

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

# Monthly Report

June 2017

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several overlapping, radiating lines in various shades of maroon and red, creating a sense of depth and movement.

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## **Information security**

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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 June 2017 Monthly Report – the 76th 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 Authority is charged with helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters through managing and coordinating the Queensland Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities and being the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy.

Since the last report, Queensland has continued with the recovery efforts following the devastating impacts of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie that hit the state in late March/April 2017 with a total of 36 local government areas activated for joint Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) assistance.

The June report's Program Spotlights profiles three successful recovery activities following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie including:

- The *State Recovery Plan 2017-2019: Operation Queensland Recovery* was released to help Queensland communities to recover, reconnect and rebuild following the devastating effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The Plan builds on existing recovery approaches in recognising that communities are best placed to develop and implement local plans that meet their own recovery needs.
- The new online Community Recovery Grants Portal was activated for the first time by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS), resulting in dramatic improvements in the processing and payment of personal hardship assistance grants to residents impacted by the disaster.
- The Hahns Crossing bridge damaged by floodwaters at Mount Sylvia, south-west of Ipswich was restored within 48 hours of impact by Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR), reopening this vital link for transporting crops to market and receiving food supplies.

The Program Status provides a snapshot of progress in the state's recovery and reconstruction from other disaster events of recent years and an update on progress in recovery, resilience and mitigation activities.

In summary, of the estimated \$1.8 billion program of reconstruction works for the 24 events in the delivery phase, \$694 million has been approved by QRA and additional submissions worth \$101 million are being assessed by QRA or awaiting additional information. QRA is working with delivery agents to expedite the progress their preparation of submissions in relation to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and other recent events.

In addition \$426 million (24%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 30 April as in progress or delivered.

I commend the report to you and recommend its release to the Minister and the public pursuant to Section 41 of the Act.

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 Authority 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 67 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:



NDRRA works for 24 disaster events activated for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery phases.

Subject to acceptance of the 2015-16 NDRRA Claim by the Commonwealth and other than a small number of projects that received extensions of time for drought-related impacts, QRA has now finalised the close out of all works up to and including the 2014 events.

On 23 March 2017, QRA submitted the 2015-16 NDRRA Claim to the Commonwealth for works completed to 30 June 2016. QRA is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to facilitate its assurance activities in order to progress the acquittal and reimbursement as soon as possible.

QRA is currently 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 2017 events, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

**Section two:**  
**Disaster Assistance**

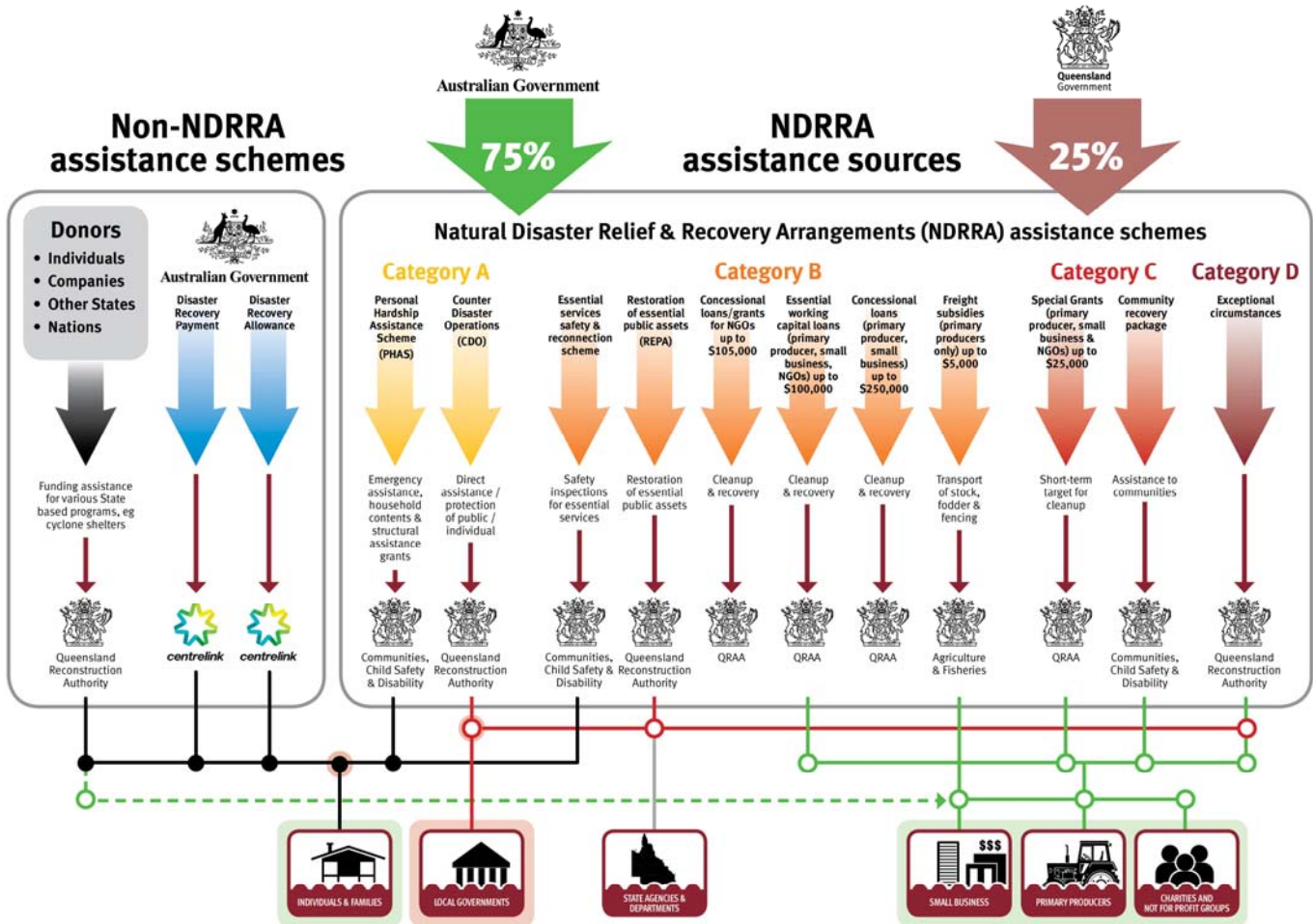


## 2.0 Disaster Assistance

### 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



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](http://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 67 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 24 events from the 2015 to 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery phase and completed works from a further 9 events from the 2014 event period are also in the acquittal phase<sup>1</sup>.

Since the last report, one additional event was activated for NDRRA relief measures - *Far North Qld Trough, 3-10 February 2017* event.

The figures opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2015 to 2017 event periods that are either still in delivery and/or acquittal phase.

A summary of previous events dating back to 2007 that have been managed through to acquittal by QRA is provided in Appendix B.

### 2017 events

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

- Far North Queensland Trough, 3-10 February 2017
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and associated rainfall and flooding, 28 March - 6 April 2017
- Gulf Tropical Low, 15-24 February 2017
- Far North Queensland Low, 8-11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding, 13-20 September 2016
- Central Queensland Severe Weather, 15-20 July 2016

