

# LOCAL OPERATIONAL RECOVERY PLAN

## Shire of Mingenew



### RECOVERY NARRATIVE

#### About our community

Mingenew describes itself as an agricultural powerhouse and is the southern hemisphere's largest grain facilitator. Surrounded by breakaway country, with fantastic flat-top ridges Mingenew is a sought after wildflower destination. Mingenew has many supporting industries, facilities, and employment opportunities, and is home to around 470 people. The main industry is agriculture, and others work in local government, small business, ag support companies and essential support services.

Mingenew loves its sport and has a strong focus on its sporting community facilities. Mingenew has a caravan park with a variety of accommodation options from suites through to open-air camping and some of the best nights under the stars in WA.

Mingenew is a proud and passionate community, home to many volunteers and community groups dedicated to making our district the best possible place to live. It's a great place for families too, with a local long day-care centre, highly regarded primary school and easy bus access to two local high schools.

In addition to the largest on-shore grain receival facility in the southern hemisphere, and a space and satellite communications industry established by NASA over 40 years ago, Mingenew is also home to one of Australia's leading producer-driven organisations in the Mingenew Irwin Group, a collaborative, connected and capable Community Resource Centre, a Silver Chain nursing post, the famous Mingenew Bakery and a host of successful small businesses.

The Shire of Mingenew had a Total Revenue of \$7.03m (including operating and capital grants) for the 2020/21 financial year. A total of 46% (\$3.26m) of the Shire's revenue for 2020/21 were Non-Operating Grants which helped to fund a number of key capital projects, in particular the beginning of the construction of the new Coalseam Road Bridge, drainage upgrades on Milo Road and widening on part of Mingenew Mullewa Road. Operating Grants and Contributions account for 11% of total revenue, while Rates (28%) and Fees & Charges (4%) are also significant contributing factors to the total revenue figure.

#### About the disaster event

Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Seroja crossed the Western Australian coast south of Kalbarri on 11 April 2021, as a Category 3 system, bringing wind gusts of up to 170 kilometres per hour. STC Seroja is the strongest system recorded to have impacted the Midwest Gascoyne Region. The cyclone impacted a population of almost 50,000 people and an area of more than 170,000 square kilometres and more than 16 local government areas.

The Shire of Mingenew experienced widespread damage across built and natural assets including significant impact on the townsite. A total of 24 farm properties were impacted and 39 residentials have been deemed uninhabitable following Seroja.

#### Local Recovery Coordination Group (LRCG)

The Shire of Mingenew Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) has organised the Local Recovery Planning Workshop. This was held on the 4th of April 2022.

#### Key recovery stakeholders in attendance:

- Shire of Mingenew
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- Department of Communities
- Department of Education
- St John Ambulance
- Red Cross
- Rural Aid
- WAPOL
- Industry / local businesses
- Community members / groups

The Western Australian Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, also attended the workshop briefly on a scheduled visit to the Seroja impacted communities, and met with community members.

#### SHORT TERM

#### MEDIUM /LONG

#### ONGOING

#### SOCIAL

- Emergency preparedness training
- Streamline recovery and governance groups
- Recruitment program new community volunteers
- Host one-off community spirit lifting event
- Connect community with psychosocial support services
- Connect services for Elderly residents, and activities for young people

#### ECONOMIC

- Develop a housing business model (and investment framework)
- Investigate model of community ownership of key assets and businesses
- Develop economic development strategy and prospectus to attract investment and labour supply
- Develop a Welcome to Town resource and process
- Town Beautification campaign

#### NATURAL

- Source "how to guide" for on farm plantings
- Develop Masterplan for Cecil Newton Park and replant trees
- Audit town trees, organise community and school planting days
- Regenerate Coal Seam and Depot Hill Trails by moving fallen trees and reducing fire load

#### BUILT

- Provide workers accommodation through verflow options and or CBH
- Seek additional funding to repair and upgrade Tennis Club
- Free standing power supply to be organised for Mingenew Recreation Centre
- Assess resilience of utilities and seek support from programs
- Advocacy on insurance challenges



