QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

September 2015

Document details:

Security classification	Public
Date of review of security classification	September 2015
Authority	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Author	Chief Executive Officer
Document status	Final
Version	1.0

Contact for Enquiries:

All enquiries regarding this document should be directed to: Queensland Reconstruction Authority Phone the call centre - **1800 110 841**

Mailing Address

Queensland Reconstruction Authority PO Box 15428 City East Q 4002

Alternatively, contact the Queensland Reconstruction Authority by emailing info@qldra.org.au

<u>Licence</u>

This material is licensed under a Creative Commons - Attribution 3.0 Australia licence.



The Queensland Reconstruction Authority requests attribution in the following manner:
© The State of Queensland (Queensland Reconstruction Authority) 2011-2015

Information security

This document has been classified using the <u>Queensland Government Information Security Classification Framework</u> (QGISCF) as PUBLIC and will be managed according to the requirements of the QGISCF.

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Major General Richard Wilson AO (Ret'd) Chairman Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Dear Major General Wilson

It is with pleasure that I present the September 2015 Monthly Report – the 55th report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority).

The Authority was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (the Act) following the unprecedented natural disasters which struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11. The role of the Authority has since been extended a number of times to cover historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland. In June 2015, the Authority's operations were made permanent enabling it to continue the work of helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

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

The Authority is currently assisting with the damage assessments from the recent 2015 events and progression of the 2014 and 2015 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases. The Authority is also focused on gathering and assessing completion documentation to close out the 2013 events and other works completed by 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in March 2016.

The September report provides an update on the progress of recovery. Of the \$1.0 billion of works from the 2014 and 2015 events in the delivery phase:

- \$786 million in submissions have been received, representing an increase of \$64 million since last month
- \$496 million has been approved, representing an increase of \$59 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$160 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- \$266 million (28%) of works has been reported to the Authority at 31 July 2015 as in progress or delivered.

The September report also profiles the instrumental role that local indigenous workers have played in delivering Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council's recently completed 2013 restoration and betterment NDRRA programs, and profiles a series of recently completed betterment projects on Carpentaria Shire Council's Normanton-Burketown Road and Toowoomba Regional Council's Kingsthorpe Haden Bridge that have made essential infrastructure in the regions stronger and more disaster-resilient.

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

Yours sincerely

Frankie Carroll
Chief Executive Officer

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Contents

1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Purpose	2
1.2 Timing	2
2.0 Disaster Assistance	3
2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework	4
2.2 Events and relief measures managed by the Authority	5
2.3 Additional assistance measures	7
3.0 Program Status	8
3.1 Recent developments	9
3.2 Program status	9
3.3 State-controlled roads and highways	10
3.4 Additional assistance measures	11
3.5 Program spotlights	12
4.0 Communications	15
4.1 Communicating progress	16
4.2 Media reports	17
<u>Appendices</u>	
Annandiy A. Lagal Cayanmant Arass by Basian	10

Section one: Introduction

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority) was established on 21 February 2011 under the *Queensland Reconstruction Act 2011* (the Act) following the extensive series of natural disasters that impacted Queensland over the summer of 2010-11.

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

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

Initially established for a two year period, the Authority was extended a number of times as its role expanded to cover historical and continuing disaster events. In June 2015, the Authority was made permanent enabling it to continue the critical work of helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

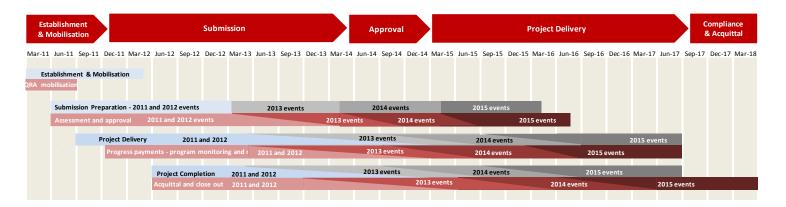
As part of its role, the Authority administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works and Restoration of Essential Public Assets to both State Departments and Agencies and Local Government Authorities. Since its establishment in February 2011, the Authority has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 50 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

1.2 Timing

The Commonwealth NDRRA Determination imposes time limits for the delivery and acquittal of works.

The Determination imposes a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works and a further nine months after the end of the financial year in which the works were completed in order to acquit the works. NDRRA funding is formally acquitted through the annual submission of a financial statement to the Commonwealth comprising a compilation of claims for financial assistance in respect of state NDRRA expenditure incurred on eligible disasters in the preceding financial year (Commonwealth Claim). Lodgement of Commonwealth Claims is required to secure reimbursement of the Commonwealth's share of eligible expenditure.

As the Authority is managing a series of events that occurred across a number of financial years, the Authority's program is spread across various stages in the delivery and acquittal phases.



Works for 16 disasters from the 2014 and 2015 event periods are currently in the delivery phase; and completed works from a further 12 events across the 2011 to 2013 event periods are in the acquittal phase.

