



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:

Stronger, safer, resilient Queensland communities.

OUR PURPOSE:

Coordinate action to improve the resilience of Queensland communities and facilitate locally led disaster recovery.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

In the September quarter

The focus of the disaster assistance grants program in the September quarter has been to progress the close-out of submissions completed up to 30 June 2021 and monitor the ongoing progress of works in delivery.

For works completed up to 30 June 2021, funding recipients were required to submit close-out documentation by 30 September 2021, in order for QRA to now assess, close-out and make final payments due prior to end-December 2021.

In addition, QRA has continued to work with delivery agents to progress the development and approval of 2021 Event reconstruction submissions.

During the quarter, a detailed review of the Delivery Program was also undertaken resulting in a revision of the active program under administration to more than \$3 billion, principally as a result of revising 2021 events estimates as damage estimates were refined through the submission preparation and assessment phase.



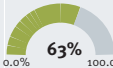






The \$20 million 2020–21 Betterment Fund was also launched during the quarter. Jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, the fund has an objective to restore essential public assets to a more resilient standard and is available in 47 local government areas in Queensland impacted in the 2020–21 disaster season.

Disaster Assistance and Resilience Grants Program

Since establishment, QRA has administered a recovery and reconstruction program through the joint State Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth more than \$16.5 billion. Works for 28 events from the 2019, 2020 and 2021 disaster seasons are currently in delivery with an estimated value in excess of approximately \$3.0 billion.

In addition to DRFA, QRA is currently administering six other State, Commonwealth and joint-funded grant programs with a capped value of \$86.75 million, focused on disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

Status of Active Grants Programs administered by QRA

	Prior Events	2019 Events	2020 Events	2021 Events
 NUMBER OF EVENTS	-	12	5	11
\$3,088M Delivery Program	\$73M Program	\$1,466M Program	\$919M Program	\$630M Program
Deadline for Delivery	Complete	Complete	30 June 2022	30 June 2023
 Time Elapsed	Complete Remainder under EOT's	Complete Remainder under EOT's	 63%	 13%
 % Completion	 96% complete	 91% complete	 46% complete	 9% complete

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

RECOVERY

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

Disaster Season Preparation

Recovery in Practice Exercise

In October, the Recovery team on behalf of QRA will lead the ‘Recovery in Practice’ exercise designed to demonstrate Queensland’s local and state recovery planning processes following an extraordinary flood event scenario in the Brisbane River Catchment.

The exercise will be comprised of two phases:

- **Phase 1:** The Recovery team has facilitated pre-exercise planning workshops with the four relevant Local Governments (LGs) and five Functional Recovery Groups (FRGs). These workshops familiarised participants with the scenario and enabled event specific local and functional recovery planning to commence prior to Phase 2.
- **Phase 2:** Planning for the multi-agency ‘FLOOD-EX21 Recovery in practice’ full day event on 18 October 2021 is continuing. The event will involve selected officers from the participating agencies working through the scenario, highlighting the importance of all levels of Government working together to transition from disaster event response, to recovery and building resilience.



Image: Building Functional Recovery Group Phase 1 FLOOD-EX 21 workshop.



Image: Ipswich City Council Phase 1 FLOOD-EX 21 workshop.



National Recovery Agenda

Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-Committee (CORS)

QRA is leading and contributing to key projects developed and delivered through the Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-Committee (CORS), as part of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) framework. Work continues on the Catastrophic Crisis Model Recovery Arrangements, Disaster Recovery Capability Strategy and the Functional Domain Reference Groups. A final draft of the National Recovery Needs Assessment Project has been completed and returned to CORS for finalisation. The draft Disaster Recovery Capability Strategy is out for consultation with stakeholders.

National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) National Recovery Training Project

QRA Recovery team members are participating in, and contributing to the NRRRA’s National Recovery Training Project. The intent of the project is to develop accredited training for recovery practitioners.

National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) Regional Recovery Exercises Program

QRA Recovery team members are participating, and contributing to the NRRRA’s Regional Recovery Exercises program. The intent of the program is to provide a national approach to exercising to support and enhance local recovery capabilities and resilience building. This will be reached with the development of a Recovery Exercising Toolkit and NRRRA supported recovery exercises.

