

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

November 2013

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the page, consisting of several overlapping, radiating lines in various shades of maroon and red, creating a sense of depth and movement.

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Major General Richard Wilson AO
Chairman
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Dear Major General Wilson

It is with pleasure that I present the November 2013 Monthly Report – the 33rd report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority).

The Authority was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* following the unprecedented natural disasters which struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11. The Authority is charged with managing and coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our State and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.

Following the widespread damage caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald in early 2013, the jurisdiction of the Authority was expanded by the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Amendment Bill 2013* to cover this and other disaster events which occurred in the 2013 disaster event period, provide the Authority with a stronger focus on community resilience and extend the term of the Authority until 30 June 2015.

The Authority continues to monitor the progress of reconstruction and provide the resourcing and support necessary to build the momentum of reconstruction and enhance the resilience of communities for potential disasters. Whilst maintaining focus on the entire program, the Authority's current priorities are on progressing the remaining program of works from the 2011 and 2012 disaster periods, fast-track the progress to reconstruction works from the recent 2013 events and assisting councils and State agencies close out their completed works for the 2010 disaster period.

The November report provides an update on the progress of the program of works managed by the Authority and is provided following completion of the Authority's September 2013 review of damages estimates. The review is undertaken on a regular basis and involved a complete review of the program of each local government authority (LGA) and State agency for works arising from disaster events managed by the Authority. Following completion of the review, the Authority's total program of works has been revised to \$13.96 billion.

As at 1 November 2013:

- an additional \$263 million in submissions have been received by the Authority since last month
- an additional \$398 million has been processed by the Authority since last month
- a cumulative value of \$9.71 billion of the \$13.96 billion works program has been reported to the Authority as being in progress or delivered by delivery agents as at 30 September 2013.

The November report also provides an update on the \$80 million jointly funded program for Betterment projects open to LGAs affected by the 2013 events. The Betterment fund was announced in February 2013 for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than their pre-disaster standard. To 1 November 2013, 140 projects with a Betterment component of more than \$38 million have been approved. The November report profiles a package of recently approved Betterment projects for Somerset Regional Council.

The report also provides an update on the progress of the five functional recovery groups established in February 2013 under the Queensland 2013 Flood Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan) in response to the damage impacts of Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

I commend the report to you and recommend its release to the Minister and the public pursuant to Section 41 of the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011*.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Newton
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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Section one:
Introduction



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Queensland has been struck by a series of unprecedented natural disasters in recent years. Between November 2010 and April 2011, extensive flooding caused by periods of extremely heavy rainfall, destruction caused by a number of storm cells including Cyclones Tasha, Anthony and Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi and subsequent monsoonal flooding, resulted in all of Queensland being declared as disaster affected.

On 21 February 2011 in response to the 2011 disaster events, the Queensland Government established the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority) under the *Queensland Reconstruction Act 2011*. The Authority's role was subsequently extended to cover historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland and, on 26 September 2012, the State Government announced the initial extension of the term of the Authority's operations to June 2014.

The Authority has since been given responsibility to administer Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) for the large scale natural disaster caused by Tropical Cyclone Oswald in late January 2013 and additional events which have occurred in the 2013 disaster event period. The *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Amendment Bill 2013* was passed on 14 February 2013 to expand the jurisdiction of the Authority to include these recent events, provide the Authority with a stronger focus on community resilience and extend the term of the Authority to 30 June 2015.

1.2 Purpose

The Authority's mission is **to reconnect, rebuild and improve Queensland communities and its economy.**

The Authority is charged with managing and coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our State and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.

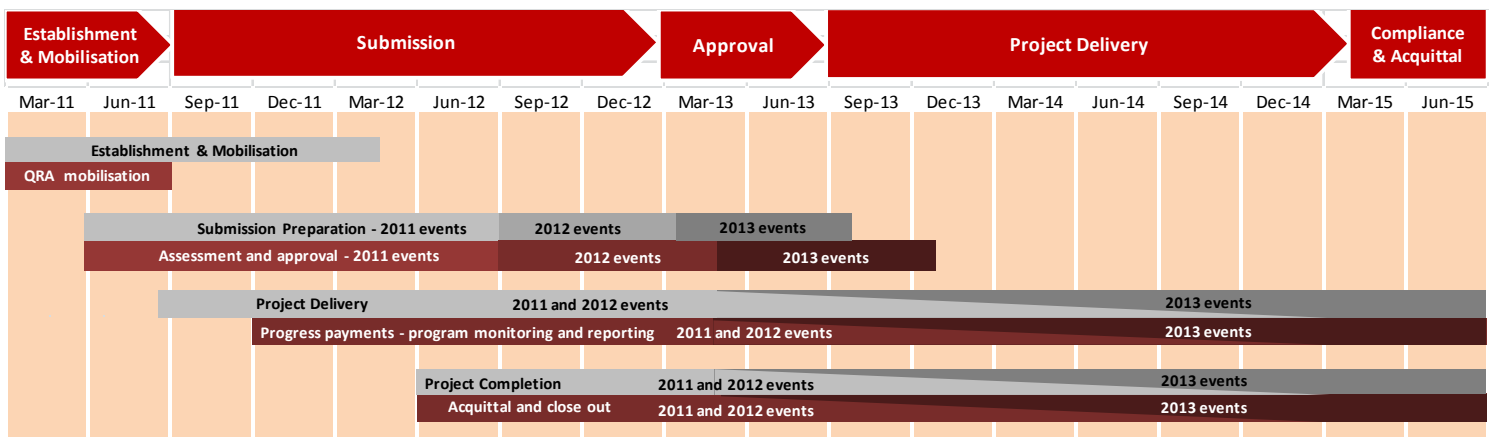
The Authority operates with reference to recovery and reconstruction plans established by the State in response to the 2011 disaster events and more recently following Tropical Cyclone Oswald. The Queensland 2013 Flood Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan), approved on 25 February 2013, provides strategic guidance for the coordination and management of recovery, reconstruction and community resilience activities undertaken across the State after Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

Five functional recovery groups have been established under the Recovery Plan to manage and coordinate recovery initiatives across impacted regions. The Authority provides support to, and reports on progress of the groups against their key tasks with decentralised responsibility for delivery across responsible agencies for each functional recovery group. The functional recovery groups follow from the lines of reconstruction established following the 2011 disaster events, the key tasks of which are now substantially complete.

1.3 Timing

The Authority's priorities are currently assisting councils and State agencies to progress their remaining program of works from the 2011 and 2012 disaster periods, with the bulk of the reconstruction work occurring prior to June 2014. Concurrently, the Authority is focused on accelerating the submission and application approval process for the recent 2013 events with a view to fast-tracking the 2013 program of works into project delivery phase as soon as practicable.

With the period to deliver works for the 2010 disaster period now complete (at 30 June 2013), the Authority is assisting delivery agents with the reporting of final expenditure and close out of the completed program of works for 2010 events.



Section two:
Disaster Assistance

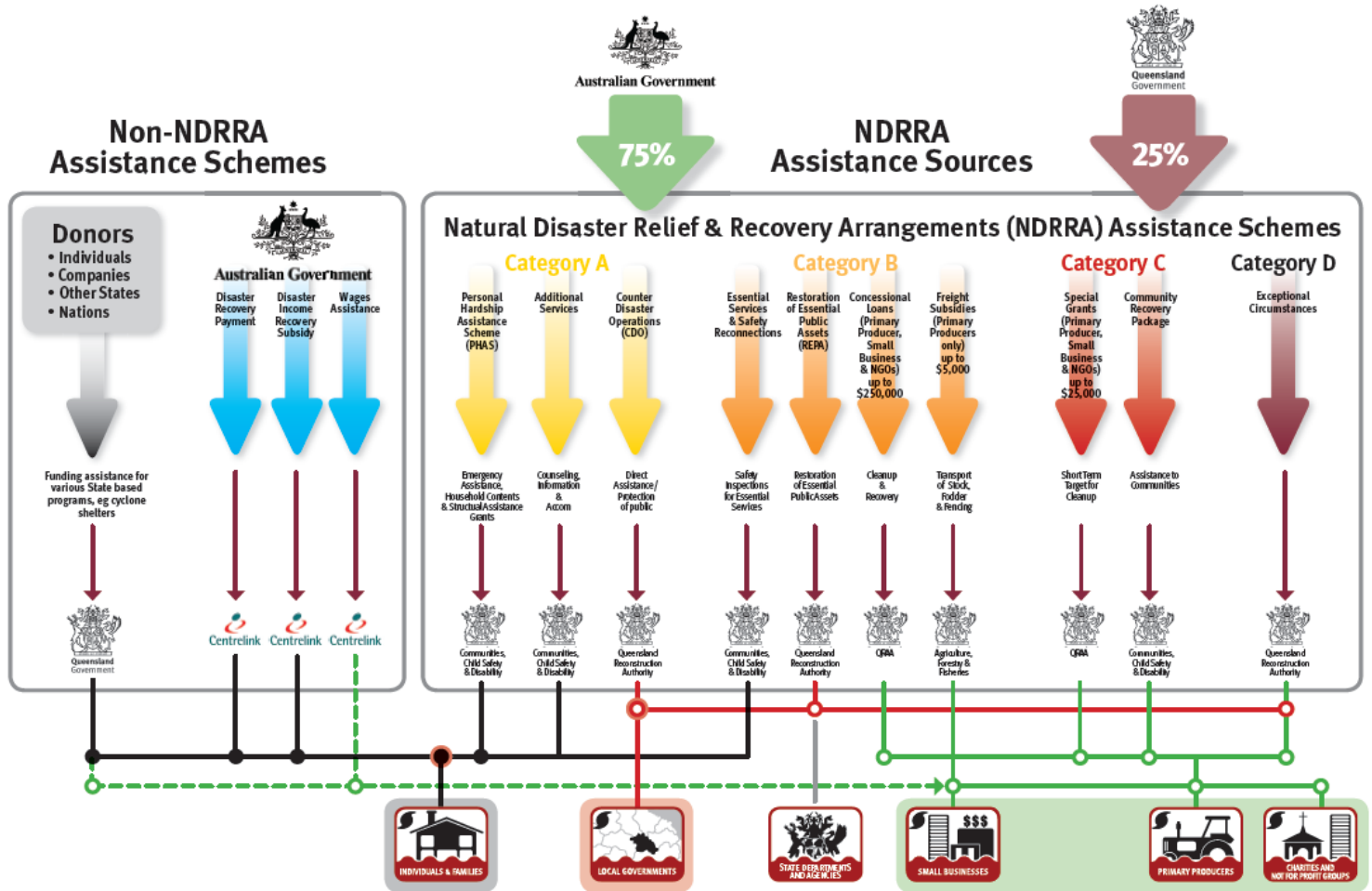


2.0 Disaster Assistance

2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework

The available Queensland Disaster Assistance schemes are separated between NDRRA (jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State governments) and Non-NDRRA funding schemes. The diagram below indicates the different elements of assistance available and how each element operates.

Figure 2.1.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework



Whilst elements of the assistance schemes are delivered by other State agencies, all of the NDRRA assistance sources (and elements of the non-NDRRA assistance schemes) are administered by the Authority for historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland.

Disaster events managed by the Authority

The list of the activated disaster events managed by the Authority are set out in **Section 3.1** and can also be found on www.disaster.qld.gov.au.

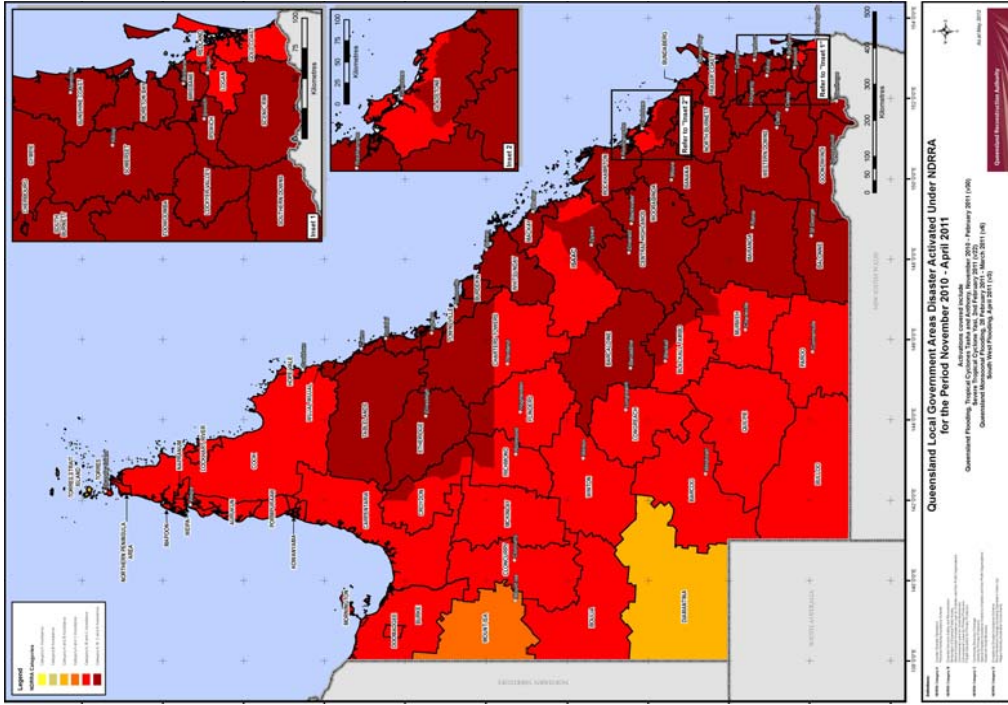
This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

- **2013 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2013**, including Tropical Cyclone Oswald and associated rainfall and flooding (January 2013)
- **2012 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2012**
- **2011 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2011**, including Tropical Cyclone Yasi and Queensland flooding (November 2010 to February 2011)
- **2009-2010 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred prior to 30 June 2010
- **Combined Program:** relates to all the activated disaster event programs managed by the Authority.

