

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

CEO Monthly Report

December 2016

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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 December 2016 Monthly Report – the 70th report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

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

QRA 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. QRA is now also the State's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. In this role, QRA is working collaboratively with other agencies and key stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

The December report provides a snapshot of progress in the State's recovery and reconstruction from the disaster events of recent years and an update on progress in recovery, resilience and mitigation activities.

Of the estimated \$702 million program of reconstruction works for 20 events from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 disaster periods that are in the delivery phase, \$589 million has been approved by QRA and additional submissions worth \$81 million are being assessed by QRA or awaiting additional information. QRA is working with delivery agents to progress their preparation of submissions for the remaining program. \$341 million (49%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 30 September 2016 as in progress or delivered.

QRA is also managing the close out of an estimated \$868 million works from the 2013 to 2017 disaster periods that will be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth over the next four financial years. Of this, QRA is currently finalising assessment of completion documentation to close out 2014 event and other works for acquittal in the next disaster funding claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2017.

During November, the Commonwealth confirmed that it had finalised its assurance review over Queensland's seven claims for NDRRA assistance dating back to 2008-09 that it had not previously acquitted. The Commonwealth is now expected to proceed with reimbursing approximately \$1 billion that has remained payable to Queensland since the 2014-15 NDRRA Claim was submitted in March 2016.

The December report highlights the commencement of Livingstone Shire Council's upgrade works on the iconic Scenic Highway at Statue Bay in Yeppoon. The complex project is being delivered with assistance from the 2015 Betterment fund to build it back to a more disaster-resilient standard following repeated damage by natural disasters over the past five years. The report also profiles the vital work of QRA's Regional Liaison Officers to help Queensland's indigenous communities deliver disaster recovery projects and the commencement of Transport and Main Road's (TMR) 2016 event reconstruction program.

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



Brendan Moon
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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Section one:
Introduction



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) 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.

QRA's mission is **to reconnect, rebuild and improve Queensland communities and its economy.**

QRA 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.

QRA is also the State's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. In this role QRA is working collaboratively with other agencies and key stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

Initially established for a two-year period, QRA was extended a number of times as its role expanded to cover historical and continuing disaster events. In June 2015, QRA 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, QRA 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, Restoration of Essential Public Assets, Category C and Category D assistance to State Departments and Agencies (SDA) and Local Government Authorities (LGA). Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 61 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 provides for 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 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 QRA is managing a series of events that occurred across a number of financial years, QRA's program is spread across various stages in the delivery and acquittal phases as follows:



Works for 29 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery and acquittal phases. With the deadline now passed for completion of the majority of 2014 events works, QRA is finalising the close out of these and other event works completed by 30 June 2016 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2017. QRA is also working with delivery agents to progress delivery of the 2015 and 2016 event programs and provide advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation for the more recent 2016 and 2017 events.

QRA is also continuing to participate in consultations with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions in relation to potential natural disaster funding reforms. The Commonwealth is investigating a model to provide natural disaster recovery funding to states and territories based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs.

In November 2016, the Commonwealth provided notification that it had completed its review of seven Commonwealth Claims lodged by Queensland dating back to 2008-09 that had not yet been acquitted by the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is now expected to progress reimbursement of \$1 billion that has remained payable to Queensland since the 2014-15 Claim was submitted in March 2016.

Section two:
Disaster Assistance

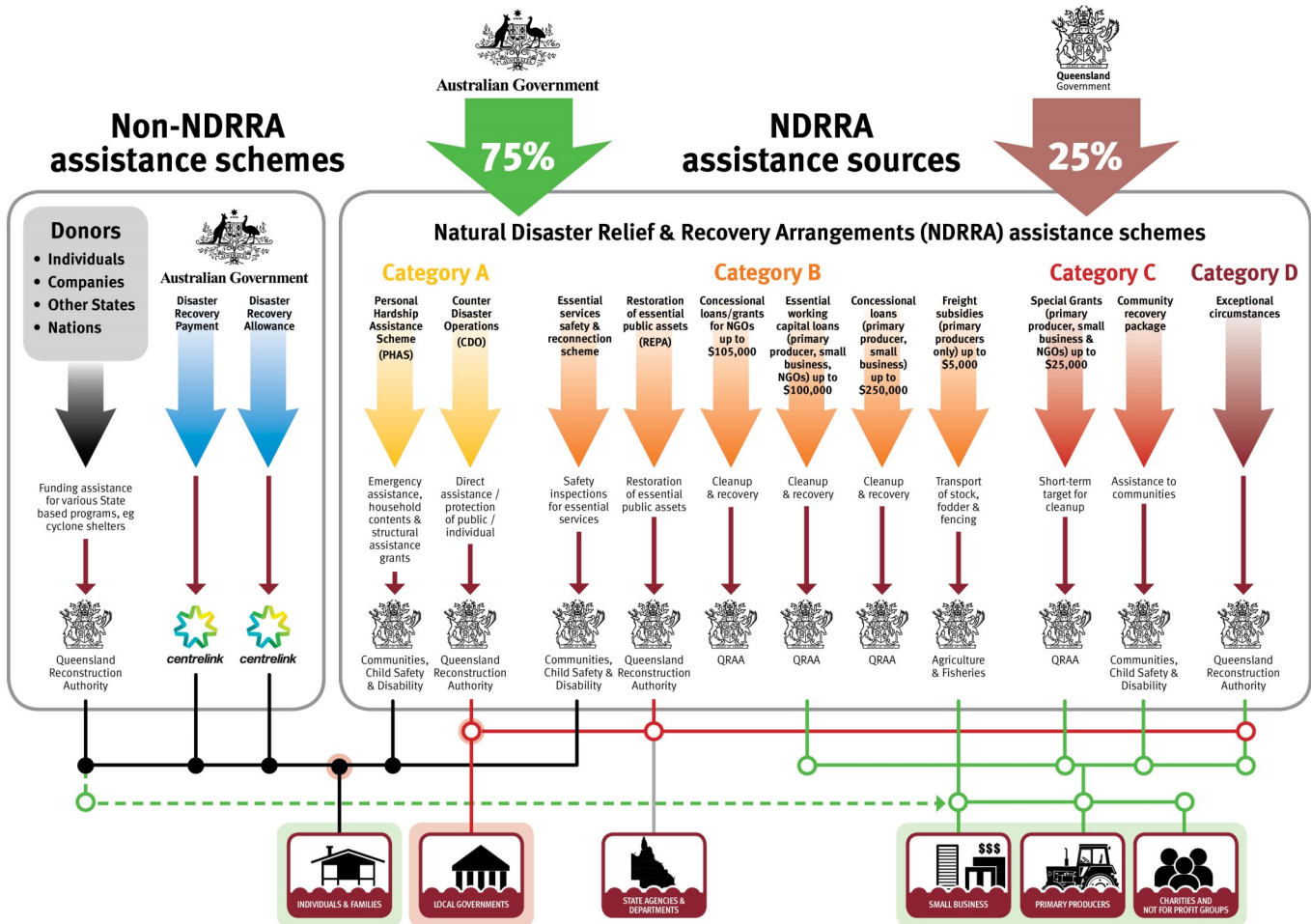
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2.0 Disaster Assistance

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



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

Disaster events managed by QRA

The list of the activated disaster events managed by QRA 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:

- **2017 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA occurring in the financial year ending **30 June 2017**
- **2016 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA occurring in the financial year ending **30 June 2016**
- **2015 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2015**
- **2014 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2014**
- **2013 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA 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 QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2012**
- **2011 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2011**, including Tropical Cyclone Yasi and Queensland flooding (December 2010 to February 2011).

