



Resilient Queensland | 2018-21

Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

May 2018



Disaster Resilience in Queensland

Our shared vision – making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia

Queensland is the most disaster impacted state in Australia. While Queenslanders have an ability to adapt and recover in a short amount of time, it's important we continue to build our resilience before, during and after disasters. The *Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2017* (the Strategy) guides our shared vision and sets out broad roles and responsibilities for all Queenslanders in building disaster resilience.

Resilient Queensland - Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2018-2021 (Resilient Queensland) is a detailed blueprint for use across government, the community, non-for-profit sector, business and industry, to ensure outcomes are delivered against the objectives of the Strategy.



Risks facing Queenslanders

In Queensland, building disaster resilience is based on a thorough understanding of risk. It requires a comprehensive process of continuous improvement to reduce our vulnerability and manage uncertainty into the future.

The *Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment 2017* identifies a range of disaster risks for the state including tropical cyclones, riverine flooding, bushfires, severe weather, earthquakes, heatwaves and coastal inundation. The impacts of tropical cyclones and riverine flooding remain the greatest risk to Queensland. It is this understanding that helps us to focus our efforts where they are most needed.

Resilience – the Queensland experience

Resilience can be thought of as our collective ability to understand, anticipate and quickly 'bounce back better' from disaster events.

It means individuals, communities and businesses taking greater responsibility to be safe and to minimise personal and property impact.

It is about a 'safety net' of government and not-for-profit services including disaster response, communications, funding, and other resources to make sure no one is left behind.

It relies upon networks of people working together and championing resilience activities and efforts to ensure it is always front of mind.

We all have a role to play

Resilient Queensland is a shared responsibility and success will depend on the collective effort of:

- individuals
- community groups and organisations
- local governments
- businesses
- tertiary sector
- Queensland Government
- Australian Government.

As Queenslanders, we are disaster resilient when:

- 1** we understand the potential disaster risks we face
- 2** we work together to better manage disaster risk
- 3** we seek new opportunities to reduce disaster risk
- 4** we continually improve how we prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters

Resilient Queensland

Guiding principles for statewide collaboration

A disaster resilient community is one that works together to understand and manage the risks it faces. As part of Resilient Queensland, a comprehensive engagement process will be undertaken to identify opportunities and priorities to better coordinate our resilience efforts across the state.

The Strategy advocates for tailored solutions that are developed by local people for local needs. Resilient Queensland will ensure local, regional and state level disaster resilience planning, priorities and projects are integrated and align with the objectives and commitments of the Strategy.



An example of our guiding principles in action

Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy – pilot project

The Queensland Government is partnering with Bundaberg Regional Council, Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, North Burnett Regional Council and South Burnett Regional Council to deliver the Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy. This pilot project is scheduled for completion in mid-2018 and will inform the development of further catchment-scale risk reduction strategies for the state, and the adoption of successful activities into day to day practices.

The purpose of this project is to develop a consistent and coordinated approach to managing disaster risk across four of the councils located within the Burnett River Catchment.

The Queensland Government and local councils are sharing local knowledge to develop a catchment-scale plan for managing the impact of future disasters and enhancing community safety and resilience.

The pilot project will examine the benefits and challenges experienced in the implementation of a catchment-scale governance approach to identify lessons learnt for regional resilience service delivery across the state.

This pilot project is a good demonstration of how the Queensland Government will work with local governments and other stakeholders to deliver regional resilience plans across the state.

Local leadership – is being driven by local knowledge through state facilitated processes.

Shared responsibility and collaboration – a range of professionals from a number of disciplines are working together.

Prioritisation – riverine flooding is the number one natural hazard facing this community and regional coordination is needed to ensure community safety.

Flexibility and adaption – the project builds on work already delivered through the *Bundaberg 10 Year Action Plan* and other relevant local plans and activities.

Resilience becomes business as usual – the systems, processes and relationships established through this project will be embedded into business as usual activities beyond disaster management.