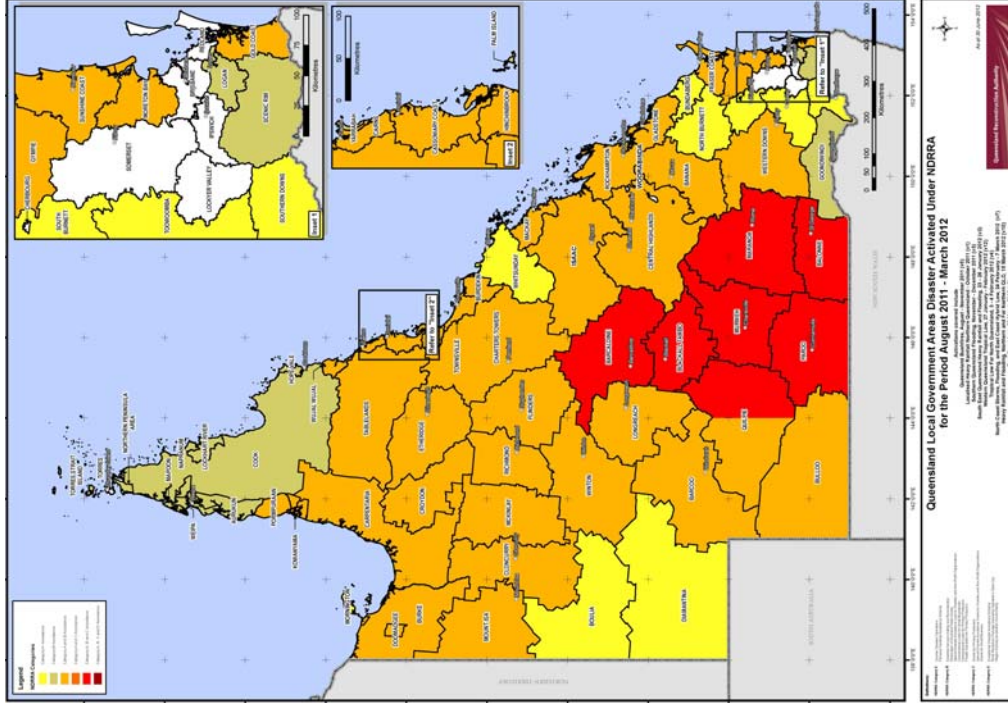
2.2 Disaster assistance by event period

The maps below show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for each event period managed by the Authority under the Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework.

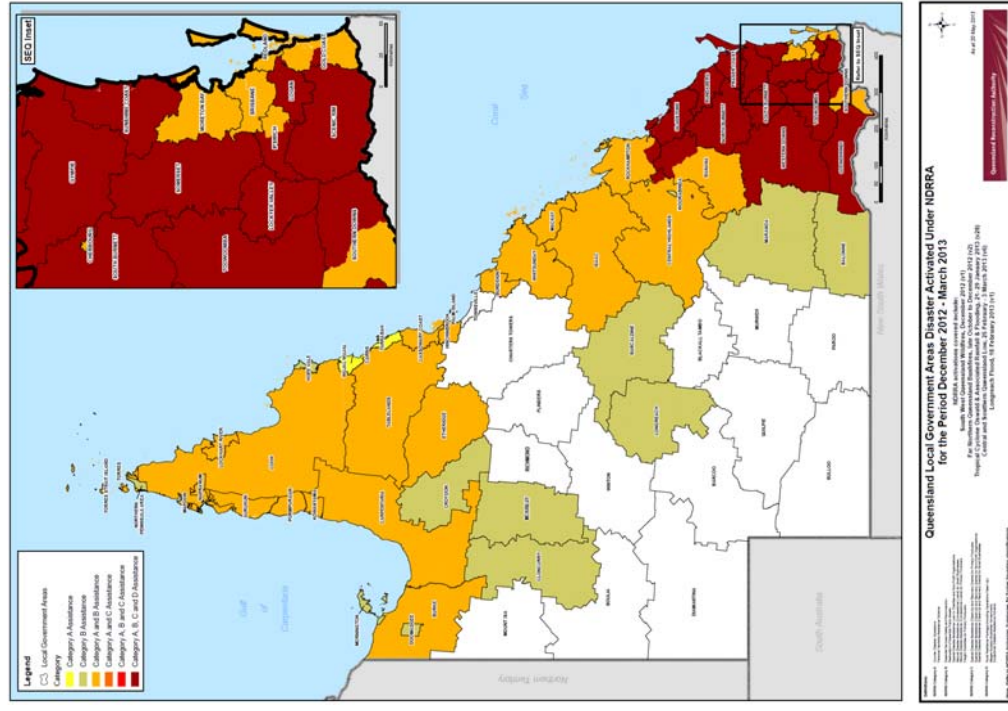
Map 1 - LGAs disaster activated under NDRRA for 2011 events



Map 2 - LGAs disaster activated under NDRRA for 2012 events



Map 3 - LGAs disaster activated under NDRRA for 2013 events



* Different funding periods exist for each Category type.

2.3 Additional assistance measures

The State Government in conjunction with the Commonwealth have activated a range of jointly-funded Category C, Category D and other relief measures to alleviate distress due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Oswald and the 2011 events. The measures are summarised below:

2.3.1 Betterment fund

On 8 February 2013, the Queensland Government signed the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) with the Commonwealth Government which recognised the need for a more streamlined process for the approval of Betterment funding. The Queensland Government announced a \$40 million commitment to Betterment funding which will match the Commonwealth Government contribution, resulting in the establishment of the \$80 million Betterment Fund.

Correspondence was received from the Commonwealth in August 2013 agreeing to the extension of the Betterment fund beyond its original coverage of LGAs declared for NDRRA assistance for Tropical Cyclone Oswald to also cover LGAs declared for the two additional disaster events that occurred after Oswald through to June 2013 (Longreach Flood (18 February 2013) and Central and Southern Queensland Low (25 February to 5 March 2013)). The Betterment fund is available for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than their pre-disaster standard. The intent of betterment is to increase the resilience of communities to natural disasters, while at the same time reducing future expenditure on asset restoration, reducing incidents, injuries and fatalities and improving asset utility during and after natural disasters.

Where a damaged asset is approved as a betterment project, the normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard will continue to be funded under Category B of NDRRA assistance and the incremental cost to 'better' the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard will be financed from the Betterment fund.

The status of the Betterment fund and profiles of recent approved Betterment projects is set out in Section 4.6 of this report.

2.3.2 Other assistance measures

Tropical Cyclone Oswald

- **Community Recovery Package - \$5 million** - Funding for community development officers in the hardest hit communities of Bundaberg and North Burnett, support for mental health services and a flexible fund that assists communities to implement engagement and development activities.
- **Clean Up and Recovery program - \$10 million** - Program to assist primary producers to clear debris and restore fencing in the worst affected areas; to maintain workers while income generating activities are reduced and to clear debris from watercourse that poses a hazard to downstream infrastructure and activities.
- **Industry Recovery Officers - \$1.5 million** - Placement of Industry Recovery Officers to assist business and primary producers recover from flooding.
- **Enhanced concessional loans and grants** - Loans of up to \$650,000 (with a grant component of up to \$50,000) are available to applicants that have suffered extreme damage such that the existing concessional loan and recovery grants under NDRRA category B and C are insufficient to support recovery.
- **Environmental Recovery program - \$10 million*** - Program to fund existing programs to conduct flood specific clean up and soil conservation work following the 2013 flooding.
- **Rural Financial Counselling Services - \$1.5 million*** - Provision of financial planning advice for rural businesses and primary producers to assist in the recovery of local economies following the disaster.

2011 events

- **Queensland Local Council Package - \$315 million** - Funding to help local councils repair utilities and infrastructure, and support their efforts in recovering from the floods and Cyclone Yasi. The package comprises two components: \$265 million to fast-track the repair of damaged infrastructure, including the Strengthening Grantham project, Brisbane ferry terminals and Riverwalk; and \$50 million to contribute to regional and remote councils employing people to perform important clean-up and repair work.
- **Cassowary Coast Support Package - \$15 million** - Funding to restore vital council infrastructure and restore natural vegetation and beach damage in the Cassowary Coast region. Specifically, the Support Package provides for the repair of Dunk Island Jetty, the repair of Clump Point Jetty and the restoration of Cardwell beach foreshore and its natural vegetation.
- **Exceptional Disaster Assistance Scheme** - Concessional interest loans of up to \$650,000, with grant component of up to \$50,000, to eligible businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations that suffered extreme damage.

In addition, the State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to an extended Day Labour Trial, which enables councils to deliver restoration works with their own workforce on condition that they provide evidence of savings in both time and cost.

* Non-NDRRA measures funded 50% by the State and 50% by the Commonwealth; Commonwealth share is being delivered directly through existing Commonwealth programs.

Section three: Framing the Challenge



3.0 Framing the Challenge

3.1 Events managed by the Authority

The Authority has responsibility to administer NDRRA relief measures for historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland.

The Authority currently manages and coordinates the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 18 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures since the Authority's establishment in February 2011 and the remaining program of works for an additional 16 disaster events which occurred prior to the Authority's establishment.

2013 events:

- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late October - December 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 21-29 January 2013 *
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013 #
- Central and Southern Queensland Low, 25 February - 5 March 2013 #

2012 events:

- Queensland Bushfires, August to October 2011
- Localised Heavy Rainfall Northern Queensland, October 2011 *
- Southern Queensland Flooding, November to December 2011 *
- South East Queensland Heavy Rainfall and flooding, 23- 26 January 2012 *
- Western Queensland Tropical Low, 27 January to February 2012 *
- Far Northern Queensland Tropical Low, 3-4 February 2012 *
- North Coast Queensland Storms and flooding and East Coast Hybrid Low, 24 February - 7 March 2012 *
- Northern and Far Northern Queensland Heavy Rainfall & flooding, 15 March 2012 *
- East Coast Low, 22 March 2012 *

2011 events:

- Queensland Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Tasha and Anthony, November 2010 to February 2011*
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on 2 February 2011*
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding Event, 8 February 2011*
- South West Flooding, April 2011*

2007-2010 natural disaster events managed by the Authority that have open submissions for damage:

- South East and North Coast Queensland East Coast Low, August 2007
- South West Queensland storms and flooding, 23-30 November 2007
- Central Western Queensland storms and flooding, 22-30 December 2007
- South East Queensland East Coast Low, 27 December 2007 - 7 January 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, January 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, February March 2008
- South West Queensland flooding, June 2008
- Queensland storms and associated flooding, 16-22 November 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding and Tropical Cyclone Charlotte and Ellie, January - February 2009
- South East Queensland Low, May 2009
- Queensland Bushfires, September – October 2009
- South West Flooding, 20 – 25 November 2009
- Northern, Central and South West Queensland Flooding, 22 December 2009 to 8 January 2010
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul, January to April 2010
- South West Queensland Low and Associated Flooding, September 2010
- 2010 South East Queensland Flooding, 9-12 October 2010.

* Events covered under the National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction (NPA) between the State and Commonwealth Government signed 8 February 2013 (NPA Events).

Pending agreement to extend the NPA to include two additional 2013 events - Longreach Floods, 18 February 2013 and Central and Southern Queensland Low, 25 February - 5 March 2013.

3.2 Queensland 2013 Flood Recovery Plan

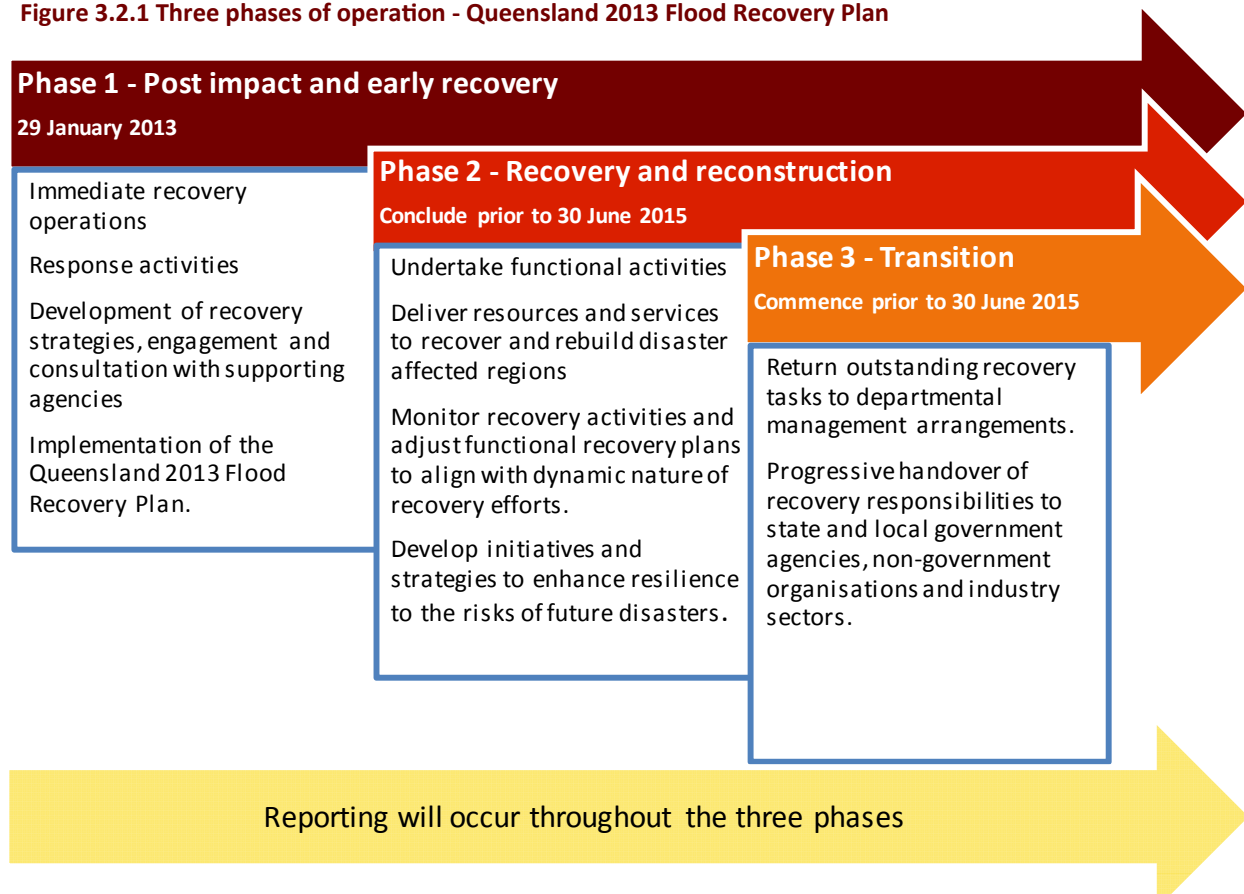
The Recovery Plan has been prepared to set the framework for the recovery from the flood and damage impacts of Tropical Cyclone Oswald. The aim of the plan is to assist affected communities to get back on their feet as quickly as possible while ensuring the effective and efficient employment of limited resources.

