



WHAT WE DO:

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Government’s program of **recovery and reconstruction** works within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice administration of public reconstruction and resilience funds. QRA is also the state’s lead agency responsible for **disaster recovery and resilience policy**, working collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

OUR VISION:

Make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

OUR PURPOSE:

Enable recovery and build resilience to disaster events within our communities.

DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

NDRRA/DRFA Grants Program

Since establishment, QRA has administered recovery and reconstruction programs through the joint State-Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth more than \$16.4 billion. Works for 23 events from the 2018, 2019 and 2020 disaster seasons are currently in delivery with an estimated value of \$2.49 billion. An additional five events have been activated to date in the 2021 disaster season.

In the December quarter

11 council areas were activated for DRFA assistance for four disaster events that occurred in the quarter - SEQ Hailstorms, Fraser Island bushfires, SEQ floods and Western Queensland storms.

Focus of the disaster assistance grants program in the quarter was to finalise approval and close-out of all submissions to be included in Queensland’s 2019-20 DRFA claim. This involved final assessments of \$1.2 billion worth of submissions ahead of the claim being audited in 2021 and finalised for lodgement by the due date of 31 March 2021.

Concurrently, QRA progressed assessment of reconstruction submissions arising from 2020 disaster events for approval to enable councils and state agencies to progress reconstruction efforts.

Works for
23
events
from 2018 | 2019 | 2020
disaster seasons

are currently in delivery with
an estimated value
in excess of
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An additional five events have
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in the 2021 disaster season.

Acquittal:

The state, through QRA, is up to date with the acquittal of NDRRA/DRFA claims to the Commonwealth. The next claim is due for lodgement to the Commonwealth in March 2021 and will acquit approximately \$1.2 billion of DRFA expenditure for the 2019-20 financial year.

Status of NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program

	2018 Events	2019 Events	2020 Events	2021 Events
NUMBER OF EVENTS	6	12	5	5
\$2,489M Delivery Program	\$269M Program	\$1,547M Program	\$673M Program	TBD
\$1,320M Current Spend	\$261M Spend to date	\$871M Spend to date	\$188M Spend to date	– Spend to date
Deadline for Delivery	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022	30 June 2023
 Time Elapsed	 100% Remainder being delivered under EOT's	 75%	 25%	 –
 % Completion*	 97% complete	 69% complete	 28% complete	 – complete

*% complete represents delivery progress reported by delivery agents. This may reflect greater progress than inferred by spend due to program efficiencies.

Impact of COVID-19 on NDRRA/DRFA Programs

The Commonwealth has approved Extensions of Time (EOT) for delivery of recovery programs for delays due to COVID-19 impacts including community lock downs, loss of access to sites, supply chain issues and restrictions on consultants’ and contractors’ capacity to undertake works or prepare tenders. EOTs are being managed by QRA on an individual project basis in order to minimise delays wherever possible. To date, 25 delivery agents have been approved extensions for their 2018 NDRRA program beyond 30 June 2020 and 19 delivery agents for their 2019 DRFA programs beyond 30 June 2021. Of the 2018 event EOTs, all agents have since completed their programs of work other than two councils.

ADDITIONAL RECOVERY MEASURES

QRA is administering a suite of exceptional DRFA assistance measures for recent events

QUEENSLAND BUSHFIRES (2019) – \$66.975M

TOURISM RECOVERY PACKAGE \$6.0M	
Marketing Campaign \$1.5M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Events Qld has delivered two regional marketing campaigns working with Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast and Noosa LGAs. Go Local campaign is being finalised and will support Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast and Noosa LGAs.
Tourism Recovery Officers (TRO's) \$0.5M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Tourism Recovery Officers have been appointed for Scenic Rim, Southern Downs and the wine industry who will work across the region. A Wine Industry Tourism Officer was appointed in August 2020.
Tourism Recovery Fund for Local Government \$3.0M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenic Rim Regional Council has developed six activities/initiatives and Southern Downs Regional Council has developed 12 initiatives for funding.
Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience \$1.0M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk assessments completed, scope of works identified and the repair of 35 kilometres of walking tracks damaged in the Lamington National Park has commenced. Specialist arborist contractors engaged to remove numerous fallen trees, overhead hazards and debris in Illinbah Circuit, Gwongoorool Pool Track and Caves Circuit.
Binna Burra Recovery Package \$1.775M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean-up and recovery works have commenced for Binna Burra Lodge and the first of five milestones under the deed agreement with BBL and DSDTI has been made. Separate works (not part of the Binna Burra Package) by DTMR for the restoration of the road to Binna Burra completed.
COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND \$14.0M	
Mental Health and Wellbeing \$4.7M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.25 clinical staff of the 10.25 funded positions are providing mental health support to the communities in the Hospital and Health Service districts of Central Queensland, Sunshine Coast, West Moreton, Darling Downs and Metro South.
Community Development Officers \$3.0M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Community Development Offices (CDO) have been appointed out of the 6 LGAs allocated CDOs.
Flexible Funding Grants \$6.0M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37 Flexible Funding Grant Projects approved in Round 1 to a value of \$1.799M. Round 2 valued at \$4.2M closes on 11 February 2021.
Monitoring and Evaluation \$300K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and Evaluation framework and resources are under development.
Local Economic Recovery Program \$36.8M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions of interest closed 7 September 2020. 6 projects for \$6M, across 5 Local Government Areas have been approved. 27 projects have been approved for a total value of \$26 million across all 13 local government areas eligible for the LER program. The balance of the program is expected to be allocated in early 2021.
Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package \$8.4M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% funding distributed to 13 impacted councils identified by the Commonwealth. Councils are progressively submitting project plans to QRA.

