and subordinate legislation; and ▪ Any relevant Rockhampton Regional Council local laws.
<p>HEATWAVE</p> <p>A heatwave occurs when the maximum and the minimum temperatures are unusually hotter than average over a three-day period. This is considered in relation to the local climate and past weather at the location. Heatwave is the second highest risk to the Rockhampton Region and has been calculated to be 43% Annual Exceedance Probability. This places heatwave risk in the mid-range of the “Likely” category.</p>	
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology heatwave forecasting or warning systems.
QHealth	Queensland Health has functional responsibility for managing heatwaves. It is the Lead agency for the management of Heatwave under the QHealth Heatwave Sub Plan. This plan outlines the arrangements for the management of heatwaves in Queensland across preparedness, response and recovery.
LDMG	In addition to specific agency assistance being provided to QHealth, components of the Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) may be activated to support operations.

Coordination Centres

Control Centres

Incident Control, Coordination or Operations Centre

A lead agency may establish a coordination centre. Agencies may be invited to contribute to operations, acting as agency liaison officers.

Local Disaster Coordination Centre

Local Disaster Coordination Centres (LDCCs) are either permanent or temporary facilities within each Local Government Area (LGA) established to support the LDMG during disasters. LDCCs operationalise LDMG decisions, as well as plan and implement strategies and activities on behalf of the LDMG during disaster operations.

The main function of the LDCC is to coordinate resources and assistance in support of local agencies and stakeholders engaged in disaster operations.

District Disaster Coordination Centre

A District Disaster Coordination Centre (DDCC) is established to support the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) in the provision of state-support to affected local governments within that district.

The DDCC coordinates the collection and prompt dissemination of relevant information to and from LDCCs and the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) about disaster events occurring within their disaster district. The DDCC implements decisions of the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) and DDMG and coordinates state and Australian Government resources in support of the LDMGs and disaster affected communities in their district.

State Operations Centre

The State Operations Centre (SOC) is the control centre for state level operations, information centre and monitors operational readiness at local, regional and state levels.

The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) is a permanent facility located at the Emergency Services Complex at Kedron, Brisbane. The SDCC operates as a 24/7 Watch Desk when not activated for a disaster, and is staffed and maintained in a state of operational readiness by QFES.

The SDCC supports the State Disaster Coordinator (SDC) by coordinating the state level operational response capability during disaster operations. The SDCC ensures that information is disseminated to all levels in the QDMA, including the Australian Government.

Liaison Officers will operate from coordination centre to provide agency updates, be the conduit between the centre and the agency and will arrange resource support operations.

Situational Reporting

Event reporting is necessary to provide decision-makers with real time situational awareness to enable effective operational decision making. In the event that the disaster management arrangements are activated, the lead agency incident coordination centre will provide situation reports to respective disaster management groups at the appropriate level. Reporting may also occur through QDMA.

Each agency of the LDMG has full access to the online Incident Management System – Guardian IMS utilised by the Rockhampton Region LDMG. This allows officers to monitor real-time information, requests and intelligence to supplement the routine Situation Report cycle.

Where the disaster arrangements are activated any key intelligence and information provided from the ICC is able to be uploaded into Guardian. Activation is defined by the Rockhampton Region LDMG moving to an operational activation level of ALERT or higher.

Because of the nature of operations to combat an exotic animal disease outbreak, pandemic, heatwave and environmental public health issue, the potential size of the area(s) likely to be involved, it is probable that a number of Disaster Districts will be involved. If this occurs, coordination of supply of such resources support will be effected through the State Disaster Coordination Centre.

Response

The response phase is typically triggered by the actual or imminent threat which has a community impact for the LDMG to manage.

Agency	Responsibilities
EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE	
DAF	<p>An outbreak of emergency animal disease has potential to severely impact the communities and business of the region creating community angst and concern. It is therefore imperative that the LDMG be advised at the earliest possible time of any such event in order to ensure that appropriate community communication strategies are identified and implemented.</p> <p>The plan will be activated by the Chief Veterinary Officer, on receipt of advice that an outbreak of an emergency animal disease has occurred in Queensland. The plan may also be activated if notification is received from another State that an outbreak of an emergency animal disease has occurred in the State, and is likely to be transmitted into Queensland.</p> <p>Upon activation of the plan, the State Disease Control Headquarters will be opened, and the Executive Officer of the State Disaster Management Group is to be alerted in preparation for activation of the State Disaster Coordination Centre.</p>
LDMG	<p>In the event of activation of the LDMG and/or LDMP, the LDC will ensure that DAF officers are aware that all operations undertaken by the LDMG will be conducted in accordance with the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements and associated plans.</p> <p>Activation of the LDMP will be at the request of the lead agency or otherwise as determined by the LDMG Chairperson/LDC.</p> <p>At the Local Government level, the LDMG may be activated in preparation for the provision of resource support to the lead agency.</p> <p>Assistance from the LDMG may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource assistance – physical and material; ▪ Transport; ▪ Community information/advice; ▪ Security of quarantined premises; ▪ Traffic control – restriction on animal movements and transport.