On this basis, the Authority's operations are currently focused on assisting councils and State agencies to complete their reporting and progress through the close out and acquittal phase of the program of works completed prior to 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2016. Relevant works include the balance of works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other events of 2013 which were due for completion prior to 30 June 2015.

The Authority is also assisting with the damage assessments from the recent 2015 events and progression of works in the delivery phase, that comprises works from the 2014 and 2015 events, through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases.

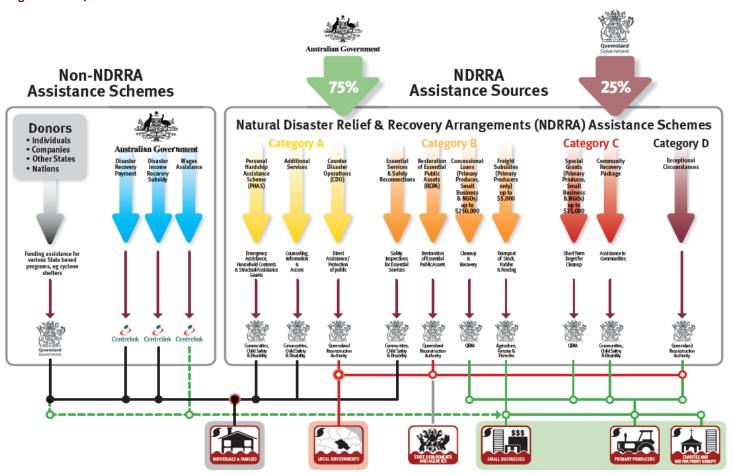
Section two: Disaster Assistance

2.0 Disaster Assistance

2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework

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

Figure 2.1.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework



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

Disaster events managed by the Authority

The list of the activated disaster events managed by the Authority are set out in **Section 2.2** and can also be found on www.disaster.qld.gov.au.

This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

- 2015 events: Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended 30 June 2015
- 2014 events: Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended 30 June 2014
- **2013 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2013**, including Tropical Cyclone Oswald and associated rainfall and flooding (January 2013)
- 2012 events: Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended 30 June 2012
- **2011 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2011,** including Tropical Cyclone Yasi and Queensland flooding (November 2010 to February 2011).

2.2 Events and relief measures managed by the Authority

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

Since its establishment in February 2011, the Authority has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 50 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, works for 16 disasters from the 2014 and 2015 event periods are currently in the delivery phase¹ and completed works from a further 12 events across the 2011 to 2013 event periods are in the acquittal phase¹.

The maps opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2011 to 2015 event periods managed by the Authority.

There have been no NDRRA relief measures activated since the last report.

2015 events

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2017, with final acquittal due by March 2018)

- Tropical Cyclone Nathan and associated rainfall & flooding, 11-15 March 2015
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia and South East Queensland Trough 19 to 22
 February 2015
- North Queensland Severe Weather and Flooding 8 to 15 February 2015
- Central Eastern Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding 21 to 29 January 2015
- Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding 5 to 18 January 2015
- Central Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding 8 to 14 December 2014
- Brisbane Severe Thunderstorm 27 November 2014.

2014 events

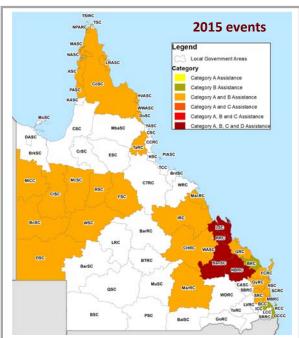
(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2016, with final acquittal due by March 2017)

- Tropical Cyclone Ita & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 11-14 April 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Gillian 10 to 11 March 2014
- Central Coast & Southern Queensland Trough, 26-30 March 2014
- Central & Western Queensland Flooding & Rainfall, 18-28 February 2014
- North East Queensland Monsoonal Rainfall & Flooding 7 to 9 February 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Fletcher, commencing 2 February 2014
- Far North Queensland Peninsula Flooding (27-31 January 2014)
- Tropical Cyclone Dylan, 31 January 2014
- North Stradbroke Island Fires, commencing 29 December 2013.

2013 events

(Delivery of works complete, with final acquittal due by March 2016)

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







^{1.} The NDRRA Determination imposes a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works (delivery phase) a further nine months after the end of the financial year in which the works were completed to acquit the works (acquittal phase). Acquittal of the works occurs through the lodgement of an annual claim to the Commonwealth and is required to secure reimbursement of the Commonwealth's share of eligible expenditure.