2.2 Events and relief measures managed by QRA

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

Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 63 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, 34 events are complete, having been delivered, closed out and acquitted to the Commonwealth in audited claims.

Works for 20 events from the 2015 to 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery phase¹ and completed works from a further 9 events from the 2014 event period are also in the acquittal phase¹.

No NDRRA relief measures were activated for Queensland during November 2016.

The figures opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2011 to 2017 event periods managed by QRA².

2017 events

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2019, with final acquittal due by March 2020)

- Western Queensland Flooding, 13-20 September 2016
- Central Queensland Severe Weather, 15-20 July 2016

2016 events

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2018, with final acquittal due by March 2019)

- Central Western Queensland Flooding, 13-19 June 2016
- Far North Queensland Upper Level Trough, 21-23 May 2016
- South West Queensland Floods, 7-9 May 2016
- Far North and North West Queensland Tropical Low, 14-18 March 2016
- Western Queensland Trough, 7-11 March 2016
- Central Coast Surface Trough, 4-8 February 2016
- Central Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall & Flooding, 2-4 February 2016
- Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough – 20-31 December 2015
- Fernvale Severe Storm, 27 October 2015.

2015 events

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

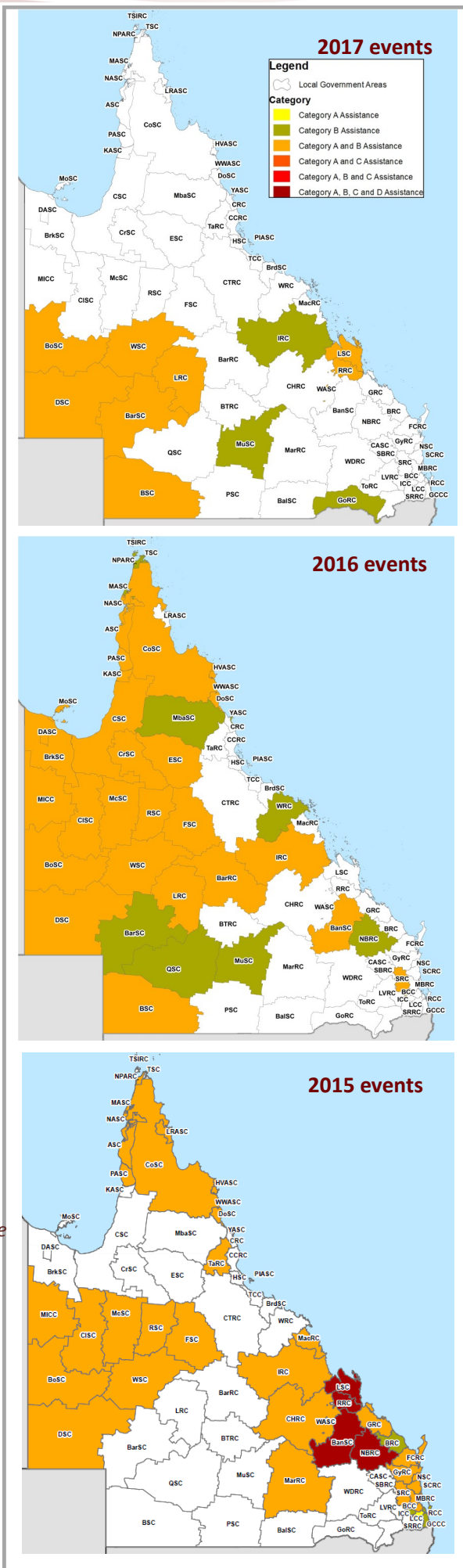
- South East Queensland Low, 30 April – 1 May 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Nathan and associated rainfall & flooding, 11-15 March 2015
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia and South East Queensland Trough - 19 to 22 February 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Lam, 15-18 February 2015
- North Queensland Severe Weather and 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 December 2014.

2014 events

Delivery of works complete with final acquittal due by March 2017, other than three LGA programs that received extensions of time for delivery)

- 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

1. The NDRRA Determination imposes a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works (delivery phase) and a further nine months to acquit completed works (acquittal phase) through lodgement of an annual claim to the Commonwealth. Following extension of time approvals, a number of projects from the 2013 and 2014 event period are still in delivery and acquittal phases.



2.2 Events managed by QRA (cont.)

2013 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three projects that received extensions of time for delivery, with acquittal due by March 2017)

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

2012 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- Queensland Bushfires, August to October 2011
- Localised Heavy Rainfall Northern Queensland, October 2011
- Southern Queensland Flooding, December 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 Mar 2012
- East Coast Low, 22 March 2012.

2011 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

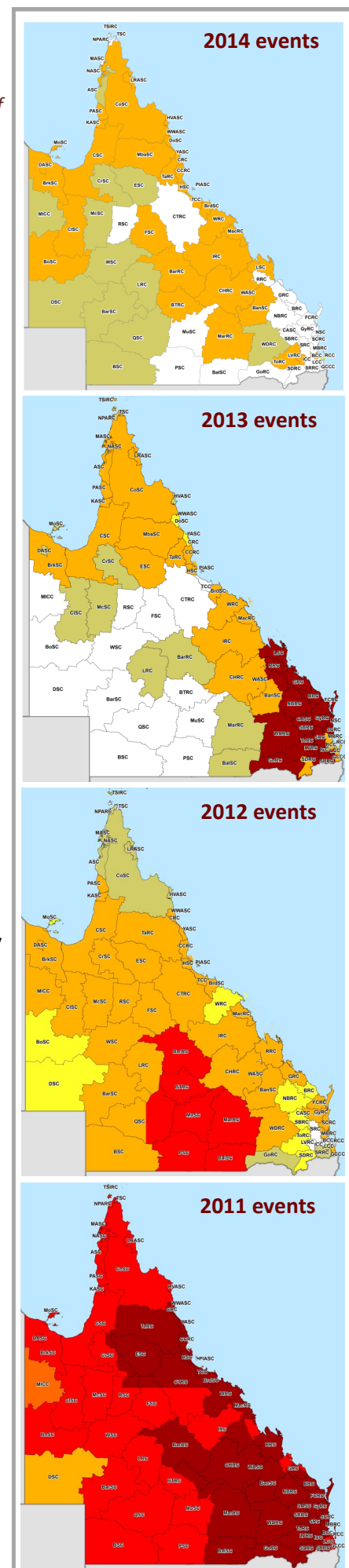
- South West Flooding, April 2011
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding Event, 28 February 2011
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on 2 February 2011
- Queensland Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Tasha and Anthony, December 2010 to February 2011.