	<p>The likely functions of the LDCC are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Information; ▪ Community Leadership and LDMG Operations; and ▪ Recovery Planning.
PANDEMIC	
QHealth	<p>The Queensland Government Arrangements for Coordinating Public Information in a Crisis will be activated during a pandemic to support Queensland Health. Under the Arrangements, the Crisis Communication Network (CCN) will provide leadership for the many cross-government communication activities that will occur during an influenza pandemic, and assist agencies harmonise their activities and messages.</p> <p>Agencies will retain responsibility for their own communication products and activities, and will work together through regular meetings of the CCN. Agencies will need to coordinate media engagement, communication products and support for key spokespeople. The Chair of the CCN and the Queensland Health member will also be members of the national Communications Officers Network.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Key government activities that might be considered before, during and following a pandemic are summarised below. These activities are indicative only, and the Queensland Government will make decisions about the management of a pandemic based on the circumstances at the time and the best available health advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Surveillance and monitoring ➤ Border control and quarantine ➤ Quarantine and isolation ➤ Social distancing ➤ Clinics ➤ Social and community support
LDMG	<p>In the event of an Influenza Pandemic or potential risk of such event, the LDC should immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish contact with the relevant Qld Health representative for the Rockhampton Region; ➤ Obtain sufficient detail of the event to determine the need for activation of the LDMG; ➤ Request the location and contact numbers for any established Queensland Health Incident Control Centre; ➤ request the provision of regular written updated situation reports of the event to the LDMG; ➤ if deemed necessary by the LDC, request a personal briefing from a senior relevant Qld Health representative to the relevant LDMG meeting. <p>Councils will need to, as far as possible, protect staff and customers and maintain core business continuity.</p> <p>In accordance with the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements, the LDMG may receive requests from Queensland Health as the lead agency to provide support to contribute to preparedness, response and recovery operations throughout the region. Examples of such requests may be:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provision of suitably qualified personnel to assist in vaccination operations; ➤ Identification and provision of suitable facilities for use in response and recovery operations; ➤ Assistance with traffic management through the provision of human resources and equipment such as signage, barriers, traffic cones and other like equipment.
Dept of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy	<p>The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy has been working with a range of government and non-government stakeholders to prepare to support Queenslanders throughout a pandemic. This includes strategies for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ supporting people in home isolation and quarantine; ➤ managing the implications of social distancing policies; ➤ continued access to critical social services; ➤ assisting critical social service providers with business continuity; ➤ assisting vulnerable communities; ➤ volunteer management.
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH	
QHealth and LDMG	<p>Annexure 1 details the Functional Responsibilities for Environmental Public Health Management for the following risk areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ food safety; ➤ safe and adequate water; ➤ emergency shelter/evacuation centre; ➤ waste collection and disposal; ➤ wastewater management; ➤ personal hygiene; ➤ collection and disposal of dead animals and stock; ➤ sewage collection and disposal; ➤ vermin and vector control; ➤ disposal of dead persons; ➤ infectious diseases control; ➤ environmental pollution; ➤ animal control; ➤ public health risk; and ➤ medical health emergency
HEATWAVE	
BOM	<p>Responsible for the Bureau of Meteorology heatwave forecasting and warning systems.</p> <p>Heatwave Service for Australia is a BoM product, which operates generally from October/November to March/April annually, dependent on need. It provides advance notice of predictions of low intensity, severe and extreme heatwave conditions allowing government, emergency services and communities time to adopt measures to reduce the impact.</p>
QHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintaining situational awareness of potential heatwaves conditions via the BoM Heatwave Service. ➤ Activation of the QHealth Heatwave Sub Plan. ➤ Sharing information from SHECC to internal HHS stakeholders, to external stakeholders via LDMGs and DDMGs, and the community via existing health networks (led by Public Health Units (PHU) in most HHSs).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Liaising with local government, utilities, organisers of local mass gathering events where patrons may be affected by heat (with QAS), energy suppliers and other relevant stakeholders to address emerging public health risks (led by PHU in most HHS). ➤ Reduction of harm to patients and the community, as well as reducing impact on the health system, by a proactive and scalable messaging campaign. ➤ Identification of vulnerable groups with scalable strategies in place to support these. ➤ Demand management linked to usual surge strategies. ➤ Management of public health impacts of heat, and potential for increasing impacts due to effects on infrastructure, with particular focus on power and water. ➤ Business continuity planning linked to usual arrangements for disruption to critical services or staffing levels. ➤ Disseminate public information to have a plan, stay hydrated, stay out of the sun, keep cool, check on and look after others.
LDMG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mitigate the effects of, prepare for, respond to, and recover from heatwaves in its planning and resilience advocacy. ➤ Maintaining situational awareness of potential heatwaves conditions via the BoM Heatwave Service and QHealth advice. ➤ Ensuring distribution of messaging to agency workforces and identified vulnerable groups using existing Queensland Health messaging. ➤ Ensuring business continuity arrangements are established.