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Human and Social Environment	KEY DAMAGE AND IMPACTS	RECOVERY OBJECTIVES	PRIORITY	RECOVERY TASKS/ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITY STAKEHOLDERS	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
	<b>Groups, Institutions and Social Connection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to community infrastructure prevented use eg Tennis Courts.</li> </ul> <b>Psychosocial and Wellbeing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern for other vulnerable groups in the community including elderly residents, children and farmers.</li> <li>Access for services for mental health and psychosocial support services is challenging as they are under-resourced and are over-committed.</li> </ul> <b>Health and Medical</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of telecommunications and damage to infrastructure prevented Silver Chain Nursing Post and St Johns Ambulance from resuming services.</li> </ul> <b>Cultural / Heritage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A number of heritage buildings have been damaged</li> </ul>	<b>Building Resilience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved emergency preparedness of households and businesses</li> </ul>		<b>S1</b> Develop and implement a community resilience and preparedness resource/training to support the community to develop personal/household/business disaster plans.	SoM DFES ARC	<b>S1</b> Resources and training funded and delivery commenced by Oct 2022. No. attended, no. of personal disaster plans developed as a result.
		<b>Supporting volunteers and community groups</b>	2	<b>S2</b> Support community groups to streamline administration and governance functions of community groups to reduce volunteer fatigue and to better manage community expectations.	Local Community groups  DLGSCI (support and funding)	<b>S2</b> Mingenew clubs and associations are supported to develop a model constitution/template to allow clubs to reduce the number of constitutions and administrative requirements, without losing their autonomy.
				<b>S3</b> Develop and implement a recruitment program for new community volunteers and support with training.	SoM CRC Communities (funding)	<b>S3</b> Establish volunteer development program by Jan 2023.
			5	<b>S4</b> Host a one off event to lift community spirits.	CRC	<b>S4</b> 2022 event delivered. Consideration given to an event in 2023.
		<b>Mental Health and wellbeing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased social connection for vulnerable community members</li> <li>Actively encourage and support positive culture of community engagement</li> </ul>		<b>S5</b> Recovery Hub to provide connections to psychosocial support for community members. Work with support providers, community and government to assess, plan for and implement long-term community psychosocial support.	SoM, CRC, DoC, ARC	<b>S5</b> Continued community engagement with services. no. of new clients, no. of community events.
		<b>Support for Vulnerable Community Members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect two key cohorts with activities</li> </ul>		<b>S6</b> Connect services for elderly residents and support their redi-plan training. Connect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red Cross door knocking</li> <li>Bowling Club social outings</li> <li>CRC Monday morning sessions</li> </ul> Develop activities for 12 to 24 yr olds.	Red Cross, Bowling Club, CRC  PCYC North Midlands	<b>S6</b> Services successfully network and identify priority elderly residents by Dec 2022. <b>S7</b> One activity identified and implemented in 2022.

Recovery related activities highlighted



The development of this plan was jointly funded through the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

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Economic Environment	KEY DAMAGE AND IMPACTS	RECOVERY OBJECTIVES	PRIORITY	RECOVERY TASKS/ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITY STAKEHOLDERS	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
	<b>Residential and Household</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Availability and rising prices of trades and materials causing frustration and hold-ups in recovery.</li> <li>Many residents and businesses found it too time consuming to negotiate the insurance claim process.</li> <li>Whether people were insured or not seems to be a leading factor in the level of financial impact.</li> </ul> <b>Local and State Government Infrastructure / Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of access to workforce and accommodating employees.</li> <li>Limited LG resources and fatigue levels of LG employees.</li> </ul> <b>Primary Production</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22/24 primary producers in Mingenew were impacted.</li> <li>Impact of the cyclone on stock and crop programming/rotation.</li> <li>Balancing clean-up and farming activities as competing priorities (initially and ongoing).</li> <li>Significant loss and damage to critical infrastructure (sheds, equipment, stock, rural water infrastructure).</li> <li>Ongoing concerns about finding and accommodating workers.</li> </ul> <b>Tourism, Industry and Small Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractors using accommodation impacted availability for tourism.</li> <li>Difficulty obtaining goods and services (fuel, food etc.) due to availability, impact to roads and extended power outages.</li> </ul>	<b>Economic infrastructure and planning</b>	1	<b>E1</b> Investigate a housing business model (and investment framework) to address housing crisis and enable construction of variety of suitable accommodation options.	SoM	<b>E1</b> Research on innovative housing options identified by Sept 2022.
			3	<b>E2</b> Investigate model of community ownership of key assets and businesses.	SoM	<b>E2</b> Community ownership models identified by Sept 2022.
				<b>E3</b> Develop economic development strategy and prospectus to attract investment and labour supply.	SoM	<b>E3</b> SoM to commence development of an economic development strategy and prospectus by June 2023. Linked to E4 and E5.
		<b>Attraction and Retention Strategy</b>		<b>E4</b> Support local businesses to develop reward packages to attract and retain staff.	SoM, SBDC, MWDC/RDA	<b>E4</b> Engagement strategy for support to business owners to be developed by June 2023. Linked to E3 and E5.
				<b>E5</b> Develop a Welcome to Town resource and process.	CRC SoM	<b>E5</b> CRC and SoM to develop a welcome to town resource by June 2023. Linked to E3 and E4.
			4	<b>E6</b> Town Beautification campaign.	SoM, Community	<b>E6</b> Identify key projects for implementation + include in community/shire planning.