2007-2010 events managed by QRA

(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 December 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 December 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.

Three 2013 Event Betterment projects received extensions of time for delivery, with final acquittal due by 31 March 2017. All other 2013 event s have completed delivery and acquittal phases.



Section three:

Program Status



3.0 Program Status

3.1 NDRRA program status

QRA is currently focused on finalising the close out of works completed by 30 June 2016 for acquittal in the next claim, due to the Commonwealth in early 2017. QRA is also assisting with the damage assessments from the two recent 2017 events and progression of the program of works from the 2015 and 2016 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases.

The value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by QRA since its establishment is estimated to be \$13.3 billion. Of this, \$12.3 billion of works from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012 and 2013 events have been finalised (delivered and acquitted) with the remaining works for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event years in the active delivery and/or acquittal phases.

During November, the Commonwealth provided notification that it had completed its review of seven Commonwealth Claims lodged by Queensland dating back to 2008-09 that had not yet been acquitted by the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is now expected to progress reimbursement of approximately \$1 billion that has remained payable to Queensland since the 2014-15 Claim was submitted in March 2016.

Active program

QRA is managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$702 million for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events (**Delivery Program**) and an **Acquittal Program** worth \$868 million, comprising the remaining works from the 2013 to 2017 Events that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth.

Delivery Program status

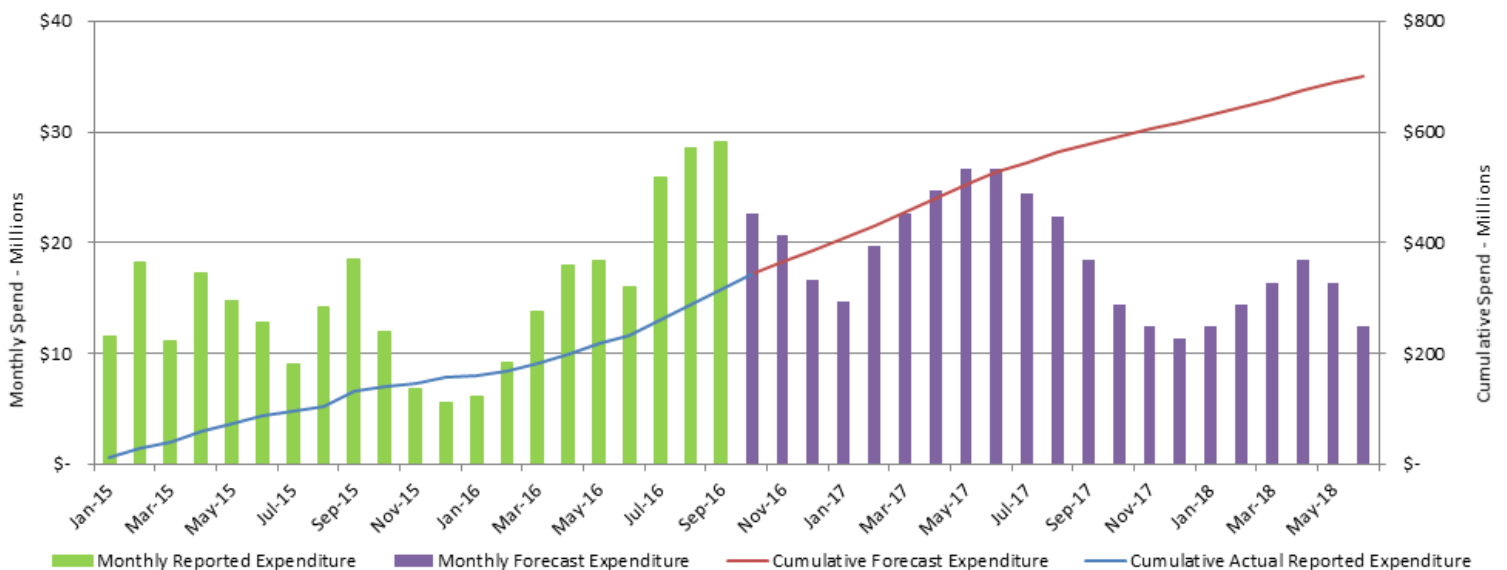
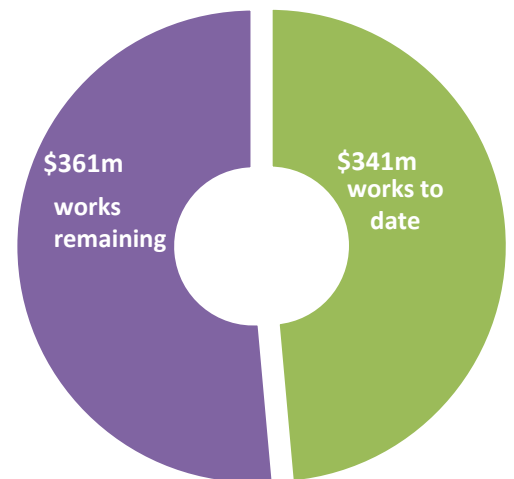
Since the last report, QRA's Delivery Program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$857 million in submissions have been received, an increase of \$17 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$589 million has been approved, an increase of \$11 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$81 million are with QRA and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$341 million (49 percent) of the Delivery Program has been reported to QRA at 31 October 2016 as in progress or delivered.

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecast monthly costs to completion at 31 October 2016 on a combined basis for the 2015 and 2016 Events.

The 2015 and 2016 Event works are due for completion by 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018 respectively. The 2017 Events will have until 30 June 2019 to complete reconstruction works.

