

MEDIA RELEASE

4 December, 2018

Bushfire affected area deemed safe for community to return

Following the evacuation of the Deepwater, Baffle Creek, Rules Beach and Oyster Creek communities from the CQ bushfires, emergency services and authorities have now deemed the area safe to return.

Following extensive rapid damage assessment, residents and property owners will this morning return to their community.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said Queensland Police Service will coordinate a check-in point at the corner of Hills and Taunton Roads to provide access to the affected communities.

“I want to thank the members of the affected communities for their ongoing understanding and resilience during this time of hardship,” Councillor Burnett said.

“Emergency services have been and continue to, work around the clock to ensure the safety of residents returning home.

“We ask residents returning home to please be patient during the re-entry process.

“Ergon Energy crews also worked where possible to connect power to households.”

Cr Burnett said authorities needed to determine it was safe before Baffle Creek and Deepwater residents and land owners would be allowed to return to their communities.

A Recovery Hub has been established at the Wartburg Sport and Recreation Grounds at 569 Coast Road, Baffle Creek.

The Recovery Hub will have representatives from the following organisations:

- Department of Communities
- Lifeline, Red Cross, Salvation Army
- Queensland Health
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Queensland Ambulance Service
- Department of Housing
- Gladstone Regional Council (water supply, animals, referral)

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- QFES Community Volunteer Educators

The Hub will operate from 12:00pm – 5:00pm Tuesday 4 December, and 9.00am – 5.00pm on the following days, until further notice.

The community are encouraged to access the Recovery Hub following inspections of their property for support with eligibility for relevant grants, livestock advice, temporary accommodation, and mental health first aid.