



COVID-19 MORETON RECOVERY PLAN

2020-2021



This Recovery Plan defines the roles, responsibilities, arrangements, and actions needed and underway to ensure a coordinated relief and recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Moreton Bay Region.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Moreton Bay Regional Council would like to thank local community, business and industry leaders who have contributed to the development of this plan. Council would also like to thank Phoenix Resilience Pty Ltd for their support and guidance throughout the planning process to product delivery.

DISCLAIMER

Moreton Bay Regional Council has produced this document based on accurate information at the time of issue. Some information may have been provided to Council by other organisations. Persons making decisions with financial or legal implications must not rely upon the details shown in this plan for the purpose of determining whether any particular facts or circumstances exist. Moreton Bay Regional Council (and its officers and agents) expressly disclaims responsibility for any loss or damage suffered as a result of placing reliance upon this information.

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR PETER FLANNERY



Our commitment to recovery

As we all deal with the health and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, Moreton Bay Regional Council has maintained a focus on charting a course to recovery. At this uncertain time, I am of the firm belief that it's Council's role to provide as much certainty as possible for local residents, families and businesses. That's what motivated our coronavirus stimulus packages and it was the guiding principle of our 2020-21 Budget to ensure we get back on track as quickly as possible.

To ensure our region's recovery meets the needs of the community we have developed the **COVID-19 Moreton Recovery Plan**. It outlines the impacts of COVID-19 on our Region and articulates recovery strategies for both our local economy and the health and well-being of our residents. Already under the recovery plan we have:

- ✓ Dedicated \$32.9 million in coronavirus stimulus measures designed to provide certainty for the most impacted groups and individuals in our community and to get our region booming again.
- ✓ Through the Moreton Recovery Group, provided a collaborative approach with our key stakeholders in all levels of government and non-government organisations.
- ✓ Established an Economic Recovery Taskforce and Human and Social Recovery Taskforce, bringing decades of industry experience, local knowledge and expert advice to listen to and address the challenges our community is currently facing.

We will continue working to drive our Region's economic recovery, support local jobs, and help businesses recuperate. Our doors are always open to anyone with great ideas to help Moreton Bay Region bounce back. I'd like to thank residents for their determination and resilience through these difficult months. It has proven to me that while times are tough, Moreton Bay is tougher, and that together we will prevail.

Mayor Peter Flannery

Chair

Moreton Bay Local Disaster Management Group
and Moreton Recovery Group

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

This is an electronic document. Hard copies are valid on day of printing only.

All requests for additional or clarifying information regarding this document are to be referred to:

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Amendment register

Version	Date	Summary Of Changes	Author
1.0	10 July 2020	Original Document	Phoenix Resilience Pty Ltd

Distribution of the plan

This plan will be electronically distributed to all members of:

- Moreton Bay Local Disaster Management Group
- Moreton District Disaster Management Group
- Moreton Recovery Group
- COVID-19 Human and Social Recovery Sub-Group
- COVID-19 Economic Recovery Sub-Group
- COVID-19 Human and Social Recovery Taskforce
- COVID-19 Economic Recovery Taskforce

Supporting sources

Portions of this plan are wholly or partially derived from the following sources:

- Moreton Bay Regional Council's Local Disaster Management Plan
- Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements
- Queensland State Disaster Management Plan
- Queensland Disaster Management (PPRR) Guideline, 2018
- Queensland Recovery Plan
- Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) - Community Recovery Handbook
- Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience - National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) Handbook
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) – Recovery Planning Methodology
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority – COVID-19 Impact Assessment Metrics
- REMPLAN

This acknowledgement recognises the source and use of material from the above references throughout this plan.

1. INTRODUCTION

Moreton Bay Regional Council has been supporting the local community since the start of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic with financial and non-financial relief initiatives. Our aim has been to protect the health and safety of the community and support local organisations, businesses and industries during this challenging time.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lock downs have been felt across the Moreton Bay Region since late March 2020. In the Moreton Bay Region, between March and May, employment experienced a fall of 14% across all industry sectors. The greatest decrease in employment was seen in the retail trade. In percentage terms, accommodation and food services experienced the greatest decrease. In April 2020, a total of 11,195 local businesses applied for JobKeeper.

Through our community organisation consultation, we have learned that many of our community members are experiencing financial hardship and are suffering the mental health consequences of isolation, job losses and uncertainty about the future. The usual safety net and community network provided by our community support, sport and recreation organisations was also disrupted due to the widespread closures. Our community support organisations are dealing with an increase in the complexity of cases, while managing their operational disruptions. Our mission now is to recover our region from the impacts of COVID-19 and set the stage for prosperity.

To better understand the challenges that our community members, businesses and industries face, we have conducted surveys with these sectors as well as held extensive consultation sessions. These activities have provided insights into the impacts to community and consequently recovery strategies have been developed.

We recognise that this is an evolving situation. During the recovery, Moreton Bay Regional Council will continually monitor the situation and adjust plans accordingly.

2. AUTHORITY TO PLAN

This plan has been prepared under the authority of the Moreton Bay Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group as a special plan of the Local Disaster Management Plan and in accordance with *section 30 of the Disaster Management Act 2003*.

3. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to detail arrangements, roles and responsibilities as well as actions required to ensure a coordinated recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic within the Moreton Bay Region.

4. SCOPE OF THE PLAN

The plan is based on the current knowledge of impacts and potential impacts within the Moreton Bay Regional Council local government area and is a working document which will be updated regularly responding to changes in community need.

The recovery implementation will be managed by the COVID-19 Human and Social and Economic Recovery Sub-Groups under the direction of the Moreton Recovery Group. This plan will also respond to the expectations and requirements of State Government, as outlined in the strategy **'Unite and Recover'** relating to Queensland COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Plan which is currently being developed and reviewed as other strategies are developed by the State and Federal Governments.