Recovery Governance and Capability Development

Recovery practice is constantly evolving to meet the needs of disaster impacted communities and QRA recognises the importance of ensuring Disaster Management Stakeholders have the knowledge and skills required to support recovery operations. QRA has recently updated the Queensland Recovery Plan to ensure it reflects key changes in the recovery practice. The largest change outlines the role of the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) and how NRRRA will interact with the Queensland Recovery Landscape.

To ensure recovery stakeholders and members of the public have an understanding of the lifecycle of recovery and the recovery planning methodology used in Queensland, the QRA has developed two informative animations. These animations assist with making recovery concepts more accessible for stakeholders and highlight the importance the community plays in the recovery process. The animations can be found on the [QRA Recovery Hub](#).



Image: Lifecycle of Recovery (we all have a role to play).



Image: Recovery Planning Methodology (local recovery planning).

QRA is focused on ensuring recovery is locally led, and supports Local Governments and Local Recovery Groups across Queensland to build their recovery capability through training workshops. These workshops focus on finalising recovery governance arrangements and developing recovery sub-plans. This quarter Balonne, Bulloo, Murweh, Paroo and Quilpie Shire Councils and North Burnett Regional Council participated in recovery workshops.

QRA assisted a number of local governments to develop COVID-19 event specific recovery plans using the Recovery Planning Methodology. Cairns Regional Council entered their plan into the National Economic Development Awards and has been shortlisted as a finalist. The recognition of this plan demonstrates the importance of effective recovery planning and the role of QRA in supporting local government.

QRA is delivering the District Recovery Project which is designed to understand recovery needs at the district level, and provide District Disaster Management Groups (DDMGs) with specific training based on those needs. During this quarter, QRA continued liaising with the Queensland Police Service on the roll out of the workshops associated with the project. Six districts have formally confirmed their intention to participate in the project, with four workshop dates confirmed. Another twelve districts have expressed interest in participating, with three districts requesting to engage in the New Year. The District Recovery Session Plan and Presentation are currently being finalised.



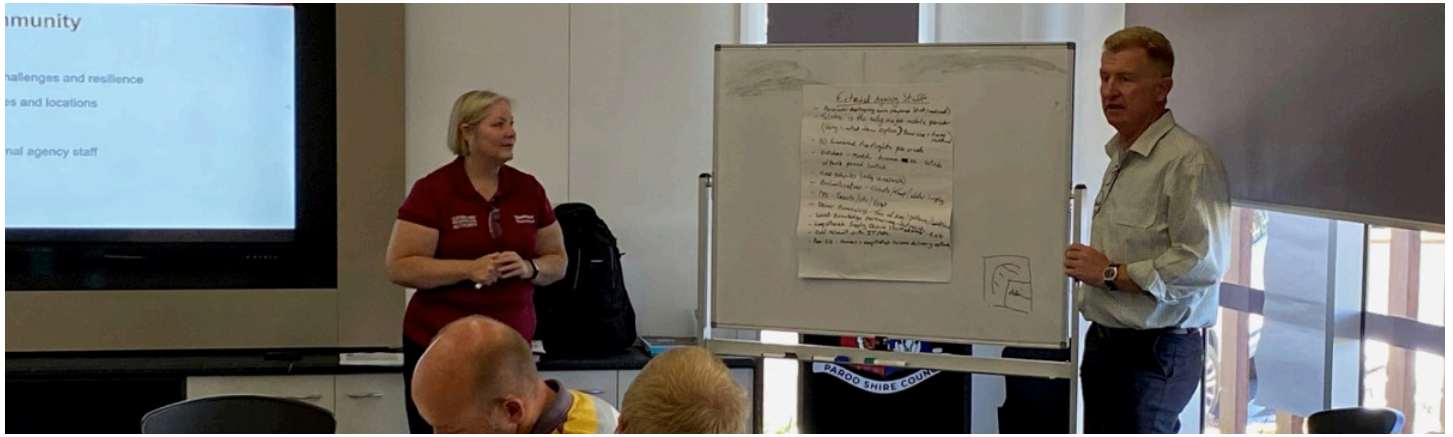


Image: Paroo Shire Council Recovery Sub-plan development workshop.