### 2016 events

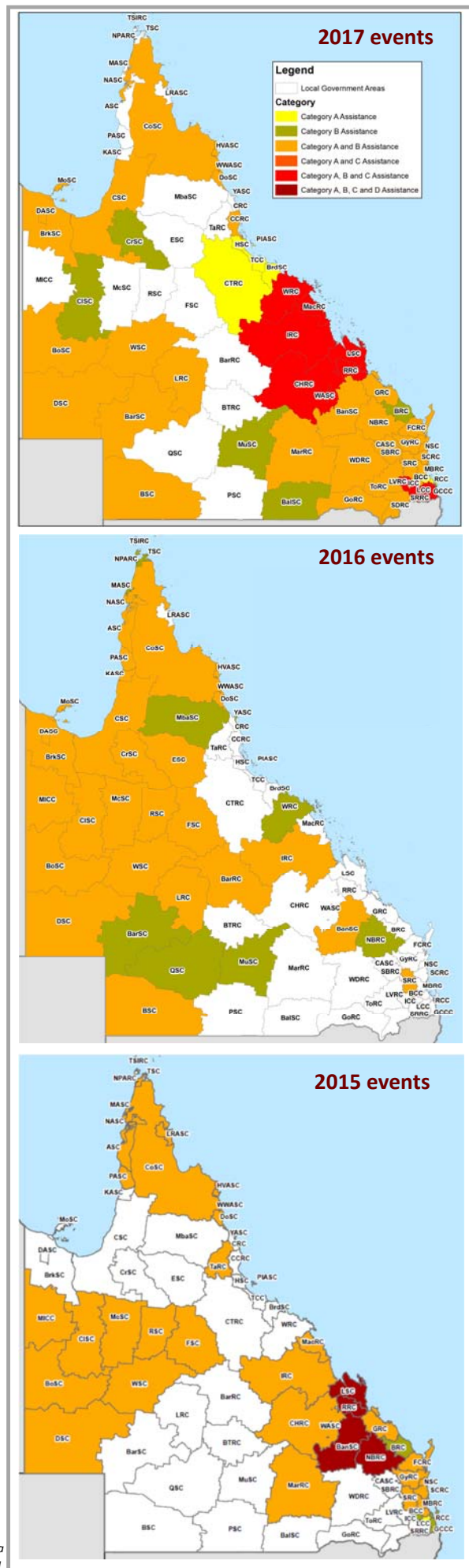
*(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2018, with final acquittal due by March 2019)*

- 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.



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.

**Section three:**

# **Program Status**



## 3.0 Program Status

### 3.1 NDRRA program status

QRA is currently assisting councils and delivery agents with the response and initial recovery activities following the impacts of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the associated rainfall and flooding with 36 councils activated for NDRRA assistance to date. QRA is assisting, as required, with the damage assessments from the event in order to progress the reconstruction program into delivery as soon as possible.

In May 2017, the State submitted a proposal to the Commonwealth for a range of NDRRA Category D special assistance measures to assist with the recovery of the most impacted communities from the effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. No decision has yet been received from the Commonwealth in relation to the proposal.

QRA also continues to monitor and assist delivery agents with progressing their remaining programs of work from the 2015 and 2016 events through delivery.

In other areas relevant to NDRRA, the Commonwealth released a revised NDRRA Determination on 1 June 2017 that will apply to events that occur in the final (2017-18) financial year prior to the proposed introduction of funding reforms on 1 July 2018. The revised Determination reflects updates to the existing disaster funding arrangements.

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

QRA is also currently awaiting finalisation of the Commonwealth's assurance activities in relation to the 2015-16 Claim that QRA submitted on 23 March 2017. The claim will result in an estimated \$125 million NDRRA reimbursement to the State when accepted and acquitted by the Commonwealth.

#### Active program

The value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by QRA since its establishment is estimated to be \$14.4 billion. Of this, \$12.3 billion of works from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 events have been finalised (delivered and acquitted) with the remaining works for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 event years in the active delivery and/or acquittal phases.

The QRA is managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$1.8 billion for 24 events comprising the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events (**Delivery Program**) and an **Acquittal Program** worth \$1.7 billion, principally comprising the remaining works from the 2015 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 \$1.0 billion in submissions have been received, an increase of \$5 million since last month.
- A cumulative total of \$694 million has been approved, an increase of \$21 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$101 million are with QRA and under investigation or awaiting additional information.
- A cumulative value of \$436 million (24 per cent) of the \$1.8 billion Delivery Program has been reported to QRA at 30 April 2017 as in progress or delivered.

(Source: The Authority, 31 May 2017)

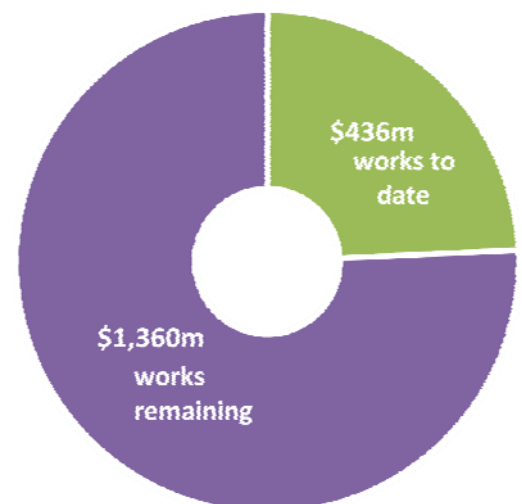


Image: Damage to State road assets by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie at Nerang-Murwillumbah Road.



Image: Yeppen Floodway crossing at Rockhampton open despite flooding caused by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

#### Delivery Program (2015 to 2017 Events) progress

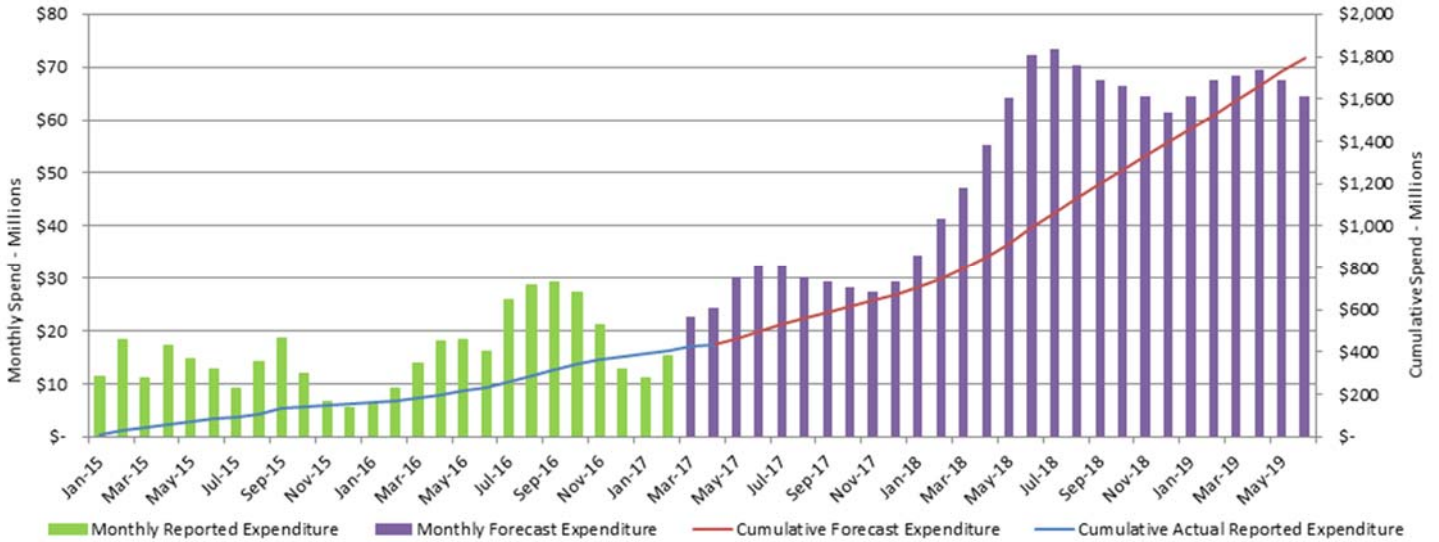


### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

#### Delivery Program status (cont.)

The graph below show monthly reported expenditure and forecast monthly costs to completion at 31 March 2017 on a combined basis for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events.

The 2015, 2016 and 2017 Event works are due for completion by 30 June 2017, 30 June 2018 and 30 June 2019 respectively.