Delivery Program (2015 to 2017 Events) progress



(Source: The Authority, 30 November 2016)

3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

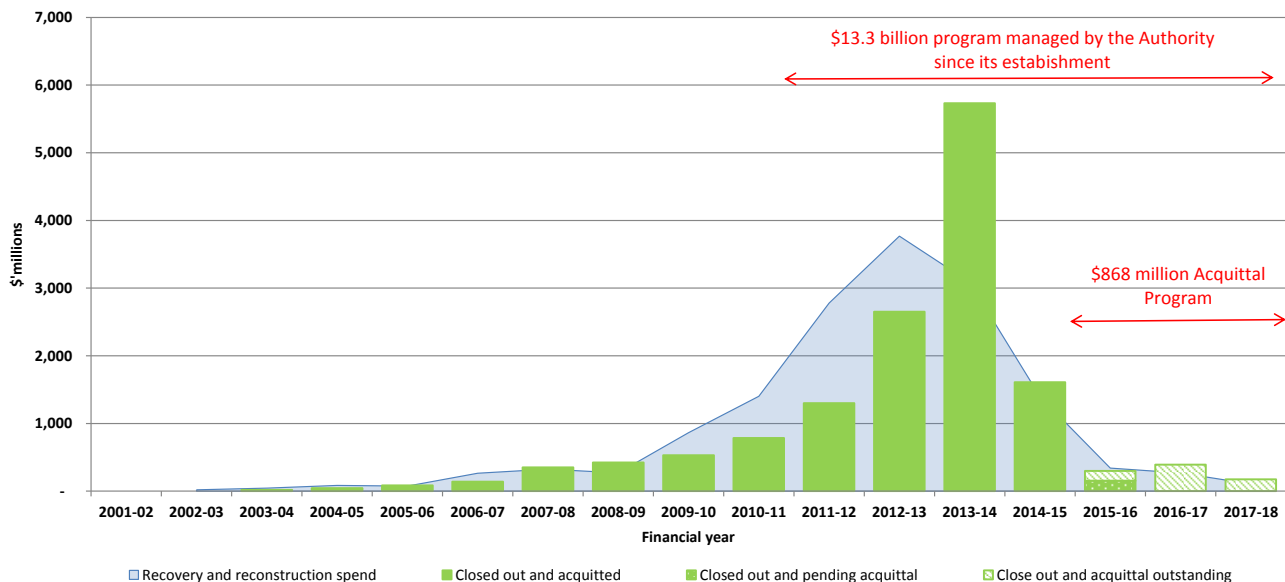
Acquittal Program status

The next Commonwealth Claim is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2017 to acquit works completed up to 30 June 2016. QRA is currently closing-out submissions for the claim prior to audit review in early 2017. The 2015-16 Commonwealth Claim will include final works from the 2014 events and components of 2015 and 2016 works that were completed by 30 June 2016.

The 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim was submitted to the Commonwealth on 24 March 2016. The claim acquitted \$1.6 billion of works completed in the year ended 30 June 2015. However, through the Federal Budget in May 2016, the Commonwealth indicated that it would defer payment of the funding due on the claim until it had undertaken assurance activities over it and the previous six annual claims dating back to 2008-09 that it had not previously acquitted.

QRA actively engaged with the Commonwealth to progress the review and, during November 2016, received notification that the Commonwealth had completed its review of the seven claims with no significant adjustment to claimed expenditure. The Commonwealth is now expected to progress reimbursement of approximately \$1 billion that has remained payable to Queensland since the 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim was submitted in March 2016.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2014-15 financial years and Commonwealth Claims preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2015-16 to 2017-18 in order to finalise acquittal of the \$868 million remaining in the Acquittal Program.



Additional NDRRA 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 Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015:

Package	Purpose	Status
2015 Events Betterment Fund (\$20 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster. 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 Betterment fund and Council contributions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received for 190 projects across eight LGAs eligible for funding. The proposals principally comprised works to increase the resilience of damaged roads, culverts and floodways. To 30 November 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65 submissions with a total project value of over \$40 million, including \$20 million in Betterment funding have been approved 30 projects with a total project value of \$5.5 million, including \$3.9 million Betterment funding have been reported as complete. Key 2015 Event Betterment projects completed to date include 13 projects for NBRC and 7 projects for Somerset Regional Council 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. During November, seven additional betterment projects were approved through reallocation of savings realised to date. Delivery of 2015 betterment works will be required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements.

(Source: QRA, 30 November 2016)

3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

Package	Purpose	Status
Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (\$6 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QRA received EOIs from seven applicants for more than \$16 million Nine submissions worth \$6 million have been approved across the seven applicants, fully allocating the program funding. Key projects allocated funding include the clean-up and restoration of Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton which was severely damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia. QRA is monitoring the delivery of works. Any project savings identified may be considered for reallocation to eligible works.
Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QRA received EOIs for more than \$1.7 million from three of the four LGAs eligible for funding allocation. Five submissions worth \$1 million have since been approved across the three applicants, fully allocating the program funding. QRA is monitoring the delivery of works. Any project savings identified may be considered for reallocation to eligible works.
Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IRO program has been managed by the Queensland Farmers Federation on behalf of Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) IRO officers are located with Growcom, Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation, AgForce and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland IROs have delivered a range of support activities delivered including workshops, field visits, soil testing and feed sample analysis work. Refer Section 3.3 for a program spotlight on the IRO program.
Category C Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone LGAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) Livingstone, Gladstone, North Burnett and Banana councils and Rockhampton Uniting Care Community are delivering Community Development and Personal Support & General Counselling programs across each of the five affected communities. Relationships Australia and Uniting Care Community are delivering Personal Support and General Counselling services.

(Source: QRA, DCCSDS and DAF; 31 October 2016)

Other active Category D measures

- The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to continue the **Day Labour** extension for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 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
- Three projects funded under the **\$80 million 2103 Events Betterment fund** received extensions of time for delivery beyond 30 June 2015 due to excessive rainfall and other factors:
 - Aroona Road (Central Highlands) - currently in delivery and due for completion in December 2016
 - Boolburra Edungalba Road (Central Highlands) - currently in delivery and due for completion in December 2016
 - Booyal Crossing Road (Bundaberg) - now completed.

3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities

QRA is leading disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. A summary of recent progress is set out below:

Disaster Recovery, Resilience and Mitigation Policy

QRA is currently reviewing key disaster recovery policy and planning tools to inform disaster recovery stakeholders on procedures and processes that will be employed by the State during recovery operations.

Interim Queensland Recovery Plan

An Interim Queensland Recovery Plan has been developed for approval by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee. It sets out disaster recovery governance, preparedness, planning and operations arrangements for the 2016-17 disaster season. The Interim Queensland Recovery Plan will be reviewed to incorporate learnings following its implementation during the 2016-17 severe weather season, with the longer term Queensland Recovery Plan to be finalised by mid-2017.