NORTH & FNQ MONSOON TROUGH (2019) – \$242M

Infrastructure \$124M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$126M allocated to 180 projects, to restore and improve the disaster resilience of flood damaged essential public, community and water assets.
Economic \$34M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) and 3 Rural Financial Counsellors in operation on the ground. 404 small business grants approved with payments to date of \$2.83M. Over 245 business owners accessed free mentoring under the Mentoring for Growth program. 12 scholarships awarded for Event Management and Tourism Programs. 41 Travel bursaries provided for delegates to attend the Destination Q Events Conference. \$1.93M provided to councils and Rural Aid for fodder supply costs.
Environment \$46M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 riparian reconnaissance projects are complete and close out documentation submitted to the QRA. 17 of 25 urgent riparian projects contracted as at 31 December 2020 are complete. 53 riparian projects are underway, including an additional 14 projects allocated in late 2020. 32 weeds and pest projects are underway, including an additional 8 projects resulting from an additional \$1M allocated to this program. 17 coastal projects are almost complete.
Human & Social \$12.25M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Community Development Officers in place. 16 Mental Health clinicians, social and health workers and one Child and Youth Mental Health service delivering services through Townsville, North West and Central West HSSs.
Resilience \$25.75M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$13.13M Flexible Funding Grants approved across 187 projects. Townsville Flood Mapping project initiated.
Monitoring & Evaluation \$500K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Coastal component of the IRO program has been evaluated. Interim reviews have been completed on the Mental Health and Community Development Officer programs.

RECOVERY

QRA works extensively on recovery planning with councils impacted by major disaster events, increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support for local recovery governance.

Event Specific Recovery Plans

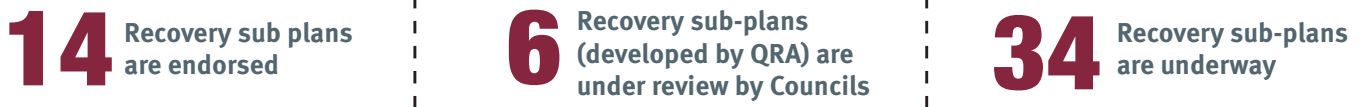
QRA is currently coordinating 2 state event specific recovery plans:

Queensland Bushfires (2019) – The Recovery Plan focuses on bushfires that occurred across the state during the period September to December 2019. The first quarterly progress report has demonstrated council and state government are progressing well with their recovery objectives.

North & FNQ Monsoon Trough (2019) – The Recovery Plan is the long-term plan guiding recovery of the 39 local councils impacted by the historic monsoon flooding event in 2019. The Plan underpins the Government’s commitment to helping communities recover, rebuild and reconnect from the unprecedented weather event.



Other Recovery Projects And Activities



Recovery Planning and Governance Project

The Recovery Planning and Governance Project is continuing to be rolled out across the state, delivering training to support local governments, community members and local organisations to understand recovery planning and governance. The project ultimately provides council with the knowledge and content required for the development of a Local Recovery Sub-plan to sit with councils’ Disaster Management Plan. During the December 2020 quarter, Recovery Sub-plan Development meetings and/or workshops were completed with Bundaberg, Cairns, Carpentaria, Gympie, Mackay, Mount Isa, Palm Island, Western Downs and Woorabinda Local Governments. Aurukun Shire Council has decided to incorporate their Recovery Sub-plan into their Corporate Plan.

The project has resulted in the endorsement of 14 recovery sub-plans by local government (of which seven were assisted by QRA). Pomppuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council decided not to develop a Recovery Sub-plan.

Council Recovery Exercises

To assist Local Recovery Groups to further enhance their recovery capability, QRA facilitated a pre-recovery exercise workshop with Cairns Regional Council. QRA also supported local recovery groups by participating in recovery exercises with City of Gold Coast and Tablelands Councils.

Covid-19 Recovery Planning

COVID-19 Local Recovery Plans

QRA worked with 27 local governments across the state to develop COVID-19 local recovery plans.

- 20 local recovery plans have been completed and endorsed by Aurukun, Balonne, Barcardine, Cairns, City of Gold Coast, Cook, Gladstone, Goondiwindi, Hinchinbrook, Isaac, Livingstone, Logan City, Mackay, Maranoa, Moreton Bay, Noosa, Somerset, Toowoomba, Whitsunday and Yarrabah councils.
- 7 local recovery plans are under development.

QRA will continue to support local government with their recovery planning in relation to COVID-19, and is taking into consideration the concurrent natural disasters that many are also recovering from.

RESILIENCE

QRA is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risks and improving the resilience of communities, and facilitating mitigation against potential disasters.

Resilience grant programs



National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

The final round of the joint State-Commonwealth NDRP program allocated \$14.9 million to 76 approved projects from 54 councils and 14 organisations and agencies in 2017-18. The program aims to build disaster resilience across the State. The final 21 projects in delivery were due to be completed by 31 December 2020.

Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) and Prepared Communities Fund (PCF)

For 2018-19, \$10.65 million was allocated to 75 projects to strengthen the resilience of Queensland communities, including funding under the fully State-funded QDRF (\$9.5M, 65 projects) and the joint State-Commonwealth funded PCF (\$1.15M, 10 projects). As at 31 December 2020, 28 projects were complete, 44 were in progress, two were due to commence and one project has been withdrawn.

Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF)

Queensland's commitments under the National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction are being delivered via the \$13.1 million QRRRF. The fund consists of \$8.3 million in State Government funds and \$4.8 million from the Australian government.

The first round of the QRRRF allocated funds to 67 projects across 61 recipients in 2019-20. A list and interactive map of the successful projects is available on the QRA website.

