



### Mayoral Message

Welcome to our first edition of Keeping You Posted for 2019. It is difficult to find a place to start this year given it is already March and with what everyone has endured over the past two months. It is a gross understatement to say that the start to 2019 could not have been worse. We all have a long road ahead, whether on a property or in our towns, but I am humbled as to how the community, along with the region, has and continues to pull together for each other.

Outside of our community, the support far and wide has been amazing with coordinating what assistance is available. It has also been challenging, especially ensuring the information is spread far and wide. With that in mind, Council has dedicated this newsletter to as much information sharing as possible so I am going to keep my message brief. I encourage everyone who can, to please follow our social media, check our website, and join the direct email list. For those of you who find the electronic format difficult hopefully the contents of this newsletter will assist. As always please contact Councillors or Council direct for information or questions that you may have.

We have received and continue to receive many visits from both State and Federal Government. I thank everyone who has made time in such difficult circumstances to come and speak with the many government and opposition members. It has been critically important for government to hear direct from community members on the ground. I understand the continuous stream of visits is tiring and time consuming for people but, rest assured, we will keep talking and receiving on your behalf if you can't get to a meeting to ensure the best possible outcomes for long term recovery and support in the interim. The overall positivity of the community is wonderful. However I do not for a second mistake the fact that this will be one of the hardest of times for most in their lifetime. Please keep talking and looking after yourselves and each other. There is always help at hand, asking is probably the hardest part in moving forward, but please do so.

#### Beyond Blue

- 1300 22 4636

#### NQ Connect Free Counselling

- Call 1300 059 625

- [nqconnect.com.au/floodsupport](http://nqconnect.com.au/floodsupport)

#### Rural Aid's Counselling Service

- Lilian: 1300 327 624, ext. 124

#### National Indigenous Critical Response Service (NICRS)

- 1800 805 801



#### Lifeline

- 13 11 14

#### Kids Helpline

- 1800 551 800

#### Queensland Government Health

- Mental health line: 1300 642 255

#### Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)

- Outback Mental Health Manager, Gail Jamieson

- E: [infodws@rfdsqld.com.au](mailto:infodws@rfdsqld.com.au) M: 0427 288 432

It is extremely important to continue practising healthy diet and sleeping habits while working through the long recovery of a natural disaster. Your body is important; take precautions against disease and injury.

Your mind is important too. Times of natural disaster create a tremendous amount of stress and anxiety for those directly and indirectly affected. This is 'normal' after traumatic events. However, not dealing with stress can be harmful to your mental and physical health.

- ▶ **Talk about it.** Talking to others about the event can relieve stress and process feelings.
- ▶ **Spend time with friends and family.** Near or far; stay in touch by phone. Encourage your children to talk about their concerns and feelings about the disaster with you. Check in on your neighbours.
- ▶ **Limit exposure to images of the disaster.** It may be hard, with images on social media at the touch of your fingers 24/7, but take some time to unplug. Seeing news about the event repeatedly will only increase your stress.
- ▶ **Ask for help when you need it.** If your feelings do not go away or are so intense that they interfere with your ability to function, reach out to a trusted relative, mate, or doctor. Ring a helpline (above). Don't try to cope alone. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness.

**Look after yourself, your family and your mates.**

# Available Producer Aid

## Carcass Disposal Assistance Grant

- A one-time payment of \$5,000 per flood-affected property to assist in the disposal of livestock carcasses on properties. This includes trustee leases with the local government. Applications must be received by 24 May 2019
- Forms are available through McKinlay Shire Council website: [www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au/flood-relief](http://www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au/flood-relief)

## Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) - Grants & Loans

- **Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants:** Up to a maximum of \$75,000 are available to assist eligible primary producers to assist with clean-up and reinstatement costs. Applications close 9 August 2019
- **Disaster Assistance Loans:** Concessional loans up to a maximum of \$250,000 are provided to assist you to re-establish the normal operations of your primary production enterprise
- **Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans - Primary Producer:** Producers whose assets have been significantly damaged may be able to access low interest loans of up to \$100,000
- For more information, and to apply, visit [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au) or Freecall 1800 623 946

