



Recovery Progress Reports

2019 Queensland Bushfires

Recovery Plan 2019-2022





Recovery Progress Report #1 to September 2020

2019 Queensland Bushfires

Recovery Plan 2019-2022



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State Recovery Planning and Policy Coordinator summary

During the 2019 Bushfire season, over 7.5 million hectares of land was burnt in Queensland. Twenty three Local Government Areas (LGAs) were impacted by the fires including Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cook, Fraser Coast, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Gympie, Ipswich, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley Mareeba, Noosa, North Burnett, Redland, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim, Somerset, South Burnett, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville and Whitsunday. Of these, Gladstone, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs and Toowoomba developed Event-Specific Recovery Plans which were incorporated into the Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan.

This report outlines progress against the objectives in the recovery plans for both Local Governments and the Functional Recovery Groups (FRG).

The 2019 Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan has a total of 172 recovery objectives. 53 were identified from the FRG and 119 across the impacted local governments. The summary of progress against these recovery objectives are outlined below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
70	87	12	3	

As demonstrated above, there has been substantial progress against the 2019 Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan objectives. In most instances the objectives that have not commenced or have been delayed are a result of COVID-19 implications, delays with appointing support staff, or a lack of funding to support the initiatives required.

Local Governments are actively working with their communities to assist recovery and ensuring recovery activities are locally led.

Funding was secured for recovery and resilience officers for local councils and the tourism and wine industries. This enables councils to work with their communities to implement community education and engagement programs.

Tourism campaigns were impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and were reinstated when travel restrictions were lifted. All of the local councils are working with tourism operators to increase visitation to their regions. Councils have worked with tourism operators to implement COVID-safe plans to enable businesses to re-open.

A new road to Binna Burra Lodge has been completed and the rebuilding of both houses and the lodge are underway.

Planned activities to restore local ecology have commenced. Some are completed and others are looking to identify funding sources to enable these activities. Assistance has been provided to Wildlife carers to enable them to further support impacted animals, and where possible, injured wildlife has been rehabilitated.

State recovery progress

This section provides a summary of recovery progress across the functional lines of recovery and resilience initiatives. The recovery progress tracks the implementation of recovery activities against the metrics outlined in the Plan.

Across the FRG Action Plans there are 53 recovery objectives. The current status of the recovery objectives are listed below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
24	29			

An activity identified as completed will not be addressed in future reports.

Human and Social

The overarching objectives for the Human and Social recovery group are focussed on sustainability and resilience and include:

- Adequate housing is available to community members at appropriate times in the recovery process.
- Community members have access and are able to meet health needs (including mental health) arising from the disaster.
- Community members have access to psychosocial support.
- Households, families and individuals can act autonomously to contribute to the recovery process.
- Community members have access to education services.
- Community members have access to appropriate and coordinated social services.
- Community members feel sufficiently safe and secure following a disaster to engage in social activities and interactions with other members of the community.
- The community has improved capacity and capability to respond to future disasters.
- The Community Recovery Package targeted support for individuals and families as well as building the community's capacity to more effectively respond to future events.

The current status of the 11 recovery objectives are as follows:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
2	9			

The recovery activities can be found on page 24 to 27 of the Plan

Recovery Activity	Activity Update										
<p>Raise awareness and provide access to personal financial assistance through the activation of the DRFA Category A Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) and Category B Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme (ESSRS) through the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS)</p> <p>Provide awareness of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disaster assistance and income support available to impacted people through the Australian government - DRFA Category B concessional loans available to Non-Profit organisations through QRIDA <p>Coordinate the distribution of donated funds locally through charitable organisations (Salvation Army, UnitingCare Queensland, GIVIT)</p> <p>Provide awareness of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy Hardship Program s available through energy retailers - Assistance available to fast-track tax support through the Australian Tax Office (ATO) - Insurance support available through the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) - Financial service provider issue resolution available through the Financial Ombudsmen 	<p><u>DCDSS:</u></p> <p>PHAS/ESSRS information was distributed via the various Community Recovery channels including the online grants portal, Community Recovery hotline, community recovery hubs and outreach operations. Press releases, media alerts, and social media were also used to raise awareness of assistance available.</p> <p>As at 30 September 2020, \$2,564,440 has been paid to grant recipients, benefitting 12,218 people.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="558 604 1220 996"> <tr> <td>Emergency Hardship Assistance</td> <td>\$2,154,960</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Essential Service Hardship Assistance</td> <td>\$2,850</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Essential Household Contents</td> <td>\$110,530</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Structural Assistance Grant</td> <td>\$205,693</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme</td> <td>\$90,407</td> </tr> </table> <p>Community Recovery conducted a survey of all EHA Grant Recipients at the conclusion of the event, with a response rate of approximately 10%. Findings included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 89% of recipients stated it was easy to apply for the EHA grant. - 93% of recipients were satisfied with the speed of payment. - 98% of respondents were contacted by someone with 48 hours of the disaster. <p><u>GIVIT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As at 30 September 2020, \$732,735 in donated funds have been received by GIVIT. - GIVIT is working with registered charities and DCDSS to procure items to address recovery needs as validated by these entities. <p><u>QRIDA:</u></p> <p>Nil applications from Non-Profit organisations for Category B loans in the two activated LGAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scenic Rim Regional Council - Southern Down Regional Council <p><u>St Vincent De Paul:</u></p> <p>The St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland (SVDPO) has provided financial and material aid and social support to households affected by the QLD bushfires. The majority of assistance has focused on the community of Yeppoon; however, funds have also been distributed to communities in</p>	Emergency Hardship Assistance	\$2,154,960	Essential Service Hardship Assistance	\$2,850	Essential Household Contents	\$110,530	Structural Assistance Grant	\$205,693	Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme	\$90,407
Emergency Hardship Assistance	\$2,154,960										
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Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>- Financial counselling services available (e.g., UCQ(Lifeline) and Salvation Army)</p>	<p>Gatton, Lowood, Esk, Boonah, and Milmerran. SVDP will continue to work with households to help them rebuild and recover with the assistance of disaster funds.</p> <p><u>The Salvation Army:</u></p> <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 29 new Queensland clients are receiving financial assistance - 53 total clients that received financial assistance - \$223,400 total financial assistance provided in QLD between 1 April - 30 Sept 2020 <p>Financial Counselling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 93 clients who are receiving/and or have received financial counselling services as a direct result of the Queensland bushfires <p>Client Referrals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18 people assisted with Energy Hardship Program/s available through energy retailers - 2 people assisted with Insurance support available through the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) - 2 people assisted with Emergency Housing assistance (EHAR) for displaced residents through the Department of Housing and Public Works (PHPW) - 8 people assisted with temporary and short-term accommodation - 2 people assisted with medium to longer term accommodation - 2 people assisted with awareness of the Bond Loans and rental grants available to assist individuals and families to enter the private accommodation market <p><u>Uniting Care Queensland:</u></p> <p>Lifeline Community Recovery has worked collaboratively with the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS), GIVIT, Queensland Health, Salvation Army, Red Cross and other service providers to provide a holistic case management service to people impacted during the 2019 Queensland bushfires. Particularly those in the Yeppoon and Lowmead/Mt Maria areas.</p> <p>Where appropriate to do so Lifeline Community Recovery has also referred people to other UnitingCare programs such as face to face Financial Counselling, National Debt Helpline and other relevant support services.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Provide emergency housing assistance (EHAR) for displaced residents through the Department of Housing and Public Works (PHPW)</p> <p>- temporary and short-term accommodation</p>	<p>The Department of Housing and Public Works utilised EHAR to coordinate support for 47 affected households.</p> <p>This support included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Payment for temporary motel accommodation. - Connection to new private rentals or social housing to provide long-term stability. - Connection to private rental products to assist with rental and

Recovery Activity	Activity Update										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium to longer term accommodation - Awareness of the Bond Loans and rental grants available to assist individuals and families to enter the private accommodation market 	<p>mortgage payments as several customers lost their employment as a consequence of the bushfires.</p> <p>Warm referrals to support organisations to assist with trauma counselling, advocacy, employment pathways, connection to financial support with other Government agencies e.g., Department of Agriculture and Fisheries or Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors.</p> <p>Complete</p>										
<p>Provide information and advice for clean-up following a fire through Queensland Health fact sheets and publications</p>	<p>1) DCDSS:</p> <p>Queensland Health Fact sheets were distributed via the various Community Recovery channels including but not limited to Community Recovery hubs and outreach operations.</p> <p>2) Uniting Care Queensland:</p> <p>Lifeline Community Recovery provided people in the impacted areas with Queensland Health fact sheets as well as appropriate referrals to the various councils, the council’s information sheets and websites.</p> <p>Referrals were also provided to appropriate services and organisations that had been identified within the impacted region as being able to assist with clean-up.</p> <p>Complete</p>										
<p>Provide Essential Household Contents Grants (EHCG) as a contribution towards replacing or repairing essential household contents through the DRFA Category A Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme administered by DCDSS</p> <p>Coordinate the provision of donated goods to replace essential household contents through charitable organisations</p>	<p>DCDSS:</p> <p>Community Recovery is continuing to administer the Essential Household Contents Grants to approved applicants.</p> <p>As of 30 September 2020, the following had been provided:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="558 1310 1141 1668"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Applications received</td> <td>508</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applications in progress</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applications declined</td> <td>427</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applications paid</td> <td>68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total value paid</td> <td>\$110,530</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>GIVIT:</p> <p>Urgent relief and early recovery needs have been actioned (clothing, grocery and fuel vouchers, water pipes, pumps, tanks, drinking water for home tanks and fencing).</p>	Applications received	508	Applications in progress	13	Applications declined	427	Applications paid	68	Total value paid	\$110,530
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Recovery Activity	Activity Update																		
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="550 241 1021 369">Measure</th> <th data-bbox="1021 241 1396 369">Since event commenced on 7 Sept 2019</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 369 1021 436">Number of items requested (goods and services)</td> <td data-bbox="1021 369 1396 436">6,359</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 436 1021 504">Number of items received by affected communities</td> <td data-bbox="1021 436 1396 504">21,703</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 504 1021 571">Number of organisations requesting assistance for this event</td> <td data-bbox="1021 504 1396 571">18</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 571 1021 638">Number of these organisations that have received assistance</td> <td data-bbox="1021 571 1396 638">14</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 638 1021 705">Number of days between request for assistance and donation offer</td> <td data-bbox="1021 638 1396 705">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 705 1021 806">Number of days between request for assistance and requesting service's confirmation of delivery</td> <td data-bbox="1021 705 1396 806">33</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="550 817 845 851"><u>Uniting Care Queensland:</u></p> <p data-bbox="550 862 1396 996">Lifeline Community Recovery with the substantial support of GIVIT were able to assist people impacted by the 2019 Queensland Bushfires in replacing household and other items. Additional emergency relief support was obtained from Lifeline Retail Shops, the Uniting Church and Blue Care.</p> <p data-bbox="550 1008 798 1041">In progress – on track</p>	Measure	Since event commenced on 7 Sept 2019	Number of items requested (goods and services)	6,359	Number of items received by affected communities	21,703	Number of organisations requesting assistance for this event	18	Number of these organisations that have received assistance	14	Number of days between request for assistance and donation offer	10	Number of days between request for assistance and requesting service's confirmation of delivery	33				
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Number of days between request for assistance and requesting service's confirmation of delivery	33																		
<p data-bbox="159 1064 446 1131">DCDSS to administer and provide:</p> <ul data-bbox="159 1153 526 2060" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="159 1153 526 1489">- Structural Assistance Grants (SAG) as a contribution towards replacing or repairing damaged dwellings through the DRFA Category A Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme <li data-bbox="159 1512 526 1848">- Financial assistance as a contribution towards safety inspections or and repairs to residential essential services through the DRFA Category B Essential Services and Reconnection Scheme (ESSRS) <li data-bbox="159 1870 526 1982">- Support through case management of vulnerable grant recipients <li data-bbox="159 2004 526 2060">- Define scope of works and provide estimate of cost 	<p data-bbox="550 1064 638 1097"><u>DCDSS:</u></p> <p data-bbox="550 1108 1364 1187">Community Recovery is continuing to administer the Structural Assistance Grants to approved applicants.</p> <p data-bbox="550 1198 1204 1243">As of 30 September 2020, the following had been provided:</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 1254 1021 1332">Applications received</td> <td data-bbox="1021 1254 1396 1332">107</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 1332 1021 1411">Applications in progress</td> <td data-bbox="1021 1332 1396 1411">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 1411 1021 1489">Applications declined</td> <td data-bbox="1021 1411 1396 1489">78</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 1489 1021 1568">Applications paid</td> <td data-bbox="1021 1489 1396 1568">22</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 1568 1021 1624">Total value paid</td> <td data-bbox="1021 1568 1396 1624">\$205,693</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="550 1635 1396 1713">Community Recovery is continuing to administer the Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme to approved applicants.</p> <p data-bbox="550 1724 1204 1769">As of 30 September 2020, the following had been provided:</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 1780 1021 1859">Applications received</td> <td data-bbox="1021 1780 1396 1859">187</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 1859 1021 1937">Applications in progress</td> <td data-bbox="1021 1859 1396 1937">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 1937 1021 2016">Applications declined</td> <td data-bbox="1021 1937 1396 2016">156</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="550 2016 1021 2072">Applications paid</td> <td data-bbox="1021 2016 1396 2072">21</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Applications received	107	Applications in progress	7	Applications declined	78	Applications paid	22	Total value paid	\$205,693	Applications received	187	Applications in progress	10	Applications declined	156	Applications paid	21
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Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>for SAG applications through the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW)</p>	<p>Total value paid \$90,407</p> <hr/> <p>Scope of Works</p> <p>The value of the scope of works for those homes inspected was \$44,000, damage ranged from partly burnt external areas, burnt homes and damaged essential services.</p> <p>Where homes were completely destroyed by fire DHPW assessors from QBuild did not visit (NIL expense was incurred by QBuild for assessments).</p> <p>For these properties other due diligence was conducted via outreach visits and supporting documentation to determine the original home’s existence. QFES initially conducted Rapid Damage Assessments and Outreach workers visited homes who had suffered total loss and / or partly damaged.</p> <p><u>Uniting Care Queensland:</u></p> <p>Lifeline Community Recovery has worked collaboratively with the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS), GIVIT, Queensland Health, Salvation Army, Red Cross and other service providers to provide a holistic case management service to people impacted during the 2019 Queensland bushfires. Particularly those in the Yeppoon and Lowmead/Mt Maria areas.</p> <p>Where appropriate to do so Lifeline Community Recovery has also referred people to other UnitingCare programs such as face-to-face Financial Counselling, National Debt Helpline and other relevant support services.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Coordinate the provision of psychosocial and practical supports lead by the DCDSS with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red Cross - Uniting Care QLD (Lifeline) - QLD Health <p>Referrals to existing personal support and generalist counselling services</p> <p>Establishment of local case coordination mechanism (as required)</p>	<p><u>DCDSS</u></p> <p>Four hundred and twenty two Community Recovery Ready Reserves were deployed over 585 deployments to provide support to communities that were impacted by the QLD bushfires.</p> <p>Community Recovery established 12 Recovery hubs (including Pop-up Recovery hubs) to coordinate the provision of psychosocial and practical support to impacted communities. In total 5,327 visits occurred across the Recovery Hubs throughout the QLD Bushfires.</p> <p>Community Recovery completed 1,107 outreach visits which also included a component of psychosocial and practical support to community members impacted by the QLD bushfires.</p> <p>A total of 11,938 instances of psychological first aid was provided by partner agencies Australian Red Cross, Queensland Health, and UnitingCare Queensland.</p> <p>The 1800 Community Recovery Hotline was instrumental in supporting community members who were impacted by the QLD bushfires with a total of 2,531 calls received during the event.</p> <p><u>Australian Red Cross:</u></p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
	<p>Commencing in May 2020, Queensland has commenced a long-term recovery program, specifically relating to bushfire impacted communities, the program provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - direct service delivery (psychosocial support, preparedness programs, provision of resources and information) - connections and capability building (connecting, creating linkages, capability building in psychosocial support (Communicating in Recovery, Recovery Basics, Supporting the Supporters) - advocacy and Influencing at key decision-making forums. <p>Several LGA's have been prioritised regarding this support program, and bushfire recovery project officers have been assisting community members who have encountered difficulty accessing the National Bushfire Recovery Grants scheme.</p> <p><u>Queensland Health:</u></p> <p>Health clinicians worked with local NGO's in the Scenic Rim and Noosa areas to develop referral pathways to provide support to affected residents to access services.</p> <p><u>Uniting Care Queensland:</u></p> <p>Lifeline Community Recovery has worked to provide a holistic case management service to people impacted during the 2019 Queensland bushfires. Particularly those in the Yeppoon and Lowmead/Mt Maria areas. This involved face-to-face appointments and site visits as well as telephone counselling and welfare support once COVID-19 restrictions came into place.</p> <p>Telephone welfare checks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welfare check continued after 30 January 2020 for some clients identified as needing further ongoing support. - Welfare check telephone calls funded by Lifeline Community Recovery were carried out in May to those most severely affected in the bush fires to see how they were managing now with added the stress and restrictions imposed because of COVID-19 - Anniversary welfare check telephone calls funded by Lifeline Community Recovery will be made during November 2020 to see how those most severely affected by the bush fires are coping. <p>Lifeline Community Recovery expects to make approximately 120 welfare check telephone calls during the anniversary month of the Yeppoon fires and in the month leading up to the bushfires in Lowmead/Mt Maria.</p> <p>Yeppoon - Case coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 227 Contacts were made between 2 December 2019 and 30 January 2020 - 141 female, 85 male and 1 child - 157 cases of practical support were given - 42 instances of reconnecting people to their social supports - 119 instances of stabilisation and grounding - 7 suicide assessments conducted - 24 properties were visited, and - 265 referrals provided <p>Lowmead/Mt Maria - Case coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 210 Contacts were made between 16 January 2020 and 26 March 2020

