

### **A statement from Resilience NSW:**

Resilience NSW, with partner agencies and organisations, coordinates the establishment of Evacuation Centres. As of Monday 14 March, 54 Evacuation Centres around NSW have been activated in response to the recent storm and flood event. In the immediate vicinity of Mullumbimby, Evacuation Centres were opened in Mullumbimby and Ocean Shores on Monday 28 February, and Brunswick Heads on Tuesday 1 March.

Community members began using the Civic Hall as a coordination point during the initial response. On Saturday 5 March, Resilience NSW, working in partnership with council and local community, transitioned the site into a Recovery Centre.

The Resilience NSW Commissioner was in Mullumbimby meeting with the local Mayor, General Manager and other key personnel on Saturday 5 March. The Recovery Centre was established on the same day.

A dedicated community Recovery Centre has been set up at the Civic Hall in Mullumbimby to provide face-to-face support for locals affected by these recent severe storm and flood events. The Centre is staffed by personnel who can provide flood-impacted residents with various forms of support available, including:

- Clean-up services;
- Financial assistance;
- Insurance and legal support;
- Support for businesses owners and primary producers; and
- Mental health and wellbeing services.

There is no current closing date for this Recovery Centre. It will remain open as long as there is community demand in the area. Resilience NSW continues to work in partnership with councils, NGOs and local communities to progressively build on the services already offered at Recovery Centres.

In partnership with Resilience NSW and non-government agencies, the Department of Communities and Justice is working to provide emergency accommodation to people affected by floods.

The \$285.2 million Temporary Housing Support package, announced on Friday 11 March, will support people who cannot live in their home while they're being repaired or have lost their home entirely, and includes.

- Immediate hotel accommodation, to provide accommodation for four nights, with flexibility to increase while people make interim arrangements;
- Grants towards initial rental costs, from \$6,000 for an individual up to \$18,000 for a six-person household;
- Utilising Mobile Motor Homes and Recreation Camps for medium term accommodation;
- Extending the Temporary Dwelling Program, which allows people to stay on their land in a 'pod', caravan or demountable, for example; and
- A housing brokerage service enabling the Australian Red Cross to work with private rental companies, such as Airbnb and Stayz, to help connect people with rental homes.

The NSW Government is also working to secure longer-term housing solutions for people who will not be able to return to their homes for several months or more, and for those who need to rebuild. Anyone who is homeless due to floods can request emergency accommodation through evacuation centres, recovery centres, or by calling Service NSW on 13 17 88.