5. GOVERNANCE

Section 4A(c) of the Disaster Management Act states that 'local governments should primarily be responsible for managing events in their local government area'. Moreton Bay Regional Council's Disaster Management Unit is responsible for coordinating Council's disaster management arrangements including building the region's resilience through community engagement strategies.

In the initial stages, the Local Disaster Coordination Centre was activated under the leadership of the Local Disaster Management Group to coordinate the response and multi-agency collaboration. The situation was continuously monitored with regular status reports through the dissemination of Situation Reports (SITREPs) as well as regular meetings with key stakeholders.

The Moreton Recovery Group have been activated to assist the Local Disaster Management Group and District Disaster Management Group and provide recovery guidance, endorsement, and oversight. It is also the conduit to the Queensland Disaster Management Committee through the Local and District Disaster Management Groups. The Moreton Recovery Group will ensure our community and economy can navigate the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and recover effectively.

It is important to Council that this recovery is community led, which is why the Human and Social and Economic Recovery Taskforces were formed. These taskforces include membership from local organisations within commerce, community support, sport and recreation organisations and through their local insights and expertise, have provided critical data that has informed the recovery plan.

A detailed impact assessment was conducted that considered quantitative and qualitative metrics based on data gathered from economic data analysis software; Queensland Government Agency data; and local data gathered from community, business and industry consultation and surveys. The taskforces developed recovery strategies based on the outcomes of the impact assessment.

The strategies have been ‘operationalised’ in the Human and Social and Economic Action Plans. These Action Plans have detailed short, medium and long-term actions. Human and Social and Economic Recovery Sub-Groups will be activated to assist in the implementation of these actions under the governance and oversight of the Moreton Recovery Group. These sub-groups provide a collaborative approach across all levels of government and non-government agencies.

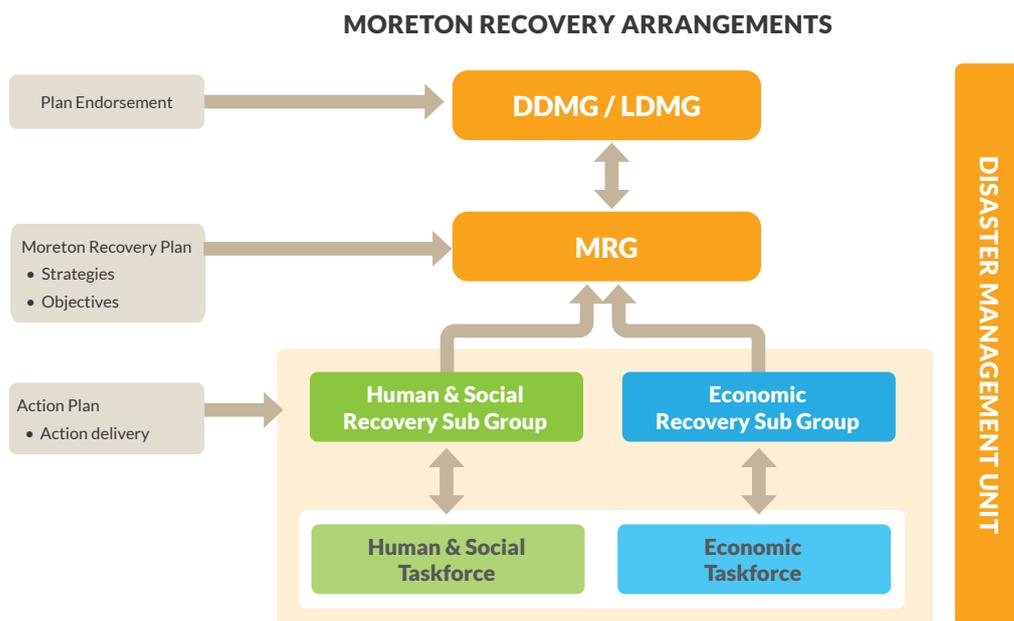


Diagram 01

Recovery progress will be measured at 3, 6 and 9 months as directed by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Disaster risk management is a critical and fundamental component of all disaster planning. Whilst responding to and recovering from disasters is vital and requires constant monitoring during and following the impact of any event, they are directly proportionate to the level of understanding of the hazard (COVID-19) as well as existing or potential risks that occur or may occur during the event. In other words, a comprehensive understanding of community risk will see the development of a contemporary and resilient planning structure and will thereby eliminate or lessen the impact of the disaster event upon that community.

7. RECOVERY METHODOLOGY

The Queensland Recovery Plan defines disaster recovery as the coordinated process of supporting disaster-affected communities' psychosocial (emotional and social), and physical well-being; reconstruction of physical infrastructure; and economic and environmental restoration (including regeneration of the natural environment, associated infrastructure and heritage sites and structures, and the management of pollution and contamination).¹

Recovery process

The process for recovery that Moreton Bay Regional Council Disaster Management adheres to is outlined by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority as follows:

1. Context - Community overview or profile which identifies community strengths, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. Community overviews assist with identifying the impacted community. Community overviews and profiles provide recovery planners with an understanding of the community's pre-disaster baseline.

2. Impact Identification – Assists with understanding what has occurred as a result of the disaster. The impact identification process focusses on capturing the damage and or disruption caused, where the damage and or disruption was caused and who the damage and or disruption affected.

3. Impact Assessment – is an analysis of the consequences of the disruption or disaster, based on data collected in relation to psychosocial, economic, natural and built environmental impacts. It is the process of establishing the consequences of the impact of a disaster on a community. Impact assessments identify the recovery problems requiring a solution or solutions.

4. Identification of Recovery Outcomes and Objectives – This stage addresses the recovery problems identified through the impact assessment. The recovered state is identified through this process. Consideration is given to the most effective way to deliver effective recovery activities/initiatives and possible risks to the implementation of these activities/ initiatives as well as potential funding mechanisms. This includes a deliberate process to review and evaluate all the options considered and their suitability to support community recovery.

