



Tropical Cyclone Marcus passed over Darwin on Saturday the 17th of March 2018. The category 2 cyclone brought with it strong wind gusts of 130km per hour. It caused major damage to thousands of trees which in turn caused infrastructure damage to houses, vehicles, fences, carports, sheds, footpaths etc. Around 430 powerlines were downed leaving some 26500 customers without power immediately after the cyclone. Fortunately there were no severe injuries.

The community, Defence Forces, Council and other government agencies did an incredible job responding to the disaster and getting the city up and running again.

Four months later most people in the community have moved on. At City of Darwin our teams are still working incredibly hard to restore our city to how it was pre-cyclone.

CYCLONE MARCUS RECOVERY UPDATE

PARKS

Where are we at today?

Council is continuing Cyclone Recovery works in our parks and green spaces. These works include arboreal (tree) work, irrigation repairs, stump removals and infrastructure repairs.

All of our parks have been fully assessed for tree and infrastructure damage and hazards.

A number of our parks have been restored to pre-cyclone condition.

Members of the public are advised that there is still damage to our parks and some park amenities are locked for safety reasons. On site signage has been installed at parks where significant hazards remain, reminding people to take care if entering these parks.

If you are planning to hold an event in a park it's a great idea to get a permit from council (free of charge) so we can let you know if any works are likely to be happening in the area.

Many playgrounds were damaged during the cyclone, and repairs, including full replacement in several cases, are underway. New equipment will meet current standards. We look forward to restoring our damaged playgrounds and will let people know suburb by suburb as works get underway.



CYCLONE MARCUS RECOVERY UPDATE

IRRIGATION AND DUST

As the dry season continues another impact of the cyclone has emerged. Areas that are usually green, even at this time of year, are dry and dusty. There are several reasons for this.

Uprooted trees cause turf to be destroyed and dirt is exposed. Machinery needed for cyclone related clean-up works may have damaged the surface too.

The irrigation system across our parks and open spaces which keeps Darwin looking green right through the dry season has also been damaged. This all means that there are more dry and dusty parks and ovals than usual. Some parks will have less mowing than usual to help keep dust down.



Irrigation repairs, focusing on high priority areas initially have begun, and will be ongoing.

In the interim water trucks are moving through the worst affected areas spraying water to keep the



STUMP REMOVAL

Thousands of trees were severely damaged or uprooted (heaved) during the cyclone.

While removal of the damaged and hazardous sections of the trees was a high priority the job of removing the stumps is a massive one.

Stumps will be removed progressively as the contractor works through the long list in the most efficient way possible, prioritising stumps that have created hazards (large holes, damage to footpaths and kerbs etc)



CYCLONE MARCUS RECOVERY UPDATE

TREE REPLANTING

Council is bringing together a Tree Re-establishment Advisory Committee.

The panel of experts will include nominated representatives from peak body organisations, and interested community members through a selection process. The panel will make recommendations to Council and the broader community on what tree species to replant (and not to plant!), where to plant, and how to properly care for the trees to re-establish a resilient tree population.

Replanting will not be a quick fix and is expected to take several planting (wet) seasons to complete.

We ask that the community does NOT plant trees in our parks and verges at this time until the advice from the Committee is received. We are looking forward to working with the community to plant trees in the future.

When will the recovery works be finished?

The majority of the clean-up is expected to be finished in 3-4 months - just before the wet season rains kick in. Playground equipment replacement and irrigation repairs will take longer.

Tree replanting will be ongoing.

HELP NEEDED!

The job is not over, and there are still cyclone related issues in the community, that have not been logged or reported.

If you do see anything that you believe is hazardous such as a tree 'hanger' (a loose limb ready to fall) or a badly damaged footpath or kerb, please report this to Council through darwin.nt.gov.au