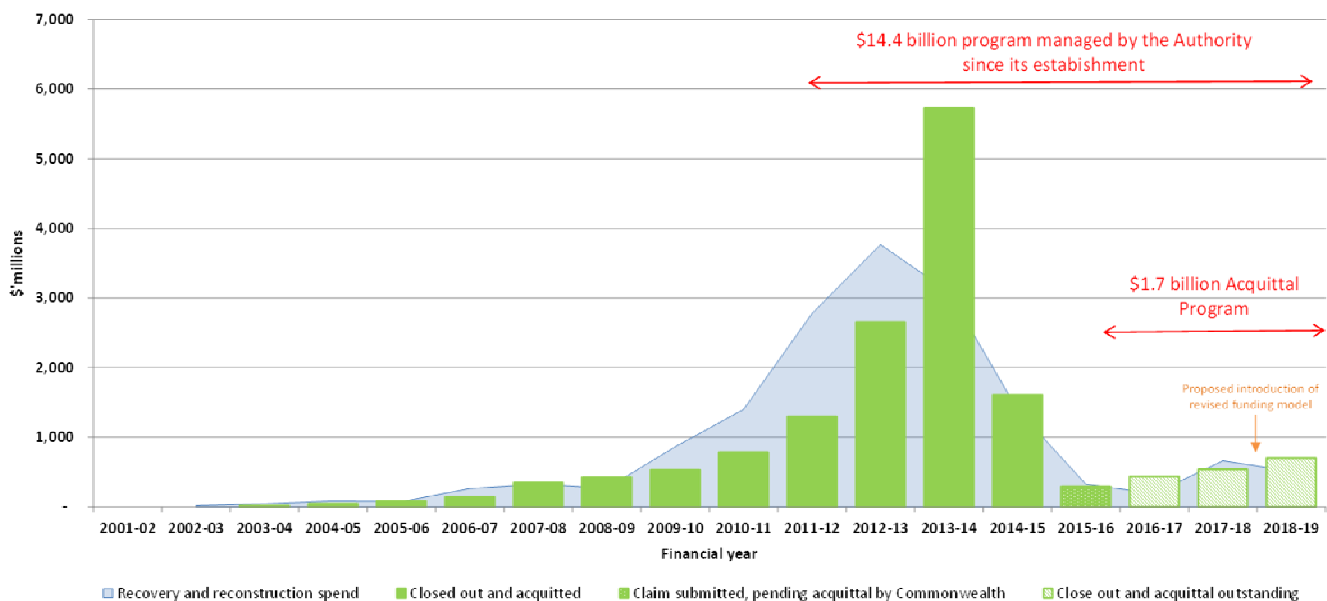


#### Acquittal Program status

The 2015-16 Commonwealth Claim, representing the State’s NDRRA claim for works completed in the year to 30 June 2016 was submitted to the Commonwealth ahead of deadline on 23 March 2017. The claim, accompanied by an unqualified audit opinion, comprised \$292 million of State Expenditure and will result in an estimated \$125 million reimbursement when acquitted by the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth has advised that it will not pay amounts due on the 2015-16 Claim and future claims until it has completed its own assurance activities over the claim. QRA is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to progress the review in order to expedite the acquittal of, and payment due on the claim.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2015-16 financial years and preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2016-17 to 2018-19 in order to finalise acquittal of the \$1.7 billion remaining in the Acquittal Program. Should funding reforms be introduced as envisaged from 1 July 2018, the State will administrate and submit claims under both the existing NDRRA Determination and also under the revised arrangements for a two year period (2018-19 and 2019-20) whilst the existing model is phased out.



Source: the Authority, February 2017 NDRRA Estimates Review and 31 May 2017

### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

#### Additional NDRRA assistance measures - 2015 Events

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
<b>2015 Events Betterment Fund (\$20 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>To 31 May 2017:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63 submissions with a total project value of over \$40 million, including \$20 million in Betterment funding have been approved</li> <li>55 projects with a total project value of \$21.4 million, including \$14.4 million Betterment funding have been reported as complete.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Key 2015 Event Betterment projects completed to date include 18 projects for NBRC, 12 projects for Somerset Regional Council and 10 projects for Rockhampton Regional Council, including Pilbeam Drive.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Delivery of 2015 betterment works is required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements, unless any requested Extensions of Time are approved by the Commonwealth prior.</li> <li>The Commonwealth has granted an EOT to 31 December 2017 for the delivery of the Scenic Highway project at Statue Bay in Livingstone Shire Council. This project has a total value of \$12.9million.</li> </ul>



Flood damage at Rockonia Road culvert in Rockhampton prior to betterment works (above) and following completion of betterment works in October 2016 (below left). This site was clearly not impacted by the flood event following STC Debbie in 2017 (below right).



### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

#### Additional NDRRA assistance measures - 2015 Events (cont.)

Package	Purpose	Status
<b>Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (\$6 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRA received EOIs from seven applicants for more than \$16 million</li> <li>Nine submissions worth \$6 million have been approved across the seven applicants, fully allocating the program funding.</li> <li>Key projects allocated funding include the clean-up and restoration of Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton which was severely damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia.</li> <li>An extension of time request has been submitted to the Commonwealth for completion of Kershaw Gardens work beyond 30 June 2017.</li> <li>Delivery of other works is anticipated by 30 June 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRA received EOIs for more than \$1.7 million from three of the four LGAs eligible for funding allocation.</li> <li>Five submissions worth \$1 million have since been approved, delivered and closed out across the three applicants, fully allocating the program funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IRO program was managed by the Queensland Farmers Federation on behalf of Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)</li> <li>IRO officers are located with Growcom, Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation, AgForce and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland</li> <li>IROs have now completed delivery of a range of support activities delivered including workshops, field visits, soil testing and feed sample analysis work.</li> </ul>
<b>Category C Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS)</li> <li>Community wellbeing and resilience building projects undertaken by Uniting-Care at Rockhampton, Gladstone and Livingstone.</li> <li>Homesafe, self-care and domestic and family violence training held. A number of preparedness activities has been undertaken at Yeppoon Cyclone Shelter, Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village Social Group and Oak Tree Retirement Village Seniors Fair.</li> <li>Counselling services continually being offered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and those from a culturally linguistically diverse background.</li> <li>The final payment has been made on this program, which exhausts the Category C Community Recovery Package.</li> </ul>

#### Additional NDRRA assistance measures - 2017 Events

The State Government has proposed a range of jointly-funded Category C and Category D measures to the Commonwealth to alleviate distress due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. As at 31 May 2017:

- the Commonwealth has agreed to a **\$14.7 million Category C Community Recovery Package**. The Community Recovery Fund will deliver support programs to individuals, and community mental health and community development programs
- a range of Category D package proposals have been submitted to the Commonwealth to provide additional assistance for communities, businesses, industries and the environment. The proposed funding includes:
  - \$135 million Recovery to Resilience** - Local Council Package to help the hardest hit local government areas undertake key infrastructure projects that will generate employment, boost the local economy, drive community recovery and build resilience
  - \$60 million Recovery to Resilience** – infrastructure package (Betterment) to enable important infrastructure that has been damaged by STC Debbie to be rebuilt to a stronger more disaster resilient state
  - \$15 million Recovery to Resilience** – environmental package to ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, recognising the important contribution our unique environment makes to the Queensland and Australian tourism industry
  - \$10 million Recovery to Resilience** – economic package, to support the recovery of industry and businesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage.

#### Other active Category D measures

- The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to continue the **Day Labour** exemption for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 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. On 31 March 2017, the Commonwealth agreed to further extend the day labour exemption to 2018 Events.