2.2 Events managed by the Authority (cont.)

2012 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than suite of projects that received extensions of time for delivery to December 2014, with acquittal due by March 2016)

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

2011 events

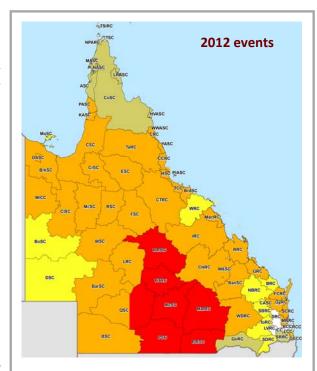
(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than two projects that received extensions of time for delivery to June 2015, with acquittal due by March 2016)

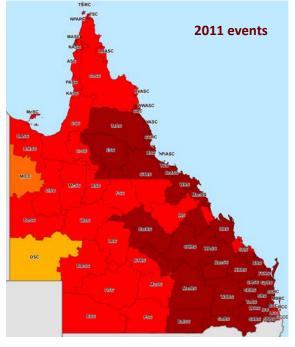
- South West Flooding, April 2011
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding Event, 28 February 2011
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on 2 February 2011
- Queensland Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Tasha and Anthony, November 2010 to February 2011 *.

2007-2010 events managed by the Authority

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

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





[#] Event includes works that received extension of time for delivery to 31 December 2014. All other 2012 events have completed delivery and acquittal phases.

* Event includes works that received extension of time for delivery to 30 June 2015. All other 2011 events have completed delivery and acquittal phases.

2.3 Additional assistance measures

The State Government in conjunction with the Commonwealth have activated a range of jointly-funded Category C, Category D and other relief measures to alleviate distress due to the impact of the 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2011 events, summarised as follows:

2015 events (Tropical Cyclone Marcia)

- **Betterment fund \$20 million -** available for the restoration or replacement of non-State owned assets to a more disaster resilient standard than their pre-disaster standard. The intent of betterment is to increase the resilience of communities to natural disasters, while at the same time reducing future expenditure on asset restoration, reducing incidents, injuries and fatalities and improving asset utility during and after disaster events.
- Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets \$6 million funding to clean-up and repair damaged community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities.
- **Green waste clean-up \$1 million -** assist LGAs in the most heavily impacted areas of Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana and North Burnett with the costs of extensive green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses.
- **Industry Recovery Officers \$750,000** Placement of Industry Recovery Officers to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas.
- Community Recovery Package (Category C) \$5.1 million Funding to engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in the local government areas of Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone.

2014 events

 \$1.6 million funding for the additional costs incurred by Cook Shire Council for disaster reconstruction work on the Peninsula Road Network.

2013 events

- **Betterment fund \$80 million -** available for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than their pre-disaster standard. The status of the 2013 Events Betterment fund is set out in Section 3.6 of this report.
- Community Recovery Package (Category C) \$5 million Funding for community development officers in the hardest hit communities of Bundaberg and North Burnett, support for mental health services and a flexible fund that assists communities to implement engagement and development activities.
- Clean Up and Recovery program \$10 million Program to assist primary producers to clear debris and restore fencing in the worst affected areas; to maintain workers while income generating activities are reduced and to clear debris from watercourse that poses a hazard to downstream infrastructure and activities.
- **Industry Recovery Officers** \$1.5 million Placement of Industry Recovery Officers to assist business and primary producers recover from flooding.
- Enhanced concessional loans and grants Loans of up to \$650,000 (with a grant component of up to \$50,000) are available to applicants that have suffered extreme damage such that the existing concessional loan and recovery grants under NDRRA category B and C are insufficient to support recovery.
- **Environmental Recovery program \$10 million* -** Program to fund existing programs to conduct flood specific clean up and soil conservation work following the 2013 flooding.
- **Rural Financial Counselling Services** \$1.5 million* Provision of financial planning advice for rural businesses and primary producers to assist in the recovery of local economies following the disaster.
- Other measures \$11.9 million to fund dredging works to restore Bundaberg Port to its pre-2013 flood clearance depths; and \$900,000 to assist Bundaberg Regional Council meet the cost of recovery works for community parks and gardens.

2011 events

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

In addition, the State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to an extended Day Labour Trial for the 2011 to 2013 and 2015 events, which enables councils to deliver restoration works with their own workforce on condition that they provide evidence of savings in both time and cost.

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

Section three: **Program Status**

3.0 Program Status

3.1 Recent developments

On 30 June 2015, a key milestone in the State's reconstruction effort was reached with the deadline passing for councils and state agencies to complete works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other events from 2012-13; and the remaining works from the 2011 and 2012 event periods that had received extensions of time. Councils and state agencies have consistently indicated that all relevant works were completed on time other than three betterment projects impacted by weather for which extension of time requests have been submitted to the Commonwealth.

The Authority is currently focused on gathering and assessing completion documentation to close out works completed by 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2016.

The Authority is also assisting with the damage assessments from the recent 2015 events and progression of the program of works from the 2014 and 2015 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases.

3.2 Program status

Following completion of the June 2015 NDRRA estimates review, the Authority's total program has been revised to \$13.3 billion. Of this, \$12.3 billion of works from the 2010 to 2013 event periods has completed the delivery phase and more than \$10.8 billion of the program has completed the State's acquittal processes.

On this basis, the Authority is currently managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$1.0 billion for the 2014 Events and 2015 Events (the **Delivery Program**) and an **Acquittal Program** worth \$2.5 billion, comprising the remaining works from the 2011 Events, 2012 Events, 2013 Events, 2014 Events and 2015 Events not yet acquitted.

