

## CYCLONE RECOVERY

### Intro

Cyclone Olwyn came and went. It was probably a bit stronger than we first thought, but the same can be said about the strength of our community as we have shown support for our neighbours and those who needed a hand. Many generators were doing their job, and were literally connecting neighbours.

A big thank you to all the crew from services like SES, DFES, Police, Red Cross and Child Protection and Family Services for keeping us safe; to the staff from Horizon Power, Watercorp, and Transport to get our services and infrastructure up so quickly again too.

The cleanup of town is in full swing since Saturday and it is great to see how many people are out there to get Exmouth back to normal. This newsletter provides some information of what you can do to help out 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.

### Water

Watercorp has requested everyone in town to use water more sparingly as the bores are not all up to full capacity yet due to the power outage and disconnections. You may have noticed that the water pressure has already been reduced?! Please do the right thing and only use water for household purposes and drinking! There is no urgency to wash cars, caravans, houses and driveways and even your garden should be okay for a while after the rains we had.

### Power

The Town is getting online again with big progress made over the last few days. 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

Under the Extended Outage Payment Scheme, you may qualify to receive compensation of \$80 if your power supply is interrupted continuously for more than 12 hours from the time it is reported to Horizon Power. Please

check their webpage to see if you are eligible; it's worth a try:

[http://www.horizonpower.com.au/residential\\_online\\_claim\\_form.html](http://www.horizonpower.com.au/residential_online_claim_form.html)

### Green Waste

If you can bring your green waste to the tip site yourself that would be much appreciated as there is so much around town. Alternatively, you can drop green waste off near the old netball courts behind the ovals; please remember, this is not for normal household waste!

The Shire has started picking up green waste from the verges as well, but please can you ensure that footpaths are free of obstructions so as not to cause a hazard to pedestrians and children on bicycles.

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

### Food

Anyone wishing to dispose of food items, there are bins located behind the scoreboard on Talanjee Oval. When sorting through what needs to go, consider all potentially hazardous foods such as dairy, meat, poultry and fish. They need to be kept cool at 5°C or below or frozen -18°C or below and loss of power may have compromised this. Use your best judgement, but follow the mantra "*if in doubt, throw it out*" so you or your loved ones don't get sick.

### 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 easy accessible for the lift-arm of the garbage truck.

### Tourist season coming up

Most accommodation providers and tour operators in Exmouth are up and running again. The Shire is working with other organisations to develop a marketing campaign to make sure people know we are open for business. Contact the Exmouth Visitor Centre for information about available activities and accommodation (08) 9949 1176.

### Pool Fences

Quite a few pool fences were damaged during the cyclone both at 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. It is about the safety of the community and yourself. If you have any questions, please call Steve Foster from the Shire on 0409 437 244.

### Asbestos

If your home is damaged and contains asbestos, or 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, through the following options:

- Contact a relative or friend who has a proper fence and have the dog stay there
- Keep the dog inside and take them out on a lead regularly
- Erect a temporary fence to ensure the dog can't leave your property.
- Make sure your dog wears its collar, registration tag and identification tag so if it does escape, it can be returned to you ASAP.

If you come across a dog wandering the streets, please contact Ranger Services on 9949 300 or, if you feel safe to do so, secure the dog at your property, and then contact the Ranger or the owner.

### Potential Mosquito Alert

Residents and business owners are requested to check their yards and around the house for water in holding containers that may provide suitable habitats for mosquito breeding. Some of the common backyard breeding sites to look out for and water to be removed from include:-

- Containers that can hold water e.g.; old tyres, toys, buckets etc
- Rain water tanks not screened properly
- Ornamental ponds;
- Poorly maintained septic systems; and
- Pot plant drip trays and some plants hold water in their leaf axils .

### 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. This includes:

- Emergency accommodation, Emergency clothing and personal requisites & Emergency catering
- Personal services: to ensure affected persons receive the supports to cope with the effects of the emergency, such as loss, stress, confusion and family disruption, as well as providing a range of information and referral services.

Financial assistance: where applicable

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 0499 292 778.

**Telstra customers:** Telstra provides a Relief Package to everyone in Exmouth during the cyclone which could be up to \$100 of credit to their accounts. This can be used for data or phone calls and all you need to do is call Telstra on 132000 or 132203 to see if you are eligible.

#### 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)

#### Newsletter delivery information

This newsletter is distributed to all PO Boxes in Exmouth, and is available for pick-up at the post office, shire offices and the Public Library. This newsletter and other information (for example grant information, upcoming events etc) can also be emailed electronically and via Exmouth Info. Send an email to [cdo@exmouth.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdo@exmouth.wa.gov.au) to register your interest and let your friends know about this opportunity.