The Recovery Plan establishes the context for recovery at the State and local levels of government through setting the governance framework and providing strategic guidance for the coordination and management of recovery, reconstruction and community resilience activities of those areas impacted by Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

The Recovery Plan also sets the context for improved enhancement of resilience and aims to improve the State's ability to withstand, and bounce back from, future natural disaster events.

The plan coordinates the prioritisation and alignment of resources from multiple sources to support the broad range of recovery activities. These activities are being undertaken across three phases as set out in **Figure 3.2.1**.

Figure 3.2.1 Three phases of operation - Queensland 2013 Flood Recovery Plan



The Recovery Plan also establishes the structure for recovery activities from Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

Disaster Recovery Coordinators (DRC) have been appointed to coordinate disaster recovery efforts within the regions most impacted by Tropical Cyclone Oswald:

- Bundaberg/North Burnett Region - Kevin Guteridge appointed in October 2013 to replace Deputy Commissioner Brett Pointing APM
- Northern Queensland Region - Don Cousins
- Southern Queensland Region - Don Cousins appointed in October 2013 as an expansion of his role as DRC Northern Queensland Region to replace Bill Mellor.

The composition of the three regions is set out in **Appendix B**.

Functional recovery groups, led by relevant State agencies, have also been established to effectively manage and coordinate recovery initiatives across impacted regions. The roles and responsibilities of each functional recovery group, together with the key performance metrics used to measure the rate of recovery progress, are set out in the Recovery Plan and summarised in **Section 3.3**.

The Authority provides support to the DRCs and reports on progress of the functional recovery groups against their key tasks.

3.3 Functional Recovery Groups

The Recovery Plan provides a broad overview of each functional recovery group's roles and responsibilities and sets out the key performance metrics used to measure each group's progress.

An update on the progress of the functional recovery group against their key performance metrics is set out in this section of the report.

3.3.1 Human and social

The Human and Social functional recovery group coordinates the efficient and effective delivery of human and social recovery activities. These activities include the provision of financial assistance and personal support services for individuals, families and communities.

The status of the key metrics being monitored by the Human and Social Recovery Group in relation to the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Oswald has been reported by the group at 31 October 2013 as follows:

Human and social	Metric	Status
1. All Essential Household Contents Grant (EHCG) applications assessed and paid when eligible	Number of grant applications	4,625
	Number of grant applications assessed	4,625
	Number of grant applications assessed as payable and paid	3,540
2. All Structural Assistance Grant (SAG) applications assessed	Number of grant applications	726
	Number of grant applications under assessment or awaiting additional information	39
	Number of grant applications assessed as payable and paid	352
3. All Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme Grant (ESSRSG) applications paid when eligible	Number of grant applications	416
	Number of grant applications under assessment or awaiting additional information	39
	Number of grant applications assessed as payable	274
4. Communities are supported by additional 'counselling, other' services	Number of grants paid	235
	Number of new clients receiving support from NDRRA funded services	33
	Number of hours of service provision by NDRRA funded services	523
5. All displaced households seeking housing assistance are assessed for housing need and referred to appropriate housing services.	Number of displaced households seeking housing assistance	652
	Number of households assisted	652
	Number of applications under assessment	0

Personal Hardship Assistance Schemes (PHAS)

PHAS comprises EHCG, SAG and ESSRG.

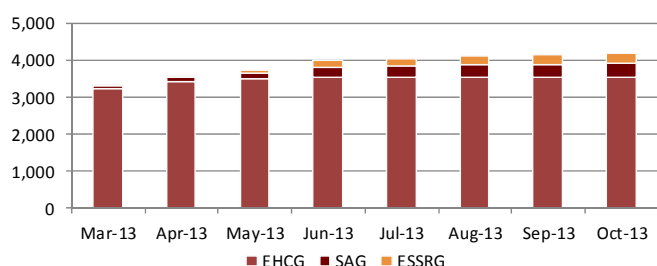
At 31 October 2013, 5,767 applications have been received across the three categories of PHAS. Of these:

- 4,166 have been assessed as payable, an increase of 43 approvals during the month—refer **Figure 3.3.1.1**
- 78 are under assessment or unable to be processed until supporting documentation is received from the applicant.

All EHCG applications have now been assessed and paid, where eligible. Applicants have until 30 June 2015 to apply for a grant, however the majority have now been received.

The process for finalising SAG and ESSRG grants requires site inspection by community recovery officers or qualified tradespeople prior to payment.

Figure 3.3.1.1 Number of PHAS applications assessed as payable



Counselling and other services

The Personal Support and Community Development programs, part of the \$5 million Community Recovery Package, commenced in July 2013. North Burnett and Bundaberg Regional Councils have community development officers in place and UnitingCare Community has commenced service delivery, with 33 clients seen and 523 hours of service provided in the September/October reporting period.

At 31 October, no provider has been approved for provision of mental health services, a NDRRA Category C initiative.

Displaced households

Housing service centres have now returned to normal business activities following completion of this recovery initiative.

As part of the initiative, 652 displaced households were provided with housing assistance, of which 280 households were assisted into temporary accommodation and the remaining 372 requests were met through other means (alternate housing solution found, returned to own home, insurance company assisting). No requests are outstanding.

(Source: DLGCR at 31 October 2013)

3.3.2 Economic

The Economic recovery group coordinates the efficient and effective planning and implementation of economic recovery activities. These activities include advice on the economic impacts of current disaster events and the group also provides information on the needs of local government and industry in responding to the events and getting the economy back to full production.

The status of the key metrics being monitored by the Economic Recovery Group in relation to the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Oswald has been reported by the group at 31 October 2013 as follows:

Economic	Metric	Status
1. Coal exports (Coal Export Tonnage)	Data is sourced from the monthly Queensland Coal Transport Report. This report provides an overview of Queensland coal exports and coal transport system performance.	Queensland coal export for the 3 months to September 2013 totalled 50.9Mt, an increase of 26.1% over the same period in 2012. To 30 June 2013, 2012-13 coal exports totalled 180.2Mt, a 9% increase on the same period in 2011-12. This is a state-wide measure and so can only be used as a broad indicator of overall health of the economy, rather than reflecting the recovery of specific regional industries. However, the current figures can be considered to represent a solid recovery.
2. NDRRA Financial assistance	Categories and amount of funding approved	Range of Category C and Category D measures activated to alleviate distress due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Oswald - see Section 2.3 . Cat B loan approvals: - \$3.38M to 38 primary producers - \$0.41M to 6 small business Cat C grant approvals: - \$9.81M to 841 small businesses - \$46.59M to 3,835 primary producers - \$1.70M to 133 non-profit organisations Cat D loan-grant approvals: - \$11.51M to 39 primary producers - \$2.27M to 4 businesses - \$1.66M to 4 small businesses. See Figure 3.3.2.1

Economic Recovery Initiatives

The Local Government Traineeship Strategy, being delivered by the Local Government Association of Queensland, is underway with 25 affected councils allocated 120 traineeship positions. To date, 34 trainees are undertaking the program across 13 councils, an increase of 14 trainees during October.

A draft Economic Impact Assessment Report of the floods on the Bundaberg and North Burnett regions was submitted to the councils in October 2013.

In October, Southern Downs Regional Council implemented a recommendation from the Rating Advisory Group to adopt a concession period for all primary producers and small businesses affected by the recent flooding event. The concession was offered to eligible ratepayers to defer payment of rates and charges for up to a period of 180 days after the issue date, allowing them to still receive the 10% discount on payment in full. To be eligible for concession, the property owner must have applied for QRAA relief through grant or low concessional loan.

Mentoring for Recovery workshops are now complete. Workshops were held in Gympie, Bundaberg, Fraser Coast, North Burnett, Mundubbera and Gayndah, addressing issues with insurance, effects on community confidence, lack of visitors, road work delays and freight deliveries. Feedback from businesses participating was positive, with many implementing their new strategies on marketing and business planning.

Stage three of dredging at the Bundaberg Port in the inner reach, departure channel and swing basin commenced on 14 October and is expected to continue until December 2013. The completion of Stage two dredging has allowed larger bulk haulage vessels to recommence direct export of sugar from the Port of Bundaberg.

(Source: DLGCRR at 31 October 2013)

Primary producers, rural and small businesses

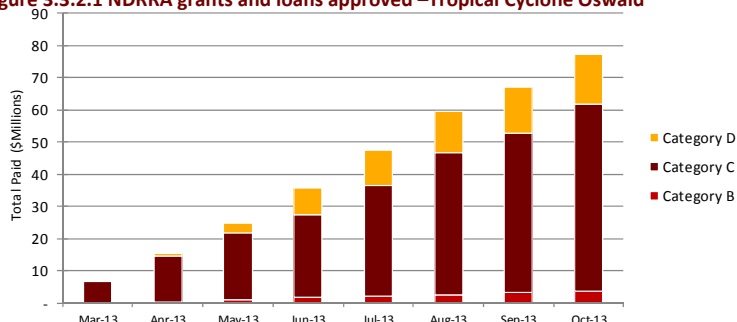
Under NDRRA Category D measures, 17 full-time Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) are operating as the primary point of contact for farmers and small businesses to access government assistance programs and services.

NDRRA Category B, C and D grants and loans worth \$77.3 million have been provided to 3912 primary producers, 855 business and small businesses and 133 non-profit organisations. Of this, \$10.1 million was paid in October to 339 applicants. Application dates for these loans and grants has been extended to 29 November 2013. Refer **Figure 3.3.2.1**.

As at 31 October 2013, year to date spend for on-farm productivity and environmental recovery contracts has been \$5.7 million and \$2.9 million respectively, including:

- advice and assistance on soil conservation to 154 properties
- weed control carried out on 148ha and debris removed from 52.3ha in Burnett and Bundaberg
- 3.2 km of stream bank protected from stock and 1874 kg of debris removed from 11.2 ha of riparian areas in Darling Downs
- 2.6 ha of farmland protected from soil erosion and 1.2 km of stream bank protected from stock in Lockyer and Fassifern.

Figure 3.3.2.1 NDRRA grants and loans approved – Tropical Cyclone Oswald



3.3.3 Environment

The Environment recovery group coordinates the efficient and effective planning and implementation of environment recovery activities. These activities include advice on the measures required to achieve environmental recovery and to monitor and provide advice on current and potential environmental and cultural heritage issues. It also facilitates information exchange and maximises efficient allocation of resources towards recovery. A key focus is to progress strategies to reduce future impacts on the natural environment, in both urban and rural landscapes, focussing on long term resilience and sustainability.

The status of the key metrics being monitored by the Environment Recovery Group in relation to the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Oswald has been reported by the group at 31 October 2013 as follows:

Environment	Metric	Status
1. National parks	National parks affected by this event to re-open for conservation management	266 (45%) affected 266 (100%) recovered or partially opened
2. Sewage treatment and water supply	Sewage treatment plants (STP) and water treatment plants (WTP) affected by this event return to compliance with their relevant environmental authorities	Recovery complete 122 affected 122 recovered
3. Mining operations	Mining operations affected by this event return to compliance with their relevant environmental authorities.	Recovery complete 35 have conducted mine water releases 35 have returned to compliance*

* returned to compliance with their relevant environmental authority regarding water releases.

1. National parks

266 (45%) of Queensland's national parks, conservation parks, state forests and resource reserves have been affected by the Tropical Cyclone Oswald event. Of these, 124 were subject to closure.

The current estimation of damage costs to national parks is \$6.275 million.

Of the 266 protected areas affected by the event, 258 (97%) have been recovered and the remaining eight (3%) protected areas have been partially opened. No parks remain closed or inaccessible at 31 October 2013. **Figure 3.3.3.1**

During October 2013, Glen Rock State Forest in the Lockyer Valley was partially reopened following construction of a temporary diversion around flood damaged sections of the public access road. Although repairs had been completed, the park had previously been restricted from reopening by local road closures. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff are continuing to liaise with council officers as to proposed timeframes for completion of permanent access road repairs.



Above: Images of Glen Rock State Forest, partially reopened during October 2013 following damage (courtesy Department of National Parks, Racing, Sports and Recreation)

2. Sewage treatment and water supply

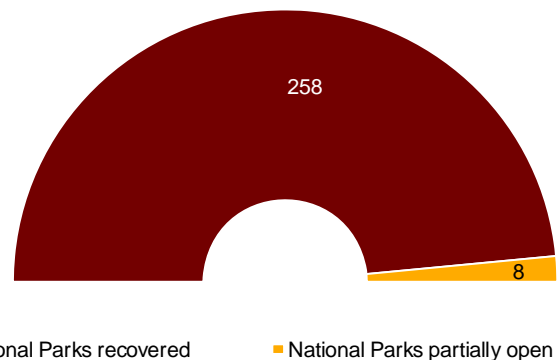
All 122 sewage treatment plants, water treatment plants and sewage pump stations affected by the Tropical Cyclone Oswald event have now been recovered.

3. Mining operations

35 Queensland mines have conducted mine water releases as a result of the Tropical Cyclone Oswald event, comprising 28 of the 45 coal mines in the Fitzroy Basin, one mine in the Burdekin and six mines in southern Queensland.

All mining operations have reverted back to operating under their environmental authorities.

Figure 3.3.3.1 Affected national parks



(Source: DLGCRR at 31 October 2013)

3.3.4 Building

The Building recovery group coordinates the efficient and effective information exchange, issues identification and resolution between government agencies, building industry and insurance providers to ensure the efficient and prioritised use of available resources.