The plan provides information and guidance to stakeholders on the governance, planning and operational issues relating to disaster recovery. It describes arrangements in Queensland for disaster recovery governance, preparedness, planning and operations and provides guidance for the development of functional, district and local recovery plans. The plan also defines key disaster recovery roles including the newly established roles of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator and Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

Disaster Recovery Coordinator Guide

A draft guide for the role of Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) was developed in November 2016 and is expected to be finalised in December 2016. The DRC Guide provides information and guidance on the roles, responsibilities, training and induction requirements, management arrangements and operational issues relating to DRCs in Queensland. A DRC Register is being compiled commensurate with the role of the SRPPC and will be maintained by the QRA.

GIVIT

During November, QRA took over management of the service agreement with GIVIT, a not-for-profit organisation that manages offers of assistance through a donations-matching model for disaster events. During November, GIVIT reported that it had engaged with various councils and charities to strengthen awareness of GIVIT's service should it be required during the current disaster season. It also advised it had been activated in response to the Dreamworld incident, which claimed four lives, to channel all offers of support during the fundraising appeal. A committee was established to distribute the funds to support the families of those directly affected.

Queensland Flood Resilience Coordination Team

The QRA CEO chairs the Queensland Flood Resilience Coordination Committee, which includes membership from relevant State Government agencies, the Local Government Association of Queensland, Bureau of Meteorology and the Insurance Council of Australia. A meeting was held on Monday 28 November 2016, with the key agenda item being the development of the Strategic Policy Framework for Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience.

Strategic Policy Framework for Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience

QRA is currently developing the Strategic Policy Framework for Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience to guide best practice riverine flood risk management in Queensland and provide strategic direction for State Government policy. QRA is consulting with key stakeholders on the framework, which is expected to be completed in February 2017.

Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies (BRCFS)

The Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study is in the final stages of delivery and is on schedule for completion in the first quarter of 2017. The next stage of the project is delivery of a Floodplain Management Study and Strategic Floodplain Management Plan, which will be developed in close partnership with the Flood Study partners and are on schedule to be delivered by late 2017.

Engagement Activities

During November, QRA representatives, including Chair Major General Richard Wilson, attended and presented on behalf of QRA at the AUSNED Water Summit which coincided with an official State visit of King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands.

QRA resilience staff also spoke at the launch of a report entitled 'The Big Flood – will it happen again?' by leading scientists from the University of Queensland, Griffith University, Macquarie University, The University of Wollongong and University of Lincoln in the UK.



Major-General Wilson at the AUSNED Water Summit



QRA General Manager Graeme Milligan presenting at the launch of 'The Big Flood – will it happen again?'

3.3 Program spotlights

Livingstone Shire Council Livingstone begins building back better



Landslips over the Scenic Highway following Cyclone Marcia – February 2015



Betterment works will strengthen the upslope and prevent future landslips



Left to right: Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga, Federal Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry, Livingstone Shire Mayor Bill Ludwig and Councillor Graham Scott inspecting the Statue Bay betterment project works

Livingstone Shire Council has begun upgrade works on the iconic Scenic Highway at Statue Bay in Yeppoon following severe damage from Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

Reconstruction works began earlier this year and the road will now have a \$2 million upgrade to make it more disaster-resilient, thanks to the 2015 Betterment Fund.

The Scenic Highway has been damaged by natural disasters three times in the past five years, including catastrophic damage following Tropical Cyclone Marcia, with major landslips and severe erosion of the road.

The road is a popular tourist route for visitors to Livingstone and a vital access road for locals, carrying up to 6,500 vehicles a day when fully functional.

With the upgrade works underway to improve this popular tourist route, the benefits of Betterment funding will be realised at the community level, as the Scenic Highway provides access to the marina and harbour precinct at Rosslyn Bay and the Capricorn Coast National Park.

Livingstone Shire Council Mayor Bill Ludwig said the start of Betterment works for the Scenic Highway represented an important step for the community on the road to recovery.

“It represents the progress we are making in re-building after Marcia,” Cr Ludwig said.

“In addition to the repair works, Council will use the Betterment funding to increase the overall resilience of the Scenic Highway.

“Works include the installation of a concrete cap along the top of the retaining wall to provide greater resilience, the stabilisation of the upslope using soil nails and shotcrete surfacing, and the installation of a concrete table drain with a concrete containment barrier to provide adequate drainage for large volumes of water.

“I am grateful to the Australian and Queensland Governments for providing the funding to upgrade this road for the benefit of the entire Livingstone region,” he said.

The costs under the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements to repair and upgrade the Scenic Highway are estimated to be more than \$11 million, consisting of both restoration and betterment funding.

Additional complementary funding for the Scenic Highway project is being contributed by Livingstone Shire Council.

Works are scheduled for completion in June 2017.

3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

QRA Regional Liaison Officers

QRA finalists at 2016 Premier's Awards for Excellence

The vital work of QRA's Regional Liaison Officers (RLOs) within Indigenous communities has been recognised by Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk.

QRA were finalists in the 2016 Premier's Awards for Excellence in the category of Customer Focus.

Ms Palaszczuk said all the finalists had made a positive impact to the community and demonstrated a wide variety of high achievers.

RLOs provide invaluable support, working closely with Indigenous councils to help them deliver disaster recovery projects where their scope can sometimes exceed the entire annual maintenance program in these remote parts of Queensland.

QRA CEO Brendan Moon said it was an honour to be recognised for the assistance provided to Indigenous communities.

"In the event of a natural disaster, QRA deploys its dedicated team of expert RLOs to provide face-to-face assistance to local councils and communities while they get back on their feet," Mr Moon said.

"Without support, smaller, remote councils, including Indigenous councils, can find the recovery process overwhelming. Damage assessments require expert technical knowledge of engineering and construction and such expertise can be hard to access, even in larger regional communities," he said.

To facilitate a better understanding of the issues facing Indigenous communities, QRA developed the Far North Queensland Engagement Strategy that provides a unique set of guidelines that helps RLOs understand and support communities in Far North Queensland.

"RLOs have identified unique challenges specific to Indigenous councils during their rebuilding programs, including difficulty in accessing sites due to their remote location, limited connectivity and communities being located in areas prone to extended wet seasons and multiple natural disasters," Mr Moon said.

"Establishing and maintaining long-term relationships within their communities has helped RLOs build trust and confidence in each council's own ability to deliver on their program of works. It also provides these councils with the security of knowing they have an advocate in the Queensland Government who is prepared and able to act as a conduit between three levels of government.

"Through this commitment to customer-focused engagement, the RLOs have created ongoing positive relationships with Indigenous councils while at the same time helping deliver value for money reconstruction projects for their local communities."



QRA representatives, including CEO Brendan Moon and RLOs Dean Patchett and Keiran Mau with their 2016 PAFE certificate



RLO Keiran Mau at Bamaga in Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council



Disaster recovery work underway at Yarrabah

3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

TMR

Reconstruction works start on 2016 NDRRA program

Reconstruction works have now started on the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) 2016 events program.