Resilient Queensland



1

we understand the potential disaster risks we face



2

we work together to better manage disaster risk



Describing success

Having a clearer understanding of potential risks empowers us to make informed decisions so that we can better prepare and respond.

We are resilient when:

- we have access to real-time information about disaster impacts
- we find ways to engage with hard-to-reach and vulnerable people such as those from non-English speaking backgrounds
- our community understands and is involved in disaster risk management.

By understanding what people value most we can better coordinate and concentrate our efforts.

We are resilient when:

- our community is involved in disaster preparedness activities that meet local needs
- evidence of local vulnerability and risk is used to inform our decision making
- everyone understands the role they play in contributing to the resilience of our community.

Strategy commitments

- C1.1** drive attitudinal, cultural and behavioural change across the state, enabling Queenslanders to anticipate, respond and adapt to disaster impacts
- C1.2** understand the risks associated with a warming climate with improved coastal management
- C1.3** increase community awareness and preparedness for all hazards through community engagement
- C1.4** initiate research and evaluation projects to promote the positive trajectory of building resilience in Queensland.

- C2.1** build partnerships across community, industry, research organisations and government to improve the health of waterways and marine areas
- C2.2** provide opportunities for community-based solutions to the impacts of disasters
- C2.3** develop and implement a strategic framework for flood risk management.

How we are delivering

- ✓ Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework
- ✓ Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment 2017
- ✓ Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy 2017-30
- ✓ Queensland Climate Transition Strategy
- ✓ Get Ready Queensland
- ✓ Preparing Your Business for Natural Disasters 2016
- ✓ Cohesive communities: an action plan for Queensland 2016-18.

- ✓ Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program 2013-2018
- ✓ Strategic Policy Framework for Riverine Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience 2017
- ✓ Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program 2017
- ✓ Queensland Recovery Plan.

Future actions

- evaluation and improvement of Get Ready Queensland program
- statewide capture of resilience activities, strategies and plans.

- resilience activity analysis to identify opportunities and priorities
- establish a resilience community of practice
- establish a Queensland Critical Infrastructure Working Group.

Strengthening disaster resilience



3

we seek new opportunities to reduce disaster risk



4

we continually improve how we prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters



Describing success

Having a big picture view will help us identify opportunities for making our communities, infrastructure and environment stronger and more adaptable to future stresses.

We are resilient when:

- we incorporate resilience into everyday activities
- we take a proactive approach to resilience building, rather than a reactive one
- we understand how to link policy and funding to prioritised actions
- we focus on long-term risk reduction and resilience to plan for future generations, the economy and the environment.

Understanding our current and future disaster risks enables us to make informed decisions for current and future generations.

We are resilient when:

- our disaster management systems are scalable to accommodate future changes
- we are on a journey of continuous improvement
- we work across disciplines and organisations for resilience planning
- we embrace a culture of ongoing improvement through regular monitoring and information sharing.

Strategy Commitments

- C3.1** deliver more resilient infrastructure and transport systems
- C3.2** support the ability of our natural assets to serve as protective buffers against disaster impacts
- C3.3** promote the incorporation of risk reduction in all planning and development
- C3.4** encourage innovation in urban area design for living with the impacts of floods and droughts
- C3.5** further the understanding and management of natural landscapes to reduce the impacts and effects of floods and bushfires
- C3.6** build greater business resilience and preparedness
- C3.7** minimise disaster impacts through flexible and adaptive planning.

- C4.1** identify adaptation opportunities following disasters and in anticipation of climate change
- C4.2** drive continuous improvement in disaster management in Queensland via assurance frameworks and accompanying performance measures.

The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management will contribute to disaster resilience outcomes by working closely with disaster management agencies to identify good practice and opportunities for improvement.

