

Kimberley Floods Update

23rd March 2023

BUS AND FERRY SERVICE

To view the bus and ferry service timetable, go to mainroads.wa.gov.au



FERRY LANDING SITES

The Roads people are monitoring the river levels and checking for sand banks and other hazards in the water. They are also working with Traditional Owners to identify other landing sites to try and keep the ferry service going until the low-level crossing is built.



LORD MAYOR'S DISTRESS RELIEF FUND

The first round of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) distributions for the Kimberley Floods Appeal will be allocated to non-government owned properties.

Properties that have suffered major damage may be eligible for payments of up to \$50,000, while those with minor damage may be eligible for payments of up to \$25,000.

For more information, visit appealswa.org.au



HELP APPLYING WITH THE PREMIER'S FLOOD PAYMENT

The Premier has announced a \$1000 payment for people over 18 (on or before 10 Jan) who had their house damaged by the Kimberley Floods.

If you need help with your application, you can:

- visit your nearest Flood Hub
- call the Disaster Response Hotline on 1800 032 965 (9am – 4pm)
- speak with the Community Outreach team when they are in your community.

4WD VEHICLE FERRY SERVICE

A ferry service started to take essential 4WD vehicles across the Fitzroy River. The ferry can only take 6 vehicles per day - bookings are essential. Call the Shire people on 9191 0999 between 8am and 4pm to book.

To use the ferry service, you must have an essential reason for travel. Your 4WD must:

- be roadworthy
- have all brakes fully working
- be less than 2 metres wide and under 2.4 tonnes – all vehicles will be weighed before going on the ferry

Please check your vehicle meets all these requirements before booking.



President's Update

The Shire of Derby West Kimberley is committed to supporting a Community –led Recovery assisting individuals, families, TO's and the communities to actively participate in their own recovery. We recognise that individuals and the communities may have different levels of support required throughout the recovery process and we will be guided by the priorities and outcomes provided through ongoing consultation and engagement with the communities and individuals.

Engagement is currently occurring through the following opportunities:

- Community Meetings
- Interactions in the Hubs and outreach
- Specific Meetings - Recovery Meetings and Sub Group Meetings.
- Engagement with the TO's
- Community Navigators and Cultural Advisors, and
- Fitzroy Valley Flood Recovery Working Group

The numbers of damaged homes, people impacted and businesses affected are significant for the greater Kimberley region and in particular our Shire.

Shire President Geoff Haerewa has been committed to raising awareness and ensuring that the right services and supports are provided for the individuals and communities affected. Cr Haerewa said that the Shire was prepared for a long road ahead and is committed to working with individuals, families and stakeholders to ensure that we build back better and improve the Communities resilience.

Many of you will be aware that the disaster has now progressed into the Recovery Phase and the Shire is the lead under the Emergency Management Act 2005 section 36(b) "It is a function of local government to manage recovery following an emergency affecting the community in its district".

"Recovery - the support of emergency affected communities in the reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment and community, psychosocial and economic wellbeing".

The Shire has appointed Catherine Feeney as the Local Recovery Coordinator – Catherine has committed to being in Fitzroy Crossing Monday to Friday in an effort to be accessible to support the needs of the Community generally and those impacted.

The Shire is in the process of setting up a number of systems and collaboration structures that provide support and collaboration of services delivery, business and opportunity.

The Flood Hub situated at the Visitors Centre, is the Valleys first port of call to access any information needed. The Community Recovery Officers working in the Hub will assist you to get access to the information, service or support that you may need. They will also follow you up to ensure that you are not lost in the system or overly frustrated with it and therefore not accessing the services or supports available to you.

The Shire Councillors will be in Fitzroy Crossing on Thursday 30th March and will be holding an open forum at Karrayili Meeting Room 8 Flynn Drive from 10.30 – 12.00pm – Come along for a cuppa and a catch up.

Come along and see a Humanihut

Come along to the Fitzroy Crossing Visitors Centre Thursday and Friday between 8am and 12.30pm to see the temporary housing (called Humanihuts). The Humanihuts have arrived in town and are ready to be relocated to approved sites over the coming weeks.

The Huts will provide housing for people to live in while homes are being fixed. The Huts is a folding, insulated, rigid wall, climate controlled structure which can withstand the harshest of climatic conditions, and provides shelter, comfort and security.

Some Huts are going to be located at Tarunda Village and will be onsite by the weekend and Bungardi will be getting Huts onsite by next week. The Huts will be stored at the recreation grounds near the pool until they are moved to an agreed place.



The Old Low Level Crossing in Fitzroy

The old low level crossing at the old town site (West Darlŋgunaya) was built in the 1930's and was raised up in the 1950's. It was operational until recently. The crossing has been an integral part of the Fitzroy Community as not only a vehicle crossing but also a popular swimming and fishing spot. Locally it has been known as 'the beach'.

Given its history, it has been heritage listed which means structural changes can be complex and given the current critical need it has meant that the quickest solution to make the crossing accessible to the community is to construct a temporary low level crossing to the downstream side of the existing heritage listed crossing.

As you will see in the photo, to what extent we don't know until the water subsides, but that some of this old amazingly built crossing has survived the raging torrent of the mighty Fitzroy River!

Contact Information

Department of Communities Disaster Response Hotline

1800 032 965

Mental Health Help - Fitzroy Crossing

9166 1700

Mental Health Help - Derby

9193 3605

After Hours - Mental Health Support

1800 552 002

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Crisis Support (24/7)

13YARN (13 92 76)

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

Fitzroy Crossing Recreation Centre 2pm Tuesday 28th March 2023

Updates from Dept of Communities, Mainroads and many more

Flood Hubs

Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre

4 Flynn Drive
8am-12:30pm Mon-
Fri

Broome Boulevard Shopping Centre

106 Frederick Street
10am-2pm
Mon-Fri

Derby Housing Office

16-22 Loch Street
10am-2pm
Mon-Fri

**Do you have a story to share or updates from your area? We want to hear from you!
Contact us by phone (08) 9191 0999 or email media@sdwk.wa.gov.au**