## Blazeaid

- Brian and Chris Carr will be setting up camp in Julia Creek in late March
- Need help now? (volunteers, financial for fencing or critical infrastructure)
  - Contact Brian Carr, M: 0428 984 117 E: [juliacreek.blazeaid@gmail.com](mailto:juliacreek.blazeaid@gmail.com)
- For more information visit [www.blazeaid.com.au/julia-creek-2019](http://www.blazeaid.com.au/julia-creek-2019)

## Rural Aid

- **Re-stocking:** Rural Aid have launched a fundraising drive to raise up to \$15,000 for each flood affected farmer. Farmers must register through this website at [www.buyacow.com.au](http://www.buyacow.com.au). Registration is validated with Council to confirm eligibility
- **Financial Assistance:** Register on [www.buyabale.com.au/can-we-help-you](http://www.buyabale.com.au/can-we-help-you) and upload bills to the value of \$1,500, once only. Rural Aid will pay them within 14 days. This program also allows for food and fuel vouchers up to \$500, to be used to purchase from local businesses
- **Farm Army Volunteers:** Need volunteers on the farm? Register a job(s), for free, at [www.farmarmy.com.au](http://www.farmarmy.com.au)

## Centrelink Farm Household Allowance

- Centrelink has updated the Farm Household Allowance to be available for 4 years, supplementary lump sum payments, and increase to assets test for claims lodged before 1 July 2019. See the full fact sheet on [www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au/flood-relief](http://www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au/flood-relief)
- For more information visit [humanservices.gov.au/farmhouseholdallowance](http://humanservices.gov.au/farmhouseholdallowance)
- Farmer Assistance hotline: 132 316

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Council still has PPE kits, provided by Queensland Health and Australian Defence Force, containing eye protection, face masks, hand sanitiser, heavy duty gloves, and gumboots. There is an allocation of one pack per PIC. See Council Reception to obtain yours now

## Australian Cattle Veterinarians

- QLD Floods Vet hotline: 1800 62 19 18

## Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)

- **Individual Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) Declaration:** Where a producer is not in an area activated for NDRRA assistance but has suffered significant damage from a natural disaster they can apply for a IDSP declaration.
- For more information visit [www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster/disaster-assistance-forms-and-guidelines](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster/disaster-assistance-forms-and-guidelines)
- Customer Service Centre: 13 25 23 E: [naturaldisasters@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:naturaldisasters@daf.qld.gov.au)
- **Restocking Freight Subsidies:** Producers restocking after the floods may be eligible for freight subsidy assistance of up to \$5,000. Producers must check their eligibility and individual circumstances with DAF on 13 25 23
  - Producers will not be able to claim under this Scheme and the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, simultaneously
  - A special freight subsidy to the drought freight subsidies for restocking and agistment is under negotiation with the Australian Government under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to cover all North West QLD shires impacted by the flood
- For more information visit [www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster/declared-areas](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster/declared-areas)
- Or visit the McKinlay Shire Council website: [www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au/flood-relief](http://www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au/flood-relief)

# Available Community Aid

## Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) - Grants & Loans

- **Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants:** An Exceptional Circumstances Grant Up to a maximum of \$50,000 is available to assist eligible small businesses & non-profits
- **Disaster Assistance Loans:** Concessional loans up to a maximum of \$250,000 are provided to assist you to re-establish the normal operations of your small business & non-profits
- **Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans - Small Business Or Non-Profits:** Small Businesses or Non-Profits which have suffered a significant loss of income (such as through electricity, water or road access for extended periods) may be able to access low interest loans of up to \$100,000
- For more information visit [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au) or Freecall 1800 623 946

## Vinnies Flood Relief

- Funding is now available to support those farming families and local McKinlay Shire businesses that have been impacted by the floods
- For more information visit [www.vinnies.org.au/findhelp](http://www.vinnies.org.au/findhelp)

## Queensland Natural Disaster Assistance

- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Category C and Category B grants are available for McKinlay Shire. Affected small businesses may be eligible
- For more information visit [www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/protecting-business/disaster-resilience/assistance](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/protecting-business/disaster-resilience/assistance)

## North QLD Flood Register

- If your home has been damaged by the floods you can register for licensed contractors who are available to help with repairs to make homes secure, safe and habitable
- Licensed contractors can also register their details to find work near them
- For more information visit [www.my.qbcc.qld.gov.au/s/assistance-search](http://www.my.qbcc.qld.gov.au/s/assistance-search)

## Queensland Community Recovery

- For more info visit [www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/queensland-disasters/fnq-monsoonal-trough](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/queensland-disasters/fnq-monsoonal-trough)
- Community Recovery hotline: 1800 173 349