Delivery Program status

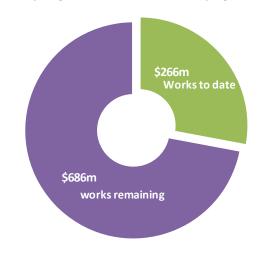
Since the last report, the Authority's program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$786 million in submissions have been received, representing an increase of \$64 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$496 million has been approved, representing an increase of \$59 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$160 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$266 million (28%) of the \$1.0 billion Delivery Program has been reported to the Authority at 31 July 2015 as in progress or delivered.

The 2014 and 2015 event works are due for completion by 30 June 2016 and 30 June 2017 respectively.

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecasted monthly costs to completion at 31 July 2015 on a combined basis for the Delivery Program (2014 and 2015 Events).

Delivery Program (2014 and 2015 Events) progress





(Source: The Authority, 31 August 2015)

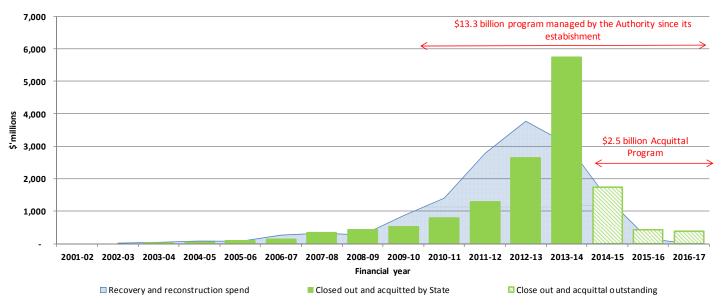
3.2 Program status (cont.)

Acquittal Program status

The 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim is provisionally estimated to require the close-out and acquittal of approximately \$1.8 billion of works completed up to 30 June 2015.

The close-out of the majority of remaining submissions for the 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim is expected to occur in the three month period between October and December 2015. With works completed up to 30 June 2015, delivery agents are expected to collate their final claims for submission to the Authority through to September 2015. Following audit review, the audited 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim will be due for acquittal to the Commonwealth in March 2016.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for 2001-02 to 2013-14 and Commonwealth Claims preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2014-15 to 2016-17 in order to finalise acquittal of the \$2.5 billion remaining in the Acquittal Program. Beyond the 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim, the remaining \$0.7 billion of the Acquittal Program representing works completed after 30 June 2015 will be finalised in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 Commonwealth Claims to the Commonwealth by March 2017 and March 2018 respectively.



(Source: The Authority, 31 August 2015)

3.3 State-controlled roads and highways

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

On completion of the final works in June 2015, DTMR's TNRP had spent more than \$6.4 billion on the recovery and reconstruction of 8,741km roads across the State arising from the disaster events of 2010 to 2013.

DTMR is managing the recovery and reconstruction works for the 2014 and 2015 event works that are currently in the delivery phase through its Program Delivery and Operations Branch.

Current status

- All Queensland Rail lines affected by disaster events have been recovered.
- All ports, navigation aids, jetties and other boating infrastructure damaged by natural disaster events have been recovered.
- Of the 214km of roads forecast to be reconstructed following damage from the 2014 events, 204km of works have been completed and the remaining 10km is under construction on active works contracts as at 31 July 2015.
- A total of 5579km of Queensland's road network was closed or had limited access as a result of the 2015 events. Following completion of the initial recovery phase of works, DTMR is currently scoping its reconstruction program for the events. Of note, a consultant has recently been appointed to finalise the options analysis and design to reconstruct the Burnett River Bridge in the Wide Bay/Burnett District. The bridge was washed away as a result of Tropical Cyclone Marcia.
- The majority of 2015 event works on State-controlled roads and highways are currently targeted by DTMR to be completed by 31 December 2016, six months before the funding deadline (weather permitting).

(Source: DTMR, 31 July 2015)

3.4 Additional assistance measures

2013 and 2015 Event Betterment Funds

The \$80 million 2013 Event Betterment fund and \$20 million 2015 Event Betterment fund are Category D relief measures available to those LGAs declared for NDRRA assistance as a result of the 2013 cyclone and flood events and for Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015 respectively. Betterment funding is available for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster.

Where a damaged asset is approved for betterment, the normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard is funded under Category B NDRRA and the incremental cost to 'better' the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard is funded by a capped allocation from the relevant Betterment fund and Council contributions.

Betterment funding is allocated on the basis of the estimated cost of the approved projects. Should the betterment component of a project be delivered for a cost below the capped allocation, then the savings will be returned to the Betterment fund for allocation to other eligible projects, where possible.