The status of the key metrics being monitored by the Building Recovery Group in relation to the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Oswald has been reported by the group at 31 October 2013 as follows:

Building	Metric	Status
1. Provision of immediate and longer-term temporary accommodation	Timely procurement of adequate numbers of accommodation units	On track see below
	Number of displaced households seeking housing assistance	On track see below
	Number of households assisted into temporary accommodation	On track see below
2. Provision of assistance and advice to building client agencies to support the repair and restoration of State public buildings	Number of significantly affected State public buildings and extent of damage ¹	99
	Number of significantly affected State public buildings repaired/restored to service ²	99
	Significantly affected State public buildings with repairs in progress	5
3. Provision of building advice and information to support the community in its recovery	Building Services Authority (BSA) website updated with factsheets relevant to natural disaster recovery	On track see below
	Regular status updates by Industry Associations to Building Recovery Group (BRG) Sub Committee	Complete. No further activity required
4. Provision of advice to the recovery supply chain including contractors, subcontractors and material suppliers	Regular status updates by Industry Associations to BRG Sub Committee	Complete. No further activity required
5. Participation in future planning forums and discussion panels	Regular status updates by Industry Associations to BRG Sub Committee	Complete. No further activity required

¹ Significantly affected is defined as water 100mm over the floor level or serious structural damage and loss to related assets.

² Data provided refers to significantly affected public buildings which include schools and early childhood centres; ambulance, police and fire stations; hospitals; government employee accommodation and social housing.

Provision of immediate and longer-term temporary accommodation

As set out in Section 3.3.1, 652 displaced households were provided with housing assistance. Housing service centres have now returned to normal business activities following completion of this recovery initiative.

Immediate accommodation provided consisted of two fully serviced camps (340 beds) established in January 2013. Both camps were closed by 13 March 2013.

Longer term temporary accommodation (approximately 6 to 12 months) was established in the first weeks of the flood event in Bundaberg (77 beds), Mundubbera (58 beds) and Gayndah (22 beds). All residents temporarily housed at Bundaberg have now been rehoused and modular units removed.

All households in temporary housing in North Burnett (Mundubbera and Gayndah) have an exit strategy in place, which may include returning to a private home, returning to private rentals, or working with RentConnect to find rental accommodation.

Two units were removed from the Riverview Caravan Park (Gayndah) during October leaving seven households in relocatable units in the North Burnett (five in Mundubbera and two in Gayndah).

(Source: DLGCRR at 31 October 2013)

Provision of assistance and advice to building client agencies

There were 99 State public buildings significantly affected by Tropical Cyclone Oswald and all were restored to service (are operational or operating from temporary accommodation) by March 2013.

Five remaining public buildings, all Queensland Health, continue to have repairs in progress or are awaiting repair.

Provision of building and other advice to the community and recovery supply chain

The BRG Sub-Committee has been stood down following substantial completion of its key tasks. Activities of the BSA have largely returned to business as usual with requests for information, guidance or support now channelled to relevant staff members within BSA for action.

The Community Rebuild Project, which assists vulnerable residents in the Bundaberg/North Burnett region to repair their flood damaged homes to a safe and habitable state, has finalised the rebuild of 20 clients in the Bundaberg region, and one household in the North Burnett (13 householders completed in September). Approximately 80 vulnerable households were identified at the commencement of the program in August 2013 which has now increased to around 95.

3.3.5 Roads and transport

The Roads and Transport recovery group coordinates the efficient and effective delivery of road and transport recovery activities. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) is responsible for delivering the state-controlled roads and transport response, recovery and reconstruction and is engaging directly with industry and the community on the reconstruction phases following the natural disaster.

The status of the key metrics being monitored by the Roads and Transport Recovery Group in relation to the recovery from the events of early 2013 has been reported by the group at 29 October 2013 as follows:

Roads and Transport	Metric	Status
1. Damaged state-controlled roads to be reconstructed (kms)	Total length of damaged roads (kms)	620 km
	Total length of damaged roads reconstructed (kms)	35 km
	Total length of damaged roads under reconstruction (kms)	37 km
2. Kms of rail line Impacted/damaged rail line	Total length of impacted/damaged lines (kms & %)	3,100 kms (43%)
	Total length of impacted/damaged rail line recovered (kms)	Recovery complete 3,100 kms

1. Damaged State controlled roads

The status of DTMR's recovery and reconstruction program (inclusive of 2010 to 2013 event works) is discussed in further detail in **Section 5.2 Progress of State-controlled roads and highways**.

DTMR has completed its road recovery phase, clearing, repairing and reopening 5,544 km of state controlled roads affected by the three natural disaster events of early 2013.

Under DTMR's reconstruction program, reconstruction of 35km of roads damaged by Tropical Cyclone Oswald has been completed and an additional 37km is under construction - refer **Figure 3.3.5.1**.

During September DTMR focussed on getting priority 2013 works to market and continuing to deliver works already in progress. A road structure repair and repairs at a location requiring earthworks were also completed. DTMR also progressed the procurement of works arising from the 2013 events. \$80 million of works are in delivery, \$49 million are nearing contract award and \$281 million of contracts are out to tender.

Key reconstruction work projects completed and underway are set out opposite.

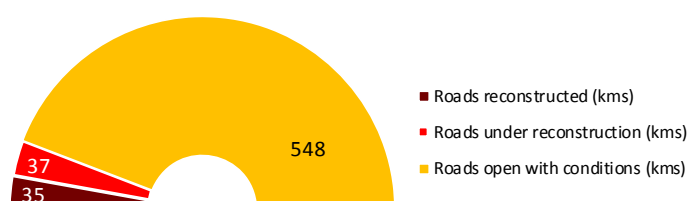
Key reconstruction works complete

- **Tallon Bridge** on the Isis Highway in Bundaberg was fully reconstructed within three weeks of the flooding event and access restored for all traffic.
- **Neerkol Creek Bridge** 30 km west of Rockhampton on the Capricorn Highway was reopened within days of the event.

Key reconstruction works underway

- **Burnett Highway, Mt Morgan Range**—reconstruction works following 35 cut/fill slips started in May 2013 and NDRRA and complementary works are scheduled for completion in April 2014, weather permitting.
- **Mt Sylvia Road, Lockyer Valley**—reconstruction works commenced in July 2013 and are scheduled for completion by July 2014, weather permitting. Traffic has been moved onto sidetracks and construction of permanent floodways is underway.
- **Warrego Highway, Jondaryan to Dalby**—pavement testing is complete and detailed designs are being progressed following pavement failures as a result of the 2013 events. Detailed design of works is due to be complete by 30 November 2013 and construction complete by December 2014, weather permitting.
- **Burnett Highway, Ban Ban Springs to Monto**—interim recovery works have returned the full road to normal operating conditions. Designs are currently being completed ahead of reconstruction work scheduled in early 2014.
- **Bruce Highway, Maryborough to Gin Gin**—recovery works have returned the full road to normal operating conditions. Pavement works are progressing and a submission being finalised for works on the embankment slip under the Tim Fischer bridge.

Figure 3.3.5.1 Roads reconstruction program—Tropical Cyclone Oswald event



(Source: DLGCR at 31 October 2013)

Section four:

Program Status



4.0 Program Status

4.1 Recent developments

Since the last report, there have been no additional disaster event activations declared for NDRRA financial assistance.

With a deadline of 30 June 2013 for delivery agents to incur NDRRA-eligible expenditure on works arising from the 2010 disaster period, the Authority was active in the period leading up to this date assisting delivery agents with residual 2010 works complete their programs. With this period now passed, delivery agents are focused on delivery of the remaining program of works.

Since the last report, the Authority has completed its regular review of damage estimates, which involved a complete review of the program of each LGA and State agency for works arising from disaster events managed by the Authority. Further details are provided in Section 4.2 below.

4.2 Combined program status

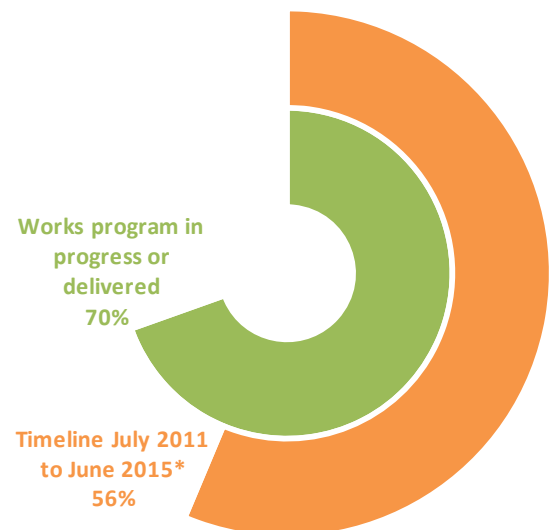
Following completion of the Authority's regular quarterly review process at September 2013, the program of works for all events actively managed by the Authority (2009 to 2013) has been revised from \$14.01 billion to \$13.96 billion.

The estimated cost of the damage from the 2013 events is more than \$2.4 billion and the cost of the 2011 and 2012 events are estimated to be \$6.9 billion and \$1.9 billion respectively. Ahead of reporting of final expenditure and close out of the relevant programs, the final cost of works for the 2009 and 2010 events managed by the Authority is estimated to be \$2.7 billion.

Since the last report, the combined program of works for all events managed by the Authority has progressed as follows:

- a cumulative value of \$15.57 billion in submissions have been received by the Authority to 1 November 2013, representing an increase of \$263 million since last month
- a cumulative total of \$13.02 billion has been processed by the Authority to 1 November 2013 representing an increase of \$398 million since last month
- a cumulative value of \$9.71 billion of the \$13.96 billion works program has been reported to the Authority as being in progress or delivered by delivery agents as at 30 September 2013
- funding acquitted for individuals, small business, primary producers and non-profit organisations amounts to \$513.8 million.

Figure 4.2.1 Combined program progress



4.3 Looking forward

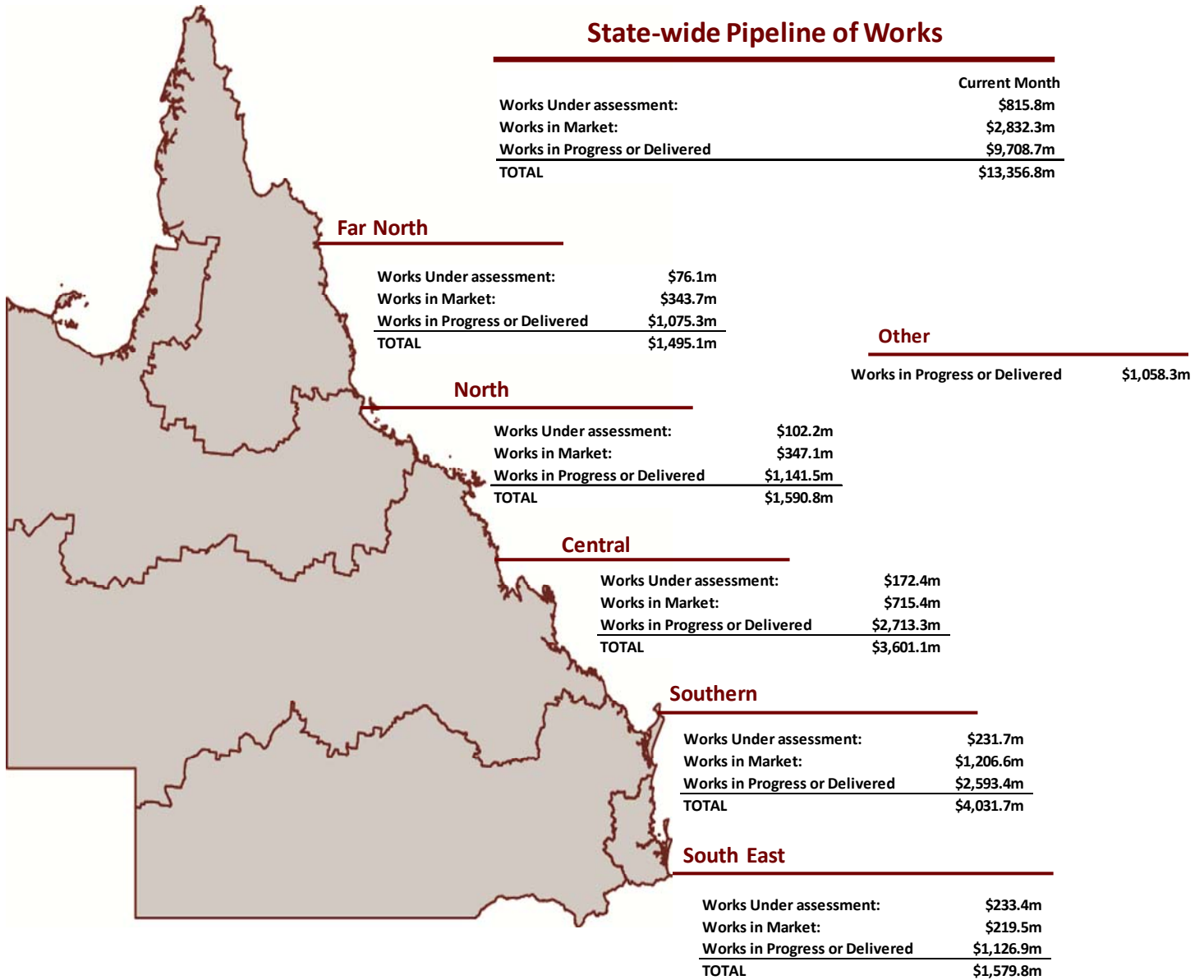
The Authority's priorities are focused on assisting councils and State agencies to progress their remaining program of works from the 2011 and 2012 disaster periods, with the bulk of the reconstruction work occurring prior to June 2014. Concurrently, the Authority is focused on accelerating the submission and application approval process for the recent 2013 events with a view to fast-tracking the 2013 program of works into project delivery phase as soon as practicable.

As the period to deliver works for the 2010 disaster period concluded on 30 June 2013, the Authority is assisting delivery agents with the reporting of final expenditure and close out of the completed program of works for 2010 events.

