

## CYCLONE RECOVERY (Issue 2)

### Intro

This is the last Shire Newsletter on the Cyclone recovery process and that is good news! It means that most major issues have been dealt with in only a few days.

We provide you some information on the current status of infrastructure, and some tips to stay safe and healthy in the coming days.

If you have any questions, we are here to assist, so don't hesitate to call the Shire on (08) 9949 3000 or see us at the Shire offices.

Please note: the Shire offices at Maidstone Crescent will be closed this Friday 20 March from 12 noon.

### Water

Watercorp has informed us that they are back to full capacity as of today (Wednesday) and water pressure is also back to normal. They are aware of the upcoming influx of people for the Easter Holiday period and have assured us that all systems are capable to deal with this.

So, if you are really keen to wash cars, caravans, houses and driveways, you can go ahead. Just keep in mind, it never hurts to be Waterwise so a bucket may still be the way to go.

### Power

The whole Town site is online again with the exception of some individual houses. So, if you still don't have power in Town, check your meter box for an orange tag (fault notice). If there is one, you will need to contact a licensed electrician to come around before power can be restored to your premises. If not, and you are still without power, call the Horizon Power fault line on 13 23 51

Horizon Power is now working to get the RAAF base and the Lighthouse Caravan Park back on the grid.

### Green Waste

If you can bring your green waste to the tip site yourself that would be of great help. Alternatively, you can drop it off near the old netball courts behind the ovals; please remember, this is not for normal household waste!

Also ensure that the green waste is not obstructing footpaths or essential infrastructure such as power poles, water meters and fire hydrants. Keep it away from fences as large machinery will be moving through town to pick it up.

### Food

There are no more bins located behind the scoreboard on Talanjee Oval for food waste as the normal garbage collection is up and running.

Remember, if you are not sure if your food was affected by the power outage, use your best judgement, but follow the mantra "*if in doubt, throw it out*".

### Bin Collection

The Shire's bin collection runs as per the normal schedule again. With all the green waste on the verges at the moment, please assist by making sure your bin is easily accessible for the lift-arm of the garbage truck.

### Tourist season coming up

Nearly all tourism businesses are up and running already which is great news! Contact the Exmouth Visitor Centre for information about available activities and accommodation (08) 9949 1176.

### Police matters

Exmouth Police requests the community to be vigilant if your fences are down as a result of the cyclone. So please lock away your belongings if you can. Also, posting issues on Facebook does not really help; so the Police requests people to report incidences to them directly (only one has been reported so far).

### Department of Parks and Wildlife—National Park

Crews are working hard to open up the National Park in time for the tourism season. So far there is access all the way to Milyering Discovery Centre, including the northern campsites Neds Camp and Mesa Camp.

Areas further south are expected to open up in the coming days. Please contact the DPaW office for up to date information: (08) 9947 8000.

### Pool Fences

We still see quite a few pool fences out in the community that were damaged during the cyclone at both business premises and private residences. Please ensure that you do whatever you can to fix them or make-safe, until it can be restored professionally. If you have any questions, please call Steve Foster from the Shire on 0409 437 244.

### Asbestos—Important reminder

If your home is damaged and contains asbestos, or even if you are not sure, please contact the Shire of Exmouth (ph 9949 3000) or Rob Manning (mob 0417 929 165) before you handle it. No asbestos is to be disposed of in green rubbish bins and any asbestos greater than 10m<sup>2</sup> needs to be disposed of by a licensed asbestos contractor.

### Containment of Dogs

Some property fences have been damaged by the Cyclone and your dog may be able to escape from your property. Please secure your dogs until such time that your fences are repaired. If you come across a dog wandering the streets, please contact Ranger Services on 9949 300.

### Telstra

There is antenna damage to the Charles Knife Ridge mobile site and flood damage to one of the street side multiplexers in town. Telstra is working on this as a priority but it is not known when this will be fixed. This means that there is no telephone reception in the National Park area/West side.

Telstra requests everyone to be careful when removing trees as part of the clean up as telecom cables could be tangled up in the roots. If your Telstra phone service doesn't work, please call the faults number 132203.

### Various facilities

Pool: the aim is for the pool to be open by Wednesday 25 March, depending on the results of water quality tests taken this week. The Water Spray Park is open!

Tip Site: is back to operating at normal hours which are Tuesday to Saturday 8-4 and Monday 8-6.

Shot Hole Canyon Rd: closed as it is impassable due to significant damage.

Charles Knife Road: closed as power lines are down over the road. We have not been able to inspect for damage.

Learmonth Jetty: closed until made safe as substantial damage to rock armouring has occurred.

### WHERE TO GET ASSISTANCE

#### Department of Child Protection and Family Services

The Department coordinates the provision of welfare support services to people affected by an emergency or disaster. To talk to someone from the Department to discuss what services may be available to you, please call 9965 9500.

Centacare Family Services in Exmouth works closely with the Department in providing some of the above services. To discuss what services they might be able to assist you with, please contact 9949 2225.

#### Australian Red Cross

The Red Cross has extensive experience in supporting people after emergencies. If you would like to talk about your personal experiences of the recent Cyclone event in Exmouth, please contact your local Red Cross team: Karen Famlonga on 0448 250 530.

#### Information for Business Owners

The Gascoyne Small Business Centre is a free service and available to help all businesses with advice and assistance. This can include general and specialised advisory to any business that needs help in understanding their insurance and business planning for recovery. Please contact Colleen on 99413396 or 0456 059 411 or [colleen@gascoyne-sbc.com.au](mailto:colleen@gascoyne-sbc.com.au)

#### Natural Disaster Relief

Severe Tropical Cyclone Olwyn has been declared an 'eligible disaster' under the Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA). This means the State Government will make financial assistance available. There is a lot to this WANDRRA, so we can only provide a summary here, but please follow the link provided for more information:

The available assistance measures include:

- personal hardship and distress assistance
- counter disaster operations
- restoration of essential public assets
- interest rate subsidies for small businesses and primary producers
- freight subsidies for primary producers

There are conditions and eligibility criteria, so check information on line:

<http://www.disasterassist.gov.au/Currentdisasters/Pages/WA/Tropical-Cyclone-Olwyn-March-2015.aspx>