



Greg Campbell
Mayor, Cloncurry Shire



Jane McNamara
Mayor, Flinders Shire



Belinda Murphy
Mayor, McKinlay Shire



John Wharton, AM
Mayor, Richmond Shire



Gavin Baskett
Mayor, Winton Shire

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 21 February 2019

North-west Queensland councils welcome Carcass Disposal Strategic Master Plan

The Mayors of Cloncurry, Flinders, McKinlay, Richmond and Winton today welcomed the direct financial assistance made available to the region's primary producers through the Carcass Disposal Strategic Master Plan.

Councils have worked closely with state and federal agencies, as well as a team of Australian Defence Force specialists based in Julia Creek, to develop an immediate action plan that will help the region in its initial recovery from one of the nation's worst natural disasters.

We acknowledge the endorsement of this plan from Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds, on behalf of the Prime Minister, and thank the Australian Government for the close attention it has paid to our concerns since the disaster struck.

We also thank the Queensland Government, represented by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, the Hon Mark Furner, for its support throughout this process.

Of particular note, we welcome the direct financial support made available to flood-affected producers through the Carcass Disposal Assistance Grant. This one-off \$5,000 direct payment will be easy to access and is a vital pillar of this plan as we get on with the job.

This plan means we have taken decisive action to mobilise the resources we have right here at home that will help safeguard the most important thing to our communities – the health and wellbeing of our constituents.

We could not have put this plan together without input and guidance from those whom this plan is designed to serve – our region's primary producers.

Their resilience, and steadfast determination to help not only themselves but also their neighbours to get back on their feet, has been an inspiration to us all.

With the sign-off today of the Carcass Disposal Strategic Master Plan, the transition from an initial major disaster response under Joint Task Force 646 and the leadership of Brigadier

Stephen Jobson, CSC, to a Queensland State Disaster Recovery Coordination effort led by Major-General Stuart Smith (Retired) has begun.

This transition, which will be conducted in a coordinated and calculated manner that ensures we will continue to receive the support we need, has commenced after close consultation with – and endorsement from – our councils.

The scale of this disaster was unprecedented and our recovery will take time. However, we now have a robust plan that ensures we are firmly on a path to a steady and timely recovery, which will set us up for future success.