Queensland Bushfires (2019) – Event-Specific Recovery Plan

State event-specific recovery plans underpins the Government’s commitment to supporting the locally led rebuild, recovery and reconnection of disaster affected communities. State Event-specific recovery plans contain Local event-specific recovery plans which highlight initiatives that support recovery and reconstruction activities and provide opportunities for communities to reconnect. There were 8 local event specific recovery plans developed for the Queensland Bushfires.

The Queensland Bushfires (2019) recovery plan is currently being implemented and QRA monitoring progress. Within the 2019 Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan there are a total of 172 recovery objectives. 53 identified from FRGs and 119 across the impacted local governments. The summary of progress against these recovery objects are outlined below:

COMPLETE	IN PROGRESS ON TRACK	IN PROGRESS DELAYED (D)	NOT STARTED (NS)	OTHER (O)
102	64	4	1	1

Those objectives not yet commenced or delayed are a result of covid-19 implications and waiting for the appointed support staff to commence.

Monitoring and Evaluation

QRA’s monitoring and evaluation capability (M&E) contributes to its strategic objective to produce evidence based data, analytics and evaluative materials that are useful to, and used by, communities and decision makers.

M&E activities are underway to determine the appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the Community Recovery Programs in relation to the Far North & Northern Queensland Monsoon (2019), Central Queensland Bushfires (2018) and Queensland Bushfires (2019). M&E program status as of August:

- **Queensland Bushfires (2019):**
 - Tourism Recovery Program (*program logic, outputs and outcomes agreed and developed*)
 - Mental Health Program (*monitoring framework designed*)
- **Far North & Northern Queensland Monsoon (2019):**
 - Industry Recovery Officers (*evaluation report near finalisation*)
 - + Guidelines for future programs agreed with Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)
 - Community Development Officers (*evaluation report near finalisation*)
 - Small Business Recovery Program (*evaluation report near finalisation*)
 - Mental Health Program (*evaluation report being drafted*)
 - Environment Recovery Program (*data collection and stakeholder interviews in progress*)
 - Tourism Recovery Program (*desktop review in progress*)
- **Central Queensland Bushfires (2018):**
 - Mental Health Program (*evaluation report being drafted*)
 - Community Development Officer Program (*evaluation report being drafted*)
 - Rural Residential Recovery Program (*evaluation report near finalisation*)

Recommendations for future Community Recovery funding and delivery of future extraordinary funding packages will be developed.

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. <i>Go Local</i> campaign is being finalised and will support Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast and Noosa LGAs.
Tourism Recovery Officers (TRO's) \$0.75M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Tourism Recovery Officers have been appointed for Scenic Rim, Southern Downs and the wine industry and are working across the region. The Scenic Rim and Southern Downs Officers are supporting the delivery of each council's activities and initiatives.
Tourism Recovery Fund for Local Government \$2.75M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenic Rim Regional Council has developed eight activities/initiatives and Southern Downs Regional Council has developed 11 initiatives for funding.
Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience \$1.0M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works for the Gwongoorool Pool walking track (3kms) completed and re-opened mid-March but re-closed due to severe weather. Illinbah walking track (13kms) is complete. Procurement underway for Lower Bell Bird Track and the section of the GC Hinterland Great Walk track is due to commence 2021–22.
Binna Burra Recovery Package \$1.775M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean-up and recovery works are progressing for Binna Burra Lodge and the third 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"> Clinical staff now fill all 9.25 funded positions and 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"> Five Community Development Offices (CDO) have been appointed to support six LGAs allocated CDOs with Lockyer Valley and Somerset allocated a part time resource (0.5 CDO).
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. 72 Flexible Funding Grant Projects approved in Round 2 to a value of \$4.1972M.
Monitoring and Evaluation \$300K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and Evaluation framework and resources are under development. Tourism program – two meetings with DTIS and recovery officers have been held to discuss and develop a monitoring and evaluation template and framework for data collection.
Local Economic Recovery Program \$36.8M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The \$36.8m for the LER program has been allocated to 48 projects across 13 eligible local government areas. Projects include the upgrade to sporting venues, improving trail networks and the replace of wooden power poles with fire resistant pole.
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