The 2020-21 QRRRF funding round is expected to open for applications in February/March 2021 with \$19.1 million available for allocation. The \$19.1 million is made up of \$3.5 million funded by the Queensland Government for resilience projects, \$9.6 million joint State-Commonwealth-funding for risk reduction projects and \$6 million Commonwealth-funding to manage disaster risks for 14 local governments severely impacted by the 2019 North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough event.

Recovery and Resilience Grants

\$12 million has been made available from the Commonwealth's National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency to support locally-led recovery and resilience activities in the 14 local government areas most impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, January-February 2019.

The objective of the Recovery and Resilience Grants is to provide impacted Local Governments with funding for projects and activities they deem essential for the recovery of their communities and to increase resilience, consistent with the strategic pillars and actions identified in the Australian Government's, 'After the flood: A strategy for long-term recovery'.

Each local government will receive up to \$857,000 for eligible activities, with work programs due to QRA by 31 March 2021. Projects must be delivered by 1 December 2023.

Resilience projects and activities



Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

In line with international best practice, the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience seeks to incorporate the considerable knowledge and experience that exists across government and non-government organisations to deliver a comprehensive and coordinated all-hazards approach to building disaster resilience throughout Queensland.

A key component of the strategy is harnessing local knowledge that supports actions to create stronger, safer, healthier and more secure communities.

The strategy capitalises on the good work already being delivered by our state agencies, local governments and communities and provides a cohesive approach to building resilience throughout the state.

www.qra.qld.gov.au/QSDR

Resilient Queensland 2018-2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

Resilient Queensland – Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2018-2021 is a blueprint for use across government, the community, not-for-profit sector, business and industry that see regions across Queensland co-develop individually tailored regional resilience plans.

Activities delivered under Resilient Queensland are strengthening our communication networks, encouraging shared knowledge, identifying gaps and opportunities and supporting greater coordination of disaster resilience activities across all levels of government, private and community sectors across Queensland.

Resilient Queensland in Action, released in February 2020, is the 18-month progress report highlighting how Queensland is delivering on the objectives of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR). It showcases achievements including case studies and initiatives by our state agencies, local governments and communities, incorporating climate risk and delivering a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to building disaster resilience.

www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-queensland

Regional Resilience Plans

A key outcome of Resilient Queensland is the development of regional resilience plans to support the coordination and prioritisation of future resilience building and mitigation projects across Queensland.

By 2022, every local government in Queensland will be part of a regional resilience strategy that clearly identifies and prioritises actions to strengthen disaster resilience over time.

This locally led, regionally coordinated and state-facilitated approach is strengthening relationships between local governments and state agencies to support the development of resilient building strategies that can be better coordinated and aligned to future funding opportunities, providing better value for money and a more disaster resilient Queensland.

Under phase 1 of the project, regional resilience strategies have been delivered for the Central West, Mary, Fitzroy and Burnett Catchment regions.

Phase 2 of the statewide rollout of regional resilience strategies commenced early October 2020 and the project team completed inception visits to all state regions by 31 December 2020.

www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-queensland/regional-resilience-strategies



Resilience projects and activities



Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP)

- QRA has oversight of 52 SFMP actions including 34 for State government, of which QRA is responsible for 12 actions.
- Work progresses on multiple actions and deliverables, many forecasting completion by early 2021.
- A desktop flood preparedness exercise (Exercise Cascade) was held on 19 November 2020. A post exercise report is being finalised including actions and recommendations for follow up.
- QRA and the Brisbane River catchment councils have collaboratively produced a 'Regional Guideline for Flood Awareness Mapping and Communication' document which addresses action CAR2.3 of the SFMP. Final publication is expected early 2021.
- The QRA project team is finalising the 'Framework for the economic assessment of flood management projects' which will address action FM7 of the SFMP with finalisation expected in January 2021 and publication to follow soon after.
- The QRA project team is now drafting final reports for the 'Cumulative Impact Assessment' which addresses action LU1 of the SFMP. The report is expected to be finalised in February 2021.

North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough Cat D - Flood Mapping and Flood Warning Programs

- The \$1 million Burdekin and Haughton Catchment Resilience Strategy Project will develop locally-led and regionally-coordinated resilience solutions to address recent and emerging disaster risks for councils in the catchment area including Townsville City Council. This project is currently underway and is on track for completion by April 2021.
- The \$8 million Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project has seen the appointment of project managers for the North West and Far North areas of operation. A request for a 12 month extension of time for delivery to 30 June 2022 has been approved by the Commonwealth.
- The Townsville Recalibrated Flood Modelling and Mapping Project, supporting Townsville City Council to update and recalibrate flood modelling and mapping across the council area including the Ross River, is underway.



Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (RCNDA)

- The Royal Commission's final report was released in late October 2020. It contains 80 recommendations across 20 themes focussing on improvements to national preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery arrangements, including clarification of roles and responsibilities of all levels of government, warning systems and community education, and improvements to firefighting capabilities and resource sharing.
- QRA is contributing to a whole-of-government response to the Commission's recommendations. DPC and QFES will lead a submission for Cabinet consideration in early 2021.

Review of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

- On 13 March 2020, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) tasked Emergency Management Australia (EMA) to lead a review of the DRFA in consultation with States and Territories.
- Following stakeholder consultation, EMA identified the following key areas for review:
 - national comparison of state and territory DRFA assistance measures;
 - streamlining the Category C activation process; and
 - reviewing the assurance arrangements for the DRFA.
- QRA is leading reform negotiations on behalf of Queensland Government agencies.
- Key progress on each of the reform measures includes:
 - National comparison of state and territory DRFA assistance measures – The Commonwealth is pursuing increasing consistency in recovery measures available between states. The Commonwealth has implemented benchmarks for assistance measures to be considered by state and territory governments for the 2020-21 disaster season.
 - Streamlined Category C activation process - An updated Category C activation process, which removes the need for states to meet the strict criteria previously applied, will be in place for the 2020-21 disaster season. Jurisdictions are also working on 'off-the-shelf' Category C packages to enable fast and efficient delivery of recovery measures.
 - Review of assurance arrangements for the DRFA - QRA is continuing to participate in the review of assurance arrangements.