The current status of the 2013 and 2015 Event Betterment Funds is summarised as follows:

2013 Event Betterment Fund

- The 2013 Event Betterment Fund was allocated to 232 approved projects across 35 LGAs to improve the resilience of infrastructure to natural disasters following the 2013 events. Betterment projects include improved bridges, floodways, culverts, levees, water treatment plants and numerous roads across Queensland.
- The deadline for completion of works from the 2013 events, including betterment projects, passed on 30 June 2015 and councils have indicated that the 2013 Event Betterment projects were completed on time other than three projects impacted by excessive rainfall in 2014 and 2015.
- Requests for extension of time for delivery of the impacted projects have been submitted to the Commonwealth and remain under consideration. Completion of the projects has been delayed pending the Commonwealth's response to the extension requests.

2015 Event Betterment Fund

- Expressions of Interest (EOI) for potential projects for consideration for 2015 Event Betterment funding have been sought with initial responses requested by 31 August 2015.
- As at 31 August 2015, EOIs have been received for 181 projects across eight LGAs eligible for 2015 Event Betterment funding. The proposed projects principally comprise works to increase the resilience of damaged roads, culverts and floodways.
- Projects will now be prioritised and assessed to allocate the available pool of funding.
- Delivery of 2015 betterment works will be required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements.

Other 2015 Event special funding packages

The current status of other Category C and D special funding packages approved in relation to Tropical Cyclone Marcia is summarised as follows:

Package	Purpose	Status
Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (\$6 million)	To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associat- ed amenities damaged by Tropical Cyclone Mar- cia	 As at 31 August 2015, the Authority has received EOIs from six applicants worth more than \$16 million Applications will now be assessed to allocate the available pool of funding.
Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)	 To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses 	 The Authority has written to the four LGAs that are eligible for funding allocations (Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana and North Burnett) seeking EOIs Initial responses for funding allocations have been requested by 30 September 2015.
Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)	For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas	 Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) Recovery services have been delivered to industries in affected areas ahead of formal implementation of IRO program.
Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million Category C)	 To engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communi- ties in Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone LGAs. 	 Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) Procurement negotiations are currently being finalised. Implementation by provider agencies to progress during September.

(Source: The Authority, DCCSDS and DAF; 31 August 2015)

3.5 Program spotlights

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council Locals heavily involved in Yarrabah reconstruction

Indigenous workers have played in an instrumental role in delivering Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council's recently completed 2013 restoration and betterment NDRRA programs.

Local workers not only helped rebuild the region but also helped build their own careers in the process.

Council's combined 2013 restoration and betterment program was completed at a cost of approximately \$3 million with Indigenous workers involved in restoring key roads in the region including Yarrabah Range Road, Back Beach Road, Bilma Road, Buddabadoo Road, Wungu Road, Swamp Road and Point Road.





Local workers carrying out NDRRA works on Back Beach Road, Yarrabah

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Errol Neal said the delivery of restoration works is complimentary to Council's objectives of maximising and providing employment to local people in Yarrabah when the opportunity arises.

"Queensland Government policy says a minimum of 20% Indigenous workers would be employed on civil and construction jobs in Indigenous communities and we are pleased to say we have far exceeded that expectation," Mr Neal said.

"On the projects managed by Council, 100% of the works were completed by local Indigenous workers and on the two projects not delivered by Council we worked closely with the subcontractors to achieve as much local employment as possible and secured almost 50% on those projects.

"Locals were employed in a number of positions including site supervisor, plant and machinery operators, traffic controllers and general labourers.

"Local workers carried out standard road restoration work such as grading, concrete works in causeways, stabilising gravel road and potholing.

"In addition, seven people achieved their Certification IV in Construction (Civil) and two of road crew obtained their heavy machinery's ticket (excavator) during the project," he said.

Mr Neal said there were a number of benefits to employing local workers on local projects in addition to reducing the rate of unemployment in the community and achieving a value for money outcomes in the delivery of works.

"We've been able to upskill existing workers, increase economic opportunities within the Yarrabah community and increase Council's capacity from a technical and management perspective to deliver a broader scope of works.

"The NDRRA program has allowed allow Council to temporarily engage additional employees, provide training and add value to the project as a whole," he said.

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

Carpentaria Shire Council Betterment benefits stretch far and wide

Three completed betterment projects on Carpentaria Shire Council's Normanton-Burketown Road have made the road stronger and more disaster-resilient for locals and helping Australia's export market at the same time.

Normanton-Burketown Road is a key cattle route that services 10 major cattle stations and is used as a freight route to transport livestock and produce to international export markets through the Port of Kurumba. In addition, the road is part of the Savannah Way, which links 15 national parks and five World Heritage areas from Cairns in the east to Broome in Western Australia.

Unfortunately, Normanton-Burketown Road was regularly and severely impacted by disaster events from 2010 to 2013 with damage across the extent of the road totalling almost \$10 million. Damage caused by natural disaster events in the form of cyclone and monsoonal flooding in 2013 made sections of the Normanton-Burketown impassable for more than 10 weeks.