How we are delivering

- ✓ Queensland Betterment Fund 2013, 2015 and 2017
- ✓ QCoast2100 – Queensland Local Government Coastal Hazard Adaptation Program
- ✓ State Planning Policy 2017
- ✓ Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guidelines
- ✓ State Disaster Management Plan
- ✓ Flood Warning Gauge Network Review.

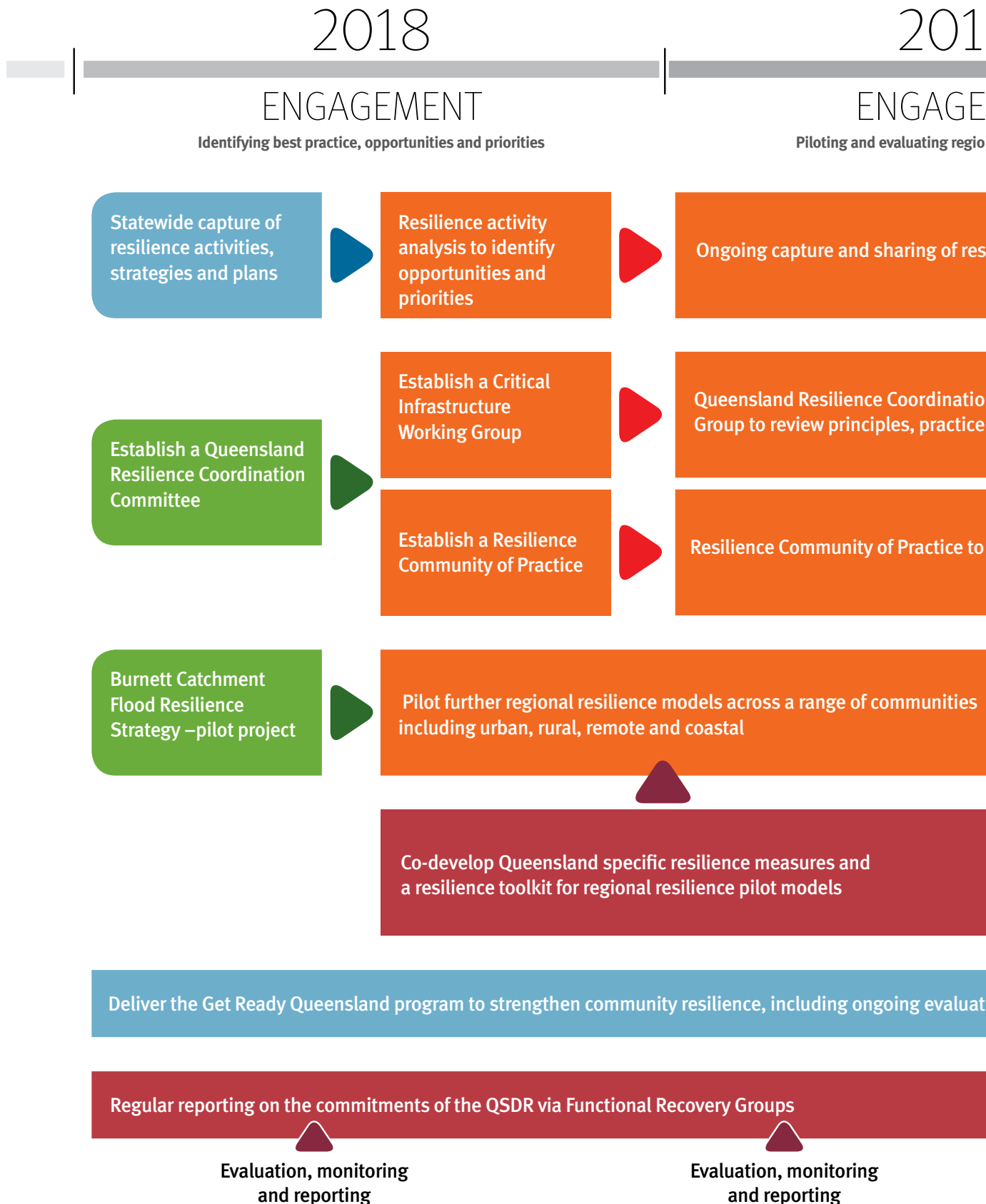
- ✓ Emergency Management Assurance Framework
- ✓ Disaster Management Research Framework
- ✓ The Cyclone Debbie Review: Lessons for delivering value and confidence through trust and empowerment.
- ✓ Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy 2017 – 2030
- ✓ Emergency Management Prioritisation Tool.

