

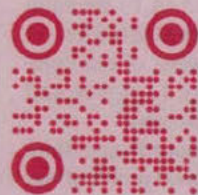
# RED DOT RESCUE

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# Pods on private land

By Jonathon Howard

THE STATE government announcement to invest \$350 million to erect temporary modular housing, known as 'pods', for people displaced by the 2022 floods has been welcomed by Tweed Mayor Chris Cherry, but not as pop-up communities.

While areas such as Lismore and Ballina are planning on using public spaces and Crown land reserves for the pods, Mayor Cherry is calling for a dynamic approach in the Tweed.

The pods come in various configurations which can accommodate one to four people and will be co-located with supporting infrastructure and amenities.

"It's important the NSW Government does not try to produce a one-size-fits-all solution for our communities across the Northern Rivers," Mayor Cherry said.

"Although I welcome the idea of pods in some situations, I believe allowing the pods to be located on people's rural properties as individual pods, rather than in large conglom-

erations like an instant caravan park, would be better for us as a community, as it allows people to be near their homes as they reconstruct them.

"It also allows people to be close to their schools and in their communities at a time when they need their support networks the most."

"I will continue asking the government to help us with solutions that have the potential to give us solutions right now, but have the ability to transition to longer-term solutions."

Premier Dominic Perrottet said the NSW Government was working hand in hand with local Councils and communities to deliver the housing solutions.

"There's no doubt that housing is the most pressing challenge for the thousands of people impacted by these floods," Mr Perrottet said.

"We're committed to delivering safe and secure housing to all flood-impacted communities and this \$350 million in funding will help get lives back on track, allowing people to move out of emergency accommodation and into more appropriate housing."



A Minderoo Pod, an example of the modular homes being made available to the Northern Rivers

# Reconstruction Commencement

# Resilience Teams prove invaluable

By Jo Kennett

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE Teams (CRTs) have proven an effective aid to Tweed residents stranded without power or communications during the recent floods.

The CRTs were established in a number of local communities after the 2017 floods with the help of the SES, the Red Cross, Tweed Shire Council (TSC) and the Rural Fire Service (RFS) to help communities "build resilience and self-reliance" in an emergency.

Street coordinators were appointed to approach homes and both give and collect information to be passed up and down the 'phone tree' in an emergency, and assistance provided promptly from either fellow locals or emergency services.

Byrrell Creek resident Pat Miller said the Byrrell Creek CRT was "fantastic" when it swung into action.

"We got emails from Chrissy Miller Crowe saying she was checking in, which prompted other people to check in," Mr Miller said.

"It gave people a sense of cohesion and reminded people this is what you do.

"Chrissy's outdoor kitchen became a food depot when supplies had to be walked in because the bridge was out.

"Callum McKinnon got everyone to put orders in to Mudgeeraba Coles and he got out in his four-tonne truck and got supplies including a bunch of jerry cans full of fuel.

"We were without power for 13

days and people shared generators.

"The whole thing kicked into gear and people just looked out for each other."

Kunghur and Surrounds Community Resilience Team (KSCRT) leader Karen Challand said many lessons had been learned over the last five weeks.

"We need more volunteers on the ground checking in on their neighbours and reporting back using the established phone tree to and from emergency responders," Ms Challand said.

"To be able to do this we need reliable communications.

"The team now has 12 radios that will soon be tested and located at strategic spots.

"We are creating a list of households with satellite internet, phone and backup power sources, and looking at other possible solutions."

KSCRT is meeting with Council and asking that the Kunghur Community Hall be available for the community, especially during an emergency.

"A month ago we were trying to distribute food with no one knowing where to go and only word of mouth to get the message out," Ms Challand said.

"When you are remote, cut off at times and without any community infrastructure, it is vital people have a place they know they can get help.

"There is much on our list to do, but all is achievable with enough people."

Byrrell Creek Community Re-



TEAM WORK: Riot police dropping off food at Doon Doon with [redacted] and [redacted] during the February flood

silience Team (BCCRT) leader Natascha Wernick said her team formed in 2020 and their greatest success was in building relationships within the community and the outside care and combat services.

The team also made chat groups to connect through, installed flood level markers on river crossings and completed a local bridge name and mapping survey so the community and external services knew what river crossings residents were referring to during disasters.