GET READY QUEENSLAND (GRQ)

GRQ is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The program integrates a state-wide research driven awareness campaign led by the QRA, alongside a grass roots grants program providing \$2M across all 77 Queensland councils to tailor information most credible and relevant to their community.

Program Evaluation and future recommendations

A comprehensive evaluation of the Get Ready Queensland program is currently underway, incorporating lessons learned over the past four years under the leadership of the QRA.

In December 2020, Queensland councils were invited to provide their feedback on the Get Ready Queensland Program through an online survey. This feedback will be incorporated into the evaluation, along with market research evaluating the recent state wide advertising campaign. The team will develop a range of new resources for councils to use locally. Updates will be provided via council briefings in the coming weeks.



Resilient Australia Awards – national recognition for Queensland

On 4 December 2020, the 21st Resilient Australia Awards national ceremony was held at the National Museum in Canberra to recognise and promote initiatives that strengthen community disaster resilience. The Queensland awards were hosted by Get Ready Queensland in October, with the finalists going on to receive recognition at the national level.

The Queensland winners recognised with national awards were:

2020 Resilient Australia National Award

- **WINNER** - Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health for the Birdie's Tree universal resources: Growing together through natural disasters
- **Highly Commended** – Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - Drought and Climate Adaption Program
- **Highly Commended** - James Davidson Architects - Building Australia's Residential Flood Resilience.

2020 Resilient Australia National School Award

- **WINNER** - Thuringowa State High School - Disaster Resilience for a Changing Climate Grand Challenge.

2020 Resilient Australia Suncorp National Award

- **Highly Commended** - Queenslanders with Disability Network - Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (PCEP) Planning for COVID-19 for people with disability.

2020 Resilient Australia National Local Government Award

- **Highly Commended** – Scenic Rim Regional Council - Scenic Rim Farm Box project.



Image: Queensland finalists with Minister Littleproud at the National Resilient Australia Awards ceremony.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUEENSLAND FLOODS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QRA

The 10-year anniversary of the devastating floods that swept across Queensland and Cyclone Yasi, is a fitting time to reflect on the significance of those events but also how far Queensland has come in terms of rebuilding and responding to natural disasters.

All 73 of Queensland’s local council areas were impacted by those natural disasters and the reconstruction bill for public infrastructure alone was approximately \$6.6 billion.

To manage this mammoth program, the then Premier Anna Bligh established the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to work side-by-side with councils and Queenslanders on their long road to recovery.

World’s best practice

Since 2011, QRA has managed a recovery and reconstruction program worth more than \$16.4 billion across more than 80 disaster events, developing a world-renowned reputation in the process.

While initially set up on a temporary basis, the Queensland Government made QRA Australia’s first permanent disaster recovery agency in 2015 and also the lead agency for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy.

Through the QRA, Queensland set the benchmark for reconstruction, recovery and resilience and, 10 years later, is now seeing other states and the Commonwealth looking to establish similar organisations.

Even in the early stages of QRA’s establishment during 2011, the World Bank acknowledged QRA’s systems and processes as world’s best practice for administration of reconstruction funds.

QRA has regularly presented at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction conferences and was the only non-nation state invited by the World Bank to present at the 2018 APEC workshop on building resilience in public assets.



Image: QRA’s first CEO Graeme Newton inspects the new Grantham Site, with Brendan Nelson.

From the outset, QRA committed to working closely with the Local Government Association of Queensland as well as each and every impacted council to provide as much support as possible on their recovery journey.

QRA is proud to have supported the capability and capacity of local councils to facilitate their reconstruction and recovery activities.

Innovation and learning

QRA continues to learn from each disaster that has hit the state over the past 10 years.

QRA leads the nation in disaster recovery and reconstruction, working across all levels of government to drive best practice in flood mitigation activities and to ensure Queensland communities are well prepared for future flooding events.

QRA’s innovative approach challenged the status quo of like-for-like reconstruction set by the Commonwealth and has laid the foundation to build stronger and more resilient communities, not only in Queensland but across the country.

As an organisation, there has been a quantum leap in the way QRA manages and administers reconstruction funding for councils and state agencies, having evolved from a paper-based submission process in the early days to a sophisticated and easy-to-use digital process now.

In the disaster preparedness space, QRA has managed the Get Ready Queensland program since 2017 and, in 2019, recruited rugby league legend Johnathan Thurston to be program ambassador to help spread the important message of being prepared.

Looking to the future

Looking to the future, QRA has a vision to make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia and has developed a plan to achieve that goal, which includes the development of regional resilience strategies for each region in Queensland by 2022.

QRA will continue to evolve and adapt to whatever challenges Mother Nature throws at us and QRA remains committed to supporting all impacted communities.



Locally led recovery

QRA knows from experience that recovery is most successful when it is locally led and supported at the State and Commonwealth level.

Thanks to the support of the QRA, Queensland communities are better prepared and better placed now than ever before to respond to and recover from the inevitable disaster events that impact our state.

