

Update on the Townsville District following the terrible flooding event.

The following is a general update on the impacts of the rather unusual and extensive rainfall that the Townsville District experienced in late January and early February when over 1 metre of rain fell in the city area, with up to 2 metres recorded in other areas of the town, all within a few days. Large parts of the city were flooded with excessive numbers of homes lost in this major event. Our local dam, which had not overflowed for the past 5 years had to have a massive release when it got to around 250% of its standard state, this unfortunately increased the damage to large areas including the Townsville club as they are located beside the River.

Whilst play was naturally impossible at all clubs during, and for a short time after the event, the Townsville Golf Club, situated adjacent to the Ross River experienced a huge amount of damage to the course and buildings. The club house and Pro Shop were badly damaged, club and member buggies (100+) were destroyed, and the new holes that had recently been rebuilt and partly grassed, totally lost. Estimates of the damage bill are around the \$10 million mark.

The club is aiming to have some of the old holes, 12 in total, back in play by the middle of March, however the new works, originally scheduled for play in April are not expected to be restored until the end of 2019.

Wonderfully Local clubs, who are fortunately back in play, are assisting Townsville members with special arrangements during this difficult time and Veterans events are being rescheduled to more appropriate dates as clubs recommence the season. Some loss of Veterans memberships may occur at Townsville as a large majority had personal motorised buggies which may deter some from playing golf. Hopefully this will be small in number.

Jim Baker
District Secretary