* Proportion of allowable time passed for delivery of total program since 1 July 2011 (following Authority's establishment) to data reporting date

4.4 State-wide pipeline of works

The Pipeline of works for all events actively managed by the Authority (2009 to 2013) has an estimated program value of \$13.96 billion, the status of which is set out below.



Note:

1. Works Under Assessment and Works in Market represents data as at 30 September 2013 (DTMR) and 1 November 2013 (LGAs and Other). Works in Progress or Delivered represents spend by delivery agents to 30 September 2013 as reported to the Authority at 1 November 2013. Additional works have been conducted but are yet to be reported to the Authority
2. Other encompasses SDAs other than DTMR as well as the 2011 and 2013 Other Assistance.

Pipeline of Works Definitions

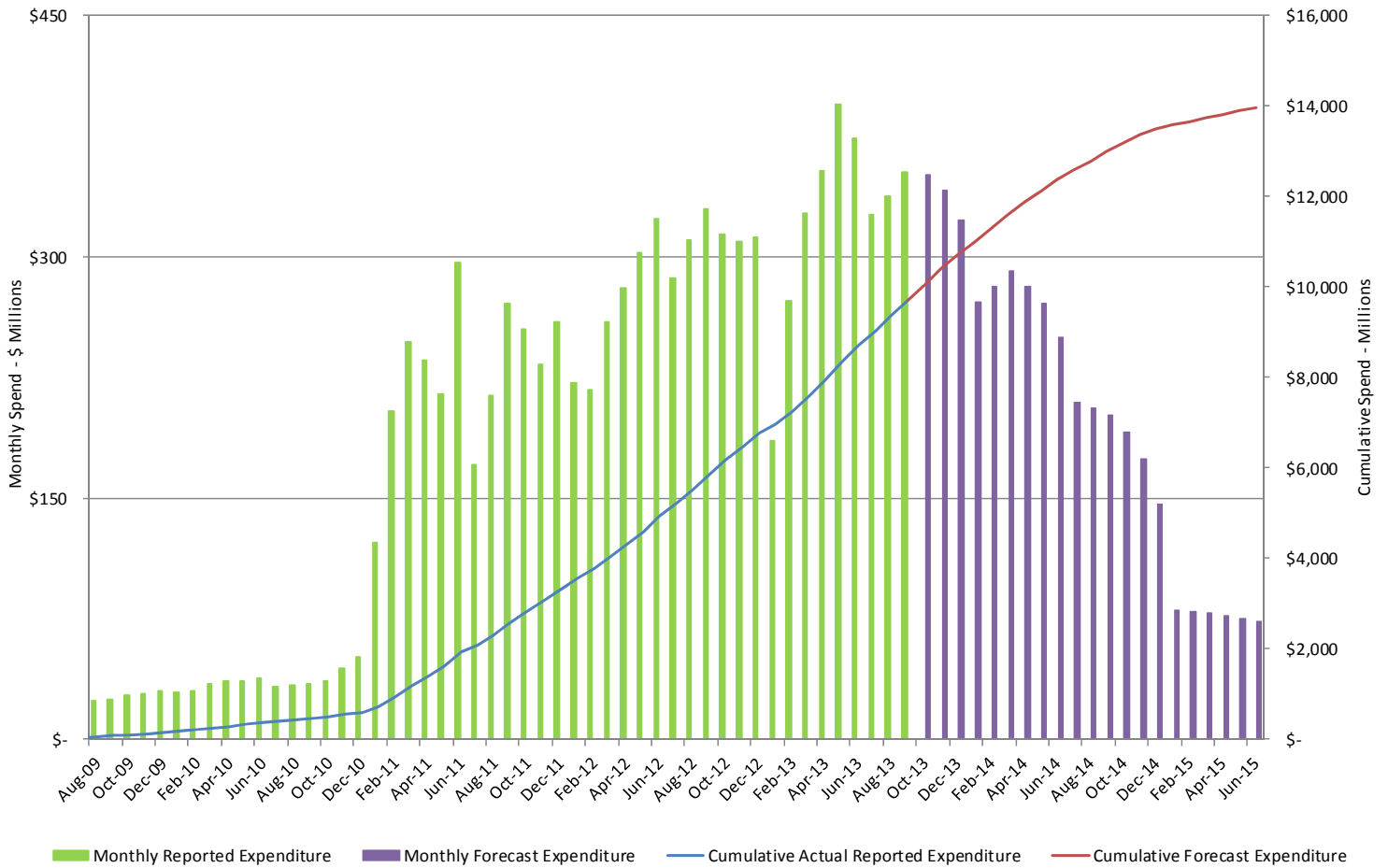
Stage	Description
Works under Assessment	Applications for packages which are currently under assessment by the Authority or are awaiting additional information from the applicant.
Works In Market	Estimate of spend remaining on works in progress and packages which have been approved by the Authority and are in the tender or contract process.
Works in Progress or Delivered	Expenditure as reported to the Authority on packages in progress or delivered.

Source: DTMR at 30 September 2013; and the Authority at 1 November 2013

4.5 Program of works expenditure

The figures below represents the monthly reported expenditure and estimated costs on a combined basis for all events managed by the Authority.

Figure 4.5.1 Combined Program of Works—monthly expenditure



Source: the Authority - cumulative expenditure by delivery agents to 30 September 2013 as reported to the Authority at 1 November 2013; and program estimates per 30 September 2013 NDRRA Review

4.6 Betterment fund status

The \$80 million Betterment fund is a Category D relief measure available to LGAs that have been declared for NDRRA assistance for the flood, storm and cyclone disaster events that occurred in Queensland in early 2013 for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than their pre-disaster standard.

Status

The Betterment Fund was announced in February 2013 following Tropical Cyclone Oswald which caused damage to many of the assets which had been repeatedly damaged and restored from earlier disaster events. Correspondence was received from the Commonwealth in August 2013 agreeing to an extension of the Betterment fund to also cover LGAs declared for the two additional disaster events that occurred after Oswald through to June 2013 - Longreach Flood (18 February 2013) and Central and Southern Queensland Low (25 February to 5 March 2013).

Expressions of Interest (EOI) have been received by the Authority from 48 councils with approximately \$1 billion worth of Betterment projects to improve the resilience of infrastructure to natural disasters. Under the Betterment Framework, in addition to the normal NDRRA submission assessment process, the Authority is considering the financial and non-financial benefits of the betterment proposal such as possible prior damage, loss of availability and its impact on economic or social factors of the community.

Approvals

As at 31 October 2013, 140 projects with a Betterment component have been approved. These projects have an estimated total cost of more than \$85 million, which includes \$38.6 million in Betterment funding and Council contributions of \$5.9 million.

Of these, 73 projects with a Betterment Fund component of \$14.6 million were approved in October 2013 including:

- 10 projects for Bundaberg Regional Council, including Heales Road, Miara Road, Waterloo Road, Coonarr Road, Kendalls Flat Levee and Kendalls Flat Weir
- Phillips Camp Road and Rifle Range Road, Burdekin Shire Council
- 10 projects for Central Highlands Regional Council, including Brolga Gully Road, Conomarra Road and Wyuna Road
- Oak Park Road, Etheridge Shire Council
- Blackmans Gap Road, Gladstone Regional Council
- Chambers Flat Road, Logan City Council
- Pringles Road, Kobble Creek, Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Kariboe Road and Boondooma Road, North Burnett Regional Council
- 18 projects to make Rockhampton Regional Council's road network more resilient, including works to Joskeleigh Road, Old Byfield Road, Hoys Road and Wild Road
- Villis Bridge and Biddaddaba Creek Road, Scenic Rim Regional Council
- 14 projects for Somerset Regional Council, including a range of betterment projects to make bridges, crossing and floodways more flood immune and resilient across the whole of the regional road network
- seven projects for South Burnett Regional Council – Silverleaf Road, Aerodrome Road, Kumbia Road, Jerrards Road, Hivesville Road, Ironpot Road and Wattlecamp Road
- Sutties Gap Road, Tablelands Regional Council
- Pelican Back Road, Roche Creek Road and Clifford Road, Kangaroo Creek, Western Downs Regional Council.

A profile of a package of Somerset Regional Council Betterment projects is provided over the page.

Source: the Authority at 31 October 2013



Above: damage to the floodway of Upper Ulam Road, Rockhampton Regional Council



Above: undermining of concrete pavement slab and aprons - Conomarra Road, Central Highlands



Above: landslide damage to Blackmans Gap Road, Gladstone Regional Council

4.6 Betterment fund status (continued)

Feature betterment project: Somerset Regional Council road network package

A range of proposals from Somerset Regional Council has recently been approved for betterment works to bridges, crossing and floodways on nine roads that are regularly and severely impacted by heavy rainfall and flooding to increase flood immunity and resilience across the whole of the regional road network.

The package of projects cover Burtons Bridge (Summerville Road East, Borallon); Savages Crossing (Banks Creek Road, Fernvale); Bowdon Crossing (Esk-Crows Nest Road, Eskdale); Rocky Gully Road, Coominya; Lake Manchester Road, Lake Manchester; Ted Skinner Crossing (Esk-Crows Nest Road); George Bell Crossing (Ivory Creek Road); Cressbrook-Caboonbah Road, Braemore; and Seftons Crossing (Cressbrook-Caboonbah Road).

The floodways sustained damage in 2013 and during previous flood events with the closure of each of these roads causing isolation and hardship for local communities and disruption to farmers, emergency services and school children. In 2013, high velocity water flows caused scouring, gravel washout and pavement deformation to the roads with damage estimated at over \$3 million. The total cost of repairs from 2011-13 events across the nine roads is estimated at more than \$7 million.

Council's betterment proposals including reconstructing or replacing existing bridges and causeways, installing culverts, and sealing approaches to provide a more flood resilient network of roads and floodways for the community. The works will also improve safe access for emergency services in the event of a disaster, provide safer evacuation routes for local residents should the need arise and improve access and utility of roads for the community to schools, workplaces, shops and services.

The betterment projects are also expected to reduce future restoration costs associated with flood damage and minimise financial losses for primary producers and other industry as well as contributing to the overall improved functionality of the Somerset regional road network.

The total cost of the nine projects is estimated at \$4.8 million with \$1.3 million provided through the Betterment Fund, a joint State and Commonwealth initiative. Council is also making a contribution to this project.



Above: Flood damage to Somerset Regional Council road network— Burtons Bridge (left); Savages Crossing (centre); and Bowdens Crossing (right)



Above: Flood damage to Somerset Regional Council road network— Lake Manchester Road (left); Ted Skinner Crossing (centre); and George Bell Crossing (right)

4.7 Iconic projects in reconstructing Queensland*

Project	Value (\$m)	Description	Status
BCC Riverwalk (Cat D)	\$72.0	<p>The Brisbane Riverwalk was a unique pedestrian and bicycle path which linked the city's CBD with the inner suburb of New Farm. It also provided a direct link with tertiary education, entertainment, recreation, commercial, community and residential precincts in the inner city.</p> <p>The floating infrastructure was destroyed by the January 2011 floods and the whole structure was subsequently removed.</p> <p>Following detailed public consultation, the Brisbane City Council decided to replace the previously floating walkway with a fixed, jetty-like 850 metre long structure between New Farm and the CBD. The Riverwalk deck will be approximately 3.4 metres above the average high tide level, high enough to minimise corrosion caused by salt water.</p> <p>The walkway's 37 piles will be anchored into the riverbed, providing the structure with a strong, more flood-resilient foundation. It will feature 24 hour lighting, separate pedestrian and cyclist paths and shaded rest areas. The design also included a rotating opening span to allow for the passage of vessels to and from moorings.</p> <p>Funding for the project is being provided through special (Category D) funding under NDRRA arrangements.</p>	<p>The tender to rebuild the Riverwalk was awarded to the John Holland Construction Group in April 2013.</p> <p>Piling works commenced in late July 2013 with a 55m-long barge mobilised in the Brisbane River carrying a 280-tonne crane and a piling rig.</p> <p>Since works commenced, eight piles and two concrete girders have been poured. In addition, construction has commenced of the north abutment at the Howard Smith Wharf end and geotechnical investigations are underway at the Merthyr Road end. Other works underway include installation of concrete pump line, water quality testing and offsite fabrication.</p> <p>Completion of the Riverwalk is expected by June 2014, weather permitting.</p>



Above: preparing the rail system to move the first pre-cast girder along the Howard Smith Wharve site



Above: the piling rig barge, with some of the piles in the background
(Courtesy: Brisbane City Council)



Above: girder mold in preparation for a concrete pour (top); concrete pour underway (centre); and the same girder after the pour has been completed (bottom)

* Iconic projects represent projects that may be complex or of great significance to the local community.