QRA'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS SINCE 2011

Strengthening Grantham	Queensland flood mapping
Brisbane Ferry Terminals and Riverwalk	Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring System (DARMSys™)
Reconstructing Cardwell	Betterment
Toowoomba flood mitigation works	Get Ready Queensland
Bradleys Gully in Charleville	Repeat Events and Dollars Index application
Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study	Building Queensland's Resilience to Disasters
Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan	Building guidance for Queensland homes

SIGNIFICANT 2011 RECOVERY PROJECTS



Strengthening Grantham

On 10 January 2011, what was described as an inland tsunami slammed into the town of Grantham in the Lockyer Valley, causing the loss of 17 lives, widespread destruction of property and millions of dollars of damage to public infrastructure.

Grantham was the single most devastated community of Queensland's January 2011 floods, with 148 homes either destroyed or damaged beyond repair.

QRA worked in partnership with Lockyer Valley Regional Council (LVRC) to secure \$18 million in extraordinary circumstances Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding for the Strengthening Grantham initiative.

The project involved a voluntary land swap and relocation of residents to higher ground. The Queensland Government passed special legislation to fast track the approval for the relocation of Grantham.

In conjunction with LVRC, QRA led an accelerated planning and approvals process through the declaration of Grantham as a Reconstruction Area under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011*. The approval time took just three months (instead of what would normally be about three years). QRA provided expertise and staffing, including town planners, to assist with the project.

Residents of Grantham were offered land swap arrangements to move from flood affected areas to the new subdivision created under the community master plan.

On 22 November 2011, the first house was relocated to the new Grantham estate, followed by the official opening of the new Grantham Estate on 10 December 2011.

In total, more than 100 properties were swapped as part of the Strengthening Grantham initiative.

In recognition of the project, as part of the 2012 National Emergency Management Awards for Local Government, LVRC received the award for Land-Use Planning.

The Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry (QFCOI) Final Report also commended the Strengthening Grantham project, saying:

“The Lockyer Valley Regional Council’s land swap program, coupled with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority’s development scheme, is a timely and effective floodplain management response to the unique circumstances of Grantham. The success of the Grantham project provides a template for a response to floodplain management which other councils in similar circumstances may wish to adopt.” (QFCOI Final Report, page 277).



Image: Grantham, Lockyer Valley, January 2011.



Images above: Queensland railway damage, during repairs and restored.

Brisbane Ferry Terminals and Riverwalk

The 2011 floods destroyed Brisbane’s iconic Riverwalk and seven of Brisbane City Council’s ferry terminals.

On 26 February 2011, QRA secured funding of up to \$145 million for the replacement of the ferry terminal infrastructure (\$70 million) and the Brisbane Riverwalk (\$75 million) as part of the Queensland Local Council Package funded under Category D of the NDRRA.

Ferry Terminals

Seven new ferry terminals were designed to withstand a one-in-500-year flood event and include robust piers engineered with the capacity to deflect heavy objects in flood waters, as well as gangways that detach at the shore-end in the event of a flood, allowing them to swing behind the pontoon to avoid being struck by debris.

The reconstructed ferry terminals are: Regatta, QUT Gardens Point, Sydney Street (New Farm), University of Queensland (St Lucia), North Quay (CBD), Maritime Museum (South Brisbane) and Holman Street (Kangaroo Point).

Brisbane City Council completed the mammoth task of reconstructing the seven ferry terminals in 2015.

Riverwalk

The Brisbane Riverwalk is a key active transport link between New Farm and the Brisbane CBD. This permanent fixture was built to replace Brisbane’s first floating riverwalk – a visionary project that was all but swept away in the 2011 floods when a large section of the walkway broke free and washed downstream.

The new 870-metre long, six-metre wide walkway is designed to withstand a one-in-2000-year flood. The riverwalk is anchored to the riverbed by 37 concrete piles and its deck pieces are connected to the piles with reinforced concrete to provide a structure that has significant flood resilience.

To minimise forces from the river flow and reduce potential impact of floating debris, the alignment of the new walkway is parallel with the shoreline and the rotating opening span is located at the downstream end of the walkway.

The popular community asset has been completely rebuilt as a fixed structure that is more resilient to future flooding, and is designed to last for 100 years.

Works commenced in July 2013 and were completed in September 2014.



Images: (top) Holman Street Ferry Terminal succumbs to flooding in the Brisbane River, January 2011. (Bottom): Ferry terminal repaired.

Images (top and middle): Brisbane Riverwalk damaged during flood. (Bottom): Riverwalk restored.

Reconstructing Cardwell

The tiny town of Cardwell on the Cassowary Coast in North Queensland bore the brunt of Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi in February 2011.

Following the destruction, QRA worked closely with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) and Cassowary Coast Regional Council to deliver the \$40 million Reconstructing Cardwell project.

The Cardwell foreshore is an important infrastructure project in North Queensland that combines a range of projects intended to restore social, economic, transport and tourist infrastructure in a community that was severely impacted by the cyclone.

Works at Cardwell 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; a memorial; a roundabout and formal parking. Works to the Coral Sea Memorial and northern playground include revegetation of sand dunes, landscaping installation and concrete pads to seating areas. Paths have also been constructed around the jetty playground and plaza.

Works began in August 2012 and were completed in November 2013.

The Reconstructing Cardwell project was delivered under the NDRRA, a joint federal and state initiative. Transport and Main Roads and Cassowary Coast Regional Council also provided funding to the project.



Image: Cardwell (North-South view), January 2011.