Future actions

- establish a Queensland Resilience Coordination Committee
- deliver the Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy pilot project
- pilot and evaluate regional resilience models across a range of communities
- statewide delivery of co-developed regional resilience models.

- co-develop Queensland specific resilience measures and toolkits for inclusion in regional resilience models
- regular reporting on the 16 Strategy commitments via Functional Recovery Groups
- monitoring and reporting on Resilient Queensland.

Resilient Queensland



Making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

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2020-21

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IMPLEMENTATION

nal resilience models

Statewide delivery of resilience models

ilience activities across the state

n Committee to oversee delivery of Resilient Queensland and the Critical Infrastructure Working
s and solutions relating to critical infrastructure protection and recovery from disasters

drive innovation in resilience policy and practice

Evaluate the regional
resilience pilot models

Statewide delivery of co-developed regional resilience
models and implementation of resilience action plans

ion and improvements

Evaluation, monitoring
and reporting

Evaluation, monitoring
and reporting

Get involved

As Queenslanders, we all have a role to play to achieve our goal of making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia. Resilience is not an end state – it is a continuum of adaptation, assessment, learning, adjustment and transformation. The Queensland Government is working closely with the public and private sectors to strengthen our resilience to future disasters. Every community can deliver on Resilient Queensland according to their community's needs. There are many ways to achieve our vision.



All Queenslanders can strengthen our resilience through better planning:

- be prepared - have your own food, water and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours
- visit Get Ready Queensland at www.getready.qld.gov.au for information on preparing for disasters
- talk to your **local council** to find out about Get Ready Queensland initiatives.



Community groups and organisations can strengthen our resilience through improved social networks:

- organise or participate in activities to get ready for disasters
- engage with local governments to collaborate on preparedness activities and events.



Local governments can strengthen our resilience by leading, driving and coordinating local activities through Local Disaster Management Groups and District Disaster Management Groups:

- contribute to the development of local and regional resilience and recovery plans
- talk to the Queensland Government about developing a community resilience assessment and a prioritised resilience action plan.



Businesses can strengthen our resilience through business continuity planning:

- be prepared with a business continuity plan to identify and prevent risks where possible and identify how to respond and recover if disaster occurs
- visit Get Ready Queensland at www.getready.qld.gov.au for information on preparing a business continuity plan.



Tertiary sectors can strengthen our resilience by making research accessible to the community:

- undertake relevant research that is accessible to the community
- collaborate with the Queensland Government and contribute to our ongoing cycle of learning.



Queensland Government departments and agencies can strengthen our resilience by managing uncertainty and stepping in when local capacity has been reached:

- provide assistance to local governments through Local and District Disaster Management Groups to co-design and co-deliver local and regional resilience plans that address risk, capability and local priorities
- assist local governments with resilience policy and delivery of frontline services
- talk to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority about ways your department can be part of Resilient Queensland.



The **Australian Government** can strengthen our resilience by working to the roles and responsibilities as outlined in the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience:

- work with all partners to develop resilience policy informed by research priorities
- provide a safety-net for impacted Queensland communities through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
- provide funding through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program and other resilience related funding.



Do you need an interpreter?

If you need an interpreter to assist you in understanding this document, please call **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**.

More information



Visit www.qldra.org.au/ResilientQueensland



Contact the **Queensland Reconstruction Authority** on 1800 110 841