



THE TORRES STRAIT LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP



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The recent series of severe weather events in the Torres Strait brought strong winds and storm surges on top of king tides. The meeting of the Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group (TSLDMG) on Thursday 1 February, discussed the initial damage brief, reviewed coordination of responses to these events and whether any additional supports are required.

Deputy Chair of the LDMG, Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) Mayor Fred Gela praised the work of TSIRC staff, SES and first responders for the prompt and untiring assistance they have provided to affected communities.

Mayor Gela and the TSLDMG Chair, Torres Shire Council Mayor Vonda Malone, said the damage and distress was minimised because these communities were ready for the event. There were no injuries reported and no loss of life. Communities were provided with advance notification that the severe weather was on its way. Communities were informed about the potential impacts, particularly for areas susceptible to inundation, which enabled preparations including consideration of relocations.

The TSLDMG members also thanked regional organisations, including the Torres Strait Regional Authority, who stepped forward to offer their assistance to maintain the safety and support recovery of our communities.

The TSLDMG continues to arrange post-event clean-ups, monitor ongoing weather events and respond accordingly. We ask community members to take care at this time of year, attend to alerts, and take necessary steps to ensure yourself and your families remain safe.

To ensure responses are coordinated and offers meets communities' needs, organisations and collectives of concerned individuals planning assistance or aid are directed to Mathew Brodbeck at Torres Strait Island Regional Council 07 4034 5700.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to families that have been affected during these recent events.

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