

**ENVIRONMENTAL LOSS - THE HIDDEN ASPECT
OF POST-NATURAL DISASTER PSYCHOSOCIAL DISTRESS**

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ABSTRACT

Loss is an inevitable consequence of the impact of a tropical cyclone on a community. This loss can be a mixture of both monetary and emotional loss. Some of this loss may be retrievable, other aspects will not be. But a substantial proportion of the perceived loss following a natural disaster will remain in the category of uncertain retrievability unless some clarification is received.

The area of environmental loss is within this category. Environmental loss can be defined as a change in the natural environment due to a disaster that are appraised negatively by an individual and may cause disruption to routine or self-identity maintaining behaviours and activities. How people cope with such a loss varies, and can range from withdrawal to active coping. An example of active coping is the programme to feed the Cassowaries.

In the input of legitimated clarification is essential to the maximization of positive coping styles following a natural disaster like Winifred. The discussion will centre on the role of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in encouraging positive coping styles in relation to environmental loss and the Authority's function of clarification in lessening its impact.