During the 2015–16 summer, Queensland's state road network was impacted by five natural disaster events.

TMR districts responded quickly with approximately \$5.5 million in emergent repairs (including clearing debris and critical pavement repairs) and providing detours where necessary.

Detailed damage assessments have now been carried out and initial funding submissions completed to establish the scope of reconstruction works required and ensure eligibility of planned works.

Projects have been programmed in line with TMR's Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) in October. This process sets the scope of work to be delivered each year, along with measurable delivery targets.

The 2016 events program will require approximately \$11 million in reconstruction works, including 120km of pavement reconstruction, earthworks and batter repairs at 40 locations, and repairs to 12 structures including bridges and culverts.

The majority of reconstruction works are expected to be completed by June 2017.



Diamantina Developmental Road (Windorah–Bedourie) – pavement seal damage from Western Queensland Trough (March 2016)



Birdsville Developmental Road – shoulder scour from Western Queensland Trough (March 2016)

Section four: Communications



4.0 Communications

QRA 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 228 media items in November 2016 (102 print – 44%, 19 TV – 8%, 67 radio – 29%, 40 online – 19%), which reached a cumulative audience of approximately 3.5 million people.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from recent and previous natural disaster events including articles in The Atherton Tablelander, The Australian, Australian Financial Review, Barcoo Independent, Bowen Independent, Burdekin Advocate, Cairns Post, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone Observer, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, High Country Herald, Kilcoy Sentinel, Longreach Leader, MacIntyre Gazette, Mareeba Express, Maryborough Herald, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, North West Star, Northern Miner, Queensland Country Life, Queensland Times, Rural Weekly, South Burnett Times, Stanthorpe Border Post, Sunshine Coast Daily, Tablelands Advertiser, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin, Weekend Post, and the Westside News; Internet coverage at abc.net.au, balonnebeacon.com.au, cairnspost.com.au, goldcoastbulletin.com.au, gympietimes.com.au, themorningbulletin.com.au, news-mail.com.au, queenslandtimes.com.au, and sunshinecoastdaily.com.au; TV coverage on ABC News 24 as well as the Seven and WIN networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4BU Bundaberg, 4RO Rockhampton, 4WK Toowoomba, 4CA Cairns and Radio 4KZ Innisfail, Mix FM Sunshine Coast, River FM Ipswich, SEA FM Rockhampton.

Making news in November 2016 was the start of works on Livingstone Shire Council's Betterment project for the Scenic Highway at Statue Bay, with articles appearing in the Morning Bulletin and the Capricorn Coast Mirror. Also making news in November was the opening of Somerset Regional Council's Betterment project for Monsildale Bridge, renamed Fredrickson Bridge, with articles appearing in the Kilcoy Sentinel and the Toogoolawah Somerset.

Engagement Activities

On 4 November 2016, **Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk** and **Deputy Premier Jackie Trad** joined **QRA Chair Major-General Richard Wilson** and other dignitaries in welcoming King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands to Brisbane. The Major-General delivered a presentation about Queensland's experience following the devastating severe weather of 2010-11.

In early November, **Chief Executive Officer Mr Brendan Moon** attended the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi, India. The conference was a unique opportunity to share knowledge and experience with leading international experts and to contribute to shaping the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework with a goal to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2030.

On 23 and 24 November, **Major-General Wilson** and **Mr Moon** visited Cloncurry Regional Council with QRA Board member representatives. Several neighbouring councils took the opportunity to meet with the QRA Board including Burke Shire Council, Carpentaria Shire Council, McKinlay Shire Council, Mount Isa City Council and Winton Shire Council.



QRA Board members and staff visit Cloncurry Regional Council



Source: QRA at 30 November 2016

4.0 Communications (Cont.)

4.1 Communicating progress (cont.)

Communications

QRA keeps its stakeholders and the community informed and ensure access to the latest information regarding the reconstruction effort through our website, phone hotline and management of correspondence.

The QRA website is regularly updated, including information about progress on Betterment projects and current recovery efforts. There has been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 30 November 2016, total website visits amounted to 508,631 – a 0.4 per cent increase since last month. (See Figure 5.1.1)

In November, we received an additional 23 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 163 pieces of written correspondence (See Figure 5.1.2)

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

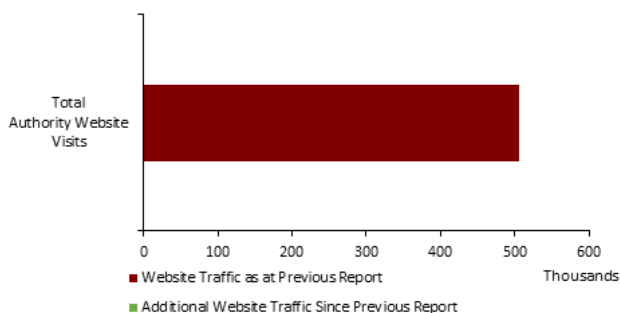
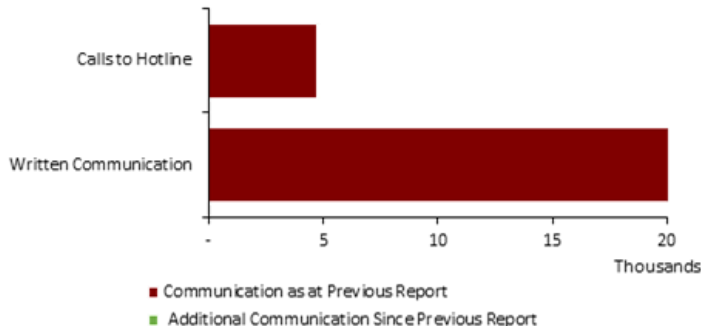


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



4.2 Media reports

Road built for resilience

Statue Bay Rd bigger and better

Maedine McDonald

IT'S BEEN a long time coming for the residents of Statue Bay and every other Capricorn Coast resident, but it's finally time to see work begin on the upgrade of the Scenic Hwy at Statue Bay.

Representatives from three tiers of government turned the sod yesterday to mark the next stage of the major project worth more than \$11 million.

Mayor Bill Ludwig said although there had been a long wait for works to start, it was due to very complex engineering, time had to be taken to ensure this road would be bigger and better than before.

"I know a lot of people are going to be saying hallelujah but the effort that's gone in and the support we've had from the Federal Government and the State Government to make sure we build Statue Bay bigger, better and more resilient to withstand disaster events in the future is going to be one of the best outcomes for this

part of the coast and also for transport linkages through the Capricorn Coast for many years to come," Cr Ludwig said. "It's taken a long time because it's very complex engineering, a broad scope of works from stabilising the face, rebuilding the rock wall, widening and putting over topping structures in place to ensure cyclone seas will not be able to erode either the sea wall or the carriage way in future events.

