

Please be cautious when moving about the community because although the floodwater has receded, there could be concealed hazards and other dangers that cannot be seen.

Repatriation

We are currently planning repatriation flights for community members that have previously been evacuated. This will occur in a staged approach. We are hoping to have our first evacuees returned later this week. Once a schedule is in place, evacuees will be contacted directly.

Burketown Roads Update

- The roads at Beames Street (Outside Nowlands/Post office) and the intersection of Anthony and Burke Street have now been repaired
- The road to the Airport is currently **open to restricted vehicles only**. There is road damage that needs to be repaired.
- The roads and bridge inspectors are conducting inspections and assessments today and tomorrow. Once roads can be reopened, road reports will be released in line with updates.
- The road towards Leichhardt Falls (towards the Albert River Bridge) is closed to all traffic. The road has suffered severe damage and repairs need to be undertaken before it will be accessible.

If you notice other hazards in the community, please contact Council as a matter of priority.

Gregory

- Professional Cleaners will be in Gregory and the Bidunggu Community later in the week to do the initial cleaning of the homes affected by flooding.
- As per the road report released Tuesday 21st March, the road between Burke and Wills and Gregory has now reopened.

Power update:

Power has now been restored to most properties. An electrical contractor is currently based in Burketown and will continue to work to restore any remaining power.

If residents have any issues with power, please contact Madison Marshall on 0427 436 086.

Water and Sewerage update:

Water and Sewerage services have now been restored to normal operations.

Airport

- Gregory airport is now operational.
- Burketown airport has been reopened with restriction. Aircraft with a maximum of 7.5T can access the airstrip.

Rubbish update:

Rubbish collection will continue as per normal arrangements:

- Gregory – Thursdays
- Burketown – Fridays

Please ensure wheelie bins are roadside for collection.

If anyone requires assistance with removal of waste, please contact Madison Marshall on 0427 436 086 and arrangements will be made.

Resupply update:

Resupply is scheduled for Friday 31 March for Burketown and Gregory. Contact will be made to businesses and rural properties. More information will be released to the public closer to the date.

Community Facilities:

- The gym has now been cleaned and is open to the public. Please be mindful of the uneven ground surface as carpet was removed and there are no treadmills currently operational due to flooding. Repair and replacement of equipment will take place in the near future.
- Due to flooding and clean up required the Burketown playground is closed until further notice.

Clean up

Clean up crews have commenced clean up in Burketown as of Monday 20 March. The crew have scheduled work that has been prioritised accordingly. If you have any queries or questions regarding the clean up schedule or potential cleaning required, please contact Kevin Anderson on 0427 112 073.

Cleaning supplies are available for those wishing to commence personal clean up. If you would like supplies, please stop by the SES building between 8am – 4pm or contact Kevin on the details above.

Clean up Safety

As clean up operations continue, please be mindful of health and safety risks. For flood specific information regarding cleaning up after floods, including clean up for livestock carcass disposal for rural properties please visit the Burke Shire Council Emergency Information Webpage (Flood Clean Up Information) -

<https://www.burke.qld.gov.au/community/flood-clean-information>

Funding and Support

There are a number of disaster funds that have been activated as a result of flooding. Please note it is advised to keep all recovery cost receipts and photos of damage for future potential grants and claims. The main grants currently open are listed below:

- [Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment](#) - one-off payment of \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child who have suffered a significant loss as a result of the floods, including a severely damaged or destroyed home or a serious injury.
- [Disaster Recovery Allowance \(DRA\)](#) is available to employees or sole traders who work or live in the LGAs of Boulia, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Mornington and Mount Isa.
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/natural-disaster-events?context=60042>
- [Emergency Hardship Assistance Grant](#) - \$180 per adult and \$900 for a family of five is still available and will be available until the 6th April. To register for this, apply online or over the phone -

<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/disasters/money-finance/types-grants/emergency-hardship-assist> or 1800 173 349.

To see the full list of funding for small business and rural property specific grants please visit the Burke Shire Council Emergency Information Webpage (Grants and Financial Support).

Council is currently working with state agencies to organise support for grant applications in Burke Shire – including Gregory, Burketown and rural properties to assist individuals and businesses with applications. Further communication regarding this will be distributed once confirmed.

Mental Health Support

This has been an extremely difficult and stressful time for many people in Burke Shire. Seeking support early is always a good idea. Make sure you check in with your loved ones, family, friends and neighbours and if you or someone you know make sure you seek help immediately. Below are a number of support services available.

Queensland Health – Mental Health Support	1 300 642 255
Head to Health	1 800 595 212
13YARN	13 92 76
Lifeline	13 11 14 or chat online www.Lifeline.org.au/crisis-chat
Beyond blue	1 300 224 636 or chat online www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/talk-to-a-counsellor
Suicide Callback Service	1 300 659 467
Kids Helpline	1 800 551 800
Burketown Health Clinic	(07) 4745 5133

If you have any concerns or queries, please contact one of the following:

- Burketown Police 0475 823 556
- CEO Dan McKinlay 0437 238 957
- Clinton Murray 0408 872 377
- Madison Marshall 0427 436 086
- Kimberly Chan 0417 335 259
- Shannon Moren 0476 867 548 (Mount Isa Based)

Dan McKinlay
Chief Executive Officer
21 March 2023