## 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:

Activity	Purpose	Status
<b>Interim Queensland Recovery Plan</b>	The Interim Queensland Recovery Plan applies to Queensland Government agencies, and informs local governments, government-owned corporations, statutory bodies representing the state, non-government organisations and other disaster recovery stakeholders of the procedures and processes employed by the state during recovery operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan was approved by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee in March 2017 and released on the Queensland Disaster Management website.</li> <li>The plan will be reviewed to incorporate learnings following the 2016-17 event year, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie for release ahead of the next severe storm and cyclone season.</li> </ul>
<b>Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) Guide</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The guide is available online via the QRA and Queensland Disaster Management websites.</li> <li>QRA will maintain the DRC Register commensurate with the role of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRPPC).</li> <li>A State Recovery Coordinator and two Deputy Recovery Coordinators were appointed to manage and coordinate recovery operations following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The State Recovery Coordinator has transitioned responsibilities to the SRPPC, while the two Deputy Recovery Coordinators continue to support recovery in the most severely impacted communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Policy Framework for Riverine Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience</b>	The policy framework is a key recommendation from the Disaster Management Reviews conducted in 2015 and will support a state-wide best practice approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft policy framework will be submitted to the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) for out of session endorsement. Once agreed by QDMC, the framework will be publicly released and used to guide future flood risk management and community resilience building initiatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Disaster Management Reviews</b>	<p>In 2015, a series of reviews were conducted into disaster management operations following Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia.</p> <p>An Interdepartmental Committee was established to review 160 recommendations from these reviews, including KPMG's operational review of QRA.</p> <p>The QRA review identified 14 recommendations relating to operational and policy-related matters, including the need for clarity in the disaster management framework on the roles and responsibilities of the QRA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at 1 May 2017, 11 of the 14 recommendations have been completed.</li> <li>The three remaining recommendations are progressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical leadership in Commonwealth funding negotiations</li> <li>Greater role in prioritisation of disaster recovery funding</li> <li>QRA provide support to QFES for a central repository for the collection and storage of whole-of-government disaster management data.</li> </ul> </li> <li>A review is currently being conducted by IGEM on aspects of response and recovery to STC Debbie.</li> </ul>
<b>Floodplain Management</b>	QRA is developing the Queensland Flood Resilience Program (QFRP) to support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The QFRP is a proposed program to facilitate delivery of improved flood risk management solutions across Queensland through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the development of catchment-scale flood risk management strategies; and</li> <li>approaches for capturing critical infrastructure and building data across Queensland.</li> </ul> </li> <li>It is proposed to undertake a Pilot Program in the Burnett River catchment to test technical methodologies and assess the suitability of the program for full state-wide rollout. Project planning and scoping is underway, including how the QFRP may support other initiatives and projects.</li> <li>Preliminary officer-level discussions have occurred with Bundaberg Regional Council to provide feedback on the proposed approach.</li> <li>The pilot is on track to be rolled out with a 6 to 8 month timeframe.</li> <li>Options for the program will be developed in conjunction with the Queensland Flood Resilience Coordination Committee, which includes LGAQ.</li> <li>Further consultation is also proposed with the Wide Bay Burnett Organisation of Councils as the representative body for the catchment.</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities (continued)

Activity	Purpose	Status
<b>Operation Queensland Recovery Plan and reporting</b>	<p>The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The plan focuses on empowering local governments, supported by state agencies, to deliver local solutions to ensure communities are resourced appropriately and are able to lead their own recovery and build resilience for future events. The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans for the eight most severely impacted local government areas. Developed by the relevant local governments, these local recovery plans document the local recovery objectives for the impacted communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan was tabled in Queensland Parliament and publicly released on 9 May 2017.</li> <li>• QRA is monitoring the progress and effectiveness of recovery efforts, informed by each Functional Recovery Group.</li> </ul>
<b>Brisbane River Catchment Studies</b>	<p>The Queensland Government and local councils are working together on a long-term plan to manage the impact of future floods and enhance community safety and resilience in the Brisbane River floodplain.</p> <p>The project includes development of a Flood Study followed by a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan that will guide a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Flood Study is complete and is now available to the public following its launch on 5 May 2017.</li> <li>• The Flood Study supports the development of a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan, which is underway and scheduled for completion in December 2017.</li> <li>• Detailed Local Floodplain Management Plans will commence from 2018.</li> </ul>
<b>Flood Warning Gauge Network Project</b>	<p>QRA continues to ensure that the Bureau of Meteorology (the BOM) has the best available information for providing flood warnings and forecasts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The QRA continues to implement collaborative approaches to support Local Councils ensure that flood warning infrastructure is appropriate, by engaging with Local Councils, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the BOM and gauge owners across the state.</li> <li>• Draft Flood Gauge Network Investment Plans have been developed for 40 priority LGAs identified in an initial state-wide review as having high priority communities requiring a more detailed review of flood warning infrastructure. Final plans will be distributed to the 40 LGA's throughout June 2017.</li> <li>• From July 2017, QRA will work with a further 17 out of 33 LGAs to produce draft Flood Gauge Network Investment Plans.</li> <li>• QRA will engage with the remaining LGAs throughout 2017, with finalisation of all remaining Flood Warning Gauge Network Investment Plans scheduled for completion by December 2017</li> <li>• QRA sought feedback from 36 LGAs about their gauge performance following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Generally the gauges performed well. However, there were some isolated issues with communications and gauge loss due to the magnitude of the floods, specifically in the Fitzroy Basin. In August, the QRA will meet with the impacted LGAs in Emerald to take learnings from the event, with a focus on the performance of the Flood Warning Gauge Network and to explore opportunities for regional collaboration and coordination.</li> </ul>



### 3.3 Program spotlights

#### Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services Community Recovery Grants Portal

Queensland is at the forefront of disaster relief administration after the new online Community Recovery Grants Portal processed personal hardship assistance grants up to 51 times faster following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie when compared to the paper-based system adopted for Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015.

The need to streamline delivery of community recovery grants was prioritised following Tropical Cyclone Marcia where disaster-impacted people queued and waited in the hot sun to fill out paper forms for financial assistance to meet their immediate basic needs.

Following 2015, the QRA worked with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) to develop the Community Recovery Grants Portal to administer personal hardship assistance grants under the NDRRA. The Community Recovery Grants Portal was activated for the first time in response to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017.

Benefits of moving from paper forms to online grant processing included dramatic improvements in customer service, reducing both financial and emotional distress for individuals and families. The improvements allowed Community Recovery workers in-the-field to focus on other important human and social recovery needs including emotional wellbeing and advice about other disaster assistance services.

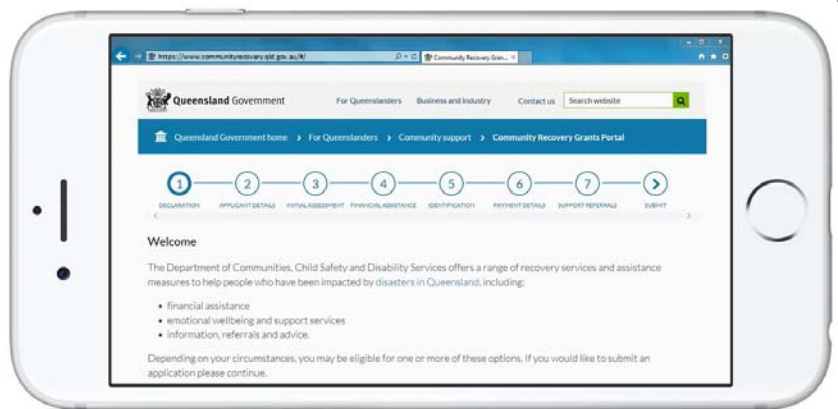
DCCSDS has calculated the efficiencies of using the new Community Recovery Grants Portal as saving 258 Community Recovery Hub days of paper-based processing time for personal hardship assistance grants when comparing Cyclones Debbie and Marcia.

Productivity achievements show the new portal processed more than \$18 million of recovery grant payments for Cyclone Debbie in the first 14 days compared to \$2.4 million for the same period in 2015, an improvement of more than 7.5 times.

In total, the portal received in excess of 114,000 grant applications with close to \$30 million paid to eligible applicants assisting more than 117,000 people.

The Community Recovery Hotline was also integrated with the Community Recovery Grants Portal through DCCSDS working closely with Smart Service Queensland. This allowed disaster-impacted Queenslanders to apply at their convenience using the online Community Recovery Grants Portal, the Community Recovery Hotline, or by visiting a Community Recovery Hub in person.

Feedback to DCCSDS about using the Community Recovery Grants Portal has been very positive, particularly from youth and aged care services. DCCSDS reports youths can often be embarrassed to apply for assistance in person, while people in aged care sometimes have mobility issues making it challenging for them to attend Community Recovery Hubs. The Community Recovery Grants Portal has proven successful in providing customer options for seeking prompt personal hardship assistance.



*The new online Community Recovery Grants Portal (above) and a Community Recovery Officer on an outreach visit in Koongal, Rockhampton (left).*

### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### State Recovery Plan 2017—2019 Operation Queensland Recovery

The Queensland Government has released its detailed recovery plan to help Queensland communities recover, reconnect and rebuild following the devastating effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

The *State Recovery Plan 2017-2019: Operation Queensland Recovery* builds on existing recovery approaches in recognising that communities are best placed to develop and implement local plans that meet their own recovery needs.

*Operation Queensland Recovery* was developed by State Recovery Coordinator Brigadier Chris Field and his team consisting of Australian Defence Force, QRA and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel.

The development of Operation Queensland Recovery included the planning team engaging with impacted communities in the development of targeted Local Recovery Plans in the nine most impacted Local Government Areas of Whitsunday, Mackay, Isaac, Logan, Scenic Rim, Gold Coast, Central Highlands, Rockhampton and Livingstone.