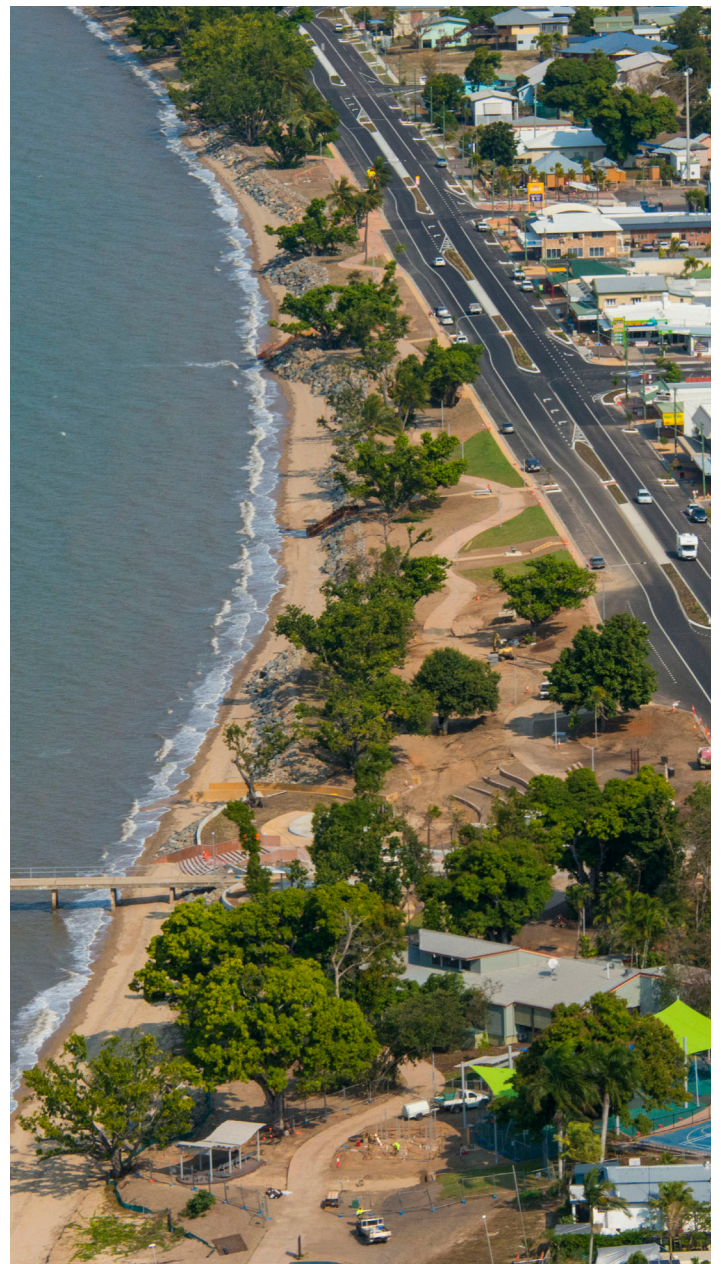


Image: Cardwell (South-North view), November 2013.

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Works at Cardwell 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; a memorial; a roundabout and formal parking. Works to the Coral Sea Memorial and northern playground include revegetation of sand dunes, landscaping installation and concrete pads to seating areas. Paths have also been constructed around the jetty playground and plaza.

Works began in August 2012 and were completed in November 2013.

The Reconstructing Cardwell project was delivered under the NDRRA, a joint federal and state initiative. Transport and Main Roads and Cassowary Coast Regional Council also provided funding to the project.

Bradleys Gully in Charleville

Despite levee construction works in 2008 to protect Charleville from the Warrego River during times of flood, the town was still exposed to significant flooding risk from its major tributary, Bradleys Gully, which runs directly through the central business area.

The Queensland Government examined flood mitigation options in 2010 and 2011, and included the diversion of Bradleys Gully, as well as further work to the 2008 levee to improve flood mitigation for Charleville.

Following the 2011 floods which again saw the town inundated, QRA championed the \$14.3 million project, ensuring its delivery.

Works to Bradleys Gully commenced in September 2012 and were jointly carried out by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (Roadtek), contractors CDM Smith, and Murweh Shire Council’s internal labour force. The project was completed in December 2013.



Image: Toowoomba flash flood January 2011.

Toowoomba flood mitigation works

Images of the flash flooding through Toowoomba’s CBD became one of the iconic memories of the Queensland floods in January 2011.

In 2015, Toowoomba Regional Council completed \$25 million worth of flood mitigation projects, ensuring the city is more resilient to future flooding events.

The West Creek component involved West Creek channel works to increase capacity between James Street and Herries Street as well as an upgrade to the Goggs Street stormwater system.

The East Creek component consisted of new detention basins at Ballin Drive Park and Garnet Lehman Park, an upgraded detention basin at Ramsay Street/Spring Street, upgraded culvert beneath South Street on East Creek, and East Creek channel works to increase capacity between James Street and Creek Street by upgrading the Mary Street culvert.

The flood mitigation projects were made possible by \$20 million in joint State-Commonwealth NDRRA Category D funding and \$5 million contribution from Toowoomba Regional Council.



Images: (Top) Toowoomba stormwater drain January 2011. (Bottom) Repaired stormwater drain 2015.

OTHER KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS SINCE 2011

Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study

Recommendation 2.2 of the 2012 Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry was that the “*Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council and Somerset Regional Council and the Queensland Government should ensure that, as soon as practical, a flood study of the Brisbane River catchment is completed*”.

QRA partnered with the local governments of Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley, Seqwater and state agencies to deliver the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study in May 2017.

The study took four years to complete and is the largest flood study ever undertaken in Australia.

The study provides a comprehensive understanding of the behaviour and characteristics of flood waters along the Brisbane River, downstream of Wivenhoe Dam.

It incorporated 170 years of historical rainfall data and 11,340 scenarios that influence flooding, as well as the development of sophisticated computer modelling with more than 50,000 computer model simulations.