4.7 Iconic projects in reconstructing Queensland (continued)

Project	Value (\$m)	Description	Status
Cardwell foreshore (Cat D & Cat B)	\$36	<p>Funding for the Cardwell foreshore project, known as Reconstructing Cardwell, has been provided as restoration of essential public assets (REPA - Category B) and through special (Category D) funding under NDRRA arrangements intended to restore social, economic, transport and tourist infrastructure in a community that was severely impacted by Tropical Cyclone Yasi.</p> <p>Works at Cardwell were undertaken by See Civil Pty Ltd and included the reconstruction of a 1.4km two-lane section of the Bruce Highway known as Victoria Street; works on the foreshore, recreation, picnic, and pedestrian facilities; memorial; a roundabout and formal parking. Works to the Coral Sea Memorial and northern playground include dunal revegetation, landscaping installation and concrete pads to seating areas. Paths have been constructed around the jetty playground and plaza.</p>	<p>Work on the reconstruction of the Bruce Highway is now complete.</p> <p>Final works on the Cardwell foreshore redevelopment were completed ahead of the official opening on 9 November 2013.</p>
Clump Point and Dunk Island Jetties (Cat D)	\$5.5	<p>Mission Beach and Dunk Island are tropical tourist destinations located between Cairns and Townsville. The two jetties provide the departure point to local resort islands and the Barrier Reef and are crucial for reviving the area's struggling tourism industry.</p> <p>Both jetties were severely damaged as a result of Cyclone Yasi in February 2011. \$5.5 million was provided for the restoration of the jetties as part of a \$15 million NDRRA exceptional circumstances package for the Cassowary Coast region.</p> <p>The new jetty at Clump Point has been built just south of the existing structure and is 170m long and 5m wide to accommodate vehicular and pedestrian traffic. All major components have been prefabricated off site and transported to site by truck for installation. The old Clump Point jetty has been demolished as part of the works.</p>	<p>Dunk Island jetty reached practical completion on 29 May 2013 when the jetty was handed over to Council. The jetty is now operational and available for use by the public.</p> <p>Practical completion of Clump Point jetty is expected in the first week of November 2013.</p> <p>Concurrent with the Cardwell foreshore project, both jetties were formally opened on 9 November 2013.</p>



Above: aerial view of Cardwell foreshore works and Bruce Highway, September 2013



Left: images from the opening of the Cardwell foreshore official opening, 9 November 2013

4.7 Iconic projects in reconstructing Queensland (continued)

Project	Value (\$m)	Description	Status
Palm Island seawall	\$12.3	<p>The Palm Island foreshore provides the focal point for the island's community. It is the location of culturally significant landmarks and memorials as well as the island's community facilities. The seawall in Challenger Bay provides wave dissipation and erosion mitigation.</p> <p>Damage to the seawall occurred as a result of Cyclone Yasi in February 2011.</p>	<p>The design of the seawall has been endorsed by Council.</p> <p>Council have appointed the winning works to Koppen Developments, a Cairns-based construction company. Final development approvals were received in October 2013 and the project will commence in November with the transfer of equipment to site from Townsville and Cairns via barge.</p> <p>Completion is expected in early 2014.</p>
Riverside Park, Karalee	\$2.25	<p>Located on Settler Way, Karalee, Riverside Park lies along the Brisbane River and is a popular picnic and recreational area near the junction of the Brisbane and Bremer rivers and close to Ipswich CBD. The Park has a boat ramp facility and a complex of structures and open amenity areas including car parks, seating and shelter structures and playground.</p> <p>The flood event in early January 2011 inundated the park up to nearly 20 metres of water and destroyed almost the entire lower level of the park, including the car park area, infrastructure, shelters, playground and ancillary park equipment. The built assets and developed vegetation on the lower level of the park were effectively swept away by the flood. The park was further damaged as a result of Tropical Cyclone Oswald in January 2013.</p>	<p>Community consultation and information sessions were conducted in early 2013.</p> <p>The tender to carry out the work was awarded to Digit Landscapes in September 2013. Preliminary works have commenced and construction details for the board ramp are currently being finalised.</p> <p>Works are expected to be completed in January 2014, weather permitting.</p>
Grigor Bridge, Conondale	\$4.5	<p>The Grigor Bridge is a major crossing of the Mary River on the Maleny-Kenilworth Road near Conondale, in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. The original single-lane timber Grigor Bridge was built in 1929 and was extensively damaged during flooding in October 2010 and again in January 2011.</p> <p>The total project comprises \$4.5 million of NDRRA funding representing the estimated cost of replacing the original structure, and more than \$5 million additional complementary funding for an additional land and raising the bridge plus associated costs of embankments and culverts. The complementary works are intended to improve flood immunity, safety and traffic capacity.</p> <p>Construction activity in the river is scheduled to accommodate the breeding cycles of a number of iconic species found in the Mary River including the Mary River Turtle and Mary River Cod.</p>	<p>Construction of the new bridge started in March 2013.</p> <p>During October 2013 work was undertaken on the bridge approach infrastructure with construction of box culverts and embankment works. Following installation of the deck units in September, reinforcing steel was fixed in preparation for the concrete deck to be poured. The first concrete pour took place on 31 October with a further four pours planned before Christmas.</p> <p>The project is on track for completion by June 2014.</p>



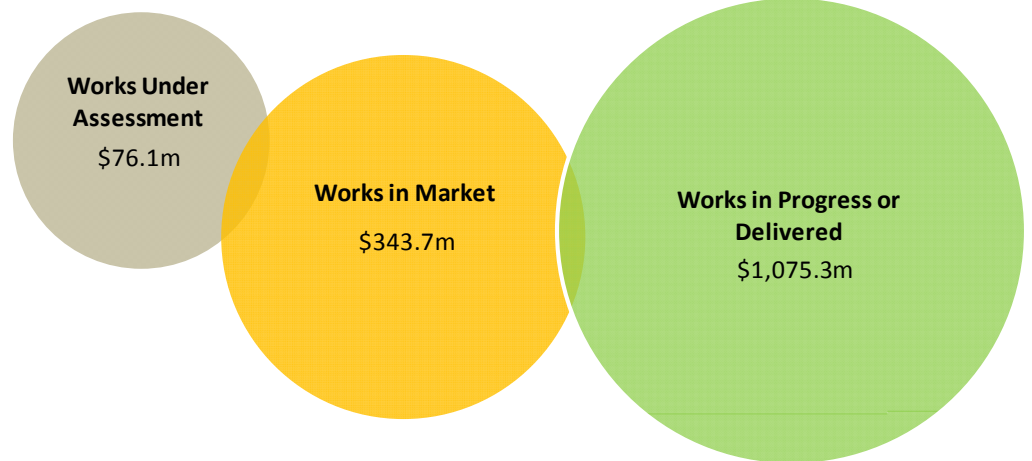
Above: Grigor Bridge reinforcing steel (left), box culverts and embankment works (centre) and first deck concrete pour on 31 October 2013 (right).

**Section five:
Progress Reports**



5.1 Progress of LGAs and DTMR by region (See Appendix A LGA by region map)

5.1.1 Far North Queensland



Program status summary - Far North Queensland

Case example: Torres Shire Council Progressing program of works

Torres Shire includes the northernmost point of Cape York Peninsula and 18 islands of Torres Strait. The Shire's administrative centre is located on Thursday Island, which provides the primary service centre for the region.

Torres Shire's total works program from disaster events of 2010 to 2013 is estimated at more than \$3.5 million with damage centred on the main population centres of Thursday, Horn, and Prince of Wales islands. The shire was affected by the Queensland Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Tasha and Anthony event of 2010/2011 and, more recently, by Tropical Cyclone Oswald in early 2013.

To date, Council has substantially delivered its 2011 program of works with its focus now shifting to progressing its 2013 program.

The 2011 event works across the three islands commenced in May 2012 and were largely completed within 12 months. Delivery of these works was achieved by carefully managing the logistical risk of needing to transport material by barge from Cairns, partly by using local quarry materials from Horn Island on gravel roads.

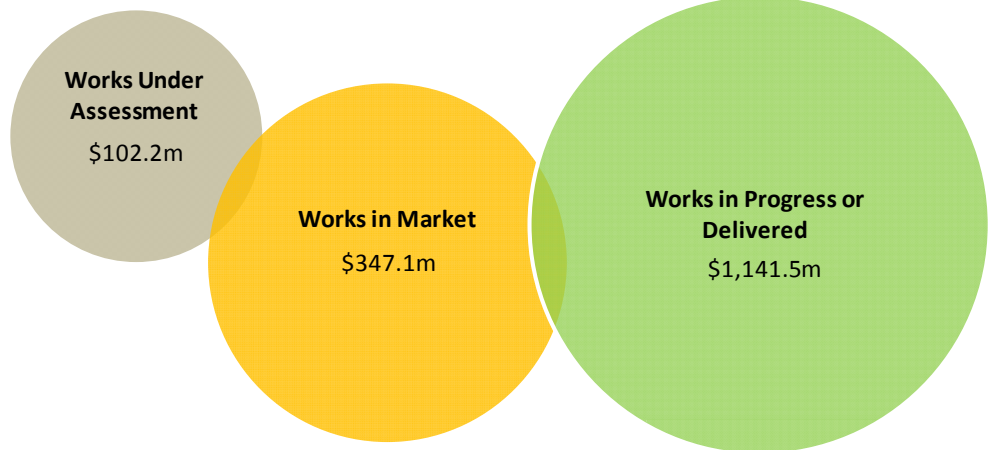
One example of 2011 works completed is the restoration of Esplanade Road, on Prince of Wales Island. The gravel road suffered damage as a result of the cyclone event of 2011. Works commenced in May 2012 to reform the gravel road and reinstall the pavement layer and were completed within three months. The works were also delivered with a reduction in scope as a result of complementary funding received from the State to construct a stretch of concrete road.



*Top: Map of Torres Shire, with main population and damage centres around Thursday Island outlined in red
Centre: Damage to a section of Esplanade Road, Prince of Wales Island
Bottom: Completed works on a section of Esplanade Road, Prince of Wales Island.*

5.1 Progress of LGAs and DTMR by region (See Appendix A LGA by region map)

5.1.2 North Queensland



Program status summary - North Queensland

Case example: Richmond Shire Council Ardrin Lane

Ardrin Lane is a gravel road situated in the south western part of Richmond Shire, approximately 95km from Richmond township.

The road runs for 27km east/west and provides essential access to several stations both in Richmond Shire and the neighbouring McKinlay Shire.

The road was damaged as a result of the Cyclone Yasi flood event of February 2011. The event caused severe inundation and saturation of the road resulting in significant gravel loss and road deformation. Two sections of the road with a total length of 13km (one section of 2km and the other of 11km length) were assessed to be in need of repair.

The gravel road was restored through carrying out a pavement shape correction of the subgrade material and re-sheeting using a gravel layer. The works were able to be delivered using a natural material sourced locally to the site.

Works commenced at the end of March 2013 and were completed by July 2013, at a total cost of \$1.3 million. The works were delivered below estimated cost with savings realised primarily through sourcing and processing gravel from a pit established very close to site, requiring minimum transportation costs to the remote location.



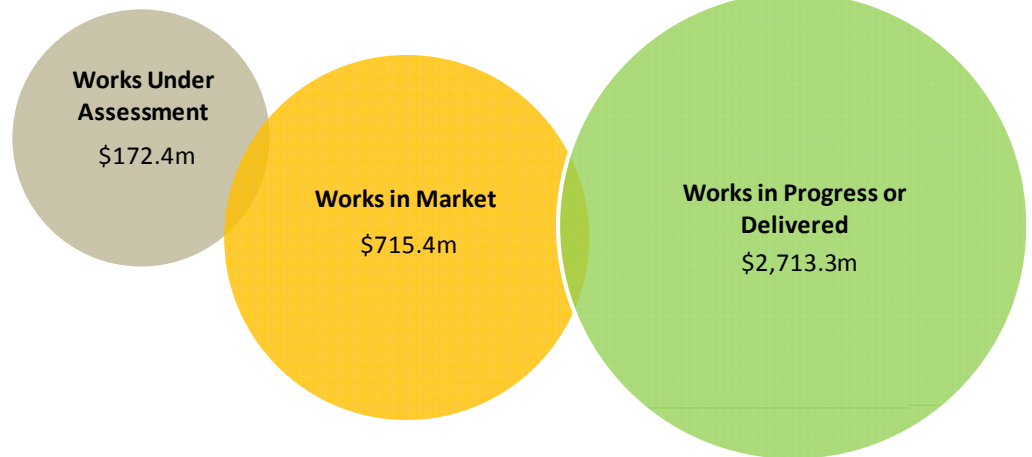
Above: damage to Ardrin Lane as a result of Cyclone Yasi related flood event (top); and during reconstruction works (bottom)

Left: following completion of works, Ardrin Lane, Richmond



5.1 Progress of LGAs and DTMR by region (See Appendix A LGA by region map)

5.1.3 Central Queensland



Program status summary - Central Queensland

Case example: Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council 2013 program of work

Woorabinda is located 170km south-west of Rockhampton and 180 km west of Gladstone. The shire covers an area of 391 square km and has a resident population of approximately 970.

Woorabinda sustained damage from natural disasters in 2011 and more recently from flooding associated with the Tropical Cyclone Oswald event of early 2013. Damage was sustained to a number of rural roads in the shire and an important causeway over Mimosa Creek which provides access to the township as a result of the 2013 disaster event.

Council commenced its works program to restore the 2013 event damage in April 2013 and restoration was substantially completed in October 2013 at a cost of approximately \$1.1 million.

The speed with which Woorabinda has been able to procure and deliver its restoration program within nine months of the event has been evident of the shire's focus and effective use of the mechanisms implemented to facilitate data collection and submission preparation following Tropical Cyclone Oswald.



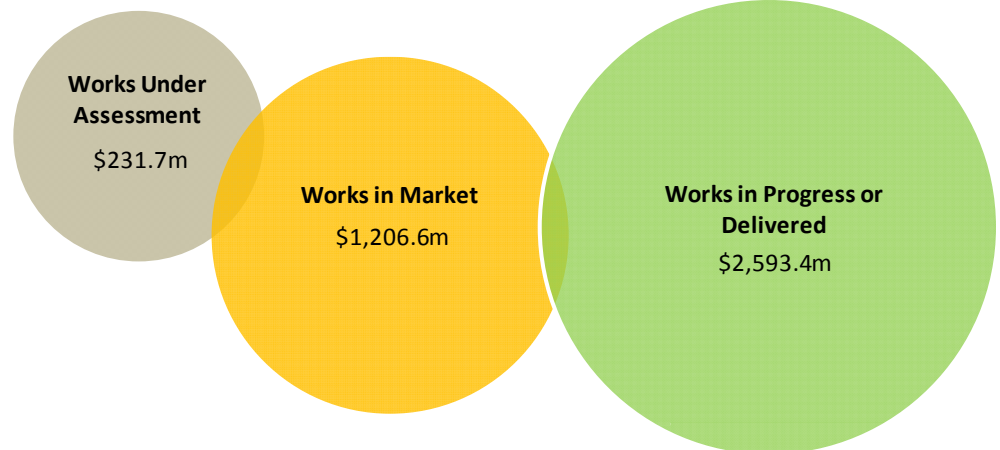
Above: damage (top) and completed works (bottom) to Five Mile Road, Woorabinda



Left: examples of damage (left) and following reconstruction works (right) to Bore 3 Road, Woorabinda

5.1 Progress of LGAs and DTMR by region (See Appendix A LGA by region map)

5.1.4 Southern Queensland



Program status summary - Southern Queensland

Case example: Bulloo Shire Council Bulloo Downs Road

Bulloo Shire is the third largest Shire in Queensland and includes the towns of Thargomindah, Hungerford, Noccundra and Cameron Corner. Thargomindah is the administration centre for the Shire and lies on the Bulloo River, approximately 1000 km due west from Brisbane. The main industries in the shire include wool, beef and natural gas.