Operation Queensland Recovery consists of three phases, which will be implemented locally and tracked and supported at the state level:

- Phase 1: Post impact and early recovery
- Phase 2: Recovery and Reconstruction
- Phase 3: Transition to the “new normal” and business as usual

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning Jackie Trad said Operation Queensland Recovery outlines a clear commitment that the Queensland Government will work with local governments and communities to ensure impacted people, communities and businesses get the resources and support they need, when they need it.

“Operation Queensland Recovery provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery, supported by local governments and state agencies,” Ms Trad said.

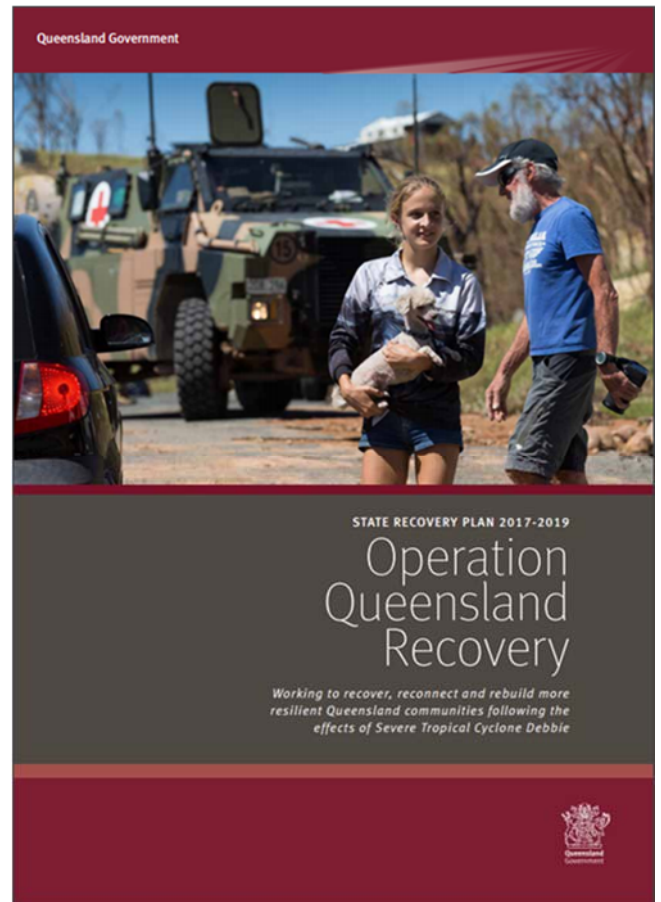
“Five Functional Recovery Groups (FRGs) were stood up within the response phase. The FRGs are responsible for the delivery of recovery efforts to each impacted community in accordance with the needs outlined in Local Recovery Plans.

“The FRGs will coordinate, link and manage the recovery for the state, based on Local Recovery Plan priorities, and across the five different functional group areas of Human and Social, Economic, Environment, Building, and Roads and Transport.

“The QRA has worked closely with local governments and partner agencies to rapidly activate the NDRRA for 36 local government areas across the state.

“Communities across Queensland impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and its associated rainfall and flooding can get on with their recovery, knowing that we will work together to ensure the most vulnerable are cared for and no-one is left behind.

“The QRA, as Australia’s only state-based permanent disaster recovery organisation, is well placed to oversee implementation of Operation Queensland Recovery,” she said.



Above Satellite view of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, 28 March 2017.



Above Shute Harbour in the Whitsundays suffered extensive damage.

### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### State Recovery Plan 2017—2019 Operation Queensland Recovery



(Above left) STC Debbie caused landslips on the Mackay-Eungella Road and damaged buildings at the Proserpine showgrounds (above right)



(Above left) Community recovery clean up in North Maclean following ex-STC Debbie and flooding in the Central Highlands (above right)



(Above left) Community Recovery hub and (above right) Community Recovery officers in Proserpine to assist after Sever Tropical Cyclone Debbie



(Above) Working closely with Local Governments and other stakeholders, the Queensland Government has developed the State Recovery Plan 2017-2019: Operation Queensland Recovery

(Above) Damage to the Eungella National Park following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie

### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### TMR

#### Bridge restored to keep farm fresh produce moving

With the livelihood of local farmers and communities at risk, Transport and Main Roads crews worked quickly to repair a flood-damaged bridge at Mount Sylvia south-west of Ipswich impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie – restoring a vital link for transporting crops to market and receiving food supplies within just 48 hours.

Crews inspected the damage caused by ex-Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie at Hahn's Crossing as soon as flood waters receded and it was safe to access the area. The slab between the roadway and the bridge had been undermined, which meant the structure was impassable and the communities of Mount Sylvia, Junction View, Black Duck Creek and East Haldon were unable to access their normal place of business and supplies.

The damage also restricted local farmers in getting valuable crops to market. These communities produce fresh vegetables, including beans, broccoli, potatoes, pumpkins, pecan nuts and lettuce, as well as beef cattle and goats' milk.

One local farmer had recently harvested a significant amount of broccoli and was anxious to get it into cold storage while it was still fresh. TMR crews worked with the Lockyer District Regional Council to swiftly reinstate the embankment with temporary rock backfilling and placement of a gravel running surface.

As a result of their efforts, the bridge was safe to reopen for local residents by 4pm on Saturday 1 April, just 48 hours after it had been damaged. The broccoli farmer and many others from the local community were extremely grateful for the team's commitment to ensure access was restored.



(Above) Hahn's Crossing bridge at Mount Sylvia before and after (below).



#### TMR

#### Progress update - Burnett River Bridge replacement



(Above) Burnett River Bridge complete

Works to replace the Burnett River Bridge between Monto and Eidsvold are now complete and the bridge is open for use.

The bridge, previously located on Monto–Mount Perry Road about 6km southeast of the Burnett Highway, was washed away by floodwaters associated with Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February 2015.

Complementary funding was used along with NDRRA funding to build a two-lane concrete bridge, which is two metres higher, to provide improved flood immunity and safety.

Construction activities at the project site commenced in September 2016 with a temporary river crossing built to maintain access across the Burnett River whilst the new bridge was under construction. Rainfall from ex-Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie temporarily delayed works, however, construction recommenced on 3 April 2017.

The project was completed on 18 May 2017.

There will be some ongoing works until the end of June 2017 to remove the temporary sidetrack and return the river bank to its previous condition. The works are not expected to impact traffic using the new bridge.

## **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 986 media items in May 2017 (607 print – 62%, 59 TV – 6%, 169 radio – 17%, 151 online – 15%), which reached a cumulative audience of approximately 21.7 million people.

There was extensive media coverage for regions impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie including articles in The Age, Albert and Logan News, The Australian, Australian Financial Review, Balonne Beacon, Beaudesert Times, Bowen Independent, Bribie Weekly, Burdekin Advocate, Bush Telegraph Biloela, Caboolture News, Cairns Post, Cairns Sun, Caloundra Weekly, Canungra Times, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Queensland News, Central Telegraph, Chinchilla News and Murilla Advertiser, City North News, City South News, Clifton Courier, Cooloola Advertiser, The Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Warwick Daily News, Fassifern Guardian, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone Observer, Gold Coast Bulletin, Gold Coast Sun, Goondiwindi Argus, Gympie Times, Hervey Bay City Independent, Innisfail Advocate, Ipswich Advertiser, Jimboomba Times, Kilcoy Sentinel, Maroochy Weekly, Mackay and Sarina Midweek, Moreton Border News, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Nambour Weekly, Bundaberg News Mail, Noosa News, Noosa Today, North Queensland Register, North West Star, Charters Towers Northern Miner, Northside Chronicle, Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette, Queensland Country Life, Queensland Times, Redcliffe and Bayside Herald, Redland City Bulletin, The Reporter, Rural Weekly, South Burnett Times, South West News, Sunday Mail, Sunshine Coast Daily, Sydney Morning Herald, Tamborine Mountain News, Tamborine Times, The Saturday Paper, The Somerset Toogoolawah, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin, Weekend Australian, Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, Weekend Post, Westside News, Whitsunday Guardian, Whitsunday Times and the Wynnum Herald; Internet coverage at ABC Online, balonnebeacon.com.au, blackwaterherald.com.au, brisbanetimes.com.au, couriermail.com.au, cairnspost.com.au, dailymercury.com.au, frasercoastchronicle.com.au, gladstoneobserver.com.au, goldcoastbulletin.com.au, gympietimes.com.au, themorningbulletin.com.au, news-mail.com.au, queenslandtimes.com.au, sunshinecoastdaily.com.au, theaustralian.com.au, toowoombachronicle.com.au, townsvillebulletin.com.au and warwickdailynews.com.au; TV coverage on ABC News 24, Sky News, Channels Seven, Nine, WIN and Ten networks throughout the State as well as nationally; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, ABC Radio National, Sunshine FM, 2DAY FM Sydney, 97.3 Brisbane, 4BC Brisbane, 4BU Bundaberg, Gold FM Gold Coast, hit FM (Cairns, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Gold Coast), Hot FM (Maroochydore, Sunshine Coast) MIX FM Sunshine Coast, NOVA Brisbane, River FM Ipswich, SEA FM Sunshine Coast, 4TO Townsville, 4WK Toowoomba, Triple M (Brisbane, Sydney, Darling Downs, Mackay), and Zinc FM Sunshine Coast.