Public Information

Public information is a shared responsibility between the lead agency and the LDMG.

Community Leadership and LDMG Operations

The focus of all leadership from both the ICC and LDCC should be anchored on the safety and best possible outcomes for the community. The more communication between the centres, the higher the probability of this aim being achieved.

The LDMG provides community leadership through the Chair (Mayor, RRC), which may take the form of community briefings, in conjunction with the LDMG, or other agencies such as QHealth or DAF, as they determine, to manage the community consequence.

Recovery Planning

The transition to recovery for community health related events can be different to other hazards such as floods and cyclones. Community impact needs to be considered early during the response phase to ensure that the process is managed well from the LDMG perspectives and achieves the best community outcome.

Agency	Responsibilities
EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE	
DAF, LDMG and QDMA	Recovery of an emergency animal disease will centre around the economic function. Local, district and state groups will be activated as required.
PANDEMIC	
	<p>The aim of all prevention, preparedness and response actions throughout a pandemic is to facilitate the quickest possible recovery.</p> <p>The Queensland Government, on advice from the State Disaster Management Group, will undertake a wide range of measures as appropriate to the circumstances to support psychological, social and economic recovery for all Queenslanders. Activities include assessing the impacts of the pandemic, helping Queenslanders return to normal routines, restoring essential services, and preparing for the possibility of further pandemic waves.</p>
HEATWAVE	
QHealth	Recovery and return to business as usual will depend on the impact from the heatwave on businesses and departments. Queensland Health will maintain a health response to areas of the community that continue to be at-risk as the heatwave event abates and will continue to provide advice on treatment of common health effects resulting from the heatwave. Both direct heat illnesses such as heat exhaustion and indirect illnesses such as heart failure and even death impacts on workforce, agriculture environment and tourism.
LDMG	The event is managed in line with the five functional areas of the Recovery Plan and may be at the state level, at a local or district level. This will depend on the severity.
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE	
QHealth, LDMG and QDMA	The event is managed in line with the five functional areas of the Recovery Plan and may be at the state level, at a local or district level. This will depend on the severity.

Annexure 1 Functional Responsibilities for Environmental Public Health Management

Functional Responsibilities	Primary/Coordinating Units	Supporting/Liaison Units
Communicable Disease Control Including Outbreaks	Central Qld Population Health Unit	RRC Health and Environment Unit
Safety of Food Supplies	RRC Health and Environment Unit	Central Qld Population Health Unit Safe Food Queensland
Safety of Water Supplies	RRC FRW	RRC Health and Environment Unit
Safety of Dangerous and Hazardous Goods/Sites	Workplace Health and Safety Queensland	Department of Environment and Science
Safe Sewage and Waste Water Disposal	RRC FRW	RRC Health and Environment Unit
Safe Solid Waste (Refuse) Disposal	RRC Waste and Recycling Unit (RRWR)	Department of Environment and Science RRC Health and Environment Unit
Safe Hazardous Materials Disposal	RRWR	Department of Environment and Science RRC Health and Environment Unit
Devolved ERAs, and nuisance	RRC Health and Environment Unit	Department of Environment and Science
Vermin and Vector Control	RRC Vector Management Unit	Central Qld Population Health Unit RRC Health and Environment Unit
Evacuation Centre Management	RRC Red Cross	RRC Health and Environment Unit
Suitability of Emergency Housing and Rehabilitation	LDMG Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy	Department of Housing and Public Works RRC Health and Environment Unit
Suitability and Commencement of Welfare Centres	LDMG Recovery and Evacuation Sub Committees	RRC Health and Environment Unit
Safe Storage of Human Remains	Queensland Police Queensland Health	RRC Parks and Cemeteries RRC Health and Environment Unit
Safe Disposal of Dead Animals	RRC Local Laws	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Animal Control including Impounding of Animals	RRC Local Laws	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Capricorn Animal Aid
General Advice on Public Health Matters	RRC Health and Environment Unit	Queensland Health Central Qld Population Health Unit
Media Releases	LDMG	RRC Media Liaison Officer