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 114 female, 84 male and 12 children - 200 cases of practical support were given - 7 instances of stabilisation and grounding - 42 suicide assessments conducted - 152 properties were visited, and - 316 referrals provided <p>COVID-19 resulted in face-to-face case coordination and counselling services finishing at this time. However, remote case management support via the telephone continued to be provided for some time.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Additional outpatient services; theatre lists and other services to ensure provision of services to those affected (in addition to services provided to meet acute needs following the disaster).</p> <p>Public Health Units working with local governments to manage public health risks to the community</p> <p>Patients with existing chronic health conditions receiving regular care have their needs assessed and treatments plans modified accordingly</p>	<p><u>Queensland Health:</u></p> <p>All 5 Hospital and Health Services (HHS) – Central Queensland, West Moreton, Sunshine Coast, Darling Downs and Metro South have started working on the COVID-19 Recovery Program as soon as their recruitment was completed, though this has taken some HHSs a little longer than others.</p> <p>Accomplishments by all 5 HHSs in the last quarter include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation to Primary Health Networks and General Practitioners in their respective areas - Promotional planning of the program, roles and resources for public dissemination. - Meeting with council Community Development Officers, schools and establishing links with other community groups. - Provision of clinical advice to community partners – psycho-education around mental health and trauma in conversations to small groups. - Engaging with Rural Fire Services and councils doing fire prevention sessions in different communities. - Development of a brochure for the anniversary event of the bushfires. - Delivery of a training to a staffing group in HHS. <p><u>Uniting Care Queensland:</u></p> <p>Lifeline Community Recovery worked and continue to work collaboratively with Queensland Health and the Disaster Recovery Clinicians (if available) to ensure that those individuals with more complex mental health concerns are appropriately supported.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>The Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM) will provide free replacement life event certificates to those who have had their certificates lost, damaged or destroyed in a disaster declared area</p> <p>Provision of funds for Community Development Officers in most significantly impacted communities to support community-led initiatives, facilitate linkages collaboration and partnerships</p>	<p><u>RBDM:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awaiting response from RBDM regarding replacement document figures <p><u>Community Development Program:</u></p> <p>Community Development Officers have been appointed to support communities impacted by the QLD Bushfires, except for the Scenic Rim Regional Council. Scenic Rim Regional Council will appoint a CDO within the first month of the next quarter (1 October to 31 December). The CDO's commenced late into this quarter (July 1 – 30 September 2020).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 x CDO supporting Livingstone Shire Council - 1 x CDO supporting Noosa Shire Council - 1 x CDO supporting Somerset Regional Council and Lockyer Valley Regional Council - 1 x CDO supporting Southern Downs Regional Council - 1 x CDO supporting Scenic Rim (anticipating appointment during October 2020)

Recovery Activity	Activity Update																														
<p>between and across groups, support and enable recovery and resilience planning and have a focus on building upon the strengths and capabilities of affected communities.</p> <p>Flexible funding grants are available for projects aimed at driving recovery, building awareness and resilience within most disaster affected Local Government areas.</p>	<p>Limited data and qualitative information have been provided to date due to the above, with Community Agency participation to be reported in the next quarter.</p> <p>CDO's reported that COVID-19 restrictions have hindered their initial consultations with community</p> <p>All CDOs are finalising their workplans.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>- Number of hours developing and delivering events</td> <td style="text-align: right;">304.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Number of participants in events</td> <td style="text-align: right;">526</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Number of Community Agencies participating in events</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Number of hours developing resources and tools</td> <td style="text-align: right;">14.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Number of hours on training and learning</td> <td style="text-align: right;">22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Number of Participants in training activities</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1091</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Number of hours supporting Flexible Funding Grant (FFG) development</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Number of Participants in FFG Activities</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Number of hours on developing RR Plan</td> <td style="text-align: right;">32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Number of Participants in RR Plan development</td> <td style="text-align: right;">40</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Flexible Funding Grants:</u></p> <p>Queensland Bushfires First Round: \$1.8M</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>- Number of applications received</td> <td style="text-align: right;">99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Number of applications approved</td> <td style="text-align: right;">37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Total value for round</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$5,490,765</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Total value for APPROVED applications</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,799,810</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Total paid to date</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,585,629</td> </tr> </table> <p>Qualitative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of the initial 90% payments to funded recipients have been made. - Nil projects have been completed and nil Project End reports submitted - Nil final project reports and Audited Financial Statement submitted to trigger release of final payment. - 33 Projects on track in accordance with original project plans and/or approved amended project plans - 4 Projects with minor delays but not expecting to impact on project outcomes <p>Round 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expected to be opened in January 2021 <p>A summary of all successful grant recipients can be found at the following link: https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/community/community-recovery/category-c-funding/category-c-queensland-bushfires-flexible-funding-grants;</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>	- Number of hours developing and delivering events	304.5	- Number of participants in events	526	- Number of Community Agencies participating in events	-	- Number of hours developing resources and tools	14.5	- Number of hours on training and learning	22	- Number of Participants in training activities	1091	- Number of hours supporting Flexible Funding Grant (FFG) development	-	- Number of Participants in FFG Activities	-	- Number of hours on developing RR Plan	32	- Number of Participants in RR Plan development	40	- Number of applications received	99	- Number of applications approved	37	- Total value for round	\$5,490,765	- Total value for APPROVED applications	\$1,799,810	- Total paid to date	\$1,585,629
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<p>Provision of information regarding availability of existing supports, services and additional community recovery services through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community services brochures, information 	<p><u>Australian Red Cross:</u></p> <p>Red Cross developed brochures about disasters (e.g. preparedness, coping with disasters and the aftermath) are distributed mainly at community events.</p> <p>Red Cross provides information about the Qld Recovery program and National Grants Program at District Disaster Management Groups, Local Disaster Management Groups, Human and Social Sub-committees and Taskforces; and through established Informal Community Leaders (Volunteers).</p>																														

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>kits and school newsletters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advertisements, media (radio, print, web and social media and TV) - Information boards and community meetings - Community Recovery Centre/CRRIC's/Rental Hubs - Community events/activities/celebrations - AgForce/DAF industry sessions - MP Amber Packs and daily updates - Websites and Disaster Recovery hotline - Whole of Government messages <p>Provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information to other agencies regarding registered evacuees (NRIS) and mapping data thereof - PHAS & ESSRS grants information and mapping data thereof to QRA - Awareness of one-off grants and low interest loans for not for profit organisations affected by the fire (QRIDA) 	<p><u>DCDSS:</u></p> <p>Human and social recovery information was distributed to support the community with their recovery using a variety of different channels, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online via the website, online portal, online engagement hub and Community Recovery's social media Twitter and Facebook accounts (@RecoveryQLD) - Over the phone via the Community Recovery Hotline that enables the community to apply for financial assistance and request support services over the phone - In person at Community Recovery Hubs and targeted outreach operations, which were advertised using posters and emails sent to local community organisations and sporting clubs - Ministers of Parliament and Councils were provided with an Amber Pack at the commencement of the event with regular updates regarding local services and key messages for use in their own networks and communication platforms - Press releases and media alerts were also used to raise awareness of assistance available. - Strategic oversight and coordination occurred via State Human and Social Recovery Group meetings - Participation in Local and District Recovery and/or Human and Social Recovery Subgroups and Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) and District Disaster Management Groups (DDMGs) where required. <p><u>GIVIT:</u></p> <p>GIVIT is working closely with DCDSS and UnitingCare Lifeline to support the long-term recovery of impacted individuals and families where insufficient funds are available to repairs their homes to a habitable standard.</p> <p><u>QRIDA:</u></p> <p>Information provision occurred through traditional marketing channels, and well as directly through temporary offices and QRIDA support at community events.</p> <p><u>Uniting Care Queensland:</u></p> <p>Lifeline Community Recovery was present in Community Recovery Centres/Community Recovery and Referral Information Centre's and Rental Hubs as soon as possible after activation. This was achieved by deploying local personnel wherever available.</p> <p>Lifeline Community Recovery provided information and referrals to services and agencies to assist people through the recovery process. As community needs are identified, programs offering support and training is divested into affected communities where possible, dependent upon available funding at the time. Some of the Programs and training that Lifeline Community Recovery have initiated and funded within areas affected by the 2019 bushfires are:</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
	<p>Stanthorpe - Connection & Care</p> <p>Lifeline Community Recovery supported the Stanthorpe community advising residents that their Crisis Support Officer was available for a conversation. During this time the Connection and Care that was provided to Stanthorpe community members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 85 people supported (57 female, 27 male and 1 child) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 76 received practical support o 2 were reconnected to social supports o 19 people were stabilised and grounded o 12 properties were visited, and <p>129 referrals were made.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Ensure school facilities are returned to pre-event status as soon as practicable to allow students to return to a normal school routine</p> <p>Identify school age children in evacuation centres and assist their parents / carers to reengage the students in schooling</p> <p>Provision of student counselling, support services and referral through Guidance Officers, School Chaplains, other relevant staff as well as additional support and assistance to teachers and Principals in the affected areas</p>	<p><u>Australian Red Cross:</u></p> <p>Red Cross will re-commence implementation of the Pillowcase Project in primary schools (years 3 and 4) in 2021. The Pillowcase Project focuses on preparedness activities for students, and consequently to families.</p> <p><u>Uniting Care Queensland:</u></p> <p>Lifeline Community Recovery in conjunction with the schools and the Uniting Church identified children in need of support and provided Lunch Packs to these children. Peer Skills training for the children and youth of the Southern Downs and the training of facilitators in this area funded by Lifeline Community Recovery has also taken place over the past twelve months.</p> <p>Peer Skills work and facilitator face to face training was delivered in Nambour on 14 and 15 September. Fourteen participants attended this training which was borne out of the Peregrine Beach bushfires.</p> <p>Training and the delivery of Peer Skills Connect has been impacted by COVID-19 with schools too busy post COVID-19 restrictions easing to commit to Peer Skills Connect sessions, which are best run in terms one and two of the school year.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Use current disaster management structures to inform and influence local planning on effective volunteer engagement and management, and to result in shorter time lag between the response and the start of volunteer recovery activities</p> <p>The community makes and benefits from effective use of the narrow window of volunteer interest for future disaster events leading to improve community resilience and</p>	<p><u>Australian Red Cross:</u></p> <p>Red Cross has recently completed a volunteer recruitment program for Emergency Services, as they are aware that if Queensland is impacted by a disaster this upcoming season, reliance on interstate volunteers in the organisation may not be possible because of COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p><u>Uniting Care Queensland:</u></p> <p>Due to the need for skilled workers delivering Psychological First Aid, Counselling and Case Management services, Lifeline Community Recovery is unable to accept spontaneous volunteers. Referrals and encouragement for those interested in volunteering have been directed to register to train as a Telephone Crisis Supporter for the 13 11 14 crisis line which may then enable them to utilise those skills in community recovery work.</p> <p>Lifeline Community Recovery attended and spoke at Volunteering Queensland’s “Connect the Dots” information sessions at Baffle Creek, Lowmead and Rosedale in November 2019, providing details of the service offered and what opportunities were available for those wanting to volunteer.</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
support in recovery Volunteer organisations and groups have access to mechanisms for the recruitment of volunteers to assist in the provision of practical support and other immediate and longer-term recovery-based activities	<p><u>Volunteering Queensland</u></p> <p>There were no organisations that requested volunteers to support longer term recovery activities for QLD Bushfires however Volunteering Queensland and partner organisations have worked with approximately 100 organisations across Queensland to place Care Army Volunteers.</p> <p>Although there were no requests for assistance received from any of the Local Government Areas (LGAs) impacted by the 2019 Bushfires, the following occurred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work has been undertaken with Gold Coast City and Sunshine Coast Council regarding the establishment of arrangements and plans for the use and management of spontaneous disaster volunteers. - There is a standing invitation from Redlands Regional Council to participate on the Local Disaster Management Groups. This council has plans in place for the use of spontaneous volunteers at times of disasters. - Work completed with Livingstone and Gladstone Councils connected to the Bushfire 2018 Cat C grant. This project focused on the provision of community workshops in collaboration with the respective LGAs and focused on volunteer and disaster preparedness. <p>In progress – on track</p>

Building

The overarching objectives for the Building recovery group are focussed on sustainability and resilience and include:

- Ensuring that infrastructure for education, health, justice, welfare and any other community infrastructure/buildings that support the community (private or public owned assets) are sustainable.
- Ensuring that private infrastructure including residential, commercial/ industrial and rural assets are sustainable.
- Infrastructure is rebuilt to reduce to a reasonable degree, the impact of future disasters on communities.

The current status of the 10 recovery objectives are as follows:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
8	2			

The recovery tasks can be found on page 30 and 31 of the Plan

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
Maintain consultation with built environment stakeholders, peak industry bodies and industry to	Building Recovery Group (BRG) members remain available to the Local Disaster Recovery Groups and provided data and information as available to support the development of recovery plans and rebuilding priorities. The Local disaster management Groups have had capability and capacity to manage built

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
support local led recovery	<p>infrastructure recovery through the robust local recovery group networks with very few issues requiring escalation.</p> <p>Complete</p>
Initiate immediate coordinated Rapid Damage Assessment of the community infrastructure	<p>QFES damage assessments were completed by December 2019.</p> <p>Complete</p>
Finalise detailed building assessments on frontline government building infrastructure	<p>Damage assessments of Government-owned buildings were minimal and completed by December 2019.</p> <p>Complete</p>
Support the development and implemented of local build infrastructure recovery plans	<p>BRG members provided data and information as available to support the development of recovery plans and rebuilding priorities.</p> <p>Complete</p>
Facilitate community access to independent building repair advice	<p>The Bushfire rebuild register remains active on QBCC website with over 250 active Trades and Contractors available.</p> <p>Through QBCC's engagement onsite discussions and our frontline services, our social media campaigns and the Bushfire rebuild register, QBCC has provided residents with the tools and information they need to rebuild confidently. The residents are fully aware of who QBCC can support them if and when required.</p> <p>QBCC will continue to support the community as Business as Usual.</p> <p>Complete</p>
Facilitate community access to independent safety, cleaning and building repair advice	<p>Throughout the year, QBCC have run several social media campaigns targeting homeowners on how to engage a licensed contractor.</p> <p>Through QBCC's engagement onsite discussions and our frontline services, our social media campaigns and the bushfire register, QBCC has provided residents with the tools and information they need to rebuild confidently. The residents are fully aware of who QBCC are and how QBCC can support them if and when required.</p> <p>QBCC will continue to support the community as Business as Usual.</p> <p>Complete</p>
Input into general communication strategy in relation to building and electrical health and safety messages	<p>Information regarding electrical safety and the safe handling of asbestos after a fire remain available on the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland site.</p> <p>Complete</p>
Establish and promote a register of licensed building contractors and trades	<p>The Bushfire Rebuild remains active on QBCC website with 250 registered Trades and Contractors.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
people. On closure of the register enquires are directed to the Bushfire Rebuild Register search on the QBCC website	
Review of identified Damage Assessments and Reconstruction Monitoring (DARMSys)	QRA staff returned to impacted areas in September 2020 to assess repairs and reconstruction activities that are being undertaken. In progress – on track
Provide advice to regulators regarding learnings from bushfire event related to the recovery of built infrastructure	QBCC continues to provide support to the community and is actively involved with local authorities regarding resilience. The QBCC has improved their response time to provide impacted communities with information regarding the safe management of rebuilding and repair. The value of a 'tradies register' has been identified and is now a component of any disaster activation. COVID-19 has impacted on the delivery of programs on the Bushfire Guidance review for State Planning Policy. The Department of Housing and Public Works is working with QFES and other relevant agencies to address the risk posed by fire in 'extreme' bushfire areas. This has the potential to impact on the minimum building requirements under the National Construction Code. In progress – on track

Roads and Transport

The overarching objectives for the Roads and Transport recovery group focus on sustainability and resilience and include:

- Roads and Transport infrastructure supports the delivery of essential services to the community.
- Infrastructure is rebuilt to reduce to a reasonable degree, the impact of future disasters on communities.