Making news in May 2017 was the release of the *State Recovery Plan 2017-2019: Operation Queensland Recovery* to help Queensland communities recover, reconnect and rebuild following the devastating effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Also making news in May was **Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's** request to the Commonwealth for the activation of Category D Extraordinary Assistance measures under the NDRRA as a result of the devastating impact of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

There was extensive ongoing coverage across all media of the cyclone's impact on communities throughout the state and the response from all levels of government.

#### Engagement Activities

On Monday 8 May 2017, QRA's **Chief Executive Officer Mr Brendan Moon** attended the Local Government Association of Queensland's annual Disaster Management Conference at the Mackay Entertainment Convention Centre, where he gave a presentation on the transition from disaster response to recovery activities.

In the last week of May 2017, **Mr Brendan Moon** joined State Recovery Coordinator **Brigadier Christopher Field AM CSC** on a tour of the regions most impacted by STC Debbie.

Brigadier Field's responsibilities as State Recovery Coordinator have now transitioned to the QRA and he has returned to his regular duties with the Australian Defence Force in Townsville.

On 31 May 2017, **Deputy Premier Jackie Trad** visited Whitsunday Regional Council and met with representatives of Show Whitsunday, which has received a \$25,000 grant under Category C to ensure the Proserpine Showgrounds will be repaired in time for this year's show.

## 4.1 Communicating progress (Cont.)

### Communications

We keep our 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.

Our 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 31 May 2017, total website visits amounted to 529,209. (See Figure 5.1.1)

In May, we received an additional 67 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 220 pieces of written correspondence (See Figure 5.1.2)

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

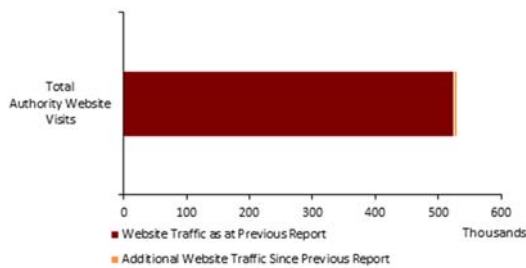
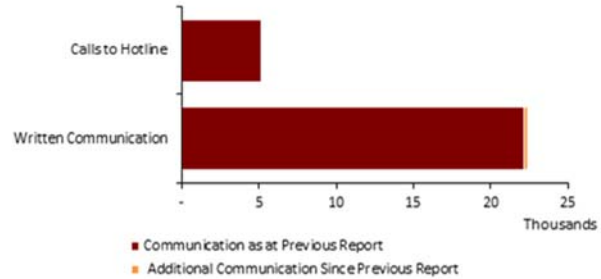


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



## 4.2 Media reports

### Premier proposes joint package

My Government has proposed to the Turnbull Government that we jointly fund a \$220 million package to provide additional assistance for communities, businesses, industries and the environment following



the devastation and flooding following Cyclone Debbie. The proposed package, to be under a

Commonwealth and State-funded Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) Category D declaration, would include key local government infrastructure projects.

We propose the South Rockhampton Flood Levee, Airlie Beach Foreshore and the Shute Harbour Marina revitalisation projects and Bluewater Trail and Queens Park redevelopments be

funded through a \$135 million local council infrastructure fund.

This package will build on the good work and generosity of so many Queenslanders during the

immediate response and recovery from Debbie and its severe flooding.

It will help Queensland communities bounce back sooner and stronger.

Additional funding is for a \$60 million infrastructure betterment package, \$15 million environmental package and \$10 million economic package.

Following Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015, the Premier and then Prime Minister Tony Abbott agreed to share the costs of a \$27.75 million Category D package.

We look forward to a positive response from the Turnbull Government to this Category D application.

— Annastacia Palaszczuk  
Premier of Queensland

**“We propose the South Rockhampton Flood Levee...be funded through a \$135 million local council infrastructure fund.”**

17 May—Morning Bulletin

## Debbie recovery a long and winding road map

The Queensland government is releasing a road map for the medium and long-term recovery of the regions affected by tropical cyclone Debbie.

Operation Queensland Recovery, to be released on Tuesday, incorporates recovery plans for a number of regional councils, including the Whitsundays, Rockhampton and Scenic Rim regional councils.



Before the peak, a property is surrounded by floodwaters near Rockhampton in the aftermath of Cyclone Debbie. Photo: AAP

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said it would ensure a co-ordinated response would continue to benefit all the affected councils.

“This plan builds on the strong partnership we had with local councils during the immediate response of Debbie and the severe flooding,” Ms Palaszczuk told Parliament on Tuesday.

“We will ensure local workers get a fair go and secure the jobs that will rebuild their communities.”

In addition, the premier pledged to continue to work closely with the federal government to ensure that Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements for Queensland communities are streamlined.

Ms Palaszczuk also marked six weeks since the cyclone made landfall by thanking emergency workers who responded during and after the disaster, as well as praising affected communities for their resilience.

“It has been one of the great privileges of my career to have met so many brave and dedicated Queenslanders from all walks of life through the course of this disaster.”

Twelve people died due to Debbie across Queensland and NSW, making it the deadliest Australian cyclone since Tracey in 1974.

More than \$26 million in personal hardship payments has been paid out to more than 100,000 Queenslanders since the storm.

At the height of the cyclone 270,000 homes and businesses were without power, while 2300 homes were damaged, with 900 of them still uninhabitable.

### CLONCURRY DISASTER ASSISTANCE

DISASTER assistance for north-west communities affected by flooding in the aftermath of a Tropical Low in the Gulf in February has been extended to include Cloncurry. Cloncurry was the sixth LGA to be included in the list of communities eligible for the joint Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements to help recovery costs. Other communities to receive the funding include Burke, Carpentaria, Croydon, Doodladgera and Morningson, announced in March.

25 May—North Western Star

9 May—Brisbane Times

## Disaster assistance extended

MINISTER for Justice Michael Keenan and Queensland Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Mark Ryan have announced additional disaster assistance for communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Mr Keenan said the assistance was being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

“Today’s announcement will extend assistance to the local government area of Balonne,” Mr Keenan said.

“This brings the total number of Queensland local government areas receiving assistance under these arrangements to 36.”

Mr Ryan said this assistance would reimburse the Queensland Government for a share of the costs associated with helping affected communities to restore or replace essential public infrastructure.

“The Commonwealth and Queensland governments will continue to monitor the impact of Tropical Cyclone Debbie and will extend assistance under the NDRRA to other areas if required,” Mr Ryan said.

Find out more at [www.disasterassist.qld.gov.au](http://www.disasterassist.qld.gov.au) or [www.disaster.qld.gov.au](http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au).

26 May—Rural Weekly

## More funds allocated

PRIME Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk have announced additional disaster assistance for communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the associated rainfall and flooding.

Mr Turnbull said the Australian and Queensland Governments will jointly fund a \$14.7 million Community Recovery Fund under Category C of the Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

This money is available for residents of Logan and the Queensland north coast.