5. Recovery Plan Development – This stage uses the recovery action plan template to map the impacts, consequences, proposed recovery activities/tasks to recovery outcomes and objectives and allocate a responsible agent for their implementation/delivery.

6. Implementation – this stage focuses on implementing the identified recovery initiatives to support the community recovery. A number of actors participate in the implementation including those requiring support. Implementation is not a passive process.

Ongoing Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation – this will be an ongoing activity and focuses on monitoring and reporting of the recovery process to ensure the implemented initiatives are meeting the requirements of the impacted community. If recovery initiatives are deemed to be ineffective through the reporting and monitoring, they should be reconsidered with reference to the findings in stage 3 above. Furthermore, ongoing monitoring of the recovery process will ensure that emerging impacts will be identified, and new recovery initiatives are developed and implemented to respond.

Evaluation is an assessment of the value or worth of a program or intervention and the extent to which the stated objectives have been achieved and will be completed periodically or at the end of the program. The outcomes of previous evaluations inform every stage of the cycle.

Throughout each of these stages extensive consultation and communication enables the outcomes to be achieved.

All recovery strategies are risk assessed, risk controls are designed and their effectiveness will be evaluated throughout the recovery process.

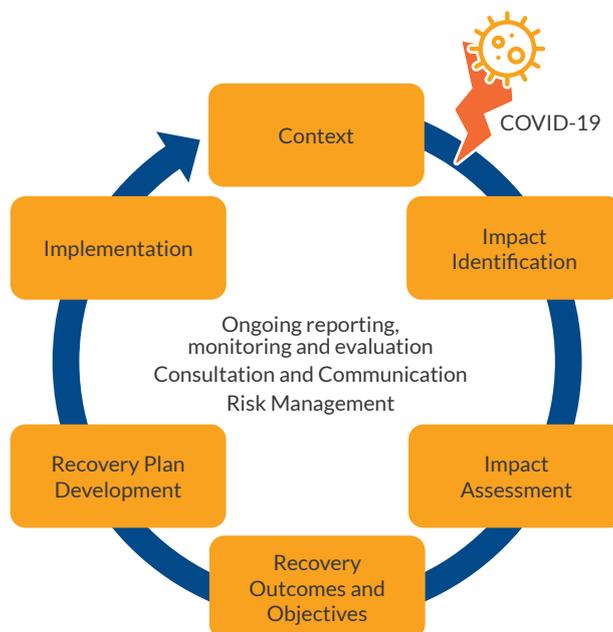


Diagram 02

¹Queensland Recovery Plan

Resilience building – The Queensland Reconstruction Authority is the lead agency responsible for the disaster resilience policy and has developed the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

The strategy describes resilience in the context of disaster management, as:

“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”

State, national and international experience has shown that the following elements contribute to a resilient community, namely:

- Risk-informed and appropriately prepared individuals
- The capacity to adapt
- Healthy levels of community connectedness, trust and cooperation

A shared responsibility approach should be promoted and employed when building resilience, by engaging individuals, community groups, business and local governments in developing locally owned and managed initiatives for disaster risk reduction and resilience.

By integrating the experiences of impacted communities, community aspirations and development plans into disaster recovery operations, the longer-term recovery process will lead to ongoing and sustainable community and economic development and enhanced resilience.

Refer to the Moreton Bay Disaster Management Recovery Plan for further information on resilience building.



Human and Social Recovery

Human and social recovery relates to the emotional, social, physical and psychological health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities following a disaster.²

The services required and duration of operations will be dictated by the nature and impact of the particular disaster event; however, services typically include the provision of information, payment of financial assistance, and provision of personal and psychosocial support.

Council is working in partnership with a diverse range of entities within the human and social sector as detailed in the following diagram:

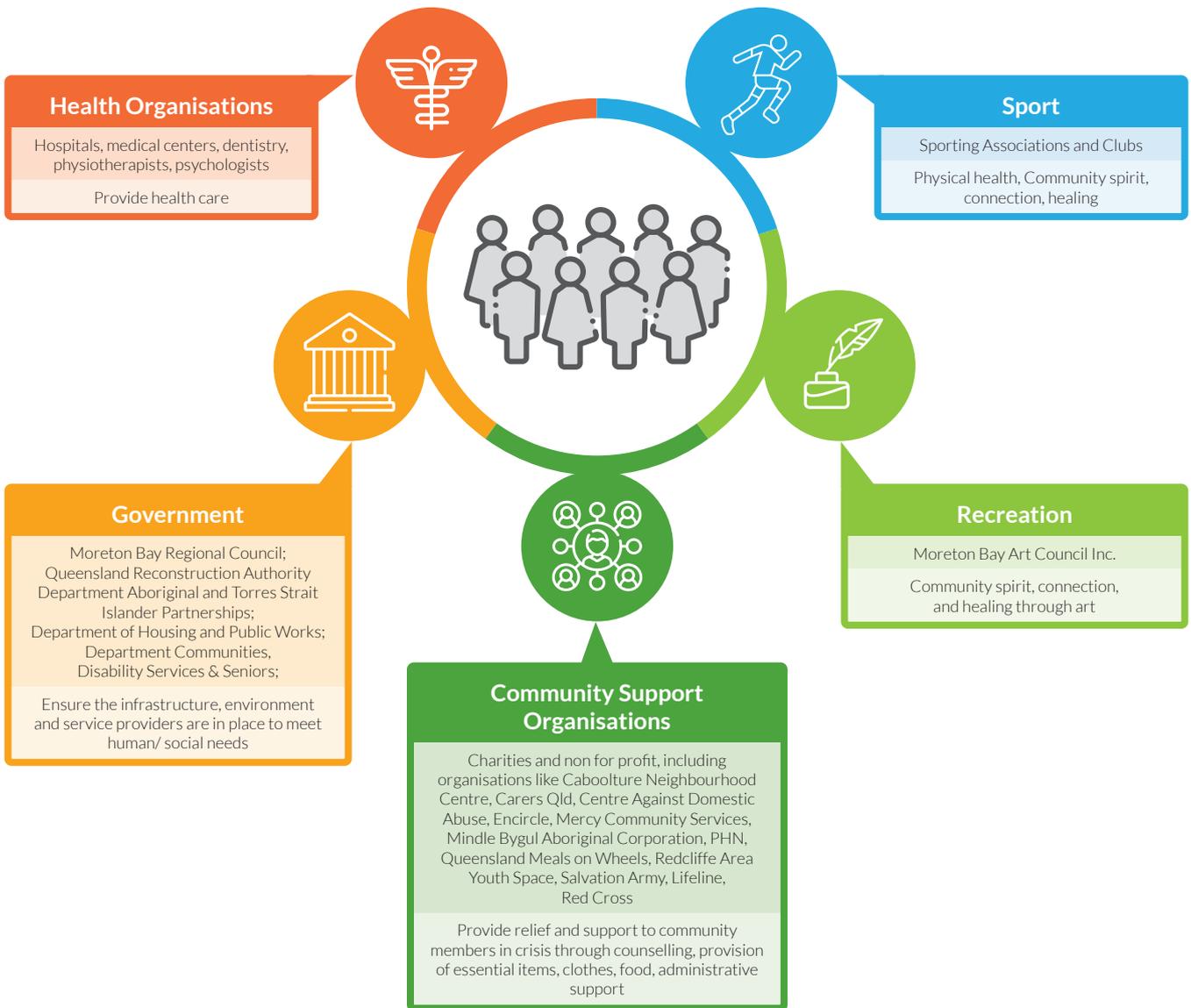


Diagram 03

²Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline, 2018, section 6.2.1

Economic Recovery

A disaster can have both direct and indirect impacts on the economy. The direct impacts can usually be given a monetary value and may include loss of local industry (such as tourism), employment opportunities and reduction in cash flow for businesses.³

Indirect impacts can include mental health issues of business owners, unavailability of services and products locally or increase in vacant retail space.

Council is working in partnership with a diverse range of entities within the economic sector as detailed in the following diagram.



Diagram 04

There is a close connection between human and social and economic recovery that is visualised in the model below. The community needs the economy to recover as it provides jobs, income, basic needs and a lifestyle. The economy needs the local community as they are the workforce in the businesses and are the consumers of the products and services.



Diagram 05

³Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline, 2018, section 6.2.2

8. BACKGROUND TO EVENT

Since the start of 2020, we have witnessed the global spread of COVID-19 and on 11 March, the World Health Organisation officially declared the virus as a pandemic.

The spread of the virus was initially a health concern, but since then we have seen many additional impacts, some of them quite unexpected. To prevent the spread of the virus, the Federal and State Governments have implemented a raft of restrictions including lock downs, social distancing and quarantine measures, resulting in adverse economic and social flow-on effects. These restrictions have severely impacted the economy, commerce, tourism and community welfare across the region. Many organisations have closed, others have lost up to 80% of their customer base, supply chains have been severely disrupted and events cancelled, all of which have led to insecurity within the community, business and industry sectors as well as long term impacts on global financial markets. The fallout has also exacerbated existing social issues including, financial hardships, homelessness, and domestic violence.

The following timeline details the community exposure to the COVID-19 event.

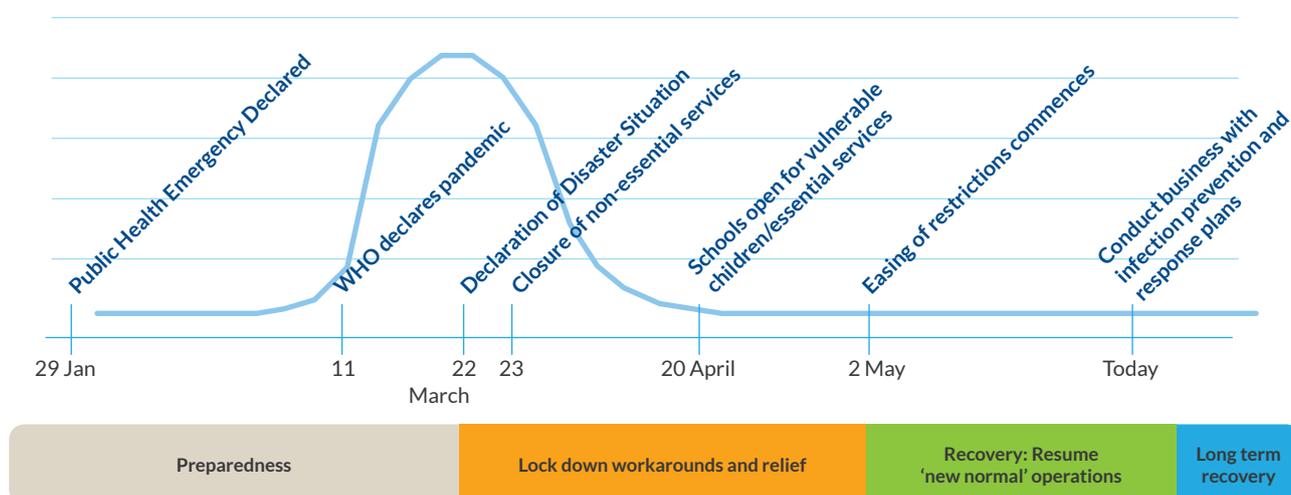


Diagram 06

The vision for Moreton Bay Regional Council, ***“a thriving region of opportunity where our communities enjoy a vibrant lifestyle”***, is based on three key themes.