<p>Infrastructure \$124M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$116.6M allocated to 166 projects, to restore and improve the disaster resilience of flood damaged essential public, community and water assets.
<p>Economic \$34M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) and Rural Financial Counsellor programs successfully concluded on 30 June 21. • 478 small business grants approved with payments to date of \$4.12M. • Over 263 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. • \$2M provided to councils and Rural Aid for fodder supply costs.
<p>Environment \$46M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 riparian reconnaissance projects are complete and close out documentation submitted to the QRA. • 14 of 25 urgent riparian projects are complete, with 11 projects requiring an extension of time to June 2022. • 53 riparian projects are underway, including an additional 14 projects allocated in late 2020. • 30 weeds and pest projects are underway, including an additional 8 projects resulting from an additional \$1M allocated to this program. • 14 coastal projects were finalised by June 2021.
<p>Human & Social \$12.25M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development Officer Program concluded on 30 Jun 21 with the Winton Shire CDO being granted a 12 month EOT. • Mental Health program concluded on 30 Jun 21 after delivering services through Townsville, North West and Central West HHS's.
<p>Resilience \$25.75M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$12.4M Flexible Funding Grants programs delivered 187 projects with 6 projects totaling \$645k granted EOTs. • Townsville Flood Mapping project initiated.
<p>Monitoring & Evaluation \$500K</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field work is ongoing to support evaluation in the Environmental Recovery Program. • Interim reviews have been completed on the Mental Health and Community Development Officer Programs.

9 Monthly Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitory (DARMSys)

2020 South East Queensland hailstorm

Across the week of 13th September 2021, QRA accompanied by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) conducted the 9 month damage and reconstruction monitoring assessments on 904 properties. The results identified a total of 292 properties with some degree of damage. Of the 292 properties that remain damaged, 71 are uninhabitable and 28 remain with tarpaulins on roof. This is a significant reduction of tarpaulins of 169 properties in the May 2021 assessment. Of the 71 uninhabitable properties, work is underway on 67 (94 per cent). QRA have visited a total of 2216 properties over three reconstruction monitoring assessments, and of the properties inspected approximately 85 per cent have recovered.

QRA will undertake consultation with Ipswich and Logan Council to discuss ongoing recovery and QRA considers the progress of restoration works to be acceptable when compared with other disaster recovery events.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

MONSOON TROUGH STATE ROADS REPAIR PROGRAM COMPLETED

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has completed the Monsoon Trough reconstruction program, including 163 projects valued at more than \$115 million.

The North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough caused unprecedented flooding across northern and western Queensland in early 2019, with a total of 6420 kilometres of the state road network closed or under restricted access during the event.

The Monsoon Trough program included 37 emergency works projects and 126 reconstruction works projects. Reconstruction works involved 375.63 kilometres of pavement reconstruction, 369 earthworks and batter repair locations, 53 structure repair locations and 283 sites cleared of silt and debris.

Immediately after the event, TMR fast-tracked emergency works on key transport routes, with the Flinders Highway reopening less than two weeks after floodwaters receded. Following completion of repairs to major damaged sites near Townsville earlier in 2019, reconstruction and betterment works on the Flinders Highway in Queensland’s north west were completed in December 2019. This involved repairing almost 22 kilometres of this vital link for rural and remote communities and improving flood resilience at key locations.

Also in the north west, pavement repairs on Richmond–Winton Road commenced in September 2019 and were completed in December 2019.

Repairs have been completed at other major damaged sites including:

- **Alice River Bridge (Hervey Range Road)** – bridge repaired and reopened two months ahead of schedule in June 2019. Works completed in July 2019.
- **Hervey Range Road (geotech)** – emergency pavement repairs and slope stabilisation works completed in February 2019. Further geotechnical works commenced in September 2020 and were completed in March 2021.
- **Mount Spec Road (Paluma Range)** – landslip repairs at nine sites completed in July 2019. Further slope stabilisation works commenced in September 2020 and were completed in December 2020.
- **Landsborough Highway (Winton–Kynuna)** – pavement repairs commenced in July 2020 and were completed in June 2021. A further section was completed in July 2021.
- **Kennedy Developmental Road (Winton–Boulia)** – pavement and batter repairs commenced in July 2020 and were completed in March 2021.
- **Bruce Highway (Townsville–Ingham)** – pavement repairs commenced in August 2020 and were completed in November 2020.

