

Gympie Recovery Accommodation Park

June 2023

James O'Brien, A/Executive Director, Homelessness Response and Operations
Vicky Meyer, A/Area Manager, Moreton Bay Housing Service Centre

Severe weather event: Gympie February 2022



A severe weather event resulted in damage to 655 houses in Gympie, with 191 of those moderately to severely damaged (>1 metre of water through)

Department representatives and Gympie Regional Council Officers worked together to explore temporary accommodation options for flood-affected families

Motels across the Gympie Regional Council area and Sunshine Coast Regional Council area were utilised

The old Gympie Caravan Park in Jane Street Gympie was identified.

Our response



Gympie Local Housing Action Plan

On 4 March 2022, department representatives met with the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of the Gympie Regional Council, to progress the Gympie Local Housing Action Plan (LHAP) to:

- develop agreed priority actions to respond to housing need, including actions to assist with the disaster response following the South East Queensland floods in 2022
- establish strong foundations for longer-term housing responses to assist housing and homelessness outcomes in the Gympie region into the future
- incorporate existing information and plans that assist with developing responses to housing need and acknowledge work already completed by councils, State agencies, private and not-for-profit organisations
- agree actions to ensure a focus on projects that can improve housing short



Leasing the old Gympie Caravan Park

- 6 April 2022, the department having carried out due diligence, executed a lease with Council for an initial period of up to 24 months
- The site had been neglected and landscaping was overgrown
- Inhabitable dwellings were removed from the site, leaving six one-bedroom cabins, a two bed brick dwelling and a three-bedroomed house
- Available dwellings were cleaned and equipped with furniture and household items
- Two of the cabins were occupied that day, with a further two cabins the following day



Dwellings and Infrastructure

Initial accommodation included:

- 1 x 3 bedroom house requiring minor improvements
- 6 x 1 bedroom cabins
- 1 x 2 bedroom dwelling requiring major renovation

Additional moveable dwellings brought to site:

- 18 additional cabins were sourced and craned into place at the Park

Infrastructure:

- Internal roads, car parks, fire systems, gates, fencing and landscaping

Tiny homes:

- On 7 June 2023, the first of eight tiny homes arrived onsite



Points of Difference

- Fully furnished and self contained properties
- Flexible accommodation for different household composition
- Design of site supports good neighbour principles
- Pet friendly shaded enclosures
- Additionally onsite laundry and amenities
- 5 days a week department and support service onsite presence, with a strong focus on pathway planning
- Community gardens and BBQ
- Security features, designated car space next to accommodation, CCTV, gated entrance



Key learnings

- Establishing strong governance mechanism
- The importance of partnerships and effective communication with key stakeholders
- Taking an agile and evolutionary approach to the construction and development of the model
- Delivering a place-based response which involves the service system and local communities
- Co-located service delivery model and engagement of specialist services
- Ensuring a customer-focused, trauma-informed approach to service delivery
- Future focused design to enable site to expand and contract as required in a community recovery response
- Multi-use site, community recovery and homelessness
- A blueprint for future models

Outcomes



Any questions?