- creating opportunities;
- strengthening communities; and
- valuing lifestyle.

Council is continuously focused on delivering this vision and has acted swiftly in response to the initial outbreak by providing financial relief and stimulus packages. However, significant impacts have still been felt across our region.

This plan has been developed to ensure the disastrous consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent Federal and State Government directives and restrictions are recovered and aims to be a ‘whole of community’ plan to assist in aligning efforts and maximising outcomes.

Preparedness, Response and Recovery

Within this event there were different stages. First reports indicated that the novel coronavirus was spreading in Wuhan, China. Federal and State Governments, health services, organisations, and communities began preparing for the potential impacts. When the government restrictions were implemented, the focus shifted to immediate relief for communities, businesses and industries. Between Government, emergency services, health and ancillary support agencies, charities and commercial organisations, numerous measures have been implemented to minimise the impacts (Refer to Appendix 1 for an overview of Moreton Bay Regional Council and Innovate Moreton Bay initiatives).

We are now transitioning from ‘relief’ to a ‘new normal’ in Queensland. Community members and organisations that have been affected in some way may need continued support moving forward.⁴

Recovery is the process of coming to terms with the impacts of a disaster and managing the disruptions and changes caused, which can result, for some people, in a new way of living. Being ‘recovered’ is being able to lead a life that individuals and communities value living, even if it is different to the life they were leading before the disaster event.

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

As described in the Introduction, the developed recovery strategies, Recovery Plan and underpinning Action Plans ensure our region is optimally prepared to recover and prosper.

9. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following table details a list of groups and organisations who have been involved in the Moreton Bay COVID-19 response and recovery process. The responsibilities particularly align with the COVID-19 event.

Group	Members	Role and responsibilities
Moreton Bay Local and District Disaster Management Groups (Core Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moreton Bay Regional Council • Dept Communities, Disability Services & Seniors • Dept Education • Dept Environment & Science • Dept Housing & Public Works • Dept State Development, Tourism & Innovation • Energex • Queensland Fire & Emergency Services • Queensland Health • Queensland Police Service • Unitywater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall management of the event in line with Local Disaster Management Plan
Moreton Recovery Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moreton Bay Regional Council • Australian Red Cross • Dept Communities, Disability Services & Seniors • Dept Employment, Small Business & Training • Dept Housing & Public Works • Dept State Development, Tourism & Innovation • Queensland Fire & Emergency Services • Queensland Health • Queensland Police Service • Queensland Reconstruction Authority • Volunteering Queensland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide relief measures to assist persons affected by the event who do not have resources to provide for their own personal wellbeing • provide personal support to individuals affected by the event • support community development activities to restore capacity and resilience • direct the Moreton Recovery Sub-Groups

⁴At the time of publication of this plan, a concerning second wave of COVID-19 community transmission in Victoria has occurred. As a consequence, Council must remain vigilant to ensure against further outbreaks in the Moreton Bay Region.

<p>Human and Social Recovery Sub-Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moreton Bay Regional Council • Australian Red Cross • Dept Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships • Dept Child Safety, Youth & Women • Dept Communities, Disability Services & Seniors • Dept Housing & Public Works • GIVIT • Lifeline • Salvation Army • Services Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore the well-being and prosperity of Moreton Bay Region communities and community organisations that are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through the implementation of the actions identified in the relevant Action Plans • alignment of agencies to offer a multifaceted human and social community recovery response.
<p>Economic Recovery Sub-Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moreton Bay Regional Council • Dept Agriculture & Fisheries • Dept Employment, Small Business & Training • Dept State Development, Tourism & Innovation • Brisbane Marketing • Creative Arts Alliance • Food & Agriculture Business Network • Innovate Moreton Bay • Moreton Bay Region Industry & Tourism • Regional Development Australia • Trade Investment Queensland • Urban Development Institute of Australia • University Sunshine Coast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore the economic prosperity of the Moreton Bay Region businesses and industries that are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through the implementation of the actions identified in the relevant Action Plans • alignment of agencies to offer a multifaceted economic recovery response.
<p>Human and Social Taskforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moreton Bay Regional Council • Caboolture Neighbourhood centre • Caboolture Sports Club • Carers Queensland • Centre Against Domestic Abuse • Encircle • Meals on Wheels • Mercy Community • Mindle Bygul Aboriginal Corporation • Moreton Bay Arts Council • PHN • Redcliffe Area Youth Space • South Pine Sporting Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather and share information and intelligence that will strengthen service delivery and outcomes for pandemic impacted communities in the Moreton Bay Region • recognise and analyse emerging issues, trends and gaps in human and social recovery responses to impacted communities • work with Moreton Bay Regional Council on establishing recovery strategies and initiatives.
<p>Economic Taskforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to be identified throughout the recovery process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather and share information and intelligence that will strengthen service delivery and outcomes for pandemic impacted businesses and industries in the Moreton Bay Region • recognise and analyse emerging issues, trends and gaps in economic recovery responses to impacted businesses and industries • work with Moreton Bay Regional Council on establishing recovery strategies and initiatives.
<p>Disaster Management Unit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moreton Bay Regional Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the ongoing impact of the event • project coordination • delivery of the recovery plan.
<p>Disaster Management Specialist Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phoenix Resilience Pty Ltd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact assessment • stakeholder consultation • recovery Plan development • evaluation and transition strategy

10. REGIONAL IMPACTS

In our impact assessment the impacts have been divided into Human and Social and Economic impacts.