The current status of the 5 recovery objectives are as follows:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
3	2			

The recovery tasks can be found on page 34 and 35 of the Plan.

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>Undertake Southern Queensland bushfires emergency works to return state-controlled roads to a safe and trafficable condition</p> <p>Location: Scenic Rim, Gold Coast</p>	<p>Emergency works were completed within approved timeframes.</p> <p>The Department facilitated limited internal access under traffic control on Binna Burra road to assist Binna Burra Lodge and private residences in their reconstruction efforts.</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>Undertake Eastern Queensland Bushfires emergency works to return state-controlled roads to a safe and trafficable condition</p> <p>Location: Scenic Rim, Southern Downs</p>	<p>Emergency works were completed within approved timeframes.</p> <p>Following temporary closures to bushfire-impacted sections of the Cunningham Highway and Mount Lindsay Highway, both roads reopened in December 2019.</p> <p>In conjunction with a reduced speed limit of 50km/hr, a temporary steel safety barrier has been installed approximately one kilometer prior to Cunningham’s Gap for the safety of motorists until permanent slop protection works can be completed.</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>Undertake reconstruction works to reinstate access to Binna Burra</p> <p>Location: Scenic Rim, Gold Coast</p>	<p>Reconstruction works progressing well and the road reopened under traffic control on 31 August 2020.</p> <p>The Department continues to facilitate access under traffic control to assist Binna Burra Lodge and private residences in their reconstruction efforts while works are completed.</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>Scope reconstruction program of works (Scenic Rim, Gold Coast)</p> <p>Develop project delivery plans to achieve key tasks at project level (Scenic Rim, Gold Coast)</p> <p>Undertake reconstruction works (Scenic Rim, Gold Coast)</p>	<p>Reconstruction works are underway.</p> <p>The majority of the reconstruction program is on track to be completed by December 2021. Cunningham’s Gap repair timeframes are yet to be determined.</p> <p>Key project sites include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Binna Burra Road – Works to stabilise bushfire-damaged slopes on Binna Burra are in their final stages, after the road reopened under traffic control on 31 August 2020. Reconstruction works are expected to continue until late October 2020, weather and site conditions permitting. - Cunningham’s Gap – Bushfire-impacted sections of the Cunningham Highway remain open at a reduced speed limit of 50km/hr at Cunningham’s Gap. Geotechnical consultants have undertaken initial investigations of the area to identify reconstruction requirements. Stage 1 of an Independent Technical Review supported the eligibility of the initial concept treatment option. Ground investigation works and further value engineering assessment are underway to determine if a more cost-effective solution can be achieved.

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mount Lindesay Highway – Treatment options have been developed and design is almost complete. Construction is expected to commence in February 2021. <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Finalise DRFA funding submissions</p> <p>Location: Scenic Rim, Gold Coast</p>	<p>A total of six emergency works and counter disaster operations funding submissions have been logged to the QRA, of which five have been assessed.</p> <p>Following detailed damage assessments, Phase 1 submissions are being developed.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>

Economic

The overarching objectives for the Economic recovery group focus on sustainability and resilience and include:

- Business and industries in the local economy operate and trade in line with broader economic trends.
- Betterment projects result in more resilient infrastructure.
- Business and not-for-profit have adequate mitigation practices in place for risks and threats.
- The economy is sufficiently flexible and adaptable to shocks.

The current status of the 13 recovery objectives are as follows:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
6	7			

The recovery tasks can be found on page 38 and 39 of the Plan.

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>Advice on various financial support arrangements available to primary producers including freight subsidies, disaster loans and essential working capital loans</p>	<p>Information available at https://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/</p> <p>Complete</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>Distribution of assistance measures under Category B of the DRFA including primary producer loans, essential working capital loans and freight subsidies</p>	<p>There are no straight cat B loans for this event. Small business, not-for-profits and Primary Producers can access the \$500,000 Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance Loans. These are a category D Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) measure.</p> <p>QRIDA has approved three (3) loans for a total of \$450,000.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Distribution of Primary producer grants under Category C of the DRFA</p>	<p>\$75,000 Cat C/D grants are available to primary producers.</p> <p>QRIDA has approved 85 Grants for \$3,850,288.01.</p> <p>The majority of the grants are split between Livingstone LGA (20), Scenic Rim LGA (19), and Southern Downs (21).</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Conduct impact assessments on agricultural enterprises to determine level of assistance required</p>	<p>Damage impact assessments done at the time of disaster. These assessments help inform the level of DRFA assistance.</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>The natural disaster business survey is completed by impacted businesses across impacted areas</p>	<p>Damage impact assessments done at the time of disaster. These assessments help inform the level of DRFA assistance.</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>Distribution of assistance measures under Category B of the DRFA including small business loans and essential working capital loans for small business</p>	<p>QRIDA has approved two (2) loans for a total of \$126,700.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Distribution of assistance measures under Category B of the DRFA including not-for-profit organisations loans and essential working capital loans for not-for-profit organisations</p>	<p>Nil loans have been granted under this funding measure at this time.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>Establish the Binna Burra Lodge Recovery Taskforce – support program</p>	<p>The Binna Burra Lodge Recovery Taskforce is established to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice on an action plan for the recovery from the September 2019 bushfires, drawing on expertise from the members of the Taskforce. • Provide advice to the Government on the requirements to facilitate recovery. • Provide guidance to the Binna Burra Lodge Management Team and Board of Directors. • Facilitate access to expert skills to support the Taskforce. <p>The Taskforce met for the final time on 14 February 2020, where recovery actions over the six months of the Taskforce were reviewed and achievements noted.</p> <p>Queensland Government is continuing to work with Binna Burra Lodge management to support continued recovery, including determining options to fund the rebuild of lost facilities, with the main Lodge being the centrepiece of facilities needed prior to a full reopening.</p> <p>The Taskforce has completed all activities.</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>Binna Burra Lodge Recovery Taskforce developed a displaced worker transition strategy</p>	<p>On 18 September 2019, the then Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning SEQ West Regional Office, in conjunction with Scenic Rim Regional Council, coordinated a Workers Transition Session for the displaced workers.</p> <p>More than 50 workers attended and heard from various council and Queensland and Australian Government departments on the support available.</p> <p>Attending employment agencies and employers provided details of existing employment opportunities and provided follow up services.</p> <p>The support agencies included:</p> <p>The Australian Taxation Office; TAFE; Department of Human Services; Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business; Department of Housing and Public Works; Department of Employment, Small Business and Training; Scenic Rim Regional Council; Tursa; Hays Recruitment; HELP Employment and Training and Busy @ Work; Australian Red Cross; Lifeline and Uniting Care; Accor Group; Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary; O’Reilly’s; Spicers Retreats; City Aquatics and Clubs Training Australia.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>Support tourism recovery by providing Southern Queensland Country (Regional Tourism Organisation) funding to deliver recovery campaign activity</p> <p>Support tourism recovery by providing Brisbane Marketing (in liaison with Destination Gold Coast) funding to deliver recovery campaign activity</p> <p>Support tourism recovery by providing Visit Sunshine Coast (Regional Tourism Organisation) funding to deliver recovery campaign activity</p>	<p>The Federal Government and Queensland Government contributed a total of \$750,000 to undertake a marketing campaign, promoting the four regions most impacted by the 2019 September-December bushfires. These regions included Sunshine Coast, Noosa, the Scenic Rim and Southern Downs and Granite Belt. Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) took carriage of these funds to develop and roll out a campaign encouraging visitors to return to these regions. The campaign commenced in March 2020, needing to pause due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. This marketing activity recommenced on Monday 8 June 2020 incorporating Out of Home (OOH) media, social media, in-program TV, and utilising content providers such as The Urban List and Trip Advisor (along with TEQ owned assets). The activity achieved strongly against campaign KPIs.</p> <p>Of the \$750,000, each of the regions were allocated \$15,000 for additional Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) led public relations and/or media familiarisation activity. This activity was to be completed and acquitted by 30 June 2020. However, due to COVID-19 impacts on tourism marketing, agreed timeframes were extended to 30 June 2021.</p> <p>In progress– on track</p>
<p>Support the tourism industry through marketing activities to encourage visitation to impacted regions. This includes a regional marketing program, a wine tourism program and a Go Local Media Campaign (Category C funding)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wine Tourism Recovery Officer (TRO) commenced in August 2020. • The position is a jointly funded Australian and Queensland Government (50:50) component of the Category C Phase 1 Community Recovery Package, Southern Queensland Bushfires 6-12 September 2019 approved under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). • The purpose of the Wine TRO is to support wine tourism operators within the Scenic Rim and Southern Downs regions to recover from the devastating effects of the Queensland bushfires. • As part of the Package, the industry will benefit in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dedicated Wine TRO employed by Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation (DSDTI) for a period to 31 December 2021 - \$150,000 administered by DSDTI to assist wine and other alcoholic beverage related tourism businesses operating within the impacted areas to increase visitation • The Wine TRO will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure long-term sustainability of the wine tourism industry in the identified regions and will assist in linking operators with state and national programs - support the Queensland wine industry and industry associations such as Granite Belt Wine Tourism and Queensland Wine Industry Association (QWIA) to build greater capacity and

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
	<p>capability within their associations and the broader wine industry in Queensland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Wine Tourism Advisory Committee has been established to guide the Wine TRO and the program development through a coordinated and collaborative approach. <p>The Advisory Committee members include representatives from DSDTI, TEQ, Scenic Rim LGA, Southern Downs LGA, QWIA, Granite Belt Wine and Tourism, Southern Queensland Country Tourism, and Scenic Rim Wine Tourism Industry Representative.</p> <p>In progress- On track</p>
<p>Support the tourism industry through engaging tourism recovery officers (Category C funding)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recruitment of a Wine TRO for the Scenic Rim Regional Council and Southern Downs Regional Council has now been completed. • The Wine TRO has been recruited and commenced working out of DSDTI offices. • A networking meeting was held on 7 October 2020 in Stanthorpe for all new TROs and respective councils, the local RTO and TEQ. <p>Complete</p>
<p>Support the tourism industry through grants to facilitate recovery activities (Category C funding)</p>	<p>To date DSDTI has finalised and executed a \$1.5M Local Government fund Grant Deed Agreements with Scenic Rim Regional Council and with Southern Downs Regional Council. Each council is receiving \$1.5M to undertake a wide range of tourism-based recovery projects and activities. Both of these councils have now recruited a Wine TRO. Each council will regularly meet with key stakeholders to guide the activities of the TROs including DSDTI, the regional RTO, TEQ and Department of Employment Small Business and Training.</p> <p>In progress- On track</p>

Environment

The overarching recovery objectives for the Environment recovery group focus on sustainability and resilience and include:

- Pollution impacts to the environment are avoided or minimised.
- Recovery actions do not generate further risk to the environment.
- Natural environment operates to maintain or restore healthy biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Protection and management of parks and forests for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

The resilience focus is on:

- Reduced environmental issues following disaster events due to more effective planning and preparedness by government, industry and community.
- Increased understanding of the risk of future disasters on the environment.

- Increased understanding of the way the environment can provide natural protection from disasters.

The current status of the 14 recovery objectives are as follows:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
5	9			

The recovery tasks can be found on page 44 and 45 of the Plan.