Recovery related activities highlighted





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Natural Environment	KEY DAMAGE AND IMPACTS	RECOVERY OBJECTIVES	PRIORITY	RECOVERY TASKS/ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITY STAKEHOLDERS	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
	<b>Plants and animals</b> • Damage to some trees in public spaces. <b>Hazardous vegetation</b> • Perceived and actual increase to fuel loads because of defoliation. • Perceived and actual increase to risk of structurally compromised (uprooted/defoliated) trees and widespread debris. <b>Public Land/Recreation</b> • Debris and fallen trees affecting creek lines, reserves and parks and reduction in shade for public. • Damage to public infrastructure in reserves and parks (signage, carparks, drainage, walk trails) which impact public access and enjoyment. • Impact to Coalseam Reserve.	<b>Recovery of Biodiversity</b>		<b>N1</b> Source “how to guide” for on farm plantings with species list and where to buy seedlings.	LEMC NACC	<b>N1</b> NACC to develop regional resource for Seroja recovery.
				<b>N2</b> Audit town trees to determine best actions, organise community and school planting days and replant with wind resistant species.	SoM, Community NACC	<b>N2</b> Trees audited by Dec 2022, 1 tree planting day to be conducted in 2023.
		<b>Access and enjoyment of natural spaces</b> • Restore nature-based tourism assets		<b>N3</b> Regenerate Coal Seam and Depot Hill Trails by moving fallen trees and reducing fire load.	DBCA	<b>N3</b> Coordinate rehabilitation works with relevant stakeholders by Dec 2022.
				<b>N4</b> Implement Masterplan for Cecil Newton Park and replant trees.	SoM	<b>N4</b> Masterplan implementation commenced by 2023.
				<b>N5</b> Develop lookout/picnic area on Mingenew Hill to build sense of place.	SoM	<b>N5</b> Include for consideration in Strategic Community Plan consultation
		<b>Management of Pests, Hazards and Diseases</b>		<b>N6</b> Explore possible training options for different fuel mitigation techniques (i.e., cool burns). Encourage fire breaks on Crown Land.	SoM DFES	<b>N6</b> Training to be considered as part of the development and implementation of the Bushfire Risk Management Plan.
				<b>N7</b> Develop information on waste disposal, safe burning, greenwaste collection, information on tarp management and maintenance.	SoM DFES	<b>N7</b> Ongoing information provision until 2023.

Recovery related activities highlighted



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Built Environment	KEY DAMAGE AND IMPACTS	RECOVERY OBJECTIVES	PRIORITY	RECOVERY TASKS/ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITY STAKEHOLDERS	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
	<b>Public and Private infrastructure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to private and public infrastructure.</li> <li>Damage in town and on farms, 39 residences deemed uninhabitable.</li> <li>Some properties still tarped, possibly with uncleared cyclone debris.</li> <li>Difficulty accessing building contractors, engineers, materials and an inflation of costs associated with rebuild.</li> </ul> <b>Essential services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debris on roads and damage to road signs in weeks following the cyclone.</li> <li>Significant damage to utility infrastructure with ongoing supply and reliability issues to some utilities.</li> </ul> <b>Clean up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to buildings with asbestos containing materials on private property.</li> </ul> <b>Rapid Damage Assessments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Rapid Damage Assessments. Further assessments are ongoing to validate and identify additional needs.</li> </ul> <b>Insurance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues include forced pay-outs, increase in work costs, and additional financing needs.</li> </ul>	<b>Rebuild support</b>	6	<b>B1</b> Provide workers accommodation through overflow options and or CBH.	SoM	<b>B1</b> Innovative housing model developed –link to <b>E1</b> .
				<b>B2</b> Provide support to Mingenew Hotel to enable their recovery process.	SoM	<b>B2</b> Ongoing check-ins with Hotel Owners to give support.
		<b>Recreation Facilities</b>	8	<b>B3</b> Seek additional funding to repair and upgrade Tennis Club.	SoM Mingenew Tennis Club	<b>B3</b> Additional funding identified and funding processes commenced by Sept 2022.
		<b>Utilities</b>	7	<b>B4</b> Develop a plan for assessing the resilience of utilities and seek support from relevant providers to increase resilience.	SoM Western Power Telstra	<b>B4</b> Baseline information sought from utility providers by 2023.
				<b>B5</b> Investigate free standing power supply for Mingenew Recreation Centre.	SoM	<b>B5</b> Determine feasibility of potential project by December 2023.
		<b>Insurance advocacy</b>		<b>B6</b> Continue regional advocacy for reported insurance challenges and issues (e.g forced pay-outs, increase in works costs, additional financing needs).	LEMC	<b>B6</b> Targeted and timely communications to relevant agencies and regulatory bodies.

Recovery related activities highlighted

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