# Donations & Charities

## GIVIT

- Donate Money: [givit.org.au/donate-funds](http://givit.org.au/donate-funds)
- Donate or Request Items: [givit.org.au/items-needed](http://givit.org.au/items-needed)
- Donate or Request Services: [givit.org.au/disasters/donate-a-service](http://givit.org.au/disasters/donate-a-service)

## Sisters of the North

- Fundraising has been happening since day one, to aid in North West QLD Flood Relief
- For more information visit [www.facebook.com/sotncharity/](http://www.facebook.com/sotncharity/) or E: [admin@sistersofthenorth.org.au](mailto:admin@sistersofthenorth.org.au)
- Donate today: [www.gofundme.com/sisters-of-the-north-nq-flood-relief](http://www.gofundme.com/sisters-of-the-north-nq-flood-relief)

## Queensland Country Women's Association (QCWA)

- Helping people in need is the heart of the QCWA. Donations include supporting families in flood effected areas.
- [www.qcwa.org.au/financial-help](http://www.qcwa.org.au/financial-help)

## Drought Angels & Blazeaid

- [www.droughtangels.org.au](http://www.droughtangels.org.au)
- [www.blazeaid.com.au](http://www.blazeaid.com.au)

## St Vincent de Paul Society

- [www.vinnies.org.au/donate](http://www.vinnies.org.au/donate)

## Australian Red Cross & Salvation Army

- [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au) - Search "Queensland Floods 2019"
- [www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au)

## Notice of Rates

Due to the recent flooding events across the Shire, Council has moved to delay the payment of rates to Monday, 24 June 2019.

Council is mindful of the impact of significant financial burdens placed on families, after the devastating floods that have affected our Shire, and is hopeful that this decision will assist everyone affected.

Take Note!

Don't forget to follow McKinlay Shire Council online, to keep up to date with the latest on Events, Road Conditions, and Flood Recovery:

- [www.mckinlayshire.qld.gov.au](http://www.mckinlayshire.qld.gov.au)
- [facebook.com/mckinlayshire.council](https://www.facebook.com/mckinlayshire.council)
- [twitter.com/mckinlayshire](https://twitter.com/mckinlayshire)
- [instagram.com/mckinlay\\_shire\\_council](https://www.instagram.com/mckinlay_shire_council)

Or contact Council about signing up for our Weekly Community Email

## Bush Dinners 2019

The bush dinners are back this year, Monday nights, starting 22nd April.  
To discuss and nominate for the 2019 season...

### Bush Dinner Meeting

Time: 6:00pm  
Date: Thursday, 28th March  
Location: McKinlay Shire Council Supper Room

Contact [jo-anne.butler@mckinlay.qld.gov.au](mailto:jo-anne.butler@mckinlay.qld.gov.au) for expressions of interest.

## Facts about Fencing

Many properties will be focusing on rebuilding fences, more than anything. Please be sure to know the facts.

- For more information visit [www.planning.act.gov.au](http://www.planning.act.gov.au) - Search "Fences Factsheet"
- Or visit [www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/fence](http://www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/fence)

## Upcoming Events

6 April  
COMBINED SPORT ASSOC.  
COMMUNITY FUN DAY

12 - 14 April  
DIRT 'N' DUST FESTIVAL

17 - 19 May  
JULIA CREEK CAMPDRAFT

22 June  
MCKINLAY RACES

27 - 30 June  
SAXBY ROUND-UP

16 - 18 August  
SEDAN DIP

## Have Roads, Will Travel

The emergent works relating to the recent flood event are about 85% complete for all roads vested in McKinlay Shire. Data gathering for flood damaged roads within the Shire is currently being done. This research will later support Restoration of Essential Public Assets (REPA) submissions.

NDRRA approved Road construction projects have commenced on the following Roads:

- Oorindi
- Alisona and
- Punchbowl Roads.

Motorists please be advised to take extra care on the above 3 mentioned Roads from the 11 of March to the 25 of March 2019

If you are having issues travelling or know that heavy trucks need to be travelling Shire roads, please email the Director of Engineering, Environment and Regulatory Services, David McKinley at [ders@mckinlay.qld.gov.au](mailto:ders@mckinlay.qld.gov.au) or ring Council on 4746 4210.