Bulloo Shire Council's total works program from disaster events of 2010 to 2012 is estimated at more than \$35 million, with all of 2010 works now complete and the council well progressed through its program of works arising from the flood events of 2011 and 2012.

One road affected during the 2012 flood event was Bulloo Downs Road, an important road link between Queensland and NSW through Warry Gate Road. The road needs to be maintained to serve and support the cattle and tourism industries as well as the local population.

Approximately 35km of the gravel road was damaged across a 90km stretch of road requiring gravel resheeting works to restore it to its former state. The cost of restoration works funded under NDRRA is approximately \$1.9 million. The works commenced in July 2012 and are anticipated to be completed in early 2014.

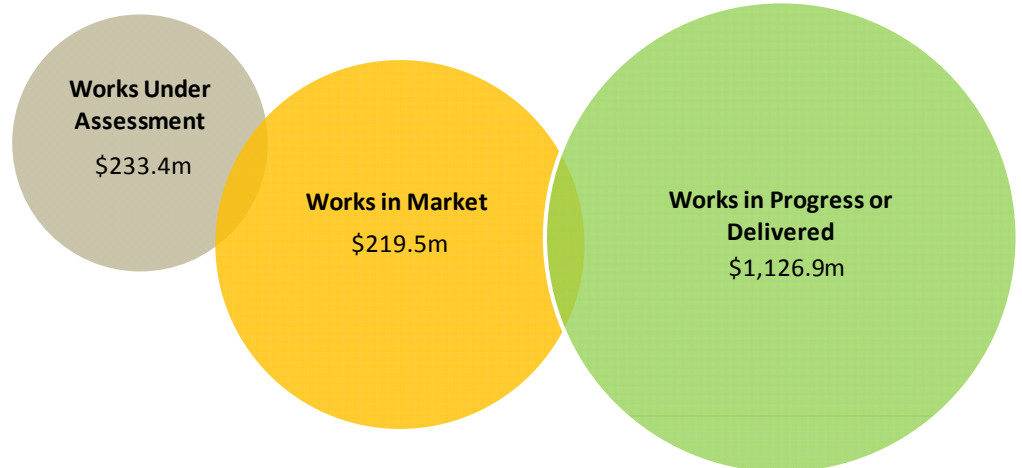
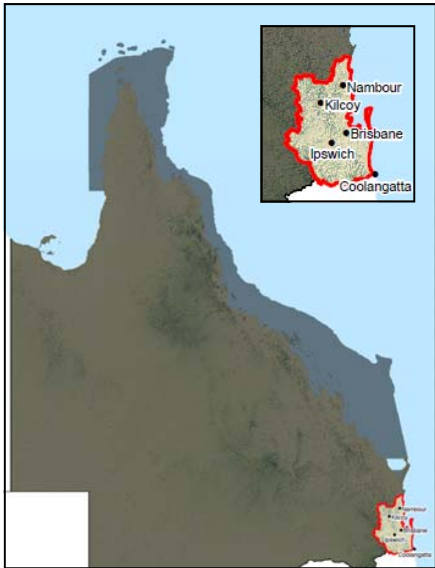
In addition to the resheeting restoration works, Council has allocated an additional budget provision of \$500,000 as complementary funding to be spent in 2013/14 to build up some sections of the road which have lowered over time due to repeated flooding. This makes them vulnerable to further damage as there is little effective run-off. It is anticipated that these complementary funded additional works will provide a better road and sustainable road infrastructure.



Right: Damage (top), works in progress (centre) and works following completion of a section of works (bottom) to Bulloo Downs Road

5.1 Progress of LGAs and DTMR by region (See Appendix A LGA by region map)

5.1.5 South East Queensland



Program status summary - South East Queensland

Case example: Somerset Regional Council George Bishop Bridge, Mt Stanley Road

George Bishop Bridge is located on Mt Stanley Road north of Linville and provides the main connection into Linville township and the other larger service towns of Moore, Toogoolawah and Kilcoy (via D'Aguiar Highway) for the community north of the bridge.

Mt Stanley Road is a two lane sealed rural collector road running north from the townships of Moore and Linville in the Somerset region and runs across Muddy Creek via the George Bishop Bridge. In addition to servicing local residents, the bridge is an important transport link for the local cattle industry.

The timber bridge across Muddy Creek was damaged by floodwaters in January 2011 when debris and silt from upstream catchments were deposited over the deck and against the piers causing structural damage and leaving it with a significant dip to one side rendering the bridge closed to all traffic.

The reconstruction of George Bishop Bridge was undertaken at a cost of approximately \$564,000. NDRRA funding was provided for the cost to restore the old timber bridge with Council providing complementary works worth approximately \$240,000 to fund the replacement of the structure to make the bridge more resilient to flooding. Works commenced in March 2013 and the completed bridge was officially opened on 2 September 2013.

The reopened bridge will save hardship for the community by saving long detours to access services, and improved access will also benefit emergency services conduct any necessary evacuation in the event of a natural disaster.



Above: damage to George Bishop Bridge

Above: Completed works

5.2 Progress of State-controlled roads and highways

DTMR's Transport Network Reconstruction Program (TNRP) manages the recovery and reconstruction of Queensland's integrated transport system to reconnect Queensland communities and economies following the damage from natural disaster events in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. The transport system includes state-controlled roads, ports, navigation aids and the rail network.

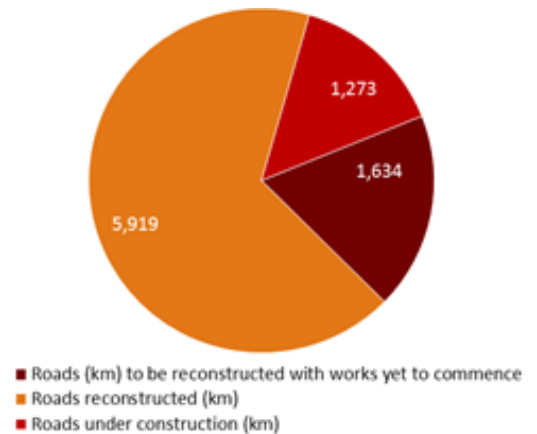
The current state of activity:

- **Roads** – \$3.6 billion of projects have been completed for both recovery and reconstruction works (excluding maritime infrastructure) for works resulting from the disaster periods of 2010 to 2013 and \$2.0 billion of reconstruction works are currently underway. Of the 8,826km of roads which DTMR plans to reconstruct following damage from these natural disaster events, 5,919km has been reconstructed to 30 September 2013. A further 1,273km of road is under construction on active works contracts. *See Figure 5.2.1 and TNRP Summary map.*
- **Rail** – 3,100km (43%) of Queensland Rail lines were closed or had limited access due to the natural disaster events in early 2013, and all have been recovered and services resumed.
- **Maritime** – repairs have been required to navigation aids, jetties and other boating infrastructure following natural disasters from 2010 to 2013. The events of 2013 affected seven ports (all of which have since been reopened without restriction) and damaged or destroyed 348 aids to navigation, of which 280 have since been recovered and 19 temporarily fixed.

Key achievements:

- During September 2013, DTMR expended \$200 million on reconstruction works from 2011 to 2013 events across the State.
- The cumulative spend on reconstruction of the transport network to 30 September 2013 is \$4.7 billion for works resulting from the 2010 to 2013 disaster periods.
- There was 361km of damaged roads reconstructed in September 2013 bringing the total reconstructed since the program commenced to 5,919km of the total damaged.
- Construction commenced on 42 projects valued at \$131 million in September 2013 including works on the Capricorn, Carnarvon, Balonne, Cunningham, Warrego and Landsborough highways, the Gulf Development Road in Far North Queensland and Gregory Development Road in North Queensland.
- Contracts worth more than \$73 million were committed to during September in the Central Queensland and Downs South West regions, including works on the Landsborough Highway (Longreach to Kynuna), Bruce Highway (Rockhampton to St Lawrence), Dawson River Bridge works on the Leichhardt Highway and the Capricorn Highway (Emerald to Alpha). Other works were awarded for Moonie Highway pavements, Oakley-Pittsworth Road pavements, bridge scour repairs at Warrego Highway (Ipswich to Toowoomba) and pavement rehabilitation and drainage works on the Carnarvon and Balonne Highways.
- Contact was made with organisations associated with grain harvesting in the Downs South West region to establish timeframes for the upcoming harvest and the potential impact of road works. The region will work with stakeholders to manage access through work sites safely and efficiently.

Fig.5.2.1 Roads damaged/reconstructed following 2010 to 2013 events



Centre right: pavement reconstruction works on Palmerston Highway

Bottom right: cement modification in progress - Burnett Highway, Beaudesert (Gaydah to Monto)

(Source: DTMR 30 September 2013)

www.qldreconstruction.org.au

Fig.5.2.2 TNRP summary of reconstruction works to date—September 2013

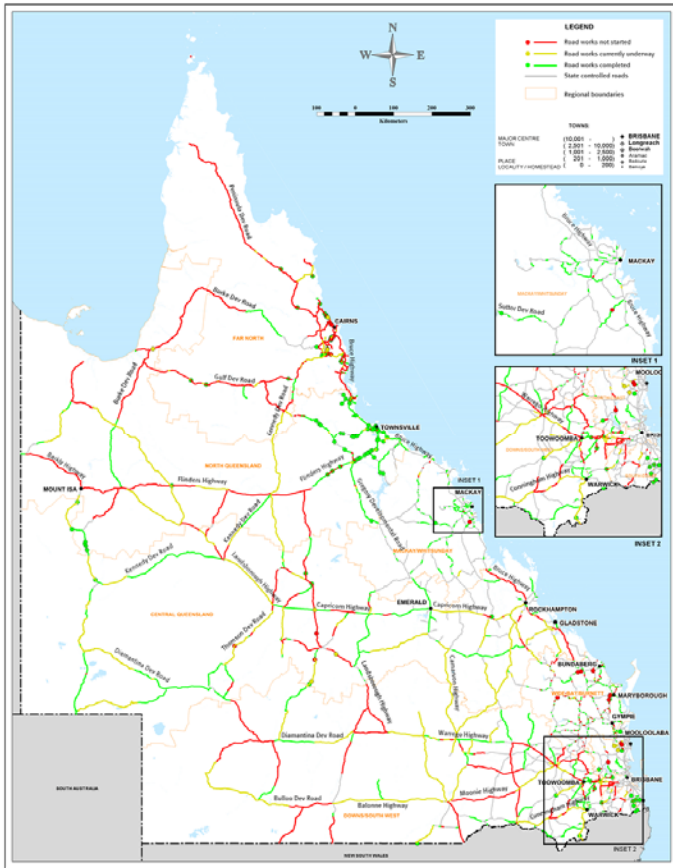
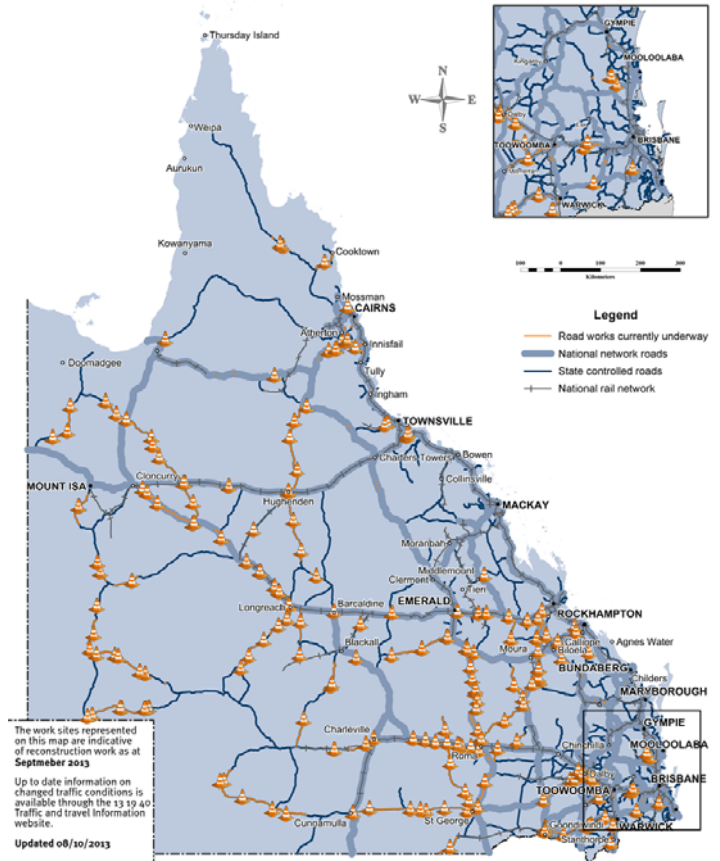


Fig 5.2.3 TNRP reconstruction work sites — September 2013



(Source: DTMR 30 September 2013)

TNRP case example Care for Fairy Martins in Central Queensland

Reconstructing flood damaged infrastructure in remote areas is a complicated business, however it is made far more complicated when dealing with animal breeding locations.

In various road reconstruction locations within Central Queensland, inspections by environmental officers identified Fairy Martin nests within culverts on roads in works areas. The Fairy Martin is a small bird which often build their nests in colonies in such culverts or under bridges.

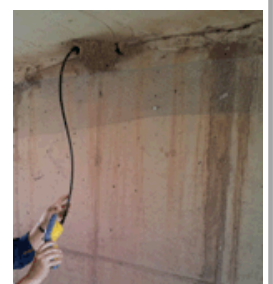
In accordance with DTMR's approved Species Management Program for tampering with animal breeding places under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 these birds were well looked after. The Species Management Program does not permit the tampering of breeding places for colonial breeders, including Fairy Martins, and the legislative framework requires a separate authorisation for tampering with Fairy Martin nests.