In addition to reconstruction works, TMR spent a further \$30 million through the 2019 Betterment Program to improve the flood immunity and resilience of the state-controlled road network. Ten flood-prone sites were identified for improvement, where additional investment to build back better would minimise future flood damage and reduce road closures.

Eligible reconstruction works are jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Alice River Bridge (Hervey Range Road)



Image: damage from the Monsoon Trough event.



Image: completed repairs.

Flinders Highway (Richmond–Julia Creek)



Image: damage from the Monsoon Trough event.



Image: emergency works.

Hervey Range Road



Image: landslide site.



Image: completed repairs.

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



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

For 2018–19, \$10.65 million was allocated to 74 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 May 2021, 49 projects were completed and 25 were in progress.

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 2019–20 QRRRF allocated funds to 67 projects across 53 recipients. A list and interactive map of the successful projects is available on the [QRA website](#). As at 31 May 2021, 10 projects were completed, 42 were in progress and 15 were yet to commence.

The 2020–21 QRRRF funding round closed for expressions of interest on 7 April 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. Successful projects are expected to be announced in July 2021.

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. Councils have submitted and have been approved for their programs of work and are currently in delivery. Projects must be delivered by 1 December 2023.

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program

The 2020-21 \$50 million National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program is funded through the Australian Government's Emergency Response Fund. QRA applied for 20 projects under the Fund, with a requested value of over \$127 million. On 11 May 2021 it was announced that Queensland was successful with three applications: Armstrong Creek Causeway, Normanton to Burketown; Floraville and Truganini Roads Upgrades, Burketown to Normanton; and Dutton Street Bridge (Palm Creek Crossing), Ingham, which was not fully funded. QRA is currently working with the Commonwealth Government to formalise the administration of these projects.

North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program (NQNDMP)

The \$10 million North Queensland Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NQNDMP) is a fully state funded grant program, announced as part of the 2021-22 state budget. QRA will administer the program. QRA is currently developing the program guidelines. The NQNDMP aims to help reduce insurance premiums for Queensland families and businesses in high-risk and cyclone-prone areas.

Betterment

On 30 September 2021, the Australian and Queensland Governments jointly announced the establishment of a \$20 million betterment program in response to events in 2020–21.

Previously only available following particularly large events as part of a Category D package, this Betterment fund is a national first to be funded under the DRFA efficiencies framework, and be available to all communities impacted by all disaster events in a given year.

Resilience projects and activities



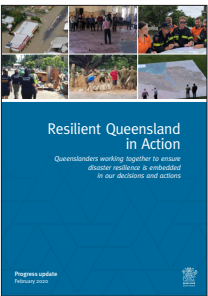
Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

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 sees 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 Strategies

A key outcome of *Resilient Queensland* is the development of regional resilience strategies 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. Strategy development is well underway, with four drafted and being prepared for regional stakeholder review, and the remaining seven are on track for finalisation by June 2022.

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 coordination of multiple actions and deliverables.
- The QRA project team finalised and published in April 2021, the *'Framework for the economic assessment of flood risk management projects'*, which supports investment in flood risk mitigation by providing a framework to quantify all types of damages resulting from floods..
- The QRA project team finalised and received government endorsement in May 2021, for the *'Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework'*, which sets the direction for flood risk management statewide, outlines roles and responsibilities, and guides and support decision-making by councils and other stakeholders..
- The QRA-led *Strategic Assessment of Service Requirement for Brisbane River Catchment Flood Forecasting and Warning Systems* which has been shared with key stakeholders. This comprehensive body of technical work involved many agencies and was directly supported by the Bureau and Seqwater.
- DTMR, in collaboration with QRA and other key stakeholders, completed the *State Guideline: Flood evacuation route improvements*, which is published on QRA's website. This guideline and supporting materials provide guidance on a process to support the identification of 'fair and reasonable' flood evacuation route improvements in Queensland.
- Brisbane City Council (BCC) has completed their *Local Floodplain Management Plan (LFMP)* (action FM3 of the SFMP). The LFMP incorporates actions to improve flood resilience, including improvements in information sharing, community led programs and land use planning, a feasibility study of temporary flood barriers, a review of the flood warning gauge network and a consideration of climate change sensitivity..
- QFES completed their SFMP action to develop a disaster data information framework to provide all stakeholders with access to consistent and up-to-date disaster data and information for the region.
- A milestone *Lessons Learned and Way Forward* planning workshop was held with stakeholders in April 2021, to review progress so far and identify priorities and improvements in further implementing the program. The stakeholders generally acknowledged flood risk management in the catchment has improved as a direct consequence of the work undertaken as part of the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study and the SFMP, and stakeholders were appreciative of QRA's coordinating role and current governance arrangements.
- Overall, 38 percent of the SFMP actions are now formally complete and 43 percent are in progress. QRA has completed eight actions, leaving three actions that are nearing completion and one future action, which is the five-year review of the SFMP implementation program.