"The target for stage one completion is late February-early March."

This work is part of a \$30 million Betterment Fund which was established in response to Tropical Cyclone Marcia and is provided under Category D of the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State

Natu Ract Ke said been time of St puble art out. "I know a lot of people are going to be saying hallelujah but the effort that's gone in and the support we've had from the Federal Government and the State Government to make sure we build Statue Bay bigger, better and more resilient to withstand disaster events in the future is going to be one of the best outcomes for this

been very patient since the cyclone made this road unusable," Mrs Lauga said. The Federal Government committed \$8 million to the project which Capricornia MP Michelle Landry said was vital for the reconstruction of the road. "This was funded from three levels of government so it's pleasing to see this and I think the really good thing about this is as well as repairing it, council have plans to make it wider and safer as well as it will last as long as we need it."

Rockhampton Mayor Margaret Strelow (pictured) said before seats or swings can be installed in the gardens, the capping of the former landfill site exposed during the cyclone must meet the current environmental standards.

"The clean-up we did immediately after Cyclone Marcia was to bring the gardens back to the public as possible," Cr Strelow said. "Since then we have been working hard to restore the southern end of the gardens and have recently trucked in 7500 tonnes of soil to top areas within this section to meet environmental requirements."

Cr Strelow said the central area that is partially closed to the public would

Huge Kershaw project ongoing

Melanie Piane

melanie.piane@ropernews.com.au

MORE than \$4 million has been spent to date remediate Kershaw Gardens from the disastrous effects of Cyclone Marcia and there is still plenty more work to do.

Rockhampton Mayor Margaret Strelow (pictured) said before seats or swings can be installed in the gardens, the capping of the former landfill site exposed during the cyclone must meet the current environmental standards.

"The clean-up we did immediately after Cyclone Marcia was to bring the gardens back to the public as possible," Cr Strelow said. "Since then we have been working hard to restore the southern end of the gardens and have recently trucked in 7500 tonnes of soil to top areas within this section to meet environmental requirements."

Cr Strelow said the central area that is partially closed to the public would

look worse before it gets better. "We are changing the landforms as part of the entire central area redevelopment to make it a more usable park space," she said.

"So this will require even more soil to cap the surface compared to the southern end."

While the outskirts of the park are visibly renewed, major remediation works to prepare for the redevelopment of the gardens are still under way in the southern and central areas of Kershaw Gardens. Redevelopment plans, which have been modified since their initial release, will include an exciting new playground and water play area and will retain almost all of the remaining trees.

Works will start on the playground in April next year, with the remediation of the soil and it is expected the entertainment precinct will be completed within 12 months.

During that time, the central section will be closed. In the meantime, remediation works to the wetlands will start this month to redirect the water that currently flows through an open flow channel in Moores Creek. As an environmental

initiative, the water will be directed through Kershaw's ephemeral wetlands that will act as a sediment collection system prior to entering the Fitzroy River Basin. Council will also reseed parts of the wetlands for better water retention and to ensure the aquatic wildlife that consists of birds, water dragons and turtles is maintained. Council is planning to finish remediation of the wetlands before the wet season.

Rockhampton Morning Bulletin— 3 November



WORK IN PROGRESS: Capping works are ongoing at Rockhampton's Kershaw Gardens. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



PLANNED: The Kershaw Gardens redevelopment will include a new playground. Please note this artist's impression is for the initial plans which have since changed. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Goondiwindi Regional Council now included in disaster assistance

FEDERAL Member for Maranoa David Littleproud has announced that disaster assistance funding was now extended to include the Goondiwindi region.

"The Goondiwindi Regional Council region will receive funding to assist communities and ensure they receive the resources and support needed to recover from the impacts of the September flooding," Mr Littleproud said.

Mr Littleproud said assistance has been made available under the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) in response to flooding which had affected many communities in his electorate.

"In the Goondiwindi area, NDRRA assistance will help to restore essential public assets and

essential infrastructure, such as local roads which were damaged by floodwaters," he said.

"The Federal Government is ready to assist these affected communities to get back on their feet."

"The council regions of Goondiwindi, Longreach and Murweh are in addition to last week's announcement that the local government areas of Barcoo, Bulloo and Diamantina in my electorate will receive NDRRA funding."

NDRRA assistance measures have been activated for the following local government areas in Maranoa:

Counter Disaster Operations and Restoration of Essential Public Assets: Longreach, Barcoo (previously announced), Bulloo (previously announced) and Diamantina (previously announced). Restoration of Essential Public Assets: Goondiwindi and Murweh.

Capricorn Coast Mirror—16 November

MEGA BRIDGE OPENING IN SOMERSET

A mega bridge opening in Somerset has recognised a mammoth effort by Somerset Regional Council and its contractors over the past 12 months to replace its timber bridges with new, more resilient structures.

Council, together with representatives from the federal and state governments, today officially opened nine bridges within the region. More than \$7 million, comprising of funds from Somerset Regional Council together with the Queensland and Victorian governments, has made the upgrades possible.

Among the notable bridge upgrades is the completion of bridges one and two on New Road at Dundas. The new bridges have paved the way for housing growth. One of the new bridges is made of advanced timber technology, the other a concrete structure which bridges improved access to Billies Bay and Hart Landing.

This development will mean a huge boost to tourism in Somerset once Billies Bay is reopened to the public. Somerset Mayor Shaune Lehmann said, based on previous Council statistics, he anticipates at least 35,000 visitors to Billies Bay and Hart Landing annually, once reopened. "It is with thanks to various funding bodies that has enabled these projects to be completed," Cr Lehmann said. "These bridges are vital but they are even more important."



REOPENING: Work has commenced to upgrade the State Highway near Statue Bay, severely damaged by Cyclone Marcia. NEXT: Project MP Billie-Louise, Capricornia MP Michelle Landry and Mayor Ludwig look over plans. PHOTO: CHRIS DINE



PHOTO: CHRIS DINE

Toogoolawah Somerset—2 November

FLOOD RESTORATION UPDATE

Over the next fortnight, flood restoration works will be concentrated in the following locations:

Gayndah Area - Tablelands Rd, The Limits Rd, Monto Area - Kariboe Rd, Barram Rd, Monal Rd, Raspberry Creek Rd, Childs Rd, Dooloo Tops Rd, Pine Mountain Creek Rd, Pine Mountain Rd, Mt Perry Area - Swindon Rd



Flood works complete at Mt Debatable Rd, Gayndah.