The study provides the Queensland Government and local governments with reliable information about the probabilities of flooding, extents of flooding and flood hazards.

www.qra.qld.gov.au/brcfs

Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan

Following on from the flood study, QRA worked with the four councils and other government partner agencies to develop the Strategic Floodplain Management Plan.

The plan informs how we prepare for, and manage, a range of possible flood events at a regional level with greater efficiency and coordination in order to better protect communities from the impacts of flood disasters.

It is the first plan of this scale to be delivered in Australia and sets a new national benchmark for floodplain management.

The plan considered more than 134,000 properties, and involved the most robust and comprehensive economic impact study every undertaken for a floodplain management plan in Queensland.

It identifies 52 recommended actions that all levels of government are implementing to improve community safety and reduce the cost and impact of future floods in the region.

<https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/brcfs>

Queensland flood mapping

Following the devastating state-wide floods of 2011, QRA in partnership with the then Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), undertook a state-wide floodplain mapping exercise.

QRA completed flood studies in more than 100 flood-prone towns across the state to provide base data for improved land use planning and emergency response decision making.

For example, during the flooding in Bundaberg caused by Tropical Cyclone Oswald in January 2013, the 9.5m modelling estimated by DNRM and QRA proved to be an extremely accurate representation of the actual 9.53m flood peak.

In total, the Queensland Flood Mapping Program delivered fit-for-purpose flood maps in 172 flood-prone communities across 53 local government areas to support better emergency management and land use planning decision-making.

Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring System (DARMSys™)

Developed by QRA and introduced as a pilot program in April 2011, the Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring System (DARMSys™) is used to monitor Queensland's rebuilding progress.

In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, QRA conducts street-by-street and house-by-house inspections through flood, bushfire and cyclone-affected communities to identify the level of damage, damage patterns, and where the greatest needs exist using a handheld monitoring device which sends the information via Wi-Fi to inform map-based damage data.

QRA also conducts three-monthly follow-up assessments for a year after the disaster to track the rate of reconstruction. This helps local and state government agencies target assistance to the most vulnerable in our communities.

As at December 2020, 43 DARMSys operations have been conducted since 2011, with a total of 64,040 inspections conducted across 14 events.

DARMSys™ has been acknowledged by the World Bank as having played an instrumental role in helping Queensland to recover quickly from natural disasters.

www.qra.qld.gov.au/key-projects/damage-assessment-and-reconstruction-monitoring-darmsys

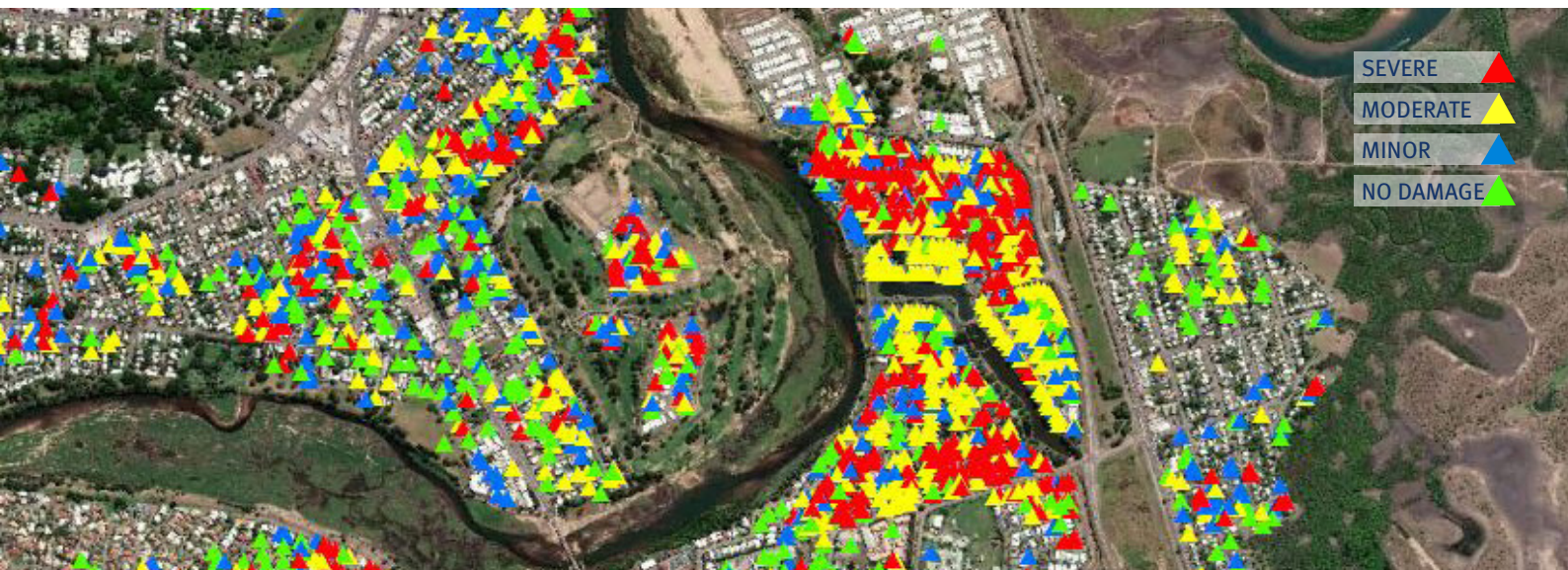


Image: DARMSys assessment (screen capture). Townsville 2019.

Betterment

Betterment allows local governments to rebuild essential public assets to a more resilient standard that helps them withstand the impacts of future disasters.

Following Cyclones Oswald, Marcia and Debbie in 2013, 2015 and 2017, and the 2019 Monsoon Floods, \$241.85 million was approved for more than 470 projects across 44 local government areas from the various Queensland Betterment Funds, providing the resources needed to build back better so the next disaster doesn't have the same devastating impact.