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. As at 30 June, this project is now complete.
- The \$8 million *Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project* has seen the three area of operations (AO) prepare their tender documents for the appointment of delivery contractors. Asset delivery has commenced for all three AOs, which are Townsville and surrounds, Far North and North West.
- 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 focusing 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 continues to work towards implementing the 12 recommendations it is leading. Three of these recommendations have already been delivered.
- QRA continues to work with its partners to deliver on the remaining recommendations including the Federal Government.

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

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;
 - a series of pre-agreed ('off-the-shelf') packages, and
 - new national guidance on essential public asset restoration and betterment.

On 22 May 2020, at the Ministerial Emergency Management (MEM) Intersessional Meeting, all jurisdictions endorsed a review of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (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 completed its audit of existing recovery measures offered by jurisdictions.
- *Streamlined Category C activation process* - An updated Category C activation process, which removes the need for states to meet the strict criteria previously applied, is in place for the 2020-21 disaster season.
- *Pre-agreed ('off-the-shelf') packages* - Jurisdictions are working on 'off-the-shelf' Category C packages to enable fast and efficient delivery of recovery measures, with Queensland leading the development of the Betterment package in consultation with ACT.
- *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 QRA, alongside a grass roots grants program providing \$2M across Queensland's 77 councils and the Weipa Town Authority to deliver locally-led disaster preparedness initiatives.

Get Ready Queensland Week 2021

With the 2021–22 disaster season just around the corner, the Get Ready Queensland team is gearing up for Get Ready Queensland Week 2021 which will take place from 10 to 16 October.

The week will be launched at Milton State School in Brisbane on Monday 11 October 2021 in line with the Bureau of Meteorology's 2021–22 Severe Weather Outlook. The launch will be attended by Get Ready Queensland Ambassador Johnathan Thurston and program sponsor Suncorp and includes a live cross to students in Cunnamulla. Students from both schools will have the chance to share their experience with disasters, the different risks they face and how they make sure they're prepared.

The annual Get Ready Queensland Awareness campaign will also be launched. The campaign will use television, radio and social media to spread awareness of the need to be prepared this disaster season.

2021 Get Ready Queensland Schools Competition – extended!

Now in its second year, the 2021 Get Ready Queensland Schools Competition is a statewide initiative to educate young Queenslanders about their local weather risks and empower them to help their household and community be better prepared for future disasters.

Teachers can select a range of activities from the Get Ready Queensland website for students to complete. Peregrin Springs State School on the Sunshine Coast was the winner of the first schools competition held in 2020. Principal Gwen Sands said the visit from Johnathan Thurston and the Get Ready team was an amazing experience for the school community.

Entries for the 2021 Get Ready Queensland Schools Competition has been extended to Monday 11 October 2021.

Winners will be announced in Get Ready Queensland Week, 10–16 October 2021.



Image: Grade 6 students from Kowanyama State School build flood resilient houses with Minecraft.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

INCREASING RESILIENCE IN THE NORTH WEST

Nowhere in Queensland is the unenviable moniker of ‘the most disaster impacted state in the nation’ truer than the North West.

Since 2010–11, the nine local government areas in the region have been impacted by 23 separate severe weather events, leaving a damage bill of close to \$900 million. During this time, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has worked closely with all members of the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC) on their recovery, reconstruction and resilience building programs to ensure the benefits of resilience are felt throughout the region.