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
Ambient air quality monitoring and reporting	<p>In conjunction with Queensland Health, the Department’s air quality website was updated on 12 August to report hourly PM_{2.5} concentrations and health action messaging in line with the new Health national reporting categories to apply across Australia.</p> <p>Twice-daily reporting of SEQ particle concentrations has been automated, with the option to set up automatic emailing of the reports to DDMG representatives during bushfire events.</p> <p>Funding has been received to expand the Queensland ambient air monitoring network over the next 2 years to cover an additional 57 residential areas where particle monitoring is not currently carried out.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
Reopening parks and forests to the public, including submission of agency insurance claims	<p>All parks and forests that closed due to bushfires have now reopened to the public.</p> <p>Complete</p>
Assist local government and operators with effective and rapid resolution of waste management issues Waste levy exemptions declared for waste in the disaster declared areas	<p>Complete</p>
Recovery actions for impacted wildlife	<p>Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWSP) are implementing a range of on-ground actions (pest and fire management) to protect Threatened Species impacted by wildfires as part of Phase 1 of Australian Government QPWSP Bushfire Recovery Program funding (e.g. Lamington National Parks (NP), Mt Barney NP, Oakview NP, Bulburin NP). This includes partnering with Healthy Land and Water (NRM group) to deliver aspects of program.</p> <p>South East Queensland (SEQ) Wildlife Hospital Network – Care and rehabilitation of animals admitted to wildlife hospitals has progressed with many animals which sustained minor injuries now released back to the wild at suitable sites. DES has recently extended the funding for SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network for a further 12</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
	<p>months, and is working with partner organisations to revise the current Memorandum of Understanding in relation to future arrangements and support.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Provide advice and support reinstatement of drinking water</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Cultural surveys with First Nations Peoples to identify both impacted and newly revealed sites</p>	<p>DES (QPWSP) continues to engage with First Nations People, and is proactive in identifying new partnership opportunities, to ensure cultural heritage knowledge is incorporated into all aspects of protected area management and Caring for Country. Example activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on-ground cultural survey pre-prescribed burning activities (e.g., on K’gari), - defining joint burning outcomes - knowledge sharing and strategic planning for fire management - integration into Incident Management Teams and - building on developed relationships to establish autonomy for First Nations People to carry out cultural and conservational burns. <p>Complete</p>
<p>First Nations Peoples and stakeholders actively engaged, consulted and assisted, including land managers, local government and industry</p> <p>Includes support to SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network, wildlife carer groups and Natural Resource Management Bodies</p>	<p>QPWSP are partnering with Healthy Land and Water NRM group) to deliver aspects of the program (on-park weed removal and fencing). There is engagement with First Nations groups to determine their interest in partnering around actions as part of Phase 2 of the Australian Government funded QPWSP Bushfire Recovery Program.</p> <p>QPWSP rangers are working in cooperation with the Threatened Species Unit to develop work programs as part of the Australian Government Bushfire Wildlife Recovery Package.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Assessment and restoration of damaged infrastructure on parks and forests including DRFA business case submitted for Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience Program (Tourism Recovery Package)</p>	<p>QPWSP has significantly progressed the restoration and enhanced resilience of assets, including major walking tracks, in the Binna Burra section of Lamington National Park.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>Support to the Binna Burra Taskforce</p> <p>Heritage assessment of BBL site and buildings, and approvals for clean up and essential works to facilitate reopening</p>	<p>After six months in operation, the Binna Burra Recovery Taskforce finalised its formal efforts in mid-February 2020. Since the September 2019 bushfire that devastated the Binna Burra site and beyond, DES Heritage has assessed and given several approvals for a broad scope of clean up/make safe/recovery works at the site. It has also provided pre-lodgement advice about undertaking future work with regard to protecting the cultural heritage significance of the State heritage place. DES Heritage continues to assist Binna Burra Lodge Ltd with advice about approval pathways for further development required to support its return to full operation. The site reopened to public access in early September 2020. A detailed review of the State heritage place entry for the Binna Burra Cultural Landscape was also undertaken during 2020, which has resulted in a fit-for-purpose document that will guide decision-making in relation to heritage values into the future.</p> <p>QPWSP has completed rapid assessment and approvals to support reopening of road to Binna Burra and continues to work with Binna Burra Lodge to ensure any other necessary approvals are in place to support site redevelopment and enhancement needs.</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>Focused assessment and analysis of the implications of fire threat and damage on First Nations cultural heritage protection planning and management</p>	<p>Annual fire planning meetings have been held with joint management partners on Cape York and at numerous other parks.</p> <p>There is an increased focus on cultural heritage assessments and the identification of protection strategies to ensure fire line maintenance and construction activities carefully consider risks to cultural heritage.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage assessments are conducted for fire line capital works and maintenance projects in consultation with Native title holders as standard business practice. First Nations partners have been invited to Fire Referral Group meetings for input into the planned burn program.</p> <p>QPWSP is progressing discussions with First Nations people as part of Phase 2 of the Australian Government funded QPWSP Bushfire Recovery Program to ensure their rights and interests are integrated into the program.</p> <p>There is continued engagement with First Nations people at specific locations regarding identification and implementation of protection strategies to enhance fire management at estate locations with culturally significant sites, e.g. Carnarvon North, Carnarvon Gorge and Mt Moffat.</p> <p>QPWSP has partnered with some First Nations people to carry out planned burns to assist in ensuring the long-term protection of known cultural sites, and also offered and delivered fire training to selected First Nations people to improve their capacity to participate and contribute to burning programs.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Expansion of the hazard reduction program in priority fire risk areas</p>	<p>Despite the operational challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, QPWSP has this year met the annual burn target. QPWSP conducted more than 260 planned burns and treated over 700,000 hectares of state-managed protected estate between January and August 2020. Further fire mitigation activities are continuing while weather conditions remain suitable.</p> <p>QPWSP is continually adapting to the changing fire landscape and burning earlier in the planned burn season. There is a proposal to conduct planned burns when conditions are suitable rather than locking into seasons.</p> <p>QPWSP is working with Healthy Land and Water as part of Phase 2 of the Australian Government funded Bushfire Recovery program to develop landscape-level strategies</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
	<p>to reduce bushfire threat, including enhanced and better coordinated approaches to planned burning.</p> <p>Regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Region: Priority burn program on track. Excellent early burn program across the Region. • Central Region: Continued upgrade and maintenance of fire lines. Fire lines are to mitigate wildfire risks and support planned burning activities. An extensive aerial burning program has been developed. • South East Region: The new QPWSP South East Region Enhanced Fire Management has facilitated an increased and more targeted planned burn program throughout 2020. • Coastal and Islands Region: Productive planned burn program considering the restrictions around COVID-19. Late season weather conditions allowed for additional high priority protection burns neighbouring community zone areas. Enhanced Fire management program funding has allowed the Coastal and Islands Region to maintain some critical and strategic fire lines to required standards. Funding also allocated to priority protection zone burns and aerial burning. • South West Region: Continued upgrade and maintenance of critical fire lines in QPWSP South West Region. Priority burn program 100% completed. QPWSP SW Region is an active participant in Area Fire Management Group meetings, significant contributor to Operation Cool Burn and local community meetings. In 2020 QPWSP SW Region has burnt over 100,000Ha in 79 cool season planned burns thanks largely to our broad scale aerial program funded through the EFM and Strategic Fire funding. QPWSP SW Region also works closely with grazing lessees to improve and enhance burning practices on SF lands. This has seen an improvement in ecosystem health and a reduction in late season wildfires. <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Satellite imagery to map burnt areas and determine habitat loss and repercussions for native wildlife, native plant communities and cultural heritage</p> <p>Provide information to Australian Government to determine species and habitat priorities for Bushfire wildfire recovery package \$50M</p> <p>Convene Research Roundtable to discuss threatened species research priorities</p>	<p>QPWSP Spatial Services team completed detailed fire severity mapping for the following parks: parks in the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area (Mt Barney, Lamington and Main Range NPs); Great Sandy (Cooloola Section) and Noosa NP; Nangur and Oakview NPs and Bulburin NP.</p> <p>On-ground assessments in these areas were also completed</p> <p>Information has been provided to the Australian Government to assist in determining species and habitat priorities for funding via representation on the Bushfire Expert Panel.</p> <p>An expert round table was convened to determined which threatened species were most likely at risk due the fires in southern Qld to inform further investigations and funding.</p> <p>Fire severity mapping has been undertaken in high priority impacted areas, e.g. Main Range National Park and Deongwar State forest. Continued analysis of mapping data will occur to assist in monitoring and determining further fire management priorities.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>Work in partnership with First Nations peoples and stakeholders to map cultural heritage sites on the Parks Estate</p>	<p>QPWSP implemented a cultural survey program to collect cultural information across joint managed national parks on Cape York. Also working with First Nations people through the Values Based Park Management Framework /park management planning program to better understand and respond to cultural heritage on park.</p> <p>QPWSP will continue to develop and maintain strong working partnerships with First Nations peoples to protect cultural heritage values and provide on country opportunities. First Nations people including the Budjiti, Gunggari, Iman, Carnarvon IWG have provided advice and been involved with cultural clearances, and where available participated in official ‘opening’ smoking ceremonies for numerous on-park projects.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Work in partnership with First Nations peoples and stakeholders to integrate First Nations fire management expertise into all QPWSP fire management planning and programs</p>	<p>Annual fire planning meetings have been held with joint management partners on Cape York and at numerous other parks</p> <p>QPWSP continue to work in partnership with First Nations people such as the Gudjuda Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation to integrate traditional burning practices into protected area fire planning and operations. QPWSP is also engaging with First Nations (eg Kabi Kabi people) on Fire Strategy development (e.g. Noosa) as part of park planning, to share knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>QPWSP, in conjunction with First nation partnerships and key stakeholders, undertook Queensland’s first all women planned burn on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) in June 2020 at a culturally significant ceremonial place of the Quandamooka people.</p> <p>QPWSP continues to build partnerships with First Nations peoples to integrate traditional burning practices into protected area fire planning and operations A traditional burn was carried out at Bunya Mountains National Park with QPWSP rangers and members of the Toowoomba and Wondai Bunya Peoples’ Aboriginal Corporation rangers on two separate ‘balds’. This is the first time since gazettal that a traditional burn has been carried out on the Estate and was successful. Butchulla First Nation people undertake a pre-burn walk through proposed burn blocks identifying culturally significant values for protection.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>

Local Recovery Progress

This section provides a summary of councils' progress against their local recovery plans.

Councils have provided an update on progress against their recovery objectives and any challenges that may have been encountered, as well as success stories for their recovery to date. Once recovery objectives have been met they will no longer be reported against.

This report focuses on the 8 councils that completed event-specific recovery plans. Across these 8 plans there were 119 recovery objectives. The current status is outlined below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
46	58	12	3	

Gladstone Regional Council

The Gladstone Event Specific Recovery Plan has 8 recovery objectives. The current status is outlined below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
4	4			

The remaining recovery objectives for Gladstone focus on:

- Supporting affected residents by providing building and financial support information to be able to rebuild their place of residence.
- Enhancing community resilience by delivering community development activities and education strategies.
- Rebuilding rural property boundary fences to define property lines.
- Identifying and communicating financial assistance options to all impacted residents.

Recovery successes being reported across Gladstone include:

- The collaborative nature with which the recovery agencies have worked together to resolve issues.
- The use of flexi-skip bin bags to support community clean-up which reduced the cost of hiring skip bins and enabled the council's waste management team to efficiently support kerbside waste collection.
- Utilising Disaster Relief Australia to assist with fencing needs and the removal of vegetation, as well as dismantling structures which are services not offered by other agencies and is a current gap for the community.

The challenges for recovery across the Gladstone region include:

- COVID-19 restrictions impacting the delivery of recovery activities. This challenge is being overcome by changing proposed activities to comply with COVID safe requirements.
- Finding assistance for those people who require fencing repairs. Council is encouraging people to include fencing in their insurance premiums.

Livingstone Shire Council

The Livingstone Event Specific Recovery Plan has 15 recovery objectives. The current status is outlined below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
4	7	4		

Delays are due to further funding requirements or compliance with COVID-19 requirements. The remaining recovery objectives for Livingstone Shire include:

- Burnt/damaged guideposts and signs are removed or replaced as required.
- A comprehensive environmental impact/damage assessment is completed (D).
- A comprehensive assessment of economic damage to assets and key industries is undertaken (D).
- Support to farmers, rural landholders, and small businesses impacted by the event is coordinated and effective.
- Funding is sought and secured to ensure holistic recovery and resilience – building initiatives (including improving economic growth, stability and diversity) (D).
- Funding is lobbied and secured for a Recovery and Bushfire Resilience Officer to work with the community and agencies.
- Funding is secured for development of a Resilience Strategy.
- Ongoing support for environmental and revegetation programs is coordinated and sustainable (D).
- Ongoing industry and business resilience strategies are developed in collaboration with relevant groups and agencies.
- Ongoing holistic support is made available to affected residents to address all recovery and resilience needs.
- Ongoing community-led recovery and resilience initiatives are identified, developed and supported.

Recovery successes for Livingstone include:

- Strong cross agency collaboration which has ensured residents are able to seek the recovery assistance required.
- The appointment of a Community Development Officer to support recovery activities.
- Securing approval for a number of DRFA Category C Flexible Funding grant applications.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, obtaining community input into activities has been a challenge for Livingstone's community recovery activities.

Lockyer Valley Regional Council

The Lockyer Valley Event Specific Recovery Plan has 13 recovery objectives. The current status is outlined below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
2	8	2	1	

Delays are due to new appointments to positions and unsuccessful funding applications, as well as the impacts of COVID-19 on tourism. The remaining recovery objectives for Lockyer Valley include:

- Affected community members are aware of and have accessed to available psychosocial support services and information on financial support.
- Impacted businesses and primary producers are aware of and have accessed financial support services.
- A weed management program has been developed and implemented to assist with the rejuvenation of flora in the region.
- Funding assistance opportunities have been identified to support community recovery efforts where required (D).
- Rural properties have been supported in the repair of fencing, sheds, stock welfare and paddock feed.
- Risk mitigation and building resilience for essential services is undertaken.
- Recovery of national parks and surrounding environment to increase the production of flora and fauna in the region.
- Revegetation to restore habitat for native fauna and biodiversity conservation (NS).
- Confidence is restored in the tourism market (D).
- Enhance community education for resilience for all hazards through community engagement.

Recovery successes for the Lockyer Valley include:

- Receiving funding for a Bushfire Recovery and Resilience Officer to help drive recovery activities. These include projects to improve community facilities and deliver a lantana program and undertake cultural burns.
- The appointment of a Drought Support Officer who will work closely with the Bushfire Recovery and Resilience Officer.

Grant applications to assist landholders restore and revegetate areas surrounding national parks have been unsuccessful impacting the progress of national park recovery.

Noosa Shire Council

The Noosa Shire Event Specific Recovery Plan has 20 recovery objectives. The current status is outlined below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
5	15			

The recovery objectives still being actioned for Noosa Shire include:

- All evacuated residents are returned to their homes safely.
- Mental health and community well-being support for community.
- Support and assist people to access emergency hardship grants and funding approvals.
- Utilise community events to engage with the community and provide further mental health support as needed.
- Maintain community messaging to provide updates during recovery.
- Build community resilience for future disasters (all hazards).
- Undertake economic impact assessment.
- Support primary producers.
- Restore and build confidence in the tourism market in affected areas e.g., camping, retreats, etc.
- Restore and build confidence in the tourism market for the Noosa Shire.
- Support small business.
- Empower local businesses to improve their resilience to disasters.
- Build on the confidence in the tourism market.
- Establish provisions for environmental rehabilitation in burnt areas.
- Review fire management plans and develop community resilience and awareness.

Recovery successes for Noosa include:

- Hosting a one year anniversary event to mark the fires that enabled the community to reconnect.
- An increase in community members demonstrating a commitment to disaster preparedness.
- Delivery of Mental Health First Aid to recovery workers to ensure recovery support is provided in an appropriate manner.
- Access to a range of recovery funding mechanisms has enabled recovery activities to be 'jump started, boosting community confidence'.
- Council has ensured there are regular media releases to update the community on recovery progress.
- Establishment of an aged care/retirement sector reference group to work on disaster preparedness and enhance planning.
- Recovery activities have supported both Bushfire recovery and COVID-19 recovery providing synergy and enabling holistic recovery.
- The development of strong relationships between council and recovery agencies enable the cohesive delivery of recovery services.

Despite the range of successes Noosa has celebrated, there are a number of recovery challenges. These challenges include:

- A number of council's business as usual activities were placed on hold due to a lack of staff capacity resulting from the recovery efforts with a COVID-19 overlay.
- An inability to access information after the 'response' element of the event ceased which made it difficult to prioritise recovery activities.
- Managing expectations of community members in relation to available support and the speed of its delivery.
- Available funding support did not meet the needs of the impacted small businesses in the Noosa region.
- A number of community members had insured structures resulting in them remaining in temporary accommodation.

Scenic Rim Regional Council

The Scenic Rim Event Specific Recovery Plan has 18 recovery objectives. The current status is outlined below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
5	11	1	1	

Delays are due to new appointments not commencing. The following recovery objectives for Scenic Rim are being actioned:

- Offers of assistance are effectively managed.
- Fencing, sheds, water tanks and farming infrastructure repaired and/or replaced
- Restore confidence in the tourism market (D).
- Road transport network – complete damage assessments, develop reconstruction program and coordinate works for state and local controlled roads.
- Increase community awareness and preparedness for all hazards through community engagement.
- Recovery of wildlife habitats to accelerate return of wildlife.
- Enhance the resilience of local businesses.
- Repair and rebuild of homes and businesses.
- Seek further funding assistance opportunities to support community recovery efforts where needed.
- Enhance recovery governance through the re-development of a Local Recovery Sub-Plan (NS).
- Support the restoration and re-establishment of Binna Burra Lodge and additional businesses and services affected.
- Recovery of national parks and surrounding environment.
- Replacement of park infrastructure and camp grounds and ensure public areas are safe from fire damage trees and other items.

Recovery successes for Scenic Rim include:

- The community leading a Cultural Arts project which is improving morale in the Beechmont area.
- Housing is being rebuilt as is the Binna Burra Lodge providing comfort for community members.

- The case coordination model being used is ensuring community members are receiving the support they require.

Scenic Rim has also faced a number of challenges with progress recovery activities, these include:

- Delays with recruiting their Community Development Officer has limited council’s capacity to implement improvement initiatives.
- Understanding damage and needs in the western side of the region to support primary producers.
- COVID-19 restrictions limiting business as usual activities and engagement activities.

Somerset Regional Council

The Somerset Event Specific Recovery Plan has 12 recovery objectives. The current status is outlined below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
8	2	2		

The recovery objectives for Somerset still in progress include:

- Fencing, sheds, water tanks and farming infrastructure repaired and/ or replaced.
- Restore confidence in the tourism market.
- Increase community awareness and preparedness of all hazards through community engagement (D).
- Recovery of wildlife habitats to accelerate return of wildlife (D).

Recovery successes for Somerset include:

- Using a locally led recovery approach enabled the implementation of targeted recovery initiatives that met community need and desired outcomes.
- Using BlazeAid to assist with the repair of damaged fencing which supported the community’s recovery needs.

Somerset’s recovery has been challenged by the impacts of COVID-19 as the community has focused its attentions on COVID-19 recovery. Challenges with technology have limited the productivity of meetings and minimised active participation.