5 May—Brisbane Reporter

## 4.0 Communications (cont.)

### 4.2 Media reports

# Council forges ahead with long-term clean up effort

RECOVERIES: Sam O'Brien

Five days

All the bits of rubble required continued to mount, Q Whitsunday said in April the length of time required to restore the town.

It was a week that generated a lot of work that made it hard to know when everything would be back to normal in the Whitsunday region.

"It's hard to put Whitsunday on a map because we are still dealing with things that are wrong," Cr Wilcox said.

"You come across things and think you'll know what they are, but you don't know what they are until you see them. It's just a matter of time before we are asking people to be patient."

Further adding to the time taken for works is the council's commitment to using local workers.

Cr Wilcox concluded that using local workers would mean a long longer for work to be done, however, that was a key goal for the council as it began following a difficult period.

"We want to ensure that as much of that cleanup stays in town and we are trying to do it as quickly as we can," she said.

"It's not just about the cleanup for the council, it's about the recovery of the community in Bowen and now we have a stimulus that has come in. We need to ensure that as much of that money stays locally and we are trying to set the example for that."

**RECOVERY PACKAGE**  
The proposed funding includes: Package 1 \$25 million Recovery to Resilience - Local Council Package to help the hardest hit local government areas undertake key infrastructure projects that will generate employment, boost the local economy, drive community recovery and build resilience. Package 2 \$60m Recovery to Resilience - Infrastructure package (betterment) to enable important infrastructure that has been damaged by Cyclone Debbie to be rebuilt to a stronger more disaster resilient state. Package 3 \$5m Recovery to Resilience - environmental package to ensure the recovery of important environmental areas, recognising the important contribution our unique environment makes to the Queensland and Australian tourism industry. Package 4 \$5m Recovery to Resilience - economic package to support the recovery of industry and business in the most impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage.

**RECOVERY SUPPORT**  
SMALL businesses in the Whitsunday region impacted by Cyclone Debbie have started receiving grant funding to help them clean up and recover. Queensland Minister for Local Business Louise Erceg (pictured) said the Category C grants will provide some relief to those businesses badly affected by the cyclone's damaging winds and flooding. "So far the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) has received more than 150 applications and approved \$200,000 in funding," Ms Erceg said. "There is up to \$20,000 available, including an initial grant amount of up to \$5,000 to pay for costs arising out of direct damage caused by Cyclone Debbie. This could be to make building repairs, replace damaged office equipment or pay for rubbish removal." Businesses within the Whitsunday Regional Council local government area have up until October 15, 2017 to apply for the funding.

**Recovery in the city**  
@whitsunday.qld.gov.au  
@whitsunday.qld.gov.au  
@whitsunday.qld.gov.au

It has been a difficult time for the economy in Bowen and now we have a stimulus that has come in. We need to ensure that as much of that money stays locally and we are trying to set the example for that.

MAJOR ANDREW WILCOX, BRC.



Whitsunday Regional Council Mayor Andrew Wilcox in Bowen Park in Bowen. The council is working to restore the park to its former glory.

17 May—Bowen Independent

## The Proserpine show will go on

Jacob Wilson | 31st May 2017 2:42 PM



Whitsunday Mayor Andrew Wilcox, Helen Wright, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, Show Whitsunday President Donna Rogers and Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Glenn Butcher.

ONLY a world war would stand in the way of the Proserpine Show going ahead once again.

And while Cyclone Debbie's wrath resulted in fallen power lines and a chaotic mess to clean up - the State Government and Whitsunday Regional Council joined forces to ensure the 105th show would run as scheduled.

Show Whitsunday was successful in obtaining \$25,000 of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements funding from the Queensland Government, in addition to a one-off \$18,000 contribution from Council.

Show Society President Donna Rogers said the thought of the show not going ahead under her watch was unthinkable.

"The only other time the show was cancelled in the past 105 years was during World War One," she said.

Ms Rogers said the NDRA Category C funding helped restore power to the main show grounds, while generators provided by the Showman's Guild would ensure Sideshow Alley and the camp grounds were up and running.

"It's the one weekend a year that people in the area have come together for over 100 years and the collaborative support will ensure the family tradition will continue this year," Ms Rogers said.

Deputy Premier Jackie Trad came to the Whitsunday Showgrounds today alongside Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Glenn Butcher.

Ms Trad stressed the importance of keeping the family friendly tradition alive.

"Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie has certainly slowed down preparations but it won't stop the 105th annual Show Whitsunday from going ahead in Proserpine in a few weeks."

Whitsunday Mayor Andrew Wilcox said the Whitsunday community needed a successful show.

"We're all looking forward to the show, which is able to go on thanks to the support we've received through the NDRA."

Show Whitsunday President Donna Rogers also thanked the 50 volunteers on the ground who worked hard to clean up the Showgrounds over the weekend.

"They turned up and cleaned up the glass and rubble because they are passionate about the show as well," she said.

It has been estimated that 10,000 people will attend the Proserpine show scheduled to be held over two days on June 23-24.

31 May—News Mail

### FLOOD RESTORATION UPDATE

Over the next fortnight, flood restoration works have been programmed for the following locations:

**Gayndah Area** - Bania Rd, North Branch Creek Rd, Pinchut Rd, Watercross Rd.

**Mundubbera Area** - Aikenheads Rd, Bald Hills Norris Corner Rd, Benham's Rd, Bald Horse Creek Rd, Cattle Creek Rd, Endres Rd, Gayndah Mundubbera Rd, Gleichs School Bus Rd, Lochaber Boundary Rd, Schinder Rd, Lohses Rd, Mundowan Rd.



Green Tree Lane, East Mundubbera 'under construction'.

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

12 May - Cairns Post

## Funding for Cook

COOK Shire Council has been thrown a lifeline after it was granted disaster assistance funding. The shire's mayor Peter Scott said the region was seeking about \$20 million to repair roads damaged during heavy rain in February. Yesterday, Justice Minister Michael Keenan and Police, Fire and Emergency Services Minister Mark Ryan confirmed Cook and four other Far North shires would receive disaster relief funding. The exact amount to be awarded to the councils is yet to be determined.

12 May - Cairns Post

9 May - Cairns Post

# Joint effort to repair Alan Wilke Bridge

LOGAN City Council has confirmed repair work is under way to the Alan Wilke Bridge at Wolfdene, one of the most damaged pieces of infrastructure after recent flooding in the cities of Logan and Gold Coast.

The bridge provides crucial linkage to the M1 for residents of Logan Village, and a number of schools in the Gold Coast region, matters which were raised at a recent council meeting.

According to Logan City Council (LCC) mayor Luke Smith and City of Gold Coast acting mayor Donna Gates, every effort would be made to re-open the bridge as quickly as possible.

"The closure of the bridge is having a significant impact on the people who use it,

adding to their travel times and moving traffic onto nearby roads," Cr Smith said.

"Our councils are working together to restore the local road network as soon as we can, but public safety is our number one priority."

"Parts of Logan and the Gold Coast are still recovering from a natural disaster so we ask our residents and motorists to bear with us as we get on with repairing the bridge."

Cr Gates said: "We are working on a solution that will deliver the best possible bridge design to fast-track the opening of the bridge."

"We have also applied for the cost of the repairs - which are still unknown at this stage - to be funded jointly by the federal and

state governments via Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

"If the weather is kind to us then we expect the Alan Wilke Bridge to be open by the end of the year, but sooner hopefully."

LCC also began work in late April on Chardon Bridge, removing the old bridge that connects Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road and Plunkett Road at Cedar Creek.

"We expect the new Chardon Bridge will be open to the public in September 2017," Cr Smith said.

- MICHAEL BURGE



INFRASTRUCTURE FIX: Logan City mayor Luke Smith and deputy premier Jackie Trad inspecting the Alan Wilke Bridge in early April. Photo: Georgina Bayly

24 May - Jimboomba Times

## Qld Govt plans long-term Debbie recovery

Shaun Layt, Australian Associated Press  
May 9, 2017 10:20am

The Queensland government is releasing a road map for the medium and long-term recovery of the regions affected by tropical cyclone Debbie.

Operation Queensland Recovery, to be released on Tuesday, incorporates recovery plans for a number of regional councils, including the Whitsundays, Rockhampton and Scenic Rim regional councils.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said it would ensure a co-ordinated response would continue to benefit all the affected councils.