In early September 2021, QRA attended the NWQROC Board meeting in Karumba in Carpentaria Shire, meeting with representatives from the nine member councils, the Bureau of Meteorology and senior leaders from the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments to discuss disaster recovery and resilience in the North West.

Some of the QRA programs that are increasing the region's resilience include the betterment fund, the Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund, the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund, Get Ready Queensland and the Flood Warning Infrastructure Network program for the North West, which will see 67 flood warning assets installed in the region.

The meeting was a wonderful opportunity for QRA to hear from the nine councils and other stakeholders about the issues they face and how QRA can support them on their road to recovery after the 2019 Monsoon Trough and other natural disasters.

Laura Gannon from QRA's Resilience and Recovery team gave a well-received presentation on the draft North West Queensland Regional Resilience Strategy, which will guide how QRA and the NWQROC will work together to support resilience actions and planning across the North West, now and into the future.

The event also saw the launch of the Get Ready NWQ app. Funded by the 2020–21 Get Ready Queensland program and developed by NWQROC, the app uses GPS technology to provide locals and visitors with location-specific advice to help keep them safe when travelling within the region.

While in Carpentaria Shire, QRA took the opportunity to accompany council officers as they inspected reconstruction works on Normanton-Burketown Road.

Known locally as the Savannah Way, Normanton-Burketown Road is a key cattle route that services 10 major cattle stations and is used as a freight route to transport livestock and produce to international export markets through the Port of Kurumba.

In the past decade it has been regularly and severely impacted by monsoon floods, most recently in 2019, suffering washouts and severe corrugation, affecting the safety of the vital transport and tourist route.

In order to build back better so the next disaster doesn't have the same impact, QRA approved a \$3.26 million program of works to repair the road, including \$2.5 million from the 2019 Betterment Fund to resurface and seal more than 11 kilometres of the road.

When completed, the betterment project will make the road stronger and more disaster-resilient while doubling to help Australia's export market at the same time.



Image: Laura Gannon presenting at NWQROC.

Images: Normanton-Burketown Road.

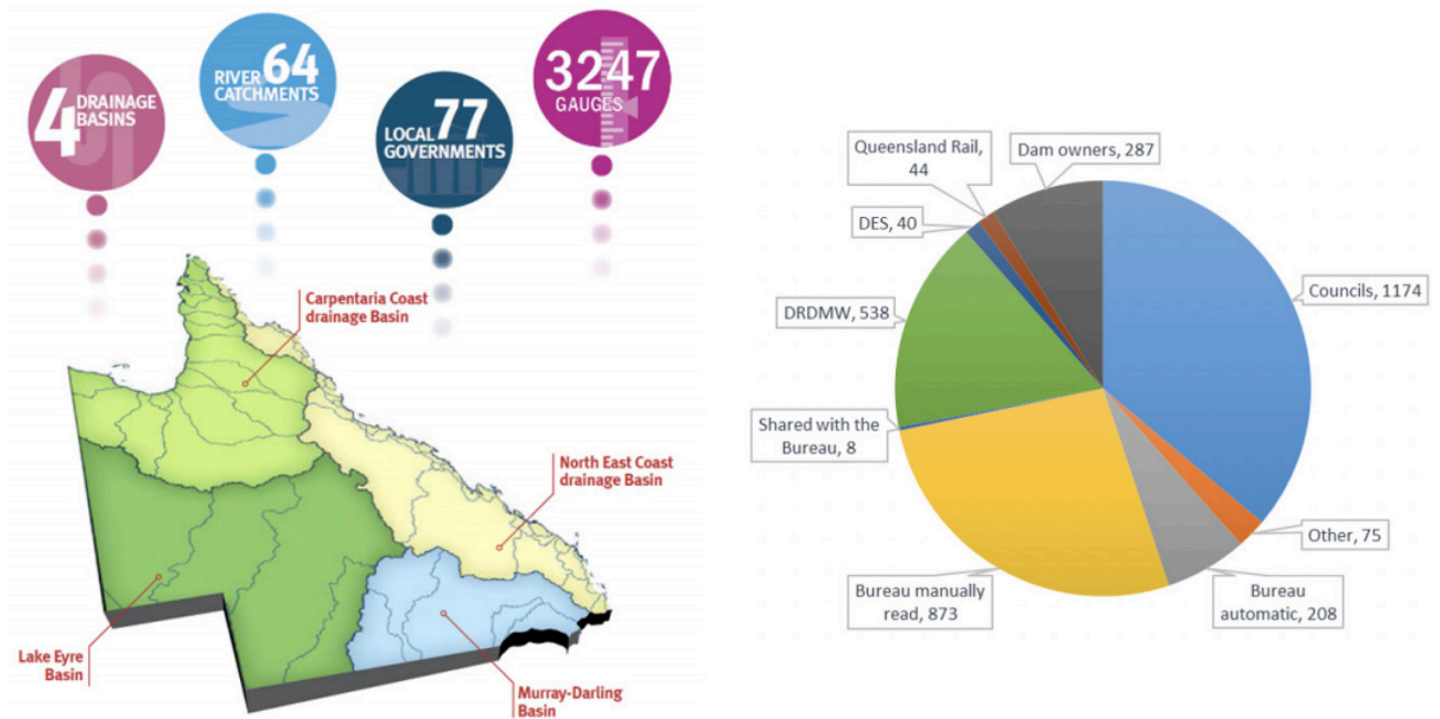
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