During the closure of the crossings, road users had to use alternative routes that added an extra 32 kilometres to the journey in the case of Bynoe River and Little Bynoe River crossings, and a detour adding an extra 100 kilometres to the Flinders River crossing journey. The alternative routes (on soft black soil subgrade) were not suitable for the road trains that serve the local cattle industry.

Carpentaria Shire Council was approved for three major betterment projects along the Normanton-Burketown Road to upgrade concrete crossings at Little Bynoe River, Bynoe River and Flinders River. The combined betterment fund component of these three projects was approximately \$5.5 million.

Little Bynoe River and Bynoe River betterment projects had their concrete causeways (105 metres and 180 metres respectively) reconstructed, concrete aprons with cut off walls added and rock protection to avoid scouring. In addition, Council regraded the approaches to the causeway and built new concrete structures to raise the level of the running surface and increase flood immunity.

Flinders River causeway was raised 1.1 metres and had new under road culverts installed while the approaches to the new concrete causeway were also raised.

Carpentaria Shire Council Mayor Cr Fred Pascoe said Council was pleased to be able to access betterment funding to make those important crossings more resilient to future flooding events.

"This is a common sense solution to an ongoing problem we face in this region, being able to build the crossings better and stronger should increase the resilience and functionality of the entire Normanton-Burketown Road," Cr Pascoe said.







Completed betterment works to the causeways at Little Bynoe River (top), Bynoe River (centres) and Flinders River (bottom)

"The projects have improved safety at the crossings, reduced the likelihood of significant social and economic hardship by ensuring reliable access for emergency services, livestock and produce transport and reduced future cost of restoration works from flood damage.

"It's a major boost and we would like to thank the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments for making the betterment funding available," he said.

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

Toowoomba Regional Council Kingsthorpe Haden Bridge built back better

Toowoomba Regional Council's project to upgrade the Kingsthorpe Haden Bridge over Gowrie Creek was completed as part of the 2013 betterment program to build stronger, more disaster-resilient infrastructure in the region.

Through the 2013 Betterment Fund, Toowoomba Regional Council replaced the culvert structure with a brand new 40 metre long flood resilient two-span concrete bridge.

The old floodway crossing on Kingsthorpe Haden Road, a major rural transport route, had suffered repeated damage in previous natural disasters, often closing the road for days at a time. It was damaged and rebuilt to the same standard in 2011, only to be damaged again in 2013, when flood debris in Gowrie Creek, such as trees, lodged against the culvert and forced fast-flowing floodwaters up over the road. This caused a great deal of damage to the road's surface, guardrails, embankments and the culvert itself.

Council contributed approximately \$1.2 million to the \$3.7 million project with the remainder coming from the NDRRA program.

Toowoomba Regional Council Infrastructure Committee Chair Cr Carol Taylor said Council appreciated the support provided by the State and Federal governments.

"This project has included construction of a higher, wider and more flood resilient concrete bridge on a new road alignment, which is around 30 metres to the east of the former bridge," Cr Taylor said.





Damage to Kingsthorpe Haden Bridge as a result of ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald in 2013

"This is a particularly busy connection to the Warrego Highway and the higher crossing will offer not only a safer, but a more reliable crossing of Gowrie Creek.

"This is a growth corridor with a lot of commuter traffic as well as a busy route for grain and livestock vehicles.

"The bridge is one of many projects that Council has completed in recent times that will ensure we have a safer and more flood resilient region," she said.

The Kingsthorpe Haden Road Bridge project was the last of 13 projects throughout the Toowoomba region to be completed by Council as part of the 2013 Betterment Fund. Other projects include upgrades McGreevy Road, O'Conner Road, Trapp Road, Glenvale Road, Iron Bark Drive, Leslie Bridge Road, Pipeline Road, Ravensbourne Dip Road, Greenwattle Street, Nukku Road, Bulli Creek Road, and Clifton Pittsworth Road.



The completed betterment project at Kingsthorpe Haden Bridge

Section four: Communications

4.0 Communications

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

4.1 Communicating progress

Media analysis

There has been a total of 132 media items in August 2015 (81 print -61%, 16 TV - 12%, 35 radio -27%), which reached a cumulative audience of 5.5 million people, with the focus this month being on ongoing recovery efforts from Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from the current and previous natural disaster events, including articles in Atherton Tablelander, Bowen Independent, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Cairns Weekend Post, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Telegraph, The Courier-Mail, Gladstone Observer, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, Isis Town and Country, North Queensland Register, Queensland Country Life, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Sunshine Coast Daily, Townsville Bulletin, and The Sunday Mail; TV coverage on the ABC, Channel 10, Nine, WIN, and Seven networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4BU Bundaberg, 4GR and 4WK Toowoomba, and River FM Ipswich.,

Making news this month was the six-month anniversary of Tropical Cyclone Marcia. Extensive coverage in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin charted the pace of community recovery as well as Livingstone Shire and Rockhampton Regional Councils' waterfront rehabilitation and revitalisation projects.