Southern Downs Regional Council

The Southern Downs Event Specific Recovery Plan has 17 recovery objectives. The current status is outlined below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
8	7	2		

Delays are due to unsuccessful funding applications and the impacts of COVID-19 on the tourism sector. The following recovery objectives for Southern Downs are being actioned.

- Community health, wellbeing and safety restored and resilience improved.
- Economic activity restored and resilience improved.

- Confidence in the tourism market restored (D).
- Environmental restoration and protection (prevention of spread of weeds and seeds). Develop a revegetation plan to enhance natural buffers and critical ecosystems that contribute to resilience (funding dependent) (D).
- Increase community awareness and preparedness for all hazards through community engagement.
- Quarterly meetings of Southern Downs Resilience Taskforces reporting to LDMG.
- Secure the economic future of the region.

Recovery successes for Southern Downs include:

- Using a recovery governance structure to support recovery planning and the corresponding coordination and delivery of recovery activities.
- Obtaining additional dedicated resources to support recovery efforts as council's existing resources would not have been able to achieve the current outcomes.
- Using a community led approach to provide services and leverage off recovery activities to inform key projects including the Granite Belt Urban Design Framework.
- Delivering the Granite Belt Urban Design Framework and using the framework to support ongoing recovery initiatives.
- Increased disaster management preparedness in the community as a result of the disaster management team engaging with schools.
- Establishing a dedicated team to coordinate recovery funding including applications and sharing of information.

The Southern Downs has also faced recovery challenges. These challenges include:

- The delay in funding being distributed after announcements have been made impacted the recovery of the tourism industry and made community expectations difficult to manage.
- Obtaining funds to support environmental recovery has been challenging and impacted the ability of the community to further progress on environmental recovery objectives.
- There were challenges with understanding the economic impacts to the community as a result of the closure of Cunningham's Gap, preventing a complete understanding of the ramifications of the disaster.
- Not having a pre-existing process for volunteer management consumed council time and resources in the initial stages of recovery operations.
- The bushfires occurred whilst the community was impacted by long term drought which exacerbated the impacts of the bushfire on the community.

Toowoomba Regional Council

The Toowoomba Event Specific Recovery Plan has 16 recovery objectives. The current status is outlined below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
10	4	1	1	

The recovery objectives for Toowoomba still being actioned include:

- A program to support the environmental restoration and protection of unique flora and fauna endemic to the region has been developed, implemented and progress is monitored.
- Design and deliver disaster resilience education programs to identified schools / students (NS).
- Funding streams are identified to support community organisations and not-for-profits.
- Identify and promote funding opportunities to support sustainable bushfire mitigation programs.
- Identify and promote funding opportunities to stimulate tourism across the region.
- Education initiatives to build bushfire resilience through knowledge of hazard and risk assessments have been developed, implemented and progress monitored (D).

Recovery successes for Toowoomba include:

- All community members being able to return to their homes after the fires.
- The recruitment of a dedicated Resilience and Recovery Officer has enabled council to coordinate and facilitate bushfire recovery activities with a focus on community engagement and education ensuring recovery is locally led.
- A thank you event for emergency services was held in Crows Nest enabled the community to reconnect and show their appreciation for those who assist with the bushfire response.
- An increase in agency communication and coordination has also supported ongoing recovery efforts.
- Support being provided to a member of the community who was not captured in original damage assessments activities.
- Obtaining funding to improve fire trails has enhanced the community's preparedness.

COVID-19 has also posed challenges for Toowoomba as the associated restrictions meant engagement activities were placed on hold. Additional challenges faced by Toowoomba include:

- Challenges with data quality from damage assessments meant not all damaged properties were identified which has had corresponding impacts on the Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring (DARM) results, however, the DARM processes have helped to identify further damage.
- Additional flash flooding events diverted efforts from the Bushfire recovery to address the flooding.
- The need to balance conflicting community expectations and priorities with available resources and recovery projects.
- Whilst being successful in obtaining extra resources to assist with recovery, council has identified the need for a project management resource for overarching coordination.



Recovery Progress Report #2 to March 2021

Progress Report Two

October 2020 - March 2021

2019 Queensland Bushfires

Recovery Plan 2019-2022



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State Recovery Planning and Policy Coordinator summary

During the 2019 bushfire season over 7.5 million hectares of land was burnt in Queensland. Twenty three (23) local government areas (LGAs) were impacted by the fires including Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cook, Fraser Coast, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Gympie, Ipswich, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley Mareeba, Noosa, North Burnett, Redland, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim, Somerset, South Burnett, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville and Whitsunday. Of these, Gladstone, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs and Toowoomba all developed Event-Specific Recovery Plans which were incorporated into the Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan.

This report outlines progress against the objectives in the recovery plans for both local governments and functional recovery groups (FRGs).

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

As demonstrated above, substantial progress has been made against the objectives identified in the Recovery Plan. Those objectives not yet commenced or delayed are a result of COVID-19 implications, delays with appointing support staff, or a lack of funding to support the initiatives required.

Local governments are actively working with their communities to assist recovery and ensure recovery activities are locally led.

State recovery progress

This section provides a summary of recovery progress across the functional lines of recovery and resilience initiatives. Recovery progress tracks the implementation of recovery activities against the metrics identified in the Recovery Plan.

Across the FRG action plans there are 53 recovery objectives. The current status of the recovery objectives are listed below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
33	20			

An activity identified as completed will not be addressed in future reports.

Human and Social

The overarching recovery objectives for the Human and Social Recovery Group focus on sustainability and resilience and include:

- Adequate housing is available to community members at appropriate times in the recovery process.
- Community members have access and are able to meet health needs (including mental health) arising from the disaster.
- Community members have access to psychosocial support.
- Households, families and individuals can act autonomously to contribute to the recovery process.
- Community members have access to education services.
- Community members have access to appropriate and coordinated social services.
- Community members feel sufficiently safe and secure following a disaster to engage in social activities and interact with other members of the community.
- The community has improved capacity and capability to respond to future disasters.
- The Community Recovery Package targeted support to individuals and families to recover from the 2019 Queensland Bushfires, in addition to building community capacity to more effectively respond to future events.

The current status of the 11 recovery objectives are as follows:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
2	9			

The recovery activities can be found on page 24 to 27 of the Plan.

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>Raise awareness and provide access to personal financial assistance through the activation of the DRFA Category A Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) and Category B Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme (ESSRS) through the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS)</p>	<p><u>DCHDE (formerly DCDSS):</u></p> <p>PHAS/ESSRS information was distributed via the various Community Recovery channels including the online grants portal, Community Recovery hotline, community recovery hubs and outreach operations. Press releases, media alerts, and social media were also used to raise awareness of assistance available.</p> <p>As at 31 March 2021, \$2,598,144 has been paid to grant recipients, benefitting 12,218 people.</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update										
<p>Provide awareness of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disaster assistance and income support available to impacted people through the Australian government - DRFA Category B concessional loans available to Non-Profit organisations through QRIDA <p>Coordinate the distribution of donated funds locally through charitable organisations (Salvation Army, UnitingCare Queensland, GIVIT)</p> <p>Provide awareness of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy Hardship Program s available through energy retailers - Assistance available to fast-track tax support through the Australian Tax Office (ATO) - Insurance support available through the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) - Financial service provider issue resolution available through the Financial Ombudsmen - Financial counselling services available (e.g., UCQ(Lifeline) and Salvation Army 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Emergency Hardship Assistance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,154,780</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Essential Service Hardship Assistance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2,850</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Essential Household Contents</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$117,870</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Structural Assistance Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$220,378</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$102,266</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Australian Red Cross</u></p> <p>In the period 1 January–31 March 2021 the following financial assistance has been provided from the National Bushfire Grants Program administered by Australian Red Cross:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$47,000 of critical financial support provided to 2019-2020 bushfire affected persons in QLD - 5 individuals paid a total of 5 grants. <p>Categories of need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discretionary Financial Hardship: \$29,000 - February Additional Support Grant: \$18,000 <p><u>GIVIT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As at 31 March 2021, \$732,735 in donated funds have been received by GIVIT. - GIVIT is continuing to work with registered charities and DCHDE to procure items to address recovery needs as validated by these entities. <p><u>QRIDA:</u></p> <p>Nil applications from Non-Profit organisations for Category B loans in the two activated LGAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scenic Rim Regional Council - Southern Down Regional Council <p><u>The Salvation Army:</u></p> <p>Financial Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 new Queensland clients are receiving financial assistance - 7 total clients that received financial assistance - \$22,950 total financial assistance provided in QLD between 1st Jan – 31st March <p>Financial Counselling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nil clients who are receiving/and or have received financial counselling services as a direct result of the Queensland bushfires <p>Client Referrals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nil people assisted with Energy Hardship Program/s available through energy retailers - nil people assisted with Insurance support available through the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) - nil people assisted with Emergency Housing assistance (EHAR) for displaced residents through the Department of Housing and Public Works (PHPW) 	Emergency Hardship Assistance	\$2,154,780	Essential Service Hardship Assistance	\$2,850	Essential Household Contents	\$117,870	Structural Assistance Grant	\$220,378	Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme	\$102,266
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Recovery Activity	Activity Update																								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nil people assisted with temporary and short-term accommodation - nil people assisted with medium to longer term accommodation - nil people assisted with awareness of the Bond Loans and rental grants available to assist individuals and families to enter the private accommodation market <p style="color: green; margin-top: 10px;">In progress – on track</p>																								
<p>Provide Essential Household Contents Grants (EHCG) as a contribution towards replacing or repairing essential household contents through the DRFA Category A Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme administered by DCDSS</p> <p>Coordinate the provision of donated goods to replace essential household contents through charitable organisations</p>	<p><u>DCHDE (FORMERLY DCDSS):</u></p> <p>Community Recovery is continuing to administer the Essential Household Contents Grants to approved applicants.</p> <p>As of 31 March 2021, the following had been provided:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 70%;">Applications received</td><td style="text-align: right;">521</td></tr> <tr><td>Applications in progress</td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>Applications declined</td><td style="text-align: right;">446</td></tr> <tr><td>Applications paid</td><td style="text-align: right;">72</td></tr> <tr><td>Total value paid</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$117,870</td></tr> </table> <p><u>GIVIT:</u></p> <p>Long term and complex recovery needs are now being coordinated.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Measure</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Since event commenced on 7 September 2019</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Number of items requested (goods and services)</td><td style="text-align: right;">12,239</td></tr> <tr><td>Number of items received by affected communities</td><td style="text-align: right;">29,280</td></tr> <tr><td>Number of organisations requesting assistance for this event</td><td style="text-align: right;">38</td></tr> <tr><td>Number of these organisations that have received assistance</td><td style="text-align: right;">37</td></tr> <tr><td>Number of days between request for assistance and donation offer</td><td style="text-align: right;">12</td></tr> <tr><td>Number of days between request for assistance and requesting service's confirmation of delivery</td><td style="text-align: right;">31</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="color: green; margin-top: 10px;">In progress – on track</p>	Applications received	521	Applications in progress	3	Applications declined	446	Applications paid	72	Total value paid	\$117,870	Measure	Since event commenced on 7 September 2019	Number of items requested (goods and services)	12,239	Number of items received by affected communities	29,280	Number of organisations requesting assistance for this event	38	Number of these organisations that have received assistance	37	Number of days between request for assistance and donation offer	12	Number of days between request for assistance and requesting service's confirmation of delivery	31
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<p>DCDSS to administer and provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structural Assistance Grants (SAG) as a contribution towards replacing or repairing damaged dwellings through the DRFA Category A Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme - Financial assistance as a contribution towards safety inspections or and repairs to residential essential services 	<p><u>DCHDE (FORMERLY DCDSS):</u></p> <p>Community Recovery is continuing to administer the Structural Assistance Grants to approved applicants. As of 31 March 2021, the following had been provided:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 70%;">Applications received</td><td style="text-align: right;">109</td></tr> <tr><td>Applications in progress</td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Applications declined</td><td style="text-align: right;">84</td></tr> <tr><td>Applications paid</td><td style="text-align: right;">23</td></tr> <tr><td>Total value paid</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$220,378</td></tr> </table>	Applications received	109	Applications in progress	2	Applications declined	84	Applications paid	23	Total value paid	\$220,378														
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Recovery Activity	Activity Update										
<p>through the DRFA Category B Essential Services and Reconnection Scheme (ESSRS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support through case management of vulnerable grant recipients - Define scope of works and provide estimate of cost for SAG applications through the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) 	<p>Community Recovery is continuing to administer the Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme to approved applicants.</p> <p>As of 31 March 2021, the following had been provided:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="582 392 1173 616"> <tr> <td>Applications received</td> <td>193</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applications in progress</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applications declined</td> <td>164</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applications paid</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total value paid</td> <td>\$102,266</td> </tr> </table> <p>In progress – on track</p>	Applications received	193	Applications in progress	4	Applications declined	164	Applications paid	25	Total value paid	\$102,266
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<p>Coordinate the provision of psychosocial and practical supports lead by the DCDSS with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red Cross - Uniting Care QLD (Lifeline) - QLD Health <p>Referrals to existing personal support and generalist counselling services</p> <p>Establishment of local case coordination mechanism (as required)</p>	<p><u>DCHDE (FORMERLY DCDSS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil change in data, these activities are complete. <p><u>Australian Red Cross</u></p> <p>The Qld Red Cross Bushfire Recovery Program is active in the following priority bushfire-impacted LGAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central Qld – Livingstone, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Woorabinda - South East Qld – Noosa, Sunshine Coast, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Southern Downs, Redland, Lockyer Valley, Ipswich, Toowoomba, and Gympie. <p>Two Bushfire Recovery Project Officers support these communities in the field.</p> <p>Capability development training is offered to agencies and community organisations, including: Psychological First Aid, Recovery Basics, Preparedness/RediPlan, Supporting the Supporters and Communicating in Recovery.</p> <p>Preparedness activities for young people (10-11 years) is provided in schools through the national Pillowcase Project. Recovery Officers and trained volunteers deliver the sessions.</p> <p>The Bushfire Project officers assist and provide psychological first aid at recovery social community events.</p> <p>Red Cross publications distributed to communities include: <i>RediPlan</i>, <i>After the Emergency Kids Activity Booklet</i>, <i>Helping Children and Young People Cope with Crisis</i>, <i>Pillowcases</i>, <i>Pillowcase project Information Card for household members and get Prepared App information sheet for householders</i>.</p> <p><u>Queensland Health:</u></p> <p>Health clinicians worked with local NGO's in the Scenic Rim and Noosa areas to develop referral pathways to provide support to affected residents to access services.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>										
<p>Additional outpatient services; theatre lists and other services to ensure provision of services to those affected (in addition to services provided to meet acute needs following disaster)</p> <p>Public Health Units working with local governments to manage public health risks to the community</p> <p>Patients with existing chronic health conditions receiving regular care have their needs assessed and treatments plans modified accordingly</p>	<p><u>Queensland Health:</u></p> <p>Central Queensland HHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Led some community response in Livingstone/Byfield areas on psychological support. - Access Recreation (NGO) face to face contact - Delivered a session at Madonna Cash (Early Childhood Centre) to young children and parents of vulnerable children who were scared and had dreams after the fires. - Established relationships with GP practices. - WoW and MWIA training complete. <p>West Moreton HHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensive mapping for key services and three regional council areas have been completed to strategically target future intervention to improve community resilience. 										

