Cairns region context

- Beautiful tropical location BUT all is not always well in paradise.

- Complex socio-economic makeup comprising many cultures, both ends of the economic spectrum, highly transient population, hundreds of thousands of tourists, limited employment opportunities.

- Economy heavily tourism reliant

- Very different geographic communities spread from south to north.

- Natural disaster prone; cyclones, storm surge, flash foods, landslips, tsunami, bush fire, earthquake – heatwave...

- But no major disaster since 2011.

- Plenty of urban myths/old beliefs...

- Complacency the enemy.

- “Someone else” will take care of it – dependence on government and community based supports.
Resilience Scorecard Outcomes

• Resilience effort strongly lead by local government, with degrees of support from state and other organisations - should be increased.

• Gaps in process such as limited risk assessments or single hazard planning; knowledge of some factors.

• Limitations in infrastructure eg emergency fuel supplies, emergency communications, human resources, ecosystems services, food.

• Suspected people unlikely to do well managing more than a few days.

Pandemic Experiences

• No pandemic here! Very few cases.

• Misinformation/too much information – impossible to establish truth.

• Social effects… fear, anxiety, no preparation, mass job losses – basic needs emerging.

• Economic effects … no tourists, no money, relief queues.

• Restrictions reluctance.
Response and recovery

• Not the lead agency – finding our role.
• Adaptive capacity to the situation – not a cyclone, not even a pandemic – identify what’s most critical and respond constructively.
• Cairns Local Coronavirus Hotline – local response for local issues.
• Identifying major issues, needs, strengths by working with our community networks across sectors.
• Accepting an unforeseen situation; learning from it; transitioning learning into ongoing recovery. Use public health scorecard process!