Human and Social impacts

Current status of human and social impacts:

- Financial hardship has been felt across the community through job losses as well as business and industry disruptions/closures, but financial relief measures have been and are still provided by Local, State and Federal Government through several grant, funding and welfare initiatives
- Existing social issues have been exacerbated by COVID-19. These issues are homelessness, unemployment, domestic/family violence, isolation, loneliness, mental health issues, reduced school engagement, alcohol and drug abuse
- Many of the community members affected by the consequences of COVID-19 have not experienced financial hardship before
- The overall community needs that have been identified are:
 - a) financial, legal, and administrative support
 - b) food & essential items
 - c) technology to remain engaged with new online services/education
 - d) counselling
 - e) housing
 - f) physical support needs and being able to access care within the home
- Community engagement, connecting and healing:
 - a) Community organisations including community support all have concerns for the physical safety and mental wellbeing of their employees and volunteers and the people they support
 - b) Community support organisations have been affected by infection prevention measures, an increase in the quantity and complexity of cases and in some cases loss of revenue for fundraising/Op Shops
 - c) Most community organisations needed to cease operations or find new ways to operate, all of which caused loss of revenue.

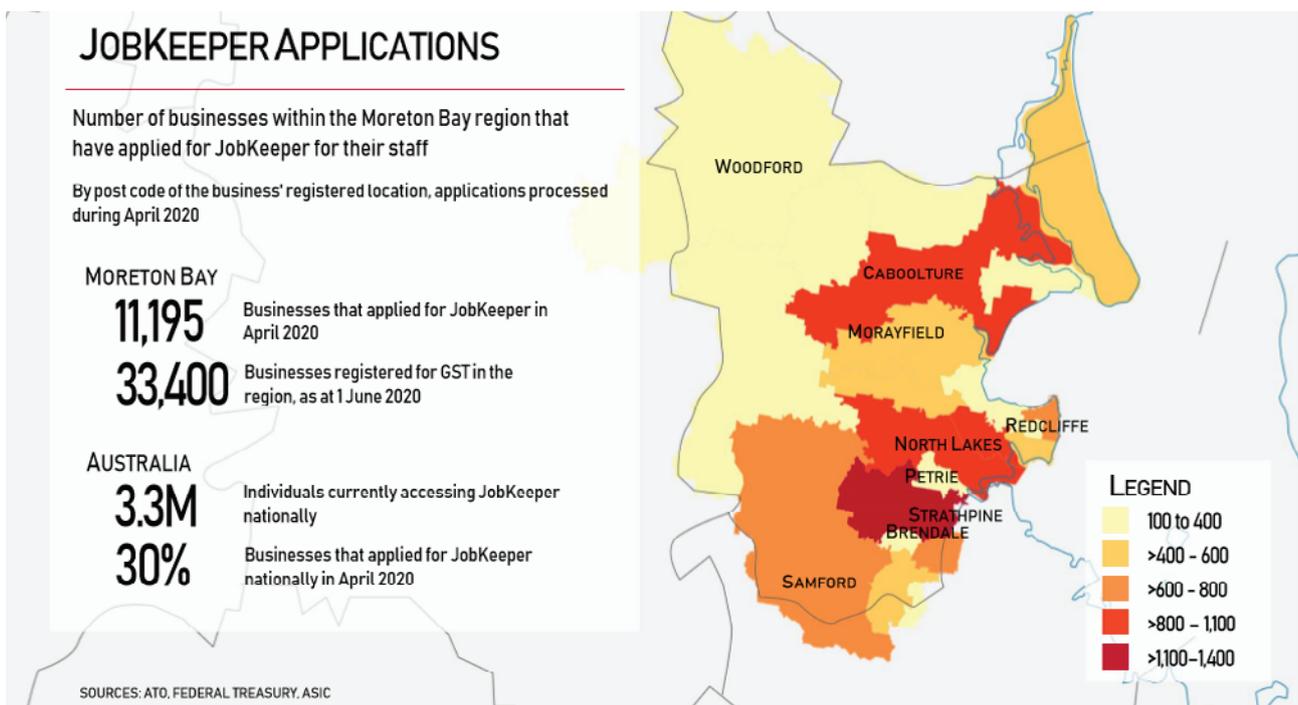


Diagram 07

Economic Impacts

Current status of economic impacts:

- Adverse financial consequences have been suffered across the business community due to forced closures, loss of revenue/clientele and supply chain disruptions, but financial relief measures have been, and are still provided by Local, State and Federal Government
- In April 2020, 11,195 Moreton Bay businesses applied for JobKeeper
- Initiatives developed in collaboration with Council partners Moreton Bay Regional Industry and Tourism, Regional Development Australia and University of Sunshine Coast have addressed many non-financial support needs
- Initiatives have been implemented to support investment, export, and trade
- There have been several successful resilience and innovation initiatives implemented by local businesses, where through collaboration and innovation new commercial opportunities were identified and pursued that will be retained within their business model going forward
- There has been a significant change to local consumer behaviour including increased online purchases, undertaking more Do-It-Yourself projects and increased purchases from local producers/suppliers
- Supply chain disruptions have been experienced across all sectors
- The export market has been impacted due to the reduced availability of air travel and changes in the behaviour of foreign customers
- Several sectors have been impacted by the cancellation of large events including trade shows, conferences, face-to-face training, entertainment events and markets.

Future prediction

Now that restrictions are easing, community members, businesses and industries are starting to recover. There is, however, a false sense of security instilled through the financial support initiatives that are currently in place (i.e. JobKeeper). At some stage, those initiatives are scheduled to end, which is currently expected to take place at the end of September 2020. If bridging assistance is not provided so businesses may restart their operations and employees supported on their journey back to gainful employment, there may be significant adverse consequences for community welfare and for the overall economy further delaying a recovery.