Also making news this month were the re-openings of the Mundubbera Aerodrome in North Burnett, and the Booyal Causeway in Bundaberg, both of which were extensively damaged by Cyclone Oswald in 2013. The completion of upgrades to the vital regional airport and the causeway were made possible under Category D of the NDRRA through the Queensland Betterment Fund. These betterment projects received coverage in Central and North Burnett Times, Isis Town and Country and the Bundaberg News Mail.

Engagement activities

On 24 August 2015, Queensland Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad, accompanied by Authority representatives, visited Livingstone Regional Council and Rockhampton Regional Council to discuss their reconstruction programs and their planned works for their respective foreshore and riverbank redevelopments.

The **Deputy Premier** also met with members of the Authority's Damage Assessment and Reconstruction (DARM) team as they conducted six month follow-up assessments on houses damaged in the Tropical Cyclone Marcia event.

Communications

The Authority's website provides information to the public and continues to be enhanced with ongoing updates, including information about Betterment projects and current recovery efforts. There have been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 31 August 2015, total website visits amounted to 474,487- a 1% increase since last month. (See Figure 4.1.1)

In August, the Authority received an additional 29 calls to its dedicated phone line and 225 additional pieces of written correspondence were received. (See Figure 4.1.2)

Fig. 4.1.1 Website traffic

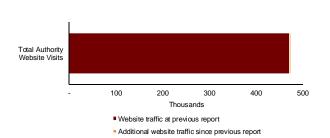
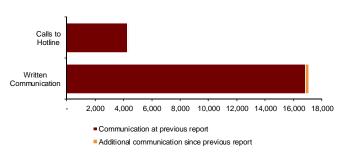


Fig. 4.1.2 Communications



(Source: the Authority at 31 August 2015)

4.2 Media reports

Focus on projects as Trad flies in

IT WAS a whirlwind tour of Capricornia yesterday as the mayors of Rockhampton and Livingstone presented their

rad.
It was Ms Trad's third isit to the region

development.

Afterwards, Mayor Bill
Ludwig took Ms Trad to the
site of the proposal Venance.

Morning Bulletin

Rockhampton,

25 August 2015

discussions and Ms Trad said a 2016 NRL game was firmly on her agenda to go back and talk to governme about.

back and so-about.
"I'm pretty sure Bill Byrne) isn't going to let up on that one," she said.
"We know we need to ge more events to Rocky... it's a fantastic location for incredibly good events."

aware the riverfront was not a cheap project and needed to be done to a high quality, ersuring maintenance into the future was manageable. "This will be seen a consideration of the future was manageable. Rockhampton not just take up, but take us selps shead." C. There is a real focus on smart community. .. we're looking at eamerus, lights and Wi-Fi that are very much of the minute and where technology is taking.

where technology is taking us to."

Ms Trad said her three visits to the region had shown her the resilience of visits to the region that is shown her the resilience of the CQ communities and how ready the region was to move forward.
"They have been very determined, knocking on my door," she said." In order to move forward after Cyclone Marcia, there is work to be done and they want to do that work in

partnership with the State Government." Future events also took a priority in yesterday's



The revised master plan for the Yeppoon foreshore project is now up for public comment and Livingstone Mayor Bill Ludwig is asking for community input and feedback on design features

LAST year Livingstone Shire Council was successful in winning \$2.5 million of state funding, matched dollar for dollar by council, to finally construct the long-awaited Yeppoon foreshore zero depth water play feature. A percentage of that

A percentage of that funding was also allocated



amphitheatre enhancements to facilitate major events. The funding was primarily awarded to boost the local economy and tourism industry which has suffered considerably from mining downturns and the closure downturns and the closure

of GKI. Following the devastating impacts of Cyclone Marcia, council took a bold and ambitious submission to the State and Federal governments to continue the ongoing transformation of the Yeppoon Foreshore into an iconic tourist destination. The master plan

The master plan document outlined how further stages of the foreshore redevelopment could generate immediate

construction jobs, create construction jobs, create long-term tourism jobs, and attract major private sector investment to spearhead our post-cyclone economic recovery effort and grow our regional economy.

The State Government recognised the merit of the proposal and backed the bold vision council put forward by providing a total

forward by providing a total

forward by providing a total investment to date of \$29 million for the further stages of the Yeppoon Foreshore Redevelopment, A critical factor in the final scope of the project will be whether the Federal Government provides the \$10 million council has also applied for through the National Stronger Regions National Stronger Regions

To date the State Government support has been outstanding; it is now time for the Federal

time for the Federal Government to also show their support. With community backing, Livingstone Shire Council has fought hard and very successfully to win major funding. funding. It is critical that we

continue to capitalise on that momentum.

Capricorn Coast Mirror, 12 August 2015

Morning Bulletin Rockhampton, 29 August 2015

Funding options for Statue Bay

LIVINGSTONE Shire Council is investigating State and Federal government funding options to help cover the estimated \$23 million cost to repair and upgrade the Scenic Highway at Statue Bay.