To ensure appropriate handling of the nests, DTMR developed a Species Management Program and obtained approval for specific reconstruction works which may affect this bird. Management measures adopted to minimise disturbance of the Fairy Martins included employing the services of a qualified spotter-catcher to inspect the nests and ensure they are empty prior to any works. Works were then timed for a period when Fairy Martins rarely use the nests to minimise impacts on local bird populations and nest removal works were timed to avoid the main breeding season from July to December. In addition, prior to any works commencing, an ecologist or wildlife spotter-catcher assessed the areas impacted and looked for evidence of Fairy Martins or micro bats roosting in nests within the work area.

This is another example of where reconstruction efforts are delivering vital road works in harmony with the environment.

Centre: Fairy Martin nests in a culvert on Thomson Developmental Road (Jundah to Longreach) in the Barcoo Shire.

Bottom: A pre-clearing survey checking for micro-bats in Fairy Martin nests at a Cockatoo Creek culvert.



5.3 Communications

The Authority is focused on building stakeholder confidence in the reconstruction by ensuring consistent and regular communication of public information.

5.3.1 Communicating progress

Media analysis

There has been a total of 387 media items from 1 to 31 October (243 print – 62.8%, 44 TV – 11.4%, 100 radio – 25.8%), which reached a cumulative audience of over 9.5 million people with the focus this month being on council recovery and betterment funding for those regions hardest hit by the 2013 event.

October media coverage saw mentions for those regions still recovering from the 2013 event. There was coverage of Betterment Fund projects in Scenic Rim, Gladstone, Central Highlands, Somerset, Ipswich, and Lockyer Valley, with articles appearing in regional media including the Beaudesert Times, Queensland Times, WIN Mackay, ABC Capricornia, Sunshine Coast Daily and Rockhampton Morning Bulletin. There was also coverage of NDRRA restoration works in North Burnett, Rockhampton, Lockyer Valley, Charters Towers, Toowoomba, Mackay, Fraser Coast and Ipswich, as well as the opening of the Mooloolaba Surf Lifesaving Tower on the Sunshine Coast.

There was also substantial radio and print coverage of the completion of the Reconstructing Cardwell project and its upcoming official opening on 9 November.

Engagement activities

In October, the **Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience** David Crisafulli visited the Barcaldine, Bundaberg, Cook and Roma regions as the Government continues to emphasise the importance of flood mitigation and resilience projects for flood affected communities.

Visits to the Gladstone and Central Highlands regions highlighted infrastructure that will be rebuilt as part of the \$80 million Betterment program as Queenslanders ‘Get Ready’ for the approaching storm season. The **Minister** also attended the LGAQ Annual conference in Cairns where flooding and natural disaster issues in Queensland were discussed.

Communications

There are a number of methods available to the public to communicate with the Authority.

The Authority’s website provides information to the public and continues to be enhanced with ongoing updates, including information about Betterment projects. There have been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011.

At 31 October 2013, total website visits amounted to 364, 525 - an increase of 2.8% since last month. *(See Figure 5.3.1)*

In October, the Authority received an additional 59 calls to its dedicated hotline and 412 additional pieces of written correspondence were received. *(See Figure 5.3.2)*

Fig. 5.3.1 Website traffic

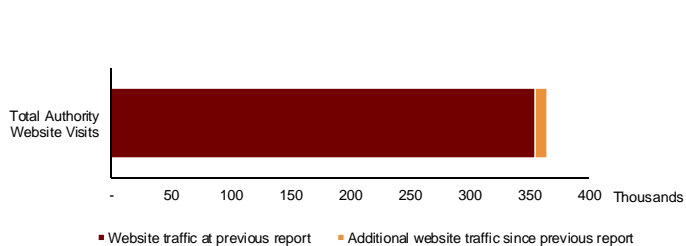
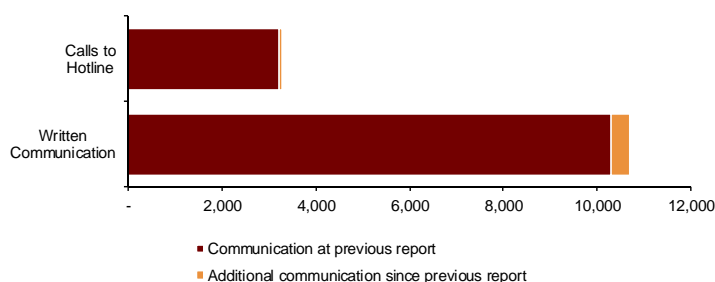


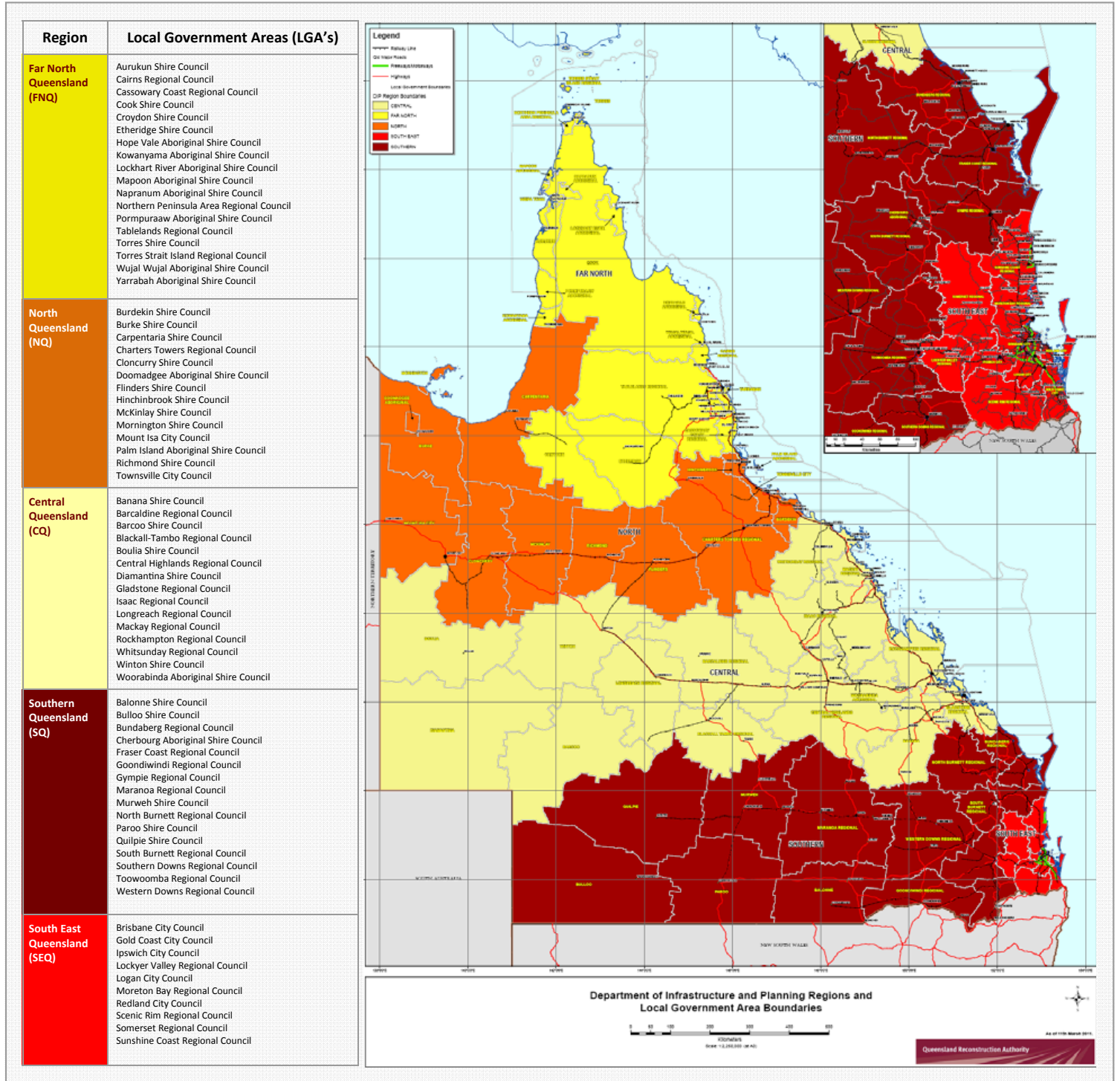
Fig. 5.3.2 Communications



(Source: the Authority at 31 October 2013)

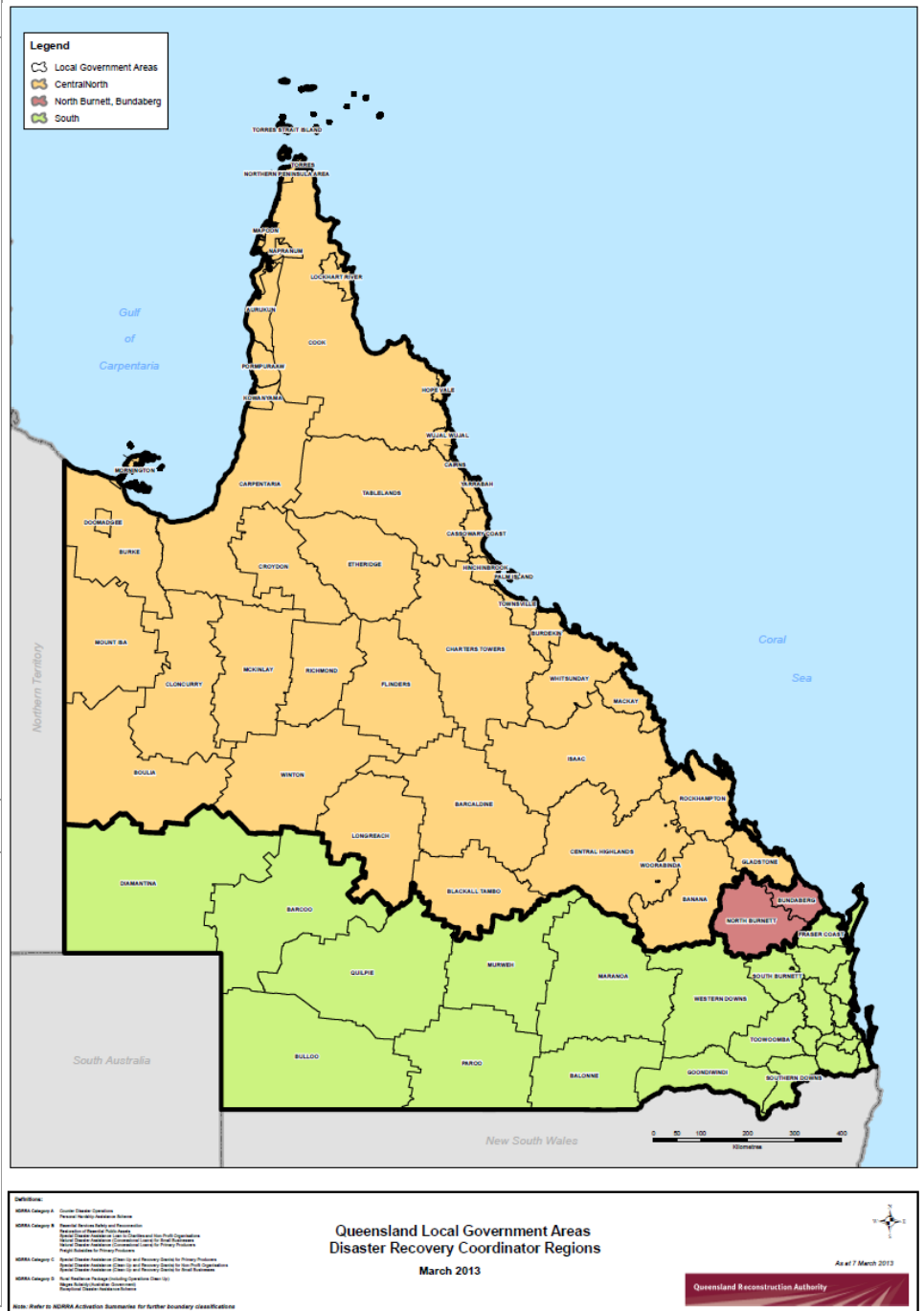
Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region



Appendix B: Disaster Recovery Coordinator Regions - Tropical Cyclone Oswald

Region	Local Government Areas (LGA's)
Northern Queensland	Aurukun Shire Council
	Banana Shire Council
	Barcaldine Regional Council
	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
	Boulia Shire Council
	Burdekin Shire Council
	Burke Shire Council
	Carpentaria Shire Council
	Cairns Regional Council
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	Central Highlands Regional Council
	Charters Towers Regional Council
	Cloncurry Shire Council
	Cook Shire Council
	Croydon Shire Council
	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council
	Etheridge Shire Council
	Flinders Shire Council
	Gladstone Regional Council
	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
	Isaac Regional Council
	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
	Longreach Regional Council
	Mackay Regional Council
	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
	McKinlay Shire Council
	Morrington Shire Council
	Mount Isa City Council
	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
	Richmond Shire Council
Rockhampton Regional Council	
Tablelands Regional Council	
Torres Shire Council	
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	
Townsville City Council	
Whitsunday Regional Council	
Winton Shire Council	
Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council	
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	
Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	
Bundaberg/ North Burnett	Bundaberg Regional Council
	North Burnett Regional Council
Southern Queensland	Balonne Shire Council
	Brisbane City Council
	Bulloo Shire Council
	Barcoo Shire Council
	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council
	Diamantina Shire Council
	Fraser Coast Regional Council
	Gold Coast City Council
	Goondiwindi Regional Council
	Gympie Regional Council
	Ipswich City Council
	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
	Logan City Council
	Maranoa Regional Council
	Moreton Bay Regional Council
	Murweh Shire Council
	Paroo Shire Council
	Quilpie Shire Council
	Redland City Council
	Scenic Rim Regional Council
	Somerset Regional Council
	South Burnett Regional Council
	Southern Downs Regional Council
	Sunshine Coast Regional Council
	Toowoomba Regional Council
	Western Downs Regional Council





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