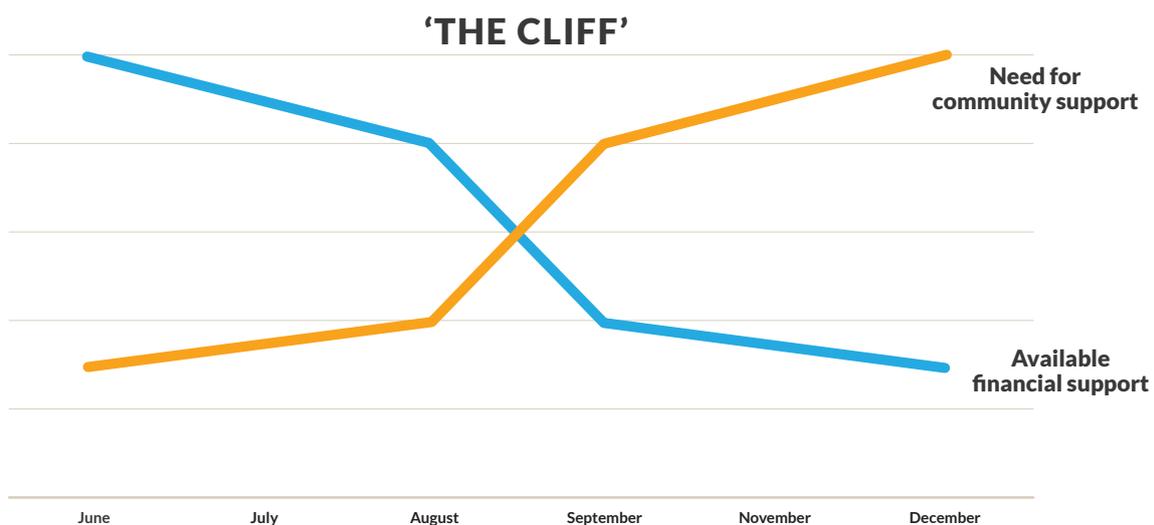


Diagram 08

At time of publication the threat of a second outbreak in Queensland is a risk and may lead to reintroduction of further restrictions. Council will continue to work with our partners and the community to ensure ongoing support for the impacted sectors.

11. COMMUNITY-LED RECOVERY STRATEGIES

Council in collaboration with the taskforces have listened to the community regarding its challenges and concerns for the future. Through careful consideration of the needs of our businesses, industries, community organisations and our community members, recovery objectives and strategies have been developed by the community led taskforces.

There are the short term, medium term and long-term objectives. Actions to achieve these objectives are to begin immediately and rolled out across 2020-2021.

Human and Social strategies

Short term: Provide immediate relief

Purpose: meet the immediate needs of the community and community organisations

Medium term: Mitigate the potential consequences of 'the Cliff'

Purpose: have measures in place to support the community and community organisations when Federal financial support measures are discontinued

Long term: Build community resilience

Purpose: recognises, supports, and builds on individual, community and organisational capacity and resilience.

Economic strategies

Short term: Provide immediate relief

Purpose: address the immediate need for financial and non-financial support

Medium term: Provide platform for recovery and growth

Purpose: ensure the resources and networks are available for businesses to recover and rebuild

Long term: Expand the economy and create jobs

Purpose: grow the local economy by drawing in new investment, project developers, tourism, entrepreneurs, residents.

Refer to *Appendix 2* for an overview of the recovery mission, strategies and objectives.

12. COMMUNICATION

The Moreton Bay community needs to be aware of the developing situation, what help is available and how to access it. Awareness is key in the effectiveness of this recovery plan.

Council is using several communication channels to ensure we can reach everyone across the Moreton Bay Region:

- Council's website and social media platforms
- Face-to-face with Council staff
- Discussions with local business leaders, industry representatives, community support organisations, sport and leisure clubs and recreation organisations.

We appreciate that our community is diverse, and that information is accessed differently. This may be in a different language or via a different medium. Our communication strategy factors in all those considerations.

Council urges all local organisations to communicate their current and scheduled operating arrangements with their clients/customers by:

- Updating website notifications
- Relevant signage
- Update Google with opening and closing times
- Provide updates on the Business Register

Refer to *Appendix 3* for a list of online sources of information and support.

Community focused recovery is essential. Disasters can deeply impact people's lives and livelihoods, and helping communities recover from disasters can be challenging and complex. Every community is unique and will have its own history, values and experiences. They will also have their own distinct challenges.

Our role in recovery is to support and build capacity; to remove barriers, to enable, and to use local knowledge and strengths. We can help a community recover from the sense of loss and uncertainty they experience, so they can live a life they value.

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

APPENDIX 1. COUNCIL INITIATIVES

To provide relief for our community Council has provided the following initiatives:

Financial support

<p>Coronavirus Rates Rebate</p>	<p>\$3.5 million worth of rate relief to recipients of the Federal Government's Coronavirus Supplement. Owner-occupier ratepayers receiving the Federal Government's coronavirus supplement will get a total \$200 rebate on their rates.</p> <p>Eligible applications received prior to 30 June 2020 received a \$100 rebate toward the April to June 2020 quarterly notice and a second rebate of \$100 on the July to September 2020 rates notice. Eligible applications received on or after 1 July 2020 received a \$100 rebate toward the July to September 2020 quarterly notice only.</p> <p>Only one rebate per quarter is provided to each eligible property, regardless of the number of owners that may be eligible.</p>
<p>Rates payments plans</p>	<p>All ratepayers can enter in to a payment plan with Council, to pay off their rates. Payment plans are available to everyone including those who are receiving a rebate.</p> <p>Council also resolved on 13 May 2020 that interest will not be charged on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020.</p>
<p>Community response and recovery program</p>	<p>\$8.5 million for grants to community groups and clubs. Preference was given to projects that used local procurement and local suppliers.</p> <p>Council provided grants to support community organisations in their endeavours to respond and recover from the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>In addition to the community benefits envisaged, these grants aimed to provide stimulus to the Moreton Bay Region economy through the engagement of local suppliers and contractors, where appropriate.</p> <p>Grants types include:</p> <p>COVID-19 Community Infrastructure Revitalisation Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for community organisations to undertake facility maintenance and renewal projects up to \$50,000 per organisation <p>COVID-19 Community Organisation Hardship and Assistance Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assistance for community organisations experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19 • Operational projects that support community organisations to continue the delivery of services via alternate service delivery models • Projects that support the delivery of services to vulnerable residents impacted by COVID-19
<p>Accelerated asset maintenance works</p>	<p>\$4 million in accelerated asset maintenance works to help keep businesses and local people employed on local projects. Businesses that haven't yet done so are urged to register with Council's supplier marketplaces through our supplier portal. Council will give preference to projects that use local procurement and local suppliers</p>
<p>Food licence fees refund</p>	<p>Up to \$1 million refund on food licensing fees for businesses. This is an automatic refund - no application required.</p>
<p>Regional Arts Development Fund: Continue Creating quick response grant</p>	<p>If you are an emerging or established artist, you may be eligible for a Continue Creating grant to continue your professional development, production of new work, and engagement with new audiences during COVID-19.</p> <p>The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Moreton Bay Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland</p>