"At the time of the February 28 flood we checked in on all our community, reported to SES continually and established the needs of the

community," Ms Wernick said.

"By day four we had dug a road out of Byrrell Creek to collect fuel, meds and supplies for our community and by day five we delivered a road report to TSC that we had five broken bridges, torn up roads and many landslides.

"From February 5 to 13 we coordinated with external providers to meet the supply needs of our community and by day 13 power and road access was restored."

As with most remote Tweed Shire communities, the main problem was that many of the CRT had no internet connection, power or phone.

"This made it very hard," she said. "We met with TSC, the RFS, the

SES, the Red Cross and John Nolan Radios to determine the best alternative comms for our area on February 23 which was a VHF Radio System.

"TSC applied to Resilience NSW and Givit to fund these \$13,000 radios for our CRT; the funds were received and the radio consultant is now getting the radios ready for us.

"We are very happy with how our CRT worked and very proud of our larger Byrrell Creek community."

There is a planning day for the "Next Disaster Ready Day" at Crams Farm from 9am on Sunday, April 23, with local residents invited to come along and volunteer for the big day (May 28)."

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 May 2022 11:24 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Flood

Farmers were not told to stop clearing roads. Some were after payment. His we couldn't accede to outside guidelines.

Communications. Issue in NR with communities objecting every time a carrier tries to install a tower. Nearly need a one off go build authority for the telcos.

Defence. - their role is to prepare for war. Dangerous precedent to expect them to respond to every disaster. Perhaps need to look at national Guard type service. Talk about boat license discounts etc.

Building - mixed message by Govt to get people back in with exempt codes etc but no thought to betterment.

Dam procedures. Non sensical unless state looks at and considers flood mitigation dams.

Criticism of SES is unfair. People don't seem to realize they are volunteers. Name could be the issue. Sounds like state funded and operated with paid employees. Back to the national guard. Need to look at ways to increase the number of volunteers within that Organisation.

Example. The emotional lady from Banora Point. She could join the SES. Armchair experts. Need to be called out in your report. Everyone wants a pat on back for volunteering at the time and at same time critical those who volunteer for the long haul like the SES.

Community seems to want govt on ground. Govt needs to weigh up cost of recovery and ongoing operational costs of preparedness against measures like VHP which simply remove the most vulnerable from the flood plain.

Govt Insurance Office for the uninsurable. For flood only. Or fire only and should still be significant. \$5k. People don't seem to understand insurance companies are private business and they need to make money to survive. If govt is critical of insurance. Reestablish GIO.

Asbestos. Our tip takes it so not sure what issue is with their contractor.

Risk. They expect Govt's to indemnify people who volunteer of their own accord. Like the example given of a guy helping out with truck who had accident and cost \$15k. Unrealistic.

Lismore focus Tweed forgotten is real. Example with this inquiry. Macquarie St seem oblivious to the fact tweed is twice the size of Lismore.

Blacks Drain. Assistance sought on solution.

Dredging river. Residents simply don't understand hydrology. Many of the engineering solutions like diverting tweed river mouth creating an over river path, etc would cost far more than simply removing homes from the flood plain from a VHP perspective.

One of the speakers. Front left from south MBah actually knocked back a VHP offer. One talking about communication and mentioned she believed she has developed something as a solution. She was one saying she was about to sell to council and mentioned residential land swap.

Community also expect council can setup clothing distribution Centres etc. issue is many council staff themselves also affected by flood, access cut, etc. same for all staff like essential energy, Telstra, etc.

school halls only public facility that could be used for that type of emergency community recovery site. Should be factored into the super school rebuild.

NBN redundancy needs to be relooked at.

Mis understanding by people about what their insurance does and does not cover.

Lady from tumbulgum and tumbulgum community are a good case study of community preparing well.

Cobaki road. Construction site. Who wears liability. Cobaki is not being built on wetland.

Staffing DAs. Have asked that govt look to fund private planners to prepare applications for council to them be assessed.

comment. Getting off our arse to fix. General sentiment toward govt. Only did is to get people out of the flood plain.

Land rezoning. Issue with who pays for back zoning. Need fundamental change to Nsw planning system to have deferred zones. And fund to back zone land.