

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr. Higgins to the Chief Minister:

Dundee Cyclone Shelter

1. For the 300-500 people of Dundee the closest emergency shelter is Berry Springs. As Minister responsible for Emergency Services would you please advise what government's plans for cyclone recovery are for these Dundee residents.

ANSWER:

Emergency Management in the Northern Territory uses a three tier system of Local, Regional and Territory plans to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. Each tier has a committee or council established to manage and implement the specific plan.

The Territory Emergency Plan <http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/Emergency-Service/Publications-and-forms.aspx> and the Darwin Local Emergency Plan (available on request to NT Police, Fire and Emergency Service) describe the emergency preparedness, response and recovery arrangements that include the Dundee Region.

In the event of an emergency affecting Dundee Beach, emergency response would be led by NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Public emergency shelters are established across the Northern Territory, for residents whose homes are at risk from storm surge; those who live in caravan parks or non-coded homes; or for circumstances where people may feel unsafe in their home.

As identified in the Darwin Local Emergency Plan the emergency shelter closest to Dundee Beach is at Berry Springs Primary School. Dundee residents should plan to leave early if they are not confident that they can safely stay.

Once there is no longer a threat to life or property, there may be a transition to emergency recovery arrangements coordinated through the Department of the Chief Minister, if needed.

Arrangements to support communities to recover from disaster and emergency events are well established in the Northern Territory, having been activated a number of times in recent years in response to Cyclones Lam and Nathan in February and March 2016, the flooding in Nauiyu in 2015-16, and in Kintore and Central Australia in 2016-17.

Recovery efforts address the impact of disasters and emergencies on the four environments that constitute a community; built environment (physical infrastructure), social environment (individual and community wellbeing), natural environment and economic environment.

Local level engagement and community input is an important aspect of recovery. Were an event to impact Dundee Beach, the Department of the Chief Minister would establish a Local Recovery Coordination Group consisting of members of the Dundee Community, to inform the recovery effort and encourage local level participation.

If needed, a Local Recovery Coordinator maybe appointed by the Chief Executive of the Department of the Chief Minister in her capacity as the Territory Recovery Coordinator; to provide leadership and coordination at a local level for an impacted community.