Reinvigorate local economy

Local Preference Policy	<p>The policy change means Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts worth \$50,000 or less will be awarded to local businesses, in the first instance. If the local businesses cannot supply, do not have the capability or do not provide value for money, then contracts may be awarded to non-local businesses. • For contracts greater than \$50,000, a local preference weighting of up to 15% will be applied to the tender evaluation scores. This means a local business could get up to 15 additional points added to the tender evaluation score, giving them a 'leg up' in the tender assessment.
Council commitment to buying local	<p>Council is committed to buying from local businesses and is encouraging all local businesses to register with VendorPanel and LG Tenderbox to ensure they are aware of any upcoming Council procurement opportunities.</p> <p>https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Council/Procurement</p>
Share positive stories and promote the 'support local' message	<p>Council partnered with Moreton Bay Region Industry and Tourism (MBRIT) to launch the Moreton Bay Tough campaign, an initiative designed to highlight inspiring stories and cultivate the region's community spirit and encourage the community to support local businesses</p> <p>https://www.moretonbaytough.com.au/</p>
Restimulate Tourism	<p>MBRIT, in partnership with Council, has launched "Moreton Bay Minutes Away", a large scale destination recovery campaign aimed at restimulating tourism in the region.</p>
Support jobs and local business	<p>Council is supporting MBRIT to deliver the Moreton Bay Recovery Business & Jobs Expo as well as the Business Workshop Program which includes a number of COVID recovery themed modules designed to give businesses practical skills and knowledge</p>
Paying Council suppliers sooner	<p>Council has increased the frequency of our payment runs to twice per week (previously once per week) and are paying supplier invoices as soon as they are approved. By paying supplier as soon as possible and not waiting for the standard trading terms to elapse, Council is getting money to suppliers faster to assist with their cash flow.</p>
Extended terms for sundry debts	<p>The payment terms for sundry debt customers who owe Council money have been extended from 30 days to 60 days. This only applies to sundry debts and does not include rates or other compliance related charges.</p>
The Mill	<p>Council is creating a thriving major destination that will generate thousands of local higher education and employment opportunities for the region.</p>
Regional Economic Development Strategy	<p>Council is creating a Regional Economic Development Strategy to diversify and develop our economy, take advantage of economic growth opportunities, attract investment, generate employment and develop a bigger, bolder, brighter future for the region.</p>

Information

Council COVID-19 web page with latest information	<p>Latest information on financial support and other recovery opportunities can be found at https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Council/Coronavirus-COVID-19</p>
Partner with MBRIT on the Moreton Bay Tough campaign	<p>Stimulate local buying local and share positive stories of local innovation and resilience</p> <p>https://www.moretonbaytough.com.au/news/support-locals-buy-local</p>

Innovation

Engage with and promote Innovate Moreton Bay	<p>Innovate Moreton Bay is providing educational content, networking platforms, podcasts, webinars and workshops and access to industry experts</p>
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Build local networks and supporting facilities

Local networking groups	<p>Council facilitates and supports community networking opportunities attended by government agencies and community service providers</p>
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Disaster Management

MBRC COVID RESPONSE INITIATIVES	
Recovery Response/Initiative	Details
Activation of the Local Disaster Management Group	Activation of the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) to coordinate multi-agency responses across the region to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Moreton Recovery Group established and activated.	The Moreton Recovery Group was activated to assist the Local Disaster Management Group and District Disaster Management Group and provide recovery guidance, endorsement, and oversight. The Moreton Recovery Group will ensure our community and economy can navigate the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and recover effectively.
Conducted surveys	Council conducted community and economic surveys to understand the local impacts and ensure that the recovery plan addresses local issues
Implemented the Human/Social and Economic Task Forces	These community led task forces are formed by leaders of local organisations that are actively implementing recovery measures. They assist Council in developing and continuously improving the recovery strategies.



APPENDIX 2. RECOVERY STRATEGIES

Human and Social Mission

Restore the well-being and prosperity of Moreton Bay Region Communities and Community organisations that are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Economic Mission

To recover the Moreton Bay economy from the impacts of COVID-19.



APPENDIX 3. INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Source	What information?	Link
	State Recovery Strategy	Queensland Government - Unite & Recover
	Current COVID-19 pandemic situation, local restrictions	Qld Health Updates
	Council recovery initiatives Financial and non-financial support for individuals, businesses and industries Changes to Council services and facilities Translated material	MBRC COVID-19 Updates
	Positive local stories of resilience and recovery	Moreton Bay Tough
	Updates on tourism campaigns, free business workshops, free business support modules and networking opportunities	Moreton Bay Regional Recovery Campaign
	Updates on local recovery initiatives and economic development	Regional Development Australia - COVID-19 Updates
	Updates on local networking opportunities, technological and innovation initiatives to recover and grow the regional economy	Innovate Moreton Bay



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