



# THE TORRES STRAIT LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP



## MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUE

25<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### DISASTER ASSISTANCE EXTENDED TO TORRES STRAIT REGION

The effects of Tropical Cyclone Penny are still being felt by communities within the Torres Strait region, however some welcome relief came last week with the announcement of disaster assistance being extended to the region.

**“These communities are no stranger to cyclones and monsoon floods, but Cyclone Penny was an exceptional event”** *Hon. Craig Crawford - Minister for Fire and Emergency Services*

The Torres Strait experienced significant rain fall, damaging winds with gusts of up to 100km/h affecting air travel in some locations. Abnormally high tides interrupted inter-island travel by sea vessel, having a major impact on the delivery of food and essential services.

The longevity of this event has meant communities faced an inability to provide through fishing and other traditional food sourcing methods, interruptions to work and some families being stranded on outer islands, all causing a considerable downstream affect on household budgets.

**“Additional financial burden has been felt by families throughout the region, not able to supplement their food supply through traditional means for an unusually longer period. The support of our State Government has been a welcomed relief”** *Mayor Vonda Malone - Chair, Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group*

Community members experiencing hardship are able to apply for grants by;

- Online via: [www.communityrecovery.qld.gov.au](http://www.communityrecovery.qld.gov.au)
- Calling the Community Recovery Hotline on: 1800 173 349
- In person with the Community Recovery team on the following dates:

<b>Eastern</b> (Masig, Ugar, Erub, Mer)	25 <sup>th</sup> February - 1 <sup>st</sup> March
<b>Central</b> (Warraber, Poruma, Iama)	26 <sup>th</sup> February - 2 <sup>nd</sup> March
<b>North</b> (Saibai, Boigu, Dauan)	6 <sup>th</sup> March - 9 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Western</b> (Mabuiag, Badu, Wug, Arkai)	4 <sup>th</sup> March - 8 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Inner</b> (Kirirri, Horn, Thursday, Prince of Wales)	4 <sup>th</sup> March - 9 <sup>th</sup> March

*The above information will also be provided on Council social media channels, community noticeboards and letter drop.*

- ENDS -

Media Enquires: [corporate.affairs@tsirc.qld.gov.au](mailto:corporate.affairs@tsirc.qld.gov.au)