QUEENSLAND'S FLOOD WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Queensland's Flood Warning Gauge Network comprises more than 3200 rainfall and river gauges that are owned and operated by more than 60 entities including state and local government, the private sector, and the Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau).

QRA has the legislative responsibility to facilitate the development of a network of flood warning gauges that complies with best practice. (*Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* Section 10 (1)(h)).

A high level of collaboration and information sharing is necessary to ensure accurate and consistent flood warning information is being provided to the Bureau and to our local communities.



Flood warning gauge types



In June 2021, QRA released the Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan, developed in consultation with the Bureau of Meteorology and the Queensland Flood Warning Consultative Committee. The Plan builds upon the suite of documents produced by QRA to support flood risk management in Queensland.



The plan is guided by the following six key principles to deliver best practice for Queensland's Flood Warning Gauge Network.

1. Supports the Bureau of Meteorology's Total Flood Warning System
2. Meets the national standard for flood warning infrastructure
3. Provides real-time situational awareness and suitable data for flood forecasting models and timely early warnings
4. Is reliable, accurate and fit for purpose
5. Is continuously improved through ongoing review, endorsed governance structures and investment in upgrades
6. Is managed collaboratively for shared benefits and cost effectiveness.

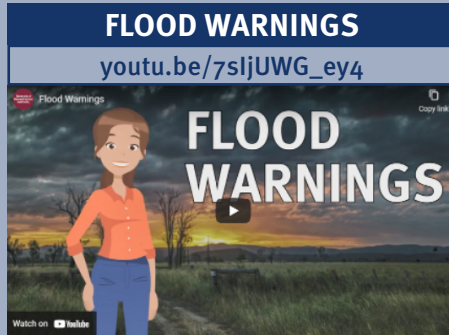
Local Collaboration

As part of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, QRA is working with key stakeholders including the Bureau of Meteorology and local governments to improve Queensland's flood warning infrastructure. A high level of collaboration and information sharing is necessary to ensure accurate and consistent flood warning information is being provided to the Bureau and to our local communities.



Educational Videos

QRA has produced a series of short educational videos on the following topics to help Queenslanders to understand their flood risk:



FLOOD WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK PROJECT (FWIN)

QRA is currently working with 28 councils to deliver a \$8 million FWIN Project to support recovery following the 2019 North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough disaster event. This project is part of the \$242 million Category C and D Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) package jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments.

This project will successfully complete the flood warning investment plans from Mackay, west to Diamantina, and north through to the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York. All of the new infrastructure investment will conform to the National Flood Warning Infrastructure Standard and work aligns with the National Framework for Flood Warning Infrastructure. To ensure value for money in the delivery of the program, a group procurement arrangement has been established.

Regular updates are provided to local councils on the progress of this initiative.



Image: Installation of valuable flood warning equipment under the Flood Warning Infrastructure Network (FWIN) Project kicked off in Townsville in mid October with the first rainfall gauge was installed in Oak Valley, south of Townsville.