Recovery Activity	Activity Update																				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established close links with four rural hospitals (Laidley, Esk and Boonah) which resulted to 5 referrals. - A referral pathway to Richmond Fellowship (RFQ) has been established directly from Disaster Recovery to build social networks for consumers in reducing suicide rates. - Collaboration with WM Acute Care Team in establishing screening process. - Dialectical Behaviour Therapy training has been continually delivered on an individual and group basis with facilitation from DR. - A total of 15 community engagements occurred in March with a total of 160 people in attendance. <p>Sunshine Coast HHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established relationships with QFES, Gympie Regional Council and Noosa Shire Council and Sunshine Coast LGAs. - Establishment of relationships with representatives from early learning and childcare centres and the delivery of support and advice concerning management of distress in their communities and promotion of staff resilience and wellbeing. - Literature Review: Submission of an abstract for delivering a presentation at the Disaster and Emergency Management Conference. - Rendered clinical advice and upskilling of the CDOs of Gympie Regional Council. <p>Darling Downs HHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three DRP promo banners utilised at Stanthorpe Artist Festival – Recovery, Resilience and Healing - MFHA instructor training application - WoW training completed - Developing traction with primary service providers, volunteer groups, and some GP practices. - DRP recruitment for two clinicians finalised and will start working in April. <p>Metro South HHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Five new word of mouth referrals - DR brochure were distributed to each student in Beechmont State School and around the Scenic Rim small businesses. - Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment screening at Canungra. - Stormbirds program training aiming to support children and young adults to adapt to experience of change and loss resulting to natural disasters. - Collaboration with Scenic Rim CDO to run community resilience workshops. - Completion of MWIA training. <p style="color: green;">In progress – on track</p>																				
<p>The Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM) will provide free replacement life event certificates to those who have had their certificates lost, damaged or destroyed in a disaster declared area</p> <p>Provision of funds for Community Development Officers in most significantly impacted communities to support community-led initiatives, facilitate linkages collaboration and partnerships between and across groups, support and enable recovery and resilience planning and have a focus on building upon the strengths and capabilities of affected communities.</p>	<p>Community Development Program:</p> <p>Program Outputs (cumulative since inception)</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Number of hours developing and delivering events</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,206.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of participants in events</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,767</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of Community Agencies participating in events</td> <td style="text-align: right;">476</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of hours developing resources and tools</td> <td style="text-align: right;">190.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of hours on training and learning</td> <td style="text-align: right;">78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of Participants in training activities</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,286</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of hours supporting FFG development</td> <td style="text-align: right;">56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of Participants in FFG Activities</td> <td style="text-align: right;">47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of hours on developing RR Plan</td> <td style="text-align: right;">221</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of Participants in RR Plan development</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,080</td> </tr> </table>	Number of hours developing and delivering events	1,206.5	Number of participants in events	2,767	Number of Community Agencies participating in events	476	Number of hours developing resources and tools	190.5	Number of hours on training and learning	78	Number of Participants in training activities	1,286	Number of hours supporting FFG development	56	Number of Participants in FFG Activities	47	Number of hours on developing RR Plan	221	Number of Participants in RR Plan development	1,080
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<p>Flexible funding grants are available for projects aimed at driving recovery, building awareness and resilience within most disaster affected Local Government areas.</p>	<p>Community Development Officer Staffing</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="600 300 1406 539"> <thead> <tr> <th>Local Government</th> <th>Jan</th> <th>Feb</th> <th>Mar</th> <th>Key</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Livingstone</td> <td>F</td> <td>F</td> <td>F</td> <td rowspan="2">F – Position filled > 50% of the month</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Noosa</td> <td>F</td> <td>F</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Somerset / Lockyer</td> <td>F</td> <td>F</td> <td>F</td> <td rowspan="2">P – Position filled < 50% of the month</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southern Downs</td> <td>F</td> <td>F</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scenic Rim</td> <td>V</td> <td>F</td> <td>F</td> <td>V – Position vacant</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All councils have reported that the CDO's have been extremely busy getting out and about and linking with an extensive range of community and government agencies. - CDO's have commenced having discussions with community agencies regarding the identification and action planning for vulnerable co-horts - In Livingstone the CDO has been gathering all the information about our local agencies and groups, there will be a collective resources developed that will aid in times of Disaster to help with a collaborative approach during and post disaster. It is hoped that by using this approach to Recovery and Resilience (concentrating on the positives that we have in our community, rather than the negatives), it will benefit the community with a solid collaborated/ united outcome for our community. - CDO's have reported a large increase in community participation at events and activities organised with the relaxation of the COVID directives and the community members feeling safer to get out and about. - In the Southern Downs, data has been collated from the Swanfels property audit, ready for next steps. Work with Bendigo Bank and Samaritans purse underway regarding partnership to provide support for identified vulnerable residents. Engagement from community at recovery related activities has been good. Pairing of workshops, entertainment etc. with psychosocial themes is effective. More and more feedback indicating plans for long term awareness and education programs is essential for capacity building. - In Somerset, the month of March was focused on providing support to property owners impacted by bushfires and their recovery efforts. This was achieved by collaborations with St Vinnies who still have available funding. A personalised approach was again required due to the lack of computer literacy skills and the ability to complete online application forms. A successful grant application through Bendigo Bank has contributed to delivering funding to property owners impacted by the bushfires. The development of the mobile Lucas Mill Initiative has the potential to be a game changer for many property owners impacted by the bushfires. However, much work is required in order to develop a safe and appropriate model to deliver the initiative. <p>Flexible Funding Grants:</p> <p>First Round</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="580 1608 1433 1742"> <tr> <td>Number of applications received</td> <td style="text-align: right;">99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of applications approved</td> <td style="text-align: right;">37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total value for round</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$5,490,765</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total value for APPROVED applications</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,799,810</td> </tr> </table> <p>Second Round</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="580 1816 1433 1951"> <tr> <td>Number of applications received</td> <td style="text-align: right;">107</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of applications approved</td> <td style="text-align: right;">72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total value for all applications</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$6,804,678</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total value for APPROVED applications</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$4,197,282</td> </tr> </table> <p>In progress – on track</p>	Local Government	Jan	Feb	Mar	Key	Livingstone	F	F	F	F – Position filled > 50% of the month	Noosa	F	F	F	Somerset / Lockyer	F	F	F	P – Position filled < 50% of the month	Southern Downs	F	F	F	Scenic Rim	V	F	F	V – Position vacant	Number of applications received	99	Number of applications approved	37	Total value for round	\$5,490,765	Total value for APPROVED applications	\$1,799,810	Number of applications received	107	Number of applications approved	72	Total value for all applications	\$6,804,678	Total value for APPROVED applications	\$4,197,282
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Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>Provision of information regarding availability of existing supports, services and additional community recovery services through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community services brochures, information kits and school newsletters - Advertisements, media (radio, print, web and social media and TV) - Information boards and community meetings - Community Recovery Centre/CRRIC's/Rental Hubs - Community events/activities/celebrations - AgForce/DAF industry sessions - MP Amber Packs and daily updates - Websites and Disaster Recovery hotline - Whole of Government messages <p>Provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information to other agencies regarding registered evacuees (NRIS) and mapping data thereof - PHAS & ESSRS grants information and mapping data thereof to QRA - Awareness of one-off grants and low interest loans for not for profit organisations affected by the fire (QRIDA) 	<p><u>Australian Red Cross</u></p> <p>In this period, Red Cross Qld has established 93 connections and links with local and state governments, community service providers, individual community members and groups and external organisations.</p> <p>Red Cross is supporting informal community leaders in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Redlands – ‘Community Champions’ who are local disaster volunteers from remote islands in Redland Bay - Scenic Rim – ‘Community Disaster Volunteers’ (CDVs) – in each township, disaster management responsibilities are delegated. - Rockhampton (‘Volunteer Organisations Active in Disasters (VOAD). <p>In this period, Red Cross has enabled connections and linking with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for disaster affected communities – #7 - Increased collaboration between recovery agencies – #4 - Awareness of mental health and psychosocial issues– # 4 - Increased involvement of community in recovery planning – #1 - Awareness of cumulative disasters and building in support – #4 <p>In this period, Red Cross has provided advocacy at the following local government formal meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District Disaster Management Groups – #3 (Ipswich/Toowoomba, Livingstone, Rockhampton - Local Disaster Management Groups – #14 (Lockyer Valley, Redland, Scenic Rim (#2), Somerset, Banana, Central Highlands (#2) Gladstone, Livingstone, Rockhampton (#2) - Local Human and Social sub-committees – #6 (Ipswich/Toowoomba, Banana, Central Highlands, Livingstone, Rockhampton). <p><u>DCHDE (formerly DCDSS):</u></p> <p>DCHDE (formerly DCDSS) continues to attend and engage all relevant local and district human and social recovery groups.</p> <p><u>GIVIT:</u></p> <p>GIVIT is continuing to work closely with DCHDE and UnitingCare Lifeline to support the long-term recovery of impacted individuals and families where insufficient funds are available to repairs their homes to a habitable standard.</p> <p><u>QRIDA:</u></p> <p>Information provision occurred through traditional marketing channels, and well as directly through temporary offices and QRIDA support at community events.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Ensure school facilities are returned to pre-event status as soon as practicable to allow students to return to a normal school routine</p> <p>Identify school age children in evacuation centres and assist their parents / carers to reengage the students in schooling</p> <p>Provision of student counselling, support services and referral through Guidance Officers, School Chaplains, other relevant staff as well as</p>	<p><u>Australian Red Cross</u></p> <p>In this period, Red Cross Qld has commenced connections with schools to schedule Pillowcase Project sessions in the priority LGAs. Both Bushfire Recovery Project Officers have been trained as presenters.</p> <p>In Central Qld, the Pillowcase Project sessions will provide support to students during their In-reach Program in the current period at the School of Distance Education in Rockhampton.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
additional support and assistance to teachers and Principals in the affected areas	
<p>Use current disaster management structures to inform and influence local planning on effective volunteer engagement and management, and to result in shorter time lag between the response and the start of volunteer recovery activities</p> <p>The community makes and benefits from effective use of the narrow window of volunteer interest for future disaster events leading to improve community resilience and support in recovery</p> <p>Volunteer organisations and groups have access to mechanisms for the recruitment of volunteers to assist in the provision of practical support and other immediate and longer-term recovery-based activities</p>	<p><u>Australian Red Cross</u></p> <p>Following last year's audit of volunteers on its system (REDS) Red Cross has proceeded with further support for volunteers, including: – re-issuing of uniforms and valid identification; updating training including PFA; undertaking preparedness for deployment and updating availability; and ensuring a safe work environment and personnel with the skills required to support communities with needs before, during and after disasters.</p> <p>The broader National and Queensland Recovery Program have a focus on working with local volunteers to support community recovery needs immediately following disasters, and during the longer term.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>

Activities completed in previous reporting period:

Provide emergency housing assistance (EHAR) for displaced residents through the Department of Housing and Public Works (HPW) (temporary and short-term accommodation, medium to longer term accommodation, and awareness of the Bond Loans and rental grants available to assist individuals and families to enter the private accommodation market)	Complete
Provide information and advice for clean-up following a fire through Queensland Health fact sheets and publications	Complete

Building

The recovery objectives for the Building recovery group focus on sustainability and resilience and include:

- Infrastructure that relates to education, health, justice, welfare and any other community infrastructure/buildings that support the community (private or public owned assets) is sustainable.
- Private infrastructure including residential, commercial/ industrial and rural assets is sustainable.
- Infrastructure is rebuilt to reduce, to a reasonable degree, the impact of future disasters on communities.

The current status of the 10 recovery objectives are as follows:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
10				

The recovery tasks can be found on page 30 and 31 of the Plan.

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
Review of identified Damage Assessments and Reconstruction Monitoring (DARMSys)	<p>QRA staff returned to impacted areas in September 2020 to assess repairs and reconstruction activities that were being undertaken. There are no further scheduled DARMSys activities for this event. A summary of the DARMS data is located below.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
Provide advice to regulators regarding learnings from bushfire event related to the recovery of built infrastructure	<p>QBCC continues to provide assistance to impacted communities as a component of its business as usual activities after disaster events regardless of hazard type.</p> <p>The QBCC's improved response time to provides timely information and advice to communities impacted by natural disasters to support the safe management of rebuilding and repair. The value of a 'tradies register' is recognised and routine component of disaster activation where there has been significant damage to built assets.</p> <p>The Department of Energy and Public Works (formerly Housing and Public Works) continues to work with QFES in relation to the delivery of the Bushfire Guidance Review as it relates to the built environment. It is recommended that this action be closed in relation to reporting against this specific event as it will be addressed in the larger response to the findings of the National Natural Disasters Royal Commission findings.</p> <p>Complete</p>

DARM results

DARM September 2020		Local Government Areas													
		Bundaberg	Gladstone	Gold Coast	Ipswich	Livingstone	Lockyer Valley	Mareeba	Noosa	Scenic Rim	Somerset	Southern Downs	Toowoomba	Totals	
Damage Severity	No Damage	1	17	3	0	6	1	1	23	10	0	23	0	82	
	Minor	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	21	5		
	Moderate	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	1		
	Severe	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	2	0	0		
	Total (destroyed)	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	18	0	7	3		
	Grand Total	0	4	0	1	10	0	0	3	25	2	28	9		82
	Inaccessible	0	13	0	3	23	1	0	0	3	4	9	1		57
Habitable	Yes	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	2	2	1	14	3	82	
	No	0	3	0	0	6	0	0	1	22	1	5	1		
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	5		
	Grand Total	0	4	0	1	10	0	0	3	25	2	28	9		82
Work Status	No Work Needed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	82	
	Not Started but Needed	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	1	2	0		
	Work Commenced	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	2	24	0	12	3		
	Unknown	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	10	6		
	Grand Total	0	4	0	1	10	0	0	3	25	2	28	9		82

Non-Habitable Work Status	No Work Needed	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	39
	Not Started but Needed	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	Work Commenced	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	
	Grand Total	0	3	0	0	6	0	0	1	22	1	5	1	

Activities completed in previous reporting period:

Maintain consultation with built environment stakeholders, peak industry bodies and industry to support local led recovery	Complete
Initiate immediate coordinated Rapid Damage Assessment of the community infrastructure	Complete
Finalise detailed building assessments on frontline government building infrastructure	Complete
Support the development and implemented of local build infrastructure recovery plans	Complete
Facilitate community access to independent building repair advice	Complete
Facilitate community access to independent safety, cleaning and building repair advice	Complete
Input into general communication strategy in relation to building and electrical health and safety messages	Complete
Establish and promote a register of licensed building contractors and trades people. On closure of the register enquires are directed to the Bushfire Rebuild Register search on the QBCC website	Complete

Roads and Transport

The overarching recovery objectives for the Roads and Transport recovery group focus on sustainability and resilience and include:

- Roads and transport infrastructure supports the delivery of essential services to the community.
- Infrastructure is rebuilt to reduce, to a reasonable degree, the impact of future disasters on communities.

The current status of the 5 recovery objectives are as follows:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
3	2			

The recovery tasks can be found on page 34 and 35 of the Plan.

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
Scope reconstruction program of works (Scenic Rim, Gold Coast)	Reconstruction works are underway. The majority of the reconstruction program is on track to be completed by December 2021. Cunninghams Gap repair timeframes are yet to be determined.

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>Develop project delivery plans to achieve key tasks at project level</p> <p>(Scenic Rim, Gold Coast)</p> <p>Undertake reconstruction works</p> <p>(Scenic Rim, Gold Coast)</p>	<p>Key project sites include:</p> <p>Binna Burra Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Works to stabilise bushfire-damaged were completed in mid-November 2020. <p>Cunninghams Gap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bushfire-impacted sections of the Cunningham Highway remain open at a reduced speed limit of 50km/h at Cunninghams Gap. An extensive engineering assessment was undertaken to determine the repairs required, which will involve restoring lanes back to their pre-bushfire functionality on the eastern side of Cunninghams Gap and installing new rockfall barriers with catch fencing to maintain safety for motorists. The tender for specialist detailed design closed in early April 2021 and is being assessed. Minor bushfire repair works will commence on other sections of the Cunningham Hwy in June 2021 while the detailed design of repairs at Cunninghams Gap is being developed. <p>Mount Lindesay Highway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minor bushfire reconstruction works are due to commence in June 2021 and are expected to be completed by November 2021. <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Finalise DRFA funding submissions</p> <p>Location: Scenic Rim, Gold Coast</p>	<p>At 31 March 2021, a total of five emergency works submissions, two Counter Disaster Operations (CDO) submissions and three Phase 1 submissions have been lodged to the QRA, of which all emergency works/CDO submissions and one Phase 1 submission have been assessed.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>

Activities completed in previous reporting period:

Undertake Southern Queensland bushfires emergency works to return state-controlled roads to a safe and trafficable condition (Location: Scenic Rim, Gold Coast)	Complete
Undertake Eastern Queensland Bushfires emergency works to return state-controlled roads to a safe and trafficable condition (Location: Scenic Rim, Southern Downs)	Complete
Undertake reconstruction works to reinstate access to Binna Burra (Location: Scenic Rim, Gold Coast)	Complete

Economic

The overarching recovery objectives for the Economic recovery group focus on sustainability and resilience and include:

- Business and industries in the local economy operate and trade in line with broader economic trends.
- Betterment projects result in more resilient infrastructure.
- Business and not-for-profit have adequate mitigation practices in place for risks and threats.
- The economy is sufficiently flexible and adaptable to shocks.