"This plan builds on the strong partnership we had with local councils during the immediate response of Debbie and the severe flooding," Ms Palaszczuk told Parliament on Tuesday.

"We will ensure local workers get a fair go and secure the jobs that will rebuild their communities."

In addition, the premier pledged to continue to work closely with the federal government to ensure that Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements for Queensland communities are streamlined.

Ms Palaszczuk also marked six weeks since the cyclone made landfall by thanking emergency workers who responded during and after the disaster, as well as praising affected communities for their resilience.

"It has been one of the great privileges of my career to have met so many brave and dedicated Queenslanders from all walks of life through the course of this disaster."

Twelve people died due to Debbie across Queensland and NSW, making it the deadliest Australian cyclone since Tracey in 1974.

More than \$26 million in personal hardship payments has been paid out to more than 100,000 Queenslanders since the storm.

At the height of the cyclone 270,000 homes and businesses were without power, while 2300 homes were damaged, with 900 of them still uninhabitable.

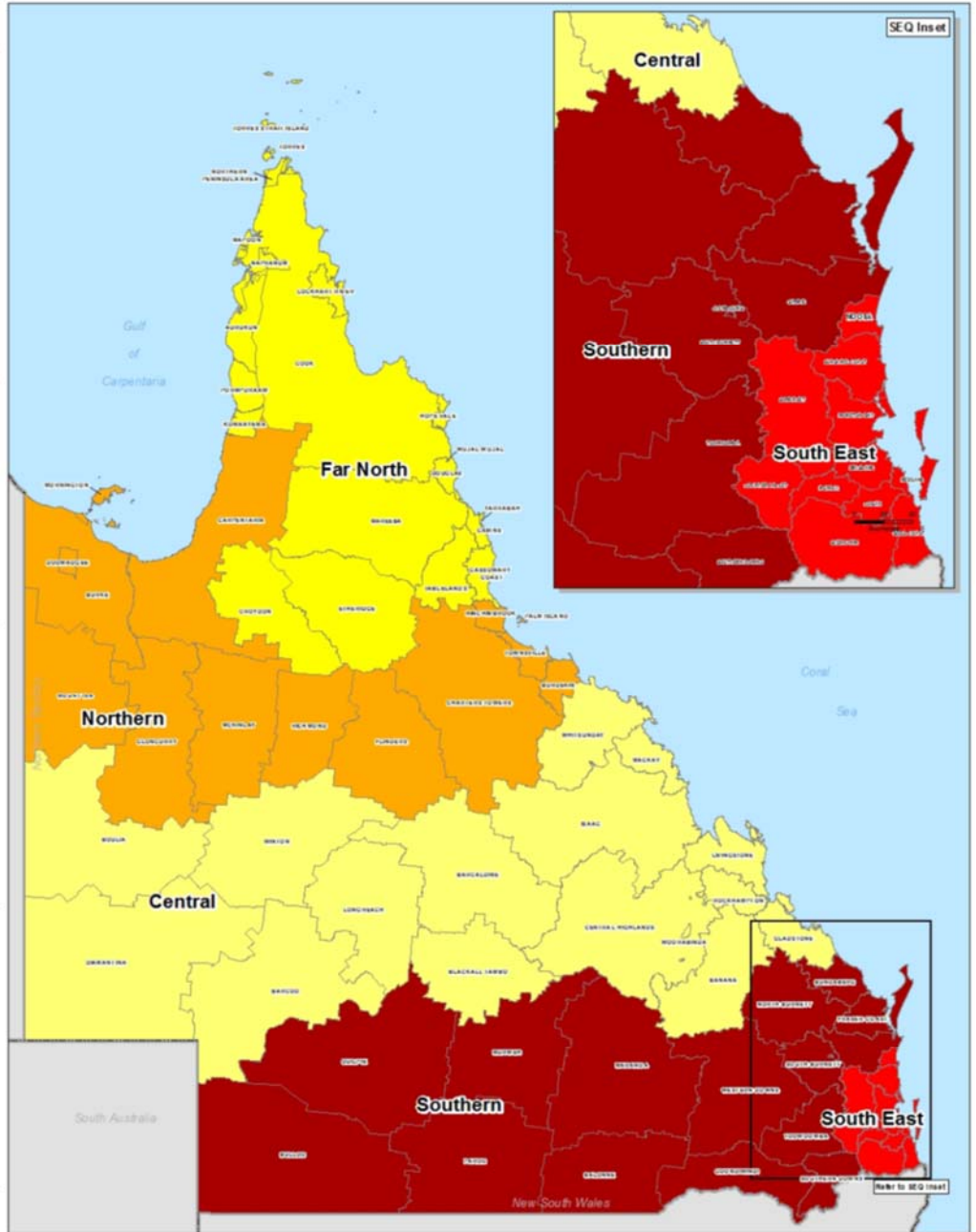
Source: QRA at 31 May 2017



# Appendices

# Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

Region	Local Government Areas (LGAs)		
Far North Queensland (FNQ)	ASC	Aurukun Shire Council	
	CRG	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	Morrington 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	Balonne Shire Council	
	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		
WDR	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		



**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

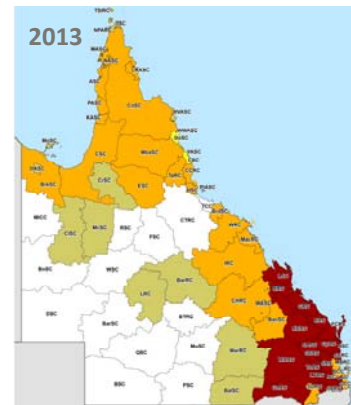
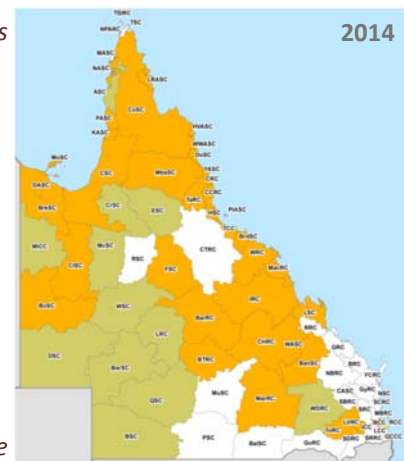
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

## Appendix B: NDRRA activations managed by QRA - 2007 to 2014 Events

### 2014 events

*Delivery and acquittal of works complete 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 Mar 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 Jan 2014)
- Tropical Cyclone Dylan, 31 January 2014
- North Stradbroke Island Fires, commencing 29 Dec 2013



### 2013 events

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three projects that received extensions of time for delivery)*

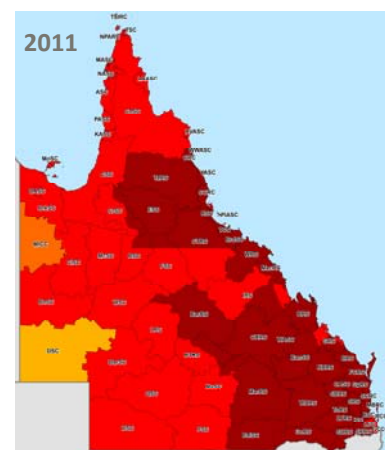
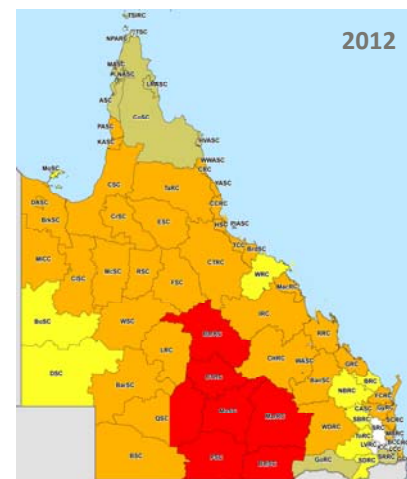
- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late Oct - Dec 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013<sup>#</sup>
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013
- Central & Southern Queensland Low, 25 Feb - 5 Mar 2013.

### 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 & flooding & East Coast Hybrid Low, 24 Feb - 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 & Anthony, Dec-2010 to February 2011.

### 2007-2010 events managed by QRA

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)*

- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul, Jan to Apr 2010
- Northern, Central & 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.