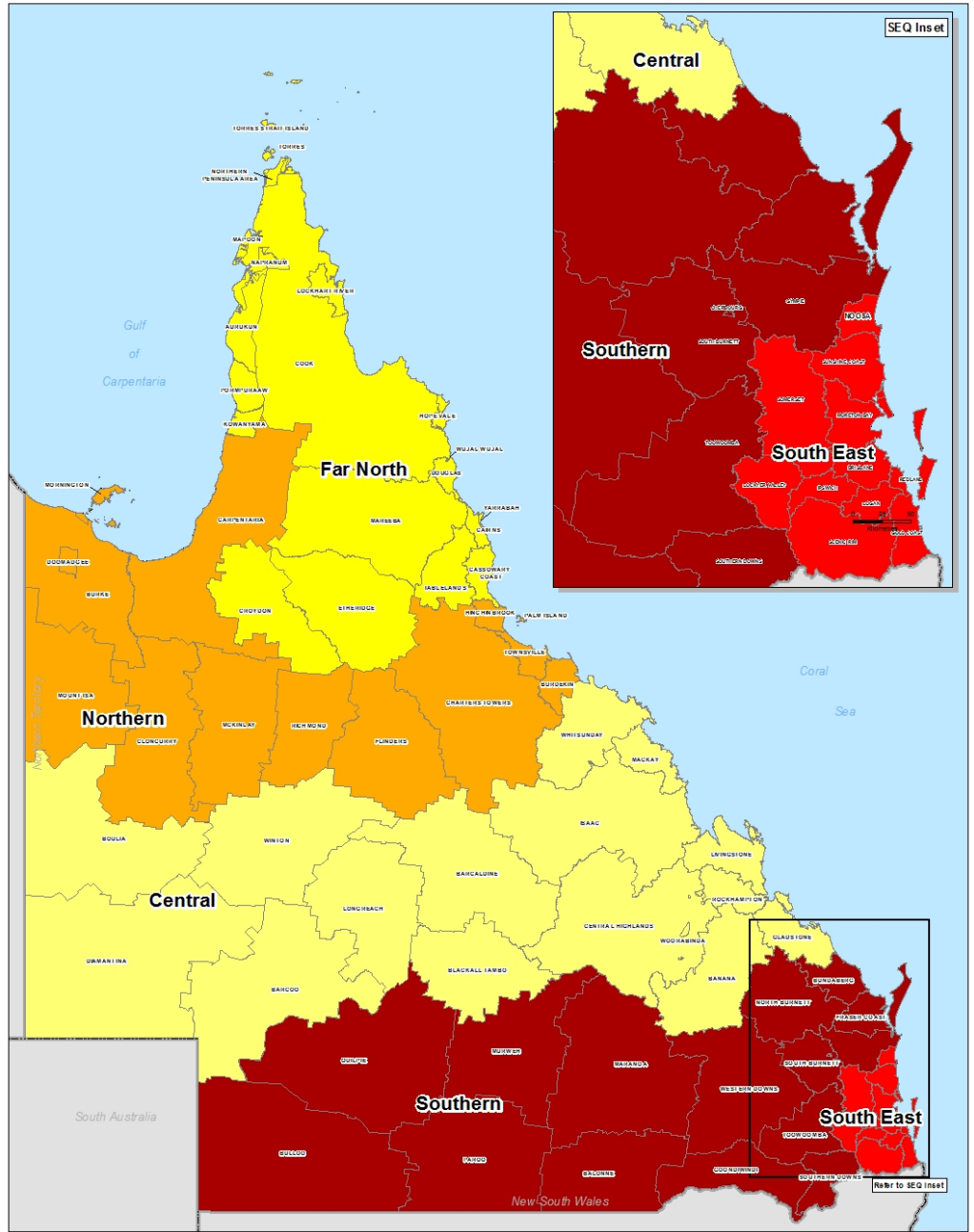
Council acknowledges the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding is a joint Commonwealth and State Government program.

Central and North Burnett Times—10 November

Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

Region	Local Government Areas (LGA's)	
Far North Queensland (FNQ)	ASC	Aurukun Shire Council
	CRC	Cairns Regional Council
	CCRC	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	CoSC	Cook Shire Council
	CrSC	Croydon Shire Council
	DSC	Douglas Shire Council
	ESC	Etheridge Shire Council
	HVASC	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
	KASC	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
	LRASC	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
	MASC	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
	MbaSC	Mareeba Shire Council
	NASC	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
	NPARC	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
	PASC	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
	TRC	Tablelands Regional Council
	TSC	Torres Shire Council
	TSIRC	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
WWASC	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	
YASC	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	
North Queensland (NQ)	BrdSC	Burdekin Shire Council
	BrkSC	Burke Shire Council
	CSC	Carpentaria Shire Council
	CTRC	Charters Towers Regional Council
	CISC	Cloncurry Shire Council
	DASC	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council
	FSC	Flinders Shire Council
	HSC	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	McSC	McKinlay Shire Council
	MoSC	Mornington Shire Council
	MICC	Mount Isa City Council
	PIASC	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
	RSC	Richmond Shire Council
	TCC	Townsville City Council
Central Queensland (CQ)	BanSC	Banana Shire Council
	BarRC	Barcaldine Regional Council
	BarSC	Barcoo Shire Council
	BTRC	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
	BOSC	Boulia Shire Council
	CHRC	Central Highlands Regional Council
	DSC	Diamantina Shire Council
	GSC	Gladstone Regional Council
	IRC	Isaac Regional Council
	LSC	Livingstone Shire Council
	LRC	Longreach Regional Council
	MacRC	Mackay Regional Council
	RRC	Rockhampton Regional Council
	WRC	Whitsunday Regional Council
	WSC	Winton Shire Council
	WASC	Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council
	Southern Queensland (SQ)	BaSC
BSC		Bulloo Shire Council
BRC		Bundaberg Regional Council
CASC		Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council
FCRC		Fraser Coast Regional Council
GoRC		Goondiwindi Regional Council
GRC		Gympie Regional Council
MarRC		Maranoa Regional Council
MuSC		Murweh Shire Council
NBRC		North Burnett Regional Council
PSC		Paroo Shire Council
QSC		Quilpie Shire Council
SBRC		South Burnett Regional Council
SDRC		Southern Downs Regional Council
ToRC	Toowoomba Regional Council	
WDRC	Western Downs Regional Council	
South East Queensland (SEQ)	BCC	Brisbane City Council
	GCCC	Gold Coast City Council
	ICC	Ipswich City Council
	LVRC	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
	LCC	Logan City Council
	MBRC	Moreton Bay Regional Council
	NSC	Noosa Shire Council
RCC	Redland City Council	
SRRC	Scenic Rim Regional Council	
SRC	Somerset Regional Council	
SCRC	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	



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Local Government Areas and QldRA Reporting Regions

Scale at A4: 1:6,700,000

Legend

- Far North Queensland
- North Queensland
- Central Queensland
- Southern Queensland
- South East Queensland
- Local Government Areas

As at 5/02/2014

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