The current status of the 13 recovery objectives are as follows:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
11	2			

The recovery tasks can be found on page 38 and 39 of the Plan.

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
Distribution of assistance measures under Category B of the DRFA including primary producer loans, essential working capital loans and freight subsidies	<p>There are no straight cat B loans for this event. Small business, not-for-profits and Primary Producers can access the \$500,000 Extraordinary Bushfire Assistance Loans. These are a category D Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) measure.</p> <p>QRIDA has approved five (5) loans for a total of \$576,700.00. The loans have now closed.</p> <p>Complete</p>
Distribution of Primary producer grants under Category C of the DRFA	<p>\$75,000 Cat C/D grants are available to primary producers.</p> <p>QRIDA has approved 97 Grants for \$4,167,805.974</p> <p>The grants have now closed</p> <p>Complete</p>
Distribution of assistance measures under Category B of the DRFA including small business loans and essential working capital loans for small business	<p>QRIDA has approved two (2) loans for a total of \$126,700.</p> <p>Applications for these loans have now closed</p> <p>Complete</p>
Distribution of assistance measures under Category B of the DRFA including not-for-profit organisations loans and essential working capital loans for not-for-profit organisations	<p>Nil loans have been granted under this funding measure at this time. These loans have now closed.</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>Support tourism recovery by providing Southern Queensland Country (Regional Tourism Organisation) funding to deliver recovery campaign activity</p> <p>Support tourism recovery by providing Brisbane Marketing (in liaison with Destination Gold Coast) funding to deliver recovery campaign activity</p> <p>Support tourism recovery by providing Visit Sunshine Coast (Regional Tourism Organisation)</p>	<p>Out of the \$750,000, each of the four regions were allocated \$15,000 for additional Regional Tourism Organisation /Council led public relations and/or media familiarisation activity.</p> <p>Each region has now completed their activity with details listed below. Each region saw significant benefits to both the Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) driven campaign and the public relations initiatives to support driving visitation back to these bushfire -impacted regions. Whilst some of the spend had to be paused due to COVID travel restrictions, the outcome was that these regions were ready with initiatives and plans in place that not only supported bushfire recovery, but also aided immediate return of tourists after the initial COVID-19 travel restrictions were lifted.</p> <p>All funds have been expended.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
funding to deliver recovery campaign activity	
<p>Support the tourism industry through marketing activities to encourage visitation to impacted regions. This includes a regional marketing program, a wine tourism program and a Go Local Media Campaign (Category C funding)</p>	<p>The below summary provides an update on a number of activities implemented to support tourism.</p> <p><i>Individual operator tourism business diagnostic checklist</i> Meetings with Individual operators were interrupted by Covid restrictions and regional vintage commitments. The meetings have led to updates of the business diagnostic checklist. The checklist needs to assist those businesses who consider Tourism as a route to market for their products rather than the primary product.</p> <p><i>Independent online presence and engagement assessment for individuals</i> The Wine Recovery Tourism Operator is managing the procurement of this activity.</p> <p><i>Enhancing Digital marketing capability development</i> A brief has been prepared for the Procurement process with evaluations scheduled to occur in April 2021.</p> <p><i>Tailored wine tourism symposium sessions</i> Planning progressing with Wine Tourism Australia for procurement brief to support the symposium sessions. To ensure the topics are valuable to participant's wide consultation will occur. The symposiums will be streamed live and recorded for those operators unable to attend sessions.</p> <p><i>Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) one-on-one with operators to assess/improve/ create listings + ATDW content assistance</i> Operator Introduction meetings with Southern Queensland Country Tourism Officer conducted in January. Currently awaiting input from Councils on progression of content for the assistance program.</p> <p><i>Regional Consultation/ Messaging & VIC Engagement</i> Consultation has occurred with the Scenic Rim sector on delivery of collective Scenic Rim food & wine/artisan beverage masterclass for Eat Local week event.</p> <p>Identified previous regional brand marketing strategy developed by Granite Belt Wine and Tourism sub-committee</p> <p>In progress- On track</p>
<p>Support the tourism industry through grants to facilitate recovery activities (Category C funding)</p>	<p>The below summary outlines how the tourism industry has been supported by grants in the Scenic Rim and Southern Downs Local Government Areas</p> <p>Scenic Rim Regional Council: A number of tourism activities have occurred to support the Scenic Rim including:</p> <p><i>A Tactical Marketing Campaign</i> The second advertising campaign phase was executed in February and March and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Out of Home billboards - Digital advertising on social media and YouTube - Always On Search optimisation, and - Filming four new segments for Channel 7's Weekender TV

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
	<p>program.</p> <p>The development of co-operator packages to leverage campaign and connect customer interest with local tourism operators.</p> <p><i>The Appointment of Tourism Recovery Officer (TRO)</i> The Tourism Recovery Officer has assisted with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The production of the Tourism Australia and National Bushfire Recovery Agency's Open for Business filming project in the Scenic Rim region. - Identifying potential tourism businesses and operators to target for support in the creation or improvement of their Australian Tourism Data Warehouse listings; increasing the database by 180%, to over 440 tourism business listings. - Developing a draft RFQ for media content producers for the Capacity and Capability Building (ATDW) Program. - Preparing the online site structure, content and site development brief for the Industry Site subdomain on the new Visit Scenic Rim website. - Confirming the local operator Rewards and Incentives Program for the Ecotourism certification program. - Assisting with other regional tourism activities that support the recovery, growth and resilience of the region's operators and businesses. <p><i>A Resilience Building Program</i> Developing a resilience building program that focuses on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of the online site structure, content and site development brief for the Industry Site subdomain on the new Visit Scenic Rim website. - Research and analyse of existing tourism industry training opportunities, and industry needs for resilience training and online resources. <p><i>Industry Capacity and Capability Development Program</i> The industry capacity and capability development program has focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying potential tourism businesses and operators to target for support in the creation or improvement of their Australian Tourism Data Warehouse listings; increasing the database by 180%, to over 440 tourism business listings. - Developing a draft RFQ for media content producers and creation of a database of potential media production companies to quote on the project delivery. - Research and analysis of existing tourism industry digital marketing training opportunities, and industry needs. <p><i>Website Refresh</i> Refresh of www.visitscenicrim.com.au website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The comprehensive Website Strategy has been used to inform a Tender for the build component of the project. - A variation is in place to complete by 31 December 2021 <p><i>Rationalisation of destination marketing structure</i> Significant Council engagement with industry and with former Local Tourism Organisation (LTO) representatives led to agreement in January 2021 to establish one Local Tourism Organisation for the region.</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop held to determine the focus and priorities for the one LTO, Destination Scenic Rim Inc. - A board has been appointed to Destination Scenic Rim and a Chief Executive Officer has been appointed. <p><i>Business case for new Canungra Visitor Information centre</i> To support the new Canungra Visitor Information Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A specialist provider has been appointed to develop the Business Case following a competitive Request for Quote process. - Stakeholder engagement has been completed with tourism industry representatives and with local Canungra businesses and stakeholders. <p><i>Scenic Rim East Local 10th Anniversary event</i> To support the Scenic Rim East Local Event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed event planning has occurred. - There has been a focus on marketing the event to potential attendees. <p><i>Emerging tactical marketing opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Originally proposed to be a discretionary fund for capitalising on ad-hoc opportunities such as radio promotions, outside broadcasts or promotional families to deliver value to industry. However, the funds may also be used to fund a moratorium on membership fees for the new, unified LTO. <p>Southern Downs Regional Council (SDRC): <i>Appointed a Tourism Recovery Officer</i> The tourism recovery officer has</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended a Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Tourism Monitoring and Evaluation Plan development session in Brisbane. - Assisted Economic Development team with Top Tourism Town application for Stanthorpe. - Attended Project Management Framework presentation <p><i>Tourism App & Brochures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Brief completed with the project due for completion September 2021 with ongoing marketing and promotion. <p><i>Two additional music and arts events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awaiting outcomes of the Round Two of the Local Event Funding Program to ascertain if a new, signature event can be considered. - SDRC Event Strategy due for completion May 2021 which will advise potential gaps in the event calendar. <p><i>Local events grants program</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two Round One events did they have been completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Warwick Caledonian 150th Scottish Celebration and Pipe Band Muster which attracted 1500 people ▪ The Australian National Busking Competition who reported a highly successful weekend. - One-on-one meetings were held with Goomburra Valley Campground, Caledonian Society, Grain Shed Machinery Group, Australian Cadillac Club, Granite Belt Growers Association who are all interested in applying for funds in Round Two <p><i>Media familiarisation tours to the region</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Brief outlines the key performance indicators over the life of the project including:

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantity of travel writers / content creators / media outlets hosted in region = 60 writers ▪ Quantity of published stories = 30 published stories ▪ Quantity of social media content = 300 Social media posts ▪ Number of tourism operators engaged in hosting media = 25+ individual businesses ▪ Capture of photography and videography= 200+ images, 3+ video <p>Image suite development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital Asset Management Platform “Look At Me” implemented with a 3 year subscription - Ongoing maintenance and management of digital assets which allows tracking of images in published and digital media - Professional photographer at ASTW Famil, 150th Caledonian Pipe Band and Muster event – all to be uploaded into Digital library (Look at Me). <p>Business advice service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 500 Flyers printed advertising the service with flyers distributed to 20 businesses with shop fronts and at industry group meetings. - 49 businesses have applied to use the business advice sessions with 16 professional providers. - Invites to 5 additional providers sent to increase participation and benefit to business community. <p>In progress- On track</p>

Activities completed in previous reporting period:

Advice on various financial support arrangements available to primary producers including freight subsidies, disaster loans and essential working capital loans	Complete
Conduct impact assessments on agricultural enterprises to determine level of assistance required	Complete
The natural disaster business survey is completed by impacted businesses across impacted areas	Complete
Establish the Binna Burra Lodge Recovery Taskforce – support program	Complete
Binna Burra Lodge Recovery Taskforce developed a displaced worker transition strategy	Complete
Support the tourism industry through engaging tourism recovery officers (Category C funding)	Complete

Environment

The overarching recovery objectives for the Environment recovery group focus on sustainability and resilience and include:

- Pollution impacts to the environment are avoided or minimised.
- Recovery actions do not generate further risk to the environment.
- Natural environment operates to maintain or restore healthy biodiversity and ecosystems.

- Protection and management of parks and forests for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

The resilience focus is on:

- Reduced environmental issues following disaster events, due to more effective planning and preparedness by government, industry and community.
- Increased understanding of the risk of future disasters to the environment.
- Increased understanding of the way the environment can provide natural protection from disasters.

The current status of the 14 recovery objectives are as follows:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
7	7			

The recovery tasks can be found on page 44 and 45 of the Plan.

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
Ambient air quality monitoring and reporting	<p>The planned equipment for upgraded and new air monitoring stations has been procured.</p> <p>In February 2021 five existing South East Queensland (SEQ) air monitoring stations were upgraded to measure PM_{2.5}. PM_{2.5} is now measured at all Department of Environment and Science (DES) air monitoring stations in South East Queensland.</p> <p>A stakeholder discussion paper detailing the proposed locations for the new monitoring stations and smoke sensors has been prepared. Discussions with key stakeholders, (Queensland Health and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services) to determine the final locations for the air monitoring systems will take place in May.</p> <p>Work to procure a new air quality data management system to improve delivery of critical, time-sensitive information is progressing. To date, DES has completed an evaluation of 22 Expression of Interest submissions, leading to the release of a Request for Proposals to five shortlisted suppliers. Request for Proposals responses close on 17 May 2021.</p> <p style="color: green;">In progress – on track</p>
Recovery actions for impacted wildlife	<p>Queensland Parks Wildlife Services and Partnerships (QPWSP) has implemented and will continue to implement a range of on-ground actions (pest programs addressing weeds and feral animals, and fire management) to protect Threatened Species impacted by wildfires as part of Phase 1 & 2 of Australian Government QPWSP Bushfire Recovery Program funding.</p> <p>SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network – The majority of animals admitted for care and rehabilitation have either been successfully released back to the wild or their care has been outsourced to volunteer carers in preparation for release. DES is progressing a formal review of the existing SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network Memorandum of Understanding to better reflect arrangements, for future wildlife incident responses. Recovery actions involving the SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network in relation to this event are complete.</p> <p>DES is modernising its Biodiversity Systems including CORVEG, QBERD and WILDNET databases to make the biodiversity data more accessible and useable.</p> <p>DES is collaborating with Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment on establishing a national Biodiversity Data Repository to better share</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
	<p>state and federal data. DES is also leading efforts across State and Territory jurisdictions to develop minimum standards to capture, manage and share biodiversity data.</p> <p>DES has invested in high resolution scans of Herbarium plant specimens, prioritising species classed as threatened or at risk. Approx. 15,000 scans have been completed and are available on the Atlas of Living Australia.</p> <p>DES has progressed with species assessments for the 700 misaligned threatened species between state (NCA) and commonwealth (EPBC) legislation. DES is re-prioritising resources to complete this work.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>First Nations Peoples and stakeholders actively engaged, consulted and assisted, including land managers, local government and industry</p> <p>Includes support to SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network, wildlife carer groups and Natural Resource Management Bodies</p>	<p>DES (QPWSP) maintains representation in community bushfire groups. QPWSP Regional representatives attend Area Fire Management Group Meetings that focus on QPWSP managed estate. There is strong engagement with QFES officers in planning and communicating identified risk areas and mitigation response activities.</p> <p>First Nations People contractors have been engaged to undertake weed work as part of the Phase 1 Bushfire Recovery Package.</p> <p>\$1.5 million was provided to the SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network from the Australian Government – Bushfire Wildlife Recovery Package.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Assessment and restoration of damaged infrastructure on parks and forests including DRFA business case submitted for Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience Program (Tourism Recovery Package)</p>	<p>DES (QPWSP) is progressing the restoration and enhanced resilience of assets, including major walking tracks, in the Binna Burra section of Lamington National Park.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Focused assessment and analysis of the implications of fire threat and damage on First Nations cultural heritage protection planning and management</p>	<p>DES (QPWSP) is proactively building partnerships with First Nations People and where appropriate, consults with First Nations People when planning their planned burn programs to enhance the Fire Referral Groups process. This is strengthening established relationships and developing new ones. Approaches to this varies, ranging from well-established fire trained groups supported by land and sea funding, to Memorandum of Understanding with a focus on skills and capacity development in other areas.</p> <p>Specific engagement activities have included cultural burns and cultural protection burns, as well as engagement and shared learning through the Values Based Management Framework strategic planning workshops.</p> <p>QPWSP makes a concerted effort to ensure First Nations people are engaged to assist with cultural heritage assessments prior to, and during firelines and capital works activities.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
<p>Expansion of the hazard reduction program in priority fire risk areas</p>	<p>QPWSP is represented in community bushfire groups including Area Fire Management Groups, to maintain interagency support and cooperation.</p> <p>To support QFES’s Operation Cool Burn, QPWSP has identified and communicated risk areas and associated mitigation activities, for example, bushfire mitigation in the Sunshine Coast Regional Council area.</p> <p>QPWSP fireline upgrades and maintenance enhance bushfire mitigation activities resulting in strengthened fire control lines near urban interfaced zones, effective response and increased capability.</p> <p>Priority Regional Planned Burn Programs have been established as a result of consultation with regional fire referral groups and external stakeholders with an emphasis on First Nations Groups.</p> <p>Planned landscape scale mitigation (particularly aerial burning) activities and protection zone treatment for the 2021 season are on track. Protection Zone treatments and planned burns are well underway with a focus on high priority areas for the protection of life and property ahead of the approaching Fire Risk Period.</p> <p>QFES led and coordinated Operation Cool Burn in 2020 to deliver bushfire mitigation activities at high priority areas through its network of Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) comprised of major land managers and stakeholders. QFES and its AFMG partners completed 567 activities in total, including 281 hazard reductions (largely prescribed burns), 141 firebreaks and 145 community education activities.</p> <p>2020 was the fifth year that Operation Cool Burn has operated using the strategic risk-based prioritisation approach. Activities completed in 2020 exceeded previous years using the same methodology.</p> <p>QFES are supporting Healthy Land and Water (QFES is a partner in the Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium which is hosted by HLW) and by supporting workshops conducted as part of this project.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p>Satellite imagery to map burnt areas and determine habitat loss and repercussions for native wildlife, native plant communities and cultural heritage</p> <p>Provide information to Australian Government to determine species and habitat priorities for Bushfire wildfire recovery package \$50M</p> <p>Convene Research Roundtable to discuss threatened species research priorities</p>	<p>The DES Remote Sensing Centre (RSC) has developed a “burned area method” to consistently monitor the extent of areas affected by fire across Queensland. The method uses high spatial and temporal resolution Sentinel-2 satellite imagery data combined with manual quality assurance procedures. RSC are presently back-processing 2020 data as well as processing 2021 data. Once the backlog is processed and delivered to open data portals, the program will provide monthly burnt area mapping.</p> <p>The data is also being provided (along with other remotely sensed land cover data sets) to QFES’s Predictive Services Unit.</p> <p>RSC are also preparing to implement and evaluate a Sentinel-2 fire severity metric developed by NSW Government partners, to test its efficacy and accuracy in QLD environments and fire conditions.</p> <p>DES (QPWSP)</p> <p>QPWSP has completed detailed fire severity mapping and on-ground assessments in high priority impacted areas e.g., K’gari. QPWSP will continue to analyse the mapping data to assist in monitoring and determining further fire management priorities.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>