Scenic Highway at Statte
Bay.
The area has suffered significant landslide and rock fall events since 2008, most recently during Cyclone Marcia, and the northbound lane remains closed to traffic.
In April this year,
Council engaged engineering firm Hyder Consulting to explore options to repair the damage and improve infrastructure to prevent further incidents during future weather events.

future weather events. CEO Justin Commons said Council was presented a Concept

said Council was
presented a Concept
Design Report in July,
outlining four
reconstruction options,
including detailed works
and associated costs.
"Council has endorsed
the recommended option
which includes using a
combination of rockbolts,
shoterete and trimming
the existing road batter to
shore up the upper slopes shore up the upper slopes

of the embankment and prevent further landslips," he said. "This plan also includes lowering the road level, widening the embankment on the sea side of the road and the construction of a

ensure the Statue Bay project met the criteria for Category B Restoration and Category D Betterment Funding under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements before Council made a submission. "Council is swepting

submission.
"Council is working
closely with the QRA and
we will finalise our
submission upon
confirmation that we
meet all the criteria," Mr

Monto, the floods stripped away topsoil and much besides leaving paddocks trenched with waist-deep gullies. Instead of soil for growing lucerne, sorghum, mungbeans and barley, the Dowlings had "holes full of fish" and little capacity to farm their most

They were brought back into operation, with 29 other central Queensland landholders, thanks to a flood recovery grant through the Queensland and federal governments' On-farm Productivity and Riparian Recovery Program to help primary producers recover from flooding caused in Cyclone Oswald's wake.

Farm back

ROPICAL Cyclone

Oswald might have been rated an ex-cyclone by the time it made landfall in Queensland in 2013, but the

torrential rain it delivered

produced some major floods. At Scott and Melissa Dowlings' 300ha farm on the Three Moon floodplain near

on track

"I might have been too scared to do it otherwise. Money was so tight after the floods," Mr Dowling said. "The funding really took the bite off when I

came to repair the paddocks."

Recovery in the Dowlings'
case meant lots of earthmoving to remove a diversion bank, fill the flood-scoured holes, and then use laser-levelling to redistribute the remaining

topsoil across the damage zone before they could farm again. The project was managed by the Burnett Mary Regional Group and co-ordinated locally by the Burnett Catchment Care Association

North Queensland Register, 20 August 2015

Mundubbera takes flights



MUNDUBBERA airport has the green light and is open for aircraft traffic again. North Burnett Mayor Don Waugh said he was pleased to announce that the Mundubbera Aerodrome had re-opened as of Monday this week.

had re-opened as of Monday this week.

"The official opening of the upgraded Mundubbera Aerodrome is planned to coincide with the 100-year accounted with the 100-year of the

Local resources were used where possible making this project a truly regional commitment."

It is estimated this project supported 50 jobs in the region through the

construction period. Following on from the Mundubbera reconstruction, the Gayndah Aerodrome is to

Gayndah Aerodrome is to become the focus for the council's aerodrome upgrade project. The Gayndah Aerodrome will be closed from Monday with a scheduled reopening in mid-December. "All air traffic will be re-routed to Mundubbera while the Gayndah Aerodrome is closed," Cr

Waugh said.

"Council is also working to promote the project and to leverage increased economic activity into the future." The Gayndah Aerodrome

will be classed as a construction site from Monday and will have restricted access. Anyone requiring entry to the Gayndah Aerodrom is asked to contact the

council prior to the date. The council acknowledges that the

project has received funding for both flood

betterment through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Recovery Arrangement (NDRRA). This is a joint

Government progr

Central and North Burnett Times,

13 August 2015

Disaster reconstruction workers sought locally floodways," he said. Mayor Don Waugh asked for the community's

d.
It costs more to use local
rkers, but it is beneficial
cause they already know
area."
Rather than just
validing, Mr Harvey said
ating resilient.

for the community's patience while reconstruction works were in progress.

"We are in the unenviable but all-too-familiar position of having to rebuild again, and are aware that some of the works may inconvenience road users, so please bear with us,"

he suid.
"Reconstruction at Macks
Pridge will probably cause
the most inconvenience."
Monto will be the starting
point for the reconstruction,
and work will also be done
in Gayndah, Mundubbera,

overnment.
The \$10 million budget is fraction of the 110 million that was squired after the 2013

Trevor Harvey
It costs more to use local worker
but it is beneficial because they already

Higgendern and Mount
Perry
Cr Wangh said the aim Central and North Burnett Times,
was to complete the planned
work in the next 12
6 August 2015

Causeway opened for use

Isis Town and Country, 13 August 2015

STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE

COMMUNITY SPIRIT DEFINES THE CYCLONE MARCIA RECOVERY IN THE LIVINGSTONE SHIRE BUTTHE REGION STILL NEEDS A HELPING HAND

"

It is that community spirit which has and will conti to define us as we meet the challenges still to come.

- LIVINGSTONE MAYOR BILL LUDWIG

Morning Bulletin Rockhampton, 20 August 2015



www.qldreconstruction.org.au

Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