The Betterment Fund is a great example of all levels of government working together to improve the resilience of our communities.

Almost 260 of the delivered betterment projects have been impacted by subsequent events (e.g. floods, cyclones, severe storms) since their completion, with some sites having been affected up to five times.

From an investment of less than \$95 million for these projects, more than \$145 million in avoided costs have been identified to date, and that's just for those projects that have been re-impacted.

The Betterment Fund is jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth under Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and the former NDRRA.

[Click here to access Betterment map with details of approved projects.](#)

Get Ready Queensland

QRA has managed the Get Ready Queensland program since 2017. The program is a year-round, all-hazards, resilience-building program to keep Queensland communities safe. Get Ready Queensland provides \$2 million each year which is shared between Queensland's 77 local councils and one town authority.

In 2019, Get Ready Queensland recruited rugby league legend and Indigenous role model Johnathan Thurston as its ambassador to help spread the message of the importance of being prepared for Queensland's severe weather.

www.getready.qld.gov.au/



Image: Ambassador Jonathon Thurston at the launch of Get Ready Queensland Week in October 2019.



Images: (Top) Rifle Range Road Burdekin Shire Council damage. (Bottom) Rifle Range Road Burdekin Shire Council repaired.

Repeat Events and Dollars Index application

The Repeat Events and Dollars Index (REDI) app uses technology to help all Queensland councils better understand their risk, costs and repeat damage from natural disaster events.

This data is represented in a 'heat map' that identifies and highlights the most frequent and most costly damage sites to support councils to identify priority works and make informed decisions when it comes to building stronger, more resilient infrastructure.

QRA developed the interactive mapping tool using 10 years of geo-coded damage data across 600,000 locations, recognising more than 20,000 assets in Queensland's 77 local government areas.

www.qra.qld.gov.au/REDI

Building Queensland’s Resilience to Disasters

In line with international best practice, the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience seeks to incorporate the considerable knowledge and experience that exists across government and non-government organisations to deliver a comprehensive and coordinated all-hazards approach to building disaster resilience throughout Queensland.

Resilient Queensland – Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2018-2021 is a blueprint for use across government, the community, not-for-profit sector, business and industry that see regions across Queensland co-develop individually tailored regional resilience plans.

Activities delivered under Resilient Queensland are strengthening our communication networks, encouraging shared knowledge, identifying gaps and opportunities and supporting greater coordination of disaster resilience activities across all levels of government, private and community sectors across Queensland.

A key outcome of Resilient Queensland is the development of regional resilience plans to support the coordination and prioritisation of future resilience building and mitigation projects across Queensland. To date regional resilience strategies have been delivered for the Central West, Mary, Fitzroy and Burnett Catchment regions and, by 2022, every local government in Queensland will be part of a regional resilience strategy that clearly identifies and prioritises actions to strengthen disaster resilience over time.

Building guidance for Queensland homes

QRA has released a series of building resilience guidance documents (addressing floods, cyclones, storm tides and bushfires) for Queensland homeowners and developers.

Using resilient building design improves how we prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. It significantly reduce the effort and time to return people to their homes and workplaces following these natural disasters.

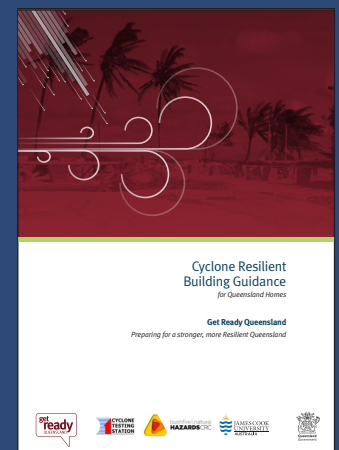
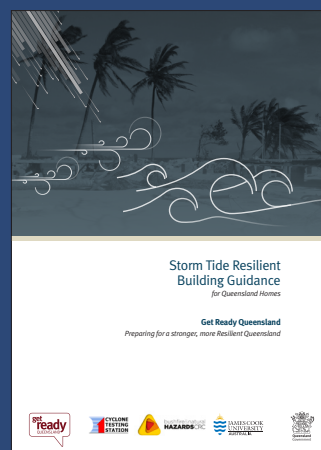
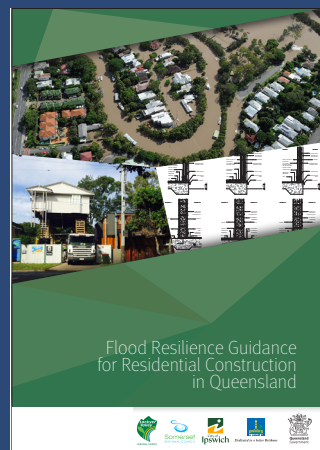
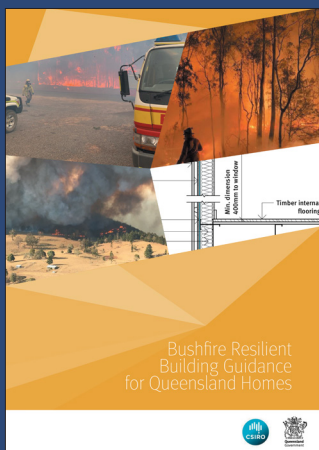
Resilient design and construction can also reduce long-term financial costs for home owners associated with disaster damage and insurance premiums.

The Building Guidelines are as follows:

- Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes
- Cyclone Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes
- Storm Tide Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes
- Bushfire Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes

www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-homes

More photos can be found at I:\Interface Management\Issues Management\Media releases\2020 statements\DRAFTS\QRA 10 year anniversary highlights\Photos



Building Guidelines for Queensland homes.