Recovery Activity	Activity Update
Work in partnership with First Nations peoples and stakeholders to map cultural heritage sites on the Parks Estate	<p>DES (QPWSP) continues to develop and maintain strong working partnerships with First Nations People to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve knowledge of the landscape - protect cultural heritage values and cultural values, - provide on country opportunities (including cultural survey programs) and - work through the Values Based Framework Management planning program. <p>Complete</p>
Work in partnership with First Nations peoples and stakeholders to integrate First Nations fire management expertise into all QPWSP fire management planning and programs	<p>DES (QPWSP) works in partnership with First Nations People to integrate traditional burning practices into protected area fire planning and operations where appropriate. QPWSP is a member of Fire Referral Groups and attends relevant meetings.</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>

Activities completed in previous reporting period:

Reopening parks and forests to the public, including submission of agency insurance claims	Complete
Assist local government and operators with effective and rapid resolution of waste management issues. Waste levy exemptions declared for waste in the disaster declared areas	Complete
Provide advice and support reinstatement of drinking water	Complete
Cultural surveys with First Nations Peoples to identify both impacted and newly revealed sites	Complete
Support to the Binna Burra Taskforce - Heritage assessment of BBL site and buildings, and approvals for clean up and essential works to facilitate reopening	Complete

Local Recovery Progress

This section provides a summary of councils' progress against their local recovery plans.

Councils have provided an update on progress against their recovery objectives, any challenges that may have been encountered, as well as any recovery success stories. Once recovery objectives have been met they will no longer be reported against.

This report focuses on the 8 councils that completed event-specific recovery plans. Across these 8 plans there were 119 recovery objectives. The current status is outlined below:

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
69	44	4	1	1

Gladstone Regional Council

The Gladstone Event Specific Recovery Plan has 8 recovery objectives. The below table outlines the current status.

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
8				

Recovery successes being reported across Gladstone include:

- All refuse waste has been collected and a resident receiving assistance has been referred to another agency.
- Providing a waiver on rebuilding fees to support community members in their rebuild.
- Developing a calendar of events for the region and providing an opportunity for Council staff to have a stall at any of the events to promote disaster preparedness.
- Disaster Relief Australia supported residents in the Low Mead/Mt Maria area which included rebuilding boundary fences on rural properties. This assisted 62 residents (ratepayers).

The challenges for recovery across the Gladstone region include:

- Limited funding available to hobby farmers, however these residents have been assisted through links to other support agencies.

Livingstone Shire Council

The Livingstone Event Specific Recovery Plan has 15 recovery objectives. The below table outlines their current status.

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
6	7	1	0	1

The recovery objectives Livingstone Shire is focusing on include:

- A comprehensive environmental impact/damage assessment is completed (O).
- A comprehensive assessment of economic damage to assets and key industries is being undertaken.
- Support to farmers, rural landholders, and small businesses impacted by the event is being coordinated and appears effective.
- Funding is sought and was secured to ensure holistic recovery and resilience building initiatives (including improving economic growth, stability and diversity) (D).
- Funding is secured for development of a Resilience Strategy.
- Ongoing support for environmental and revegetation programs is coordinated and sustainable.
- Ongoing industry and business resilience strategies are developed in collaboration with relevant groups and agencies.
- Ongoing holistic support is made available to affected residents to address all recovery and resilience needs.
- Ongoing community-led recovery and resilience initiatives are identified, developed and supported.

Recovery successes for Livingstone include:

- Burnt and damage guide posts have been replaced.
- The scoping of and engagement for the desktop and field assessments to determine environmental damage has commenced.
- Developing an understanding of the impacts to key industries. There were 25 impacted properties identified and of these 17 were cropping and horticulture, 7 were predominantly stock and some timber production, with 2 being agricultural industries.
- Establishing a new Agritourism initiative 'The Cap Coast Food Trail' to support primary producers and rural landholders who were impacted by the fires.
- Hosting of the Community Bushfire and recovery forum at the Yeppoon Town Hall.
- An economic development recovery officer has been appointed and commenced work with Council.
- Technology sessions are being rolled out to enhance community members' skills in saving their data on flash drives.
- \$150,000 in funding has been received from the Federal Government for the 'Livingstone Shire Bushfire Rehabilitation and Revegetation Program'. The program aims to identify and control weeds, rehabilitate native vegetation, control and identify pests and improve community engagement.
- A Food and Fibre plus project has been running in the region which supports agritourism, the circular economy, supply chains and water security.
- A number of community events and projects have commenced including the bushfire recovery and resilience forum, community supporting community and connected by Cobraball.

As a result of Livingstone's comprehensive assessment of economic damage to assets and key industries, it has been determined that there was a focus on immediate losses including livestock, fences, sheds, equipment. Additionally, longer-term impacts include re-establishing of orchids and the agistment for livestock.

Impacts were assessed at:

Poultry	\$96,500
Infrastructure	\$4,776,130
Grazing	\$2,978,327
Horticulture	\$10,093,856
Total	\$17,944,813

Lockyer Valley Regional Council

The Lockyer Valley Event Specific Recovery Plan has 13 recovery objectives. The below table outlines their current status.

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
7	5	1		

Lockyer Valley are focusing on the following recovery objectives:

- Impacted businesses and primary producers are aware of and have accessed financial support services.
- A weed management program has been developed and implemented to assist with the rejuvenation of flora in the region.
- Funding assistance opportunities have been identified to support community recovery efforts where required (D).
- Rural properties have been supported in the repair of fencing, sheds, stock welfare and paddock feed.
- Recovery of national parks and surrounding environment to increase the production of flora and fauna in the region.
- Enhance community education for resilience for all hazards through community engagement.

Recovery successes for the Lockyer Valley include:

- A Community Development Officer with a focus on Bushfire Recovery and Resilience has been engaged. This is a joint position shared between Lockyer Valley and Somerset.
- A 'one on one' approach to supporting residents has been implemented in the region due to the aging population in the agricultural sector and limited information technology skills.
- Mental Health support is ongoing in the region
- Community events are occurring to help break down perceptions and social barriers preventing people from seeking support.
- Progressing a Lantana Management Program.
- Funding for a Natural Resource Management (NRM) Drought Resilience Program has been received to deliver Regenerative Agriculture workshops within the Lockyer Valley.
- Delivery of cultural burn workshops.
- QPWS Fire Management in QLD, Bushfire Affected Project Areas recovery program has been implemented to ensure threatened species continue to thrive in bushfire impacted areas.
- Tourism has been restored in the region with most tourism operators conducting business with minimal COVID-19 impacts.
- Funding has been received to host community education activities focusing on regenerative farming principles with the intent of increasing productivity and mitigating future disasters.

A number of Primary Producers in the Lockyer Valley were unable to access financial assistance as they were ineligible for the Primary Producer Grant. Repairs to major infrastructure are ongoing and may not be solved for several years, especially fencing due to the costs of the activities. Consequently, farmers are creating smaller paddocks to contain livestock which also limits the number of stock a farmer can run.

Noosa Shire Council

The Noosa Shire Event Specific Recovery Plan has 20 recovery objectives. The below table outlines their current status.

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
10	9	1		

Noosa Shire is currently focusing on the following recovery objectives:

- Mental health and community well-being support.
- Utilise events to engage with the community and provide further mental health support as needed.
- Maintain community messaging to provide updates during recovery.
- Build community resilience for future disasters (all hazards).
- Undertake economic impact assessment.
- Support primary producers.
- Support small business.
- Empower local businesses to improve their resilience to disasters.
- Establish provisions for environmental rehabilitation in burnt areas.
- Review fire management plans and develop community resilience and awareness. (D)

Recovery successes for Noosa include:

- One year anniversary events were held at Cooroibah (November 2020) and Noosa North Shore (early December 2020) enabling community connectedness and an understanding of preparedness activities.
- Restoration of all essential services complete including those where there was significant structural damage.
- A number of community members have been attending mental health training workshops.
- Considerable support provided to residents not eligible for disaster funding or insurance to access hardship welfare support. This support element is now complete and no longer required.
- Running the *Connecting Noosa* program is a community recovery program offering a range of health and wellbeing opportunities for Noosa region residents to connect and improve their mental health. Activities include meditation, mindfulness, yoga, tai chi, creative activities and many more.
- Launch of the Noosa Emergency Action Guide which drives preparedness messages.
- Council has received funding for a consultant to work with Aged Care and Retirement Villages on their Disaster Management plans.
- In December 2020 Council released the new emergency opt in feature on Council's Disaster Dashboard. The opt in feature allows residents to register for real-time updates in relation to disasters (all hazards).
- Council has implemented a Business Support Panel; an initiative of Noosa Council's Economic Development team in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The aim is to support local businesses as they start, grow, and adapt. This program has also assisted with Bushfire Recovery activities.
- Tourism and visitation levels similar to previous years and in some periods ahead of pre-bushfire and pre-COVID levels.
- Seeding and planting work has completed in the Cooroibah area however the planted trees are still being maintained to prevent weed encroachment.
- Weed management work at Peregian is approximately 50% complete with a contract in place for continued management of these areas into early 2021.
- Council has implemented a FireTech Connect program, which is an initiative of the Peregian Digital Hub and focuses on fire modelling.

Despite the range of successes Noosa has celebrated there has been one key challenge identified in this reporting period:

- A Council-funded consultant is currently working with all relevant agencies on four multi-agency Fire Management Plans. The project is behind schedule due to difficulty in engaging with some of the agencies, and is still a couple of months from delivery.

Scenic Rim Regional Council

The Scenic Rim Event Specific Recovery Plan has 18 recovery objectives. The below table outlines their current status.

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
6	11		1	

The recovery objectives the Scenic Rim are currently focused on are:

- Offers of assistance are effectively managed.
- Fencing, sheds, water tanks and farming infrastructure repaired and/or replaced
- Restore confidence in the tourism market.
- Increase community awareness and preparedness for all hazards through community engagement.
- Recovery of wildlife habitats to accelerate return of wildlife.
- Enhance the resilience of local businesses.
- Repair and rebuild of homes and businesses.
- Seek further funding assistance opportunities to support community recovery efforts where needed.
- Enhance recovery governance through the re-development of a Local Recovery Sub-Plan(NS).
- Support the restoration and re-establishment of Binna Burra Lodge and additional businesses and services affected.
- Recovery of national parks and surrounding environment.
- Replacement of park infrastructure and camp grounds and ensure public areas are safe from fire damage trees and other items.

Recovery successes for Scenic Rim include:

- The appointment of a Tourism Recovery Officer.
- Case-by-Case management of impacted residents.
- All electricity and water tanks have been finalised with affected residents.
- A tactical tourism marketing campaign has been completed across the region.
- All affected roads in the region have been reopened.
- Community Development Recovery and Resilience Officer has been appointed.
- Resources are being developed to deliver to each resident to help with community educations and engagement.
- Implementation of a Go Local Campaign to support small business
- Housing is being rebuilt as is the Binna Burra Lodge providing comfort for community members.
- The number of guest bookings has been high since Binna Burra reopened their teahouse, camping facilities and Skylodges.

Somerset Regional Council

The Somerset Event Specific Recovery Plan has 12 recovery objectives. The below table outlines their current status.

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
9	3			

The recovery objectives Somerset is currently focusing on include:

- Fencing, sheds, water tanks and farming infrastructure repaired and/ or replaced.
- Increase community awareness and preparedness of all hazards through community engagement.
- Recovery of wildlife habitats to accelerate return of wildlife.

Recovery successes for Somerset include:

- Implementing a 'one on one' approach to supporting property owners impacted by the bushfires.
- Tourism numbers have returned to the region and the Tourism Strategy for the region was adopted by council.
- Community networking events are occurring.
- Creating a Flood Information webpage for residents to better understand their flood risk.
- Implementing a Lantana program for weed control.
- Council has been awarded approximately 27 positions with a Green Army project to facilitate environmental/habitat recovery in the region. Community participants to undertake environmental resilience works in their local community. The delivery of this work will also incorporate accredited training for participants to improve future prospects of employment in this field, or the basis for further studies.

Somerset's recovery has been challenged by an inability of service providers to gain traction in the region as a result of community barriers to accessing mental health support.

Southern Downs Regional Council

The Southern Downs Event Specific Recovery Plan has 17 recovery objectives. The below table outlines their current status.

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
9	8			

The recovery objectives Southern Downs are focused on are:

- Economic activity restored and resilience improved.
- Confidence in the tourism market restored (D).
- Environmental restoration and protection (prevention of spread of weeds and seeds). Develop a revegetation plan to enhance natural buffers and critical ecosystems that contribute to resilience (funding dependent) (D).
- Increase community awareness and preparedness for all hazards through community engagement.
- Quarterly meetings of Southern Downs Resilience Taskforces reporting to LDMG.
- Secure the economic future of the region.

Recovery successes for Southern Downs include:

- Council’s Bushfire Recovery Officer is providing support to impacted residents.
- Monthly meetings continue to be held with the Chambers of Commerce and Granite Belt Wine and Tourism.
- A business capacity and capability building program has been rolled out across the region.
- The employment of the Tourism Recovery Officer has greatly assisted with the delivery of tourism recovery projects and initiatives.
- Mapping of endangered species continues, with protections being put in place through development of Council’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
- A number of training and planning initiatives have occurred to support recovery planning.
- Council is working on the development of an Economic Development Strategy.

Toowoomba Regional Council

The Toowoomba Event Specific Recovery Plan has 16 recovery objectives. The below table outlines their current status.

 Complete	 In progress On Track	 In Progress Delayed (D)	 Not Started (NS)	 Other (O)
14	1	1		

The recovery objectives Toowoomba is currently addressing include:

- Design and deliver disaster resilience education programs to identified schools / students (D).
- Education initiatives to build bushfire resilience through knowledge of hazard and risk assessments have been developed, implemented and progress monitored.

Recovery successes for Toowoomba include:

- Contact has been made with three schools in the region to encourage them to participate in the Red Cross Pillowcase Project. The schools are yet to reply.
- Emergency Services Days have been held in the region, with a focus on children’s participation.
- Three community organisations have received funding to improve resilience and capture event stories.
- Toowoomba saw an increase in ‘day touring’ during the Carnival of Flowers activities.
- Obtaining funding to improve fire trails has enhanced the community’s preparedness.