



Version Control and Objective ID	Version No: 1	Objective ID: A7695271
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1. Statement

This policy outlines the principles of increasing Council's standard service levels in the lead up, during and immediately after a disaster event to support the community.

2. Purpose and Principles

This policy guides Council by providing principles for discharging its responsibilities under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* ('the Act') and the *Disaster Management Regulation 2014*.

The Act provides that local governments should primarily be responsible for managing disaster events in their local government area (section 4A(c)). Accordingly, Council:

- a) Undertakes its disaster management responsibilities in a way that complies with the various legislative and state instruments, including but not limited to the:
 - i. Standards for Disaster Management, issued pursuant to section 16N of the Act;
 - ii. Disaster Management Strategic Policy Statement issued by the Queensland Government;
 - iii. State Disaster Management Plan issued pursuant to section 49 of the Act;
 - iv. Queensland Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline, issued pursuant to section 63 of the Act;
 - v. Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework issued in accordance with section 16A(c) of the Act;
 - vi. City of Ipswich Local Disaster Management Plan – a plan for the City of Ipswich, all agencies, all hazards and issued in accordance with section 57 of the Act.
- b) Promotes and supports a comprehensive approach to disaster management which holistically incorporates prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- c) Promotes and supports individual and community resilience in accordance with the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030; the National Disaster Resilience Strategy; and the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2017. This includes enabling and promoting the community to support itself and each other, as they are often best placed to identify and with support, reduce their vulnerability.

- d) Disaster operations and the management of emergency situations will be conducted under the direction of the appointed Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC) or Deputy Local Disaster Coordinator (DLDC) or delegate, for example the Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC).

3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan themes:

- Safe, Inclusive and Creative
- Natural and Sustainable
- A Trusted and Leading Organisation

4. Regulatory Authority

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2014

Disaster Management Act 2003

Disaster Management Regulation 2014

5. Human Rights Commitment

Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

6. Scope

This policy applies to all councillors, council staff, contractors, and others that act on Council's behalf to ensure they work in accordance with the policy principles and in accordance with the relevant legislation.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Chief Executive Officer	Ensure compliance with this policy by councillors and employees.
General Manager (Infrastructure and Environment)	Approval and oversight of specific support measures related to: • Provision of sandbags • Fully or partially subsidised storm damage vegetation • Fully or partially subsidised waste disposal
Manager, Field Services	Approval and implementation of specific support measures related to: • Provision of sandbags • Fully or partially subsidised storm damage vegetation
Manager, Environment and Sustainability	Approval and implementation of specific support measures related to: • Fully or partially subsidised storm damage vegetation • Fully or partially subsidised waste disposal

8. Key Stakeholders

The following will be consulted during the review process:

- General Manager, Community, Cultural and Economic Development
- General Manager, Coordination and Performance
- General Manager, Corporate Services
- General Manager, Infrastructure and Environment
- General Manager, Planning and Regulatory Services

9. Specific Support Measures – Provision of Sandbags

Council may aid by providing sandbags based on forecasts made by the Bureau of Meteorology. The table below provides guidance on Council's approach.

Circumstance/trigger	Provision of sandbags
Short duration / intense bursts of rain / sustained light rain	
Bureau of Meteorology describes the weather as heavy rain, wet weather, or severe storms that are unlikely to result in inundation to the essential living areas of properties within the City of Ipswich. An example is a summer storm where the anticipated rainfall is relatively minor or intense short bursts of heavy rain are predicted.	Sandbags are the responsibility of the owner/occupier. Council will not supply sandbags.
Sustained and intense rain with widespread flooding within the City of Ipswich	
Event may include heavy rain, wet weather or severe storms that are likely to result in floor level inundation to properties within the City of Ipswich. Examples include the effects of ex-tropical cyclone Oswald, 2011 floods.	Businesses and residents will be able to collect no more than 30 sandbags from one of the nominated locations. Individuals may be required to fill their own sandbags.

Council's provision of sandbag assistance has been informed by strong research and best practice examples.

10. Specific Support Measure – Storm Damaged Vegetation

Following destructive and dangerous winds that result in damage, Council may provide partial or fully subsidised disposal of vegetation waste from residential properties. The provision of partial or fully subsidised disposal of vegetation waste from residential properties will take into consideration the following:

1. The principles outlined within this policy; and
2. Whether there is **widespread damage** across the City of Ipswich; and

3. The damage and/or wind speed and nature of the wind (normally from recorded observations at Amberley or Greenbank stations) is aligned with a rating greater than 10 on the Beaufort wind scale or the wind speed is consistent with a Tropical Cyclone Category 2.
4. Whether the costs associated with the subsidised vegetation disposal is claimable under State or Federal disaster recovery funding.

11. Specific Support Measure – Debris and Waste Disposal

Following a disaster, as defined in the Disaster Management Act 2003, Council may provide partial or fully subsidised disposal of waste, where it is:

- Non-commercial
- Not building or construction waste; and
- Does not contain hazardous materials (including, but not limited to asbestos containing materials)

The decision to provide partially or fully subsidised waste disposal will need to consider the following:

1. The principles outlined within this policy; and
2. Whether there is **widespread damage** across the City of Ipswich; and
3. The impact to public health; and
4. Whether the costs associated with the subsidised disposal is claimable under State or Federal disaster recovery funding.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed at least every 2 years or following a significant disaster event.

13. Definitions

Term	Definition
Disaster resilience	A system or community's ability to rapidly accommodate and recover from the impacts of hazards, restore essential structures and desired functionality, and adapt to new circumstances. <i>Source: Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience</i>
Storm damaged vegetation	Refers to organic plant-based materials such as tree branches, shrubs, and foliage that has been damaged as a direct result of winds associated with a storm or severe weather. <i>Also referred to as green waste</i>

14. Policy Owner

The General Manager (Infrastructure and Environment) is the policy owner and the Emergency Management and Sustainability Manager is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.