



MEDIA RELEASE

Backing North Queensland's long-term recovery

The long-term recovery strategy for communities affected by the 2019 North Queensland flood has been finalised and work is underway on ways to improve the regions' resilience and future prosperity.

After the flood: A strategy for long-term recovery, was developed by the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency after extensive consultation in the region, and released as part of the Australian Government's 2020 budget.

Coordinator-General for Drought and the North Queensland Floods, the Hon Shane L Stone AC QC and Drought and Flood Agency staff have already gone to work to support the Strategy's implementation.

"I'll be travelling through the region from today, talking to Mayors and other community and business leaders to outline the Agency's priorities. This includes locally-driven initiatives that underpin the Strategy's five strategic pillars," Mr Stone said.

Five measures totalling \$58 million will kick-start implementation over the coming months.

"It was important to me that this Strategy's release came with funded measures. These include a recovery and resilience grants program; funding for improved access to reliable telecommunications and energy services; increasing skills in disaster risk management planning and risk mitigation; and preventative mental health programs for young people," Mr Stone said.

Aligned to the Strategy's strategic pillars are 19 actions, which the flood-affected communities say are vital for future prosperity and resilience.

"This Strategy was developed *with* and *for* the people of the North and North West. We've had many conversations around kitchen tables, in town halls, council meeting rooms, local coffee shops and on the sides of roads. We also held seven roundtables across the regions with representatives from primary production, natural resource management, small business, healthcare and government," Mr Stone said.

In line with the National Drought and Flood Agency's guiding principle 'Locally led. Locally understood. Locally implemented', the Agency will continue to work with the people in the affected regions to support the implementation of the Strategy and funding.

"It's vitally important that the people who will benefit from this Strategy have a hand in how it's brought to life. We'll continue to ask what they think works best for them and how their vision for their future can be supported not just by the Australian Government, but by anyone with an interest in making the regions economically, socially and environmentally resilient," Mr Stone said.



Australian Government
National Drought and North Queensland
Flood Response and Recovery Agency

For more information on *After the flood: A strategy for long-term recovery*, visit:
www.droughtandflood.gov.au/flood-recovery

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