

DISASTER DASHBOARD TO ALERT WALGETT SHIRE RESIDENTS OF EMERGENCIES

Walgett Shire Council has launched a new online portal to help residents stay safe and receive live updates on any threat to the community – from local COVID-19 outbreaks to power outages.

The Disaster Dashboard combines real-time information from a range of emergency services all in one place. It makes it easier than ever for residents to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

General Manager Mike Urquhart said "a string of recent disasters – severe bushfires followed by a pandemic and heavy flooding – has put many communities across Australia on high alert. Whatever is going on, we want our residents to hear about it fast and make sure they know what to do. With the Disaster Dashboard we can now achieve this. It's our new one-stop-site for the most accurate, most up-to-date information about every possible hazard in our area."

On the new dashboard, residents can track data on:

- COVID-19 cases, local restrictions and vaccination clinics
- Fires and floods
- Road and bridge conditions
- Water, power, gas and mobile network outages
- Shark sightings and beach conditions
- Air and water quality
- Storms and weather warnings

The dashboard also includes short and sharp guidance on how to prepare for emergencies and where to find support after disaster has struck.

The Regional Disaster Preparedness Pilot project, undertaken by Resilience NSW, to ensure local communities are better equipped to manage critical incidents. About 40 councils have already adopted the new dashboards.

Residents can visit their local Disaster Dashboard and bookmark the page at <u>www.walgett.nsw.gov.au</u>

Michael Urquhart General Manager