

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

August 2015

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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 August 2015 Monthly Report – the 54th report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority).

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

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

During July, the Queensland Government announced a \$40 million special assistance package to revitalise the Yeppoon foreshore and the Rockhampton riverbank following Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

The August report is provided following completion of the Authority's June 2015 review of damage estimates. The review is undertaken on a regular basis and involved a complete review of the program of each local government authority (LGA) and State agency for works arising from disaster events managed by the Authority. The review included updated estimates for the 2014 and 2015 events, and preliminary final costs for the 2013 event works which were due to be completed by 30 June 2015.

Following completion of the review, the Authority's total program of works has been revised to \$13.3 billion. Of this, an estimated \$1.0 billion of works from the 2014 and 2015 events is currently in the delivery phase and due for completion by June 2016 and 2017 respectively. In addition, more than \$10.8 billion of the program has also completed the State's acquittal processes with the remaining \$2.5 billion of works from the 2011 to 2015 events progressively due for acquittal between March 2016 and March 2018.

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

The August report provides an update on the progress of recovery. Of the \$1.0 billion of works from the 2014 and 2015 events in the delivery phase, submissions worth \$722 million have been received, \$437 million of submission have been approved and \$254 million of works have been reported to the Authority at 30 June 2015 as in progress or delivered.

The August report also profiles the near-completion of DTMR's program of 2014 event works to repair the state-controlled road network, the completion of seven consecutive years of reconstruction works for Hinchinbrook Shire Council and the commencement of reconstruction works for North Burnett Regional Council following Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015. The report also profiles completion of an important reconstruction project for local producers in the Gympie region with the reinstatement of the only maintained road link following the destruction of the Derrier Bridge in the floods of 2013.

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

Yours sincerely



Frankie Carroll
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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Section one:
Introduction



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

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

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

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

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

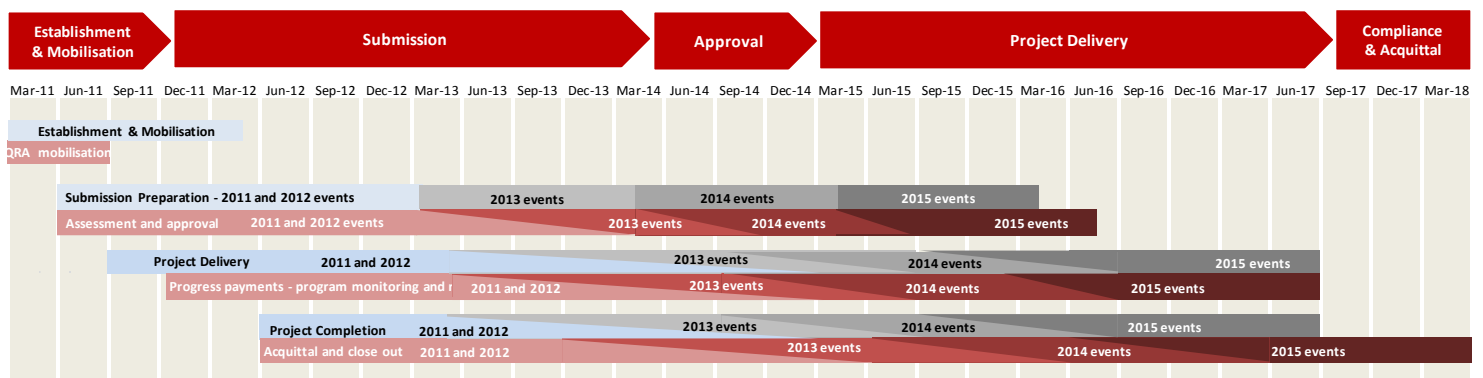
As part of its role, the Authority administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works and Restoration of Essential Public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

1.2 Timing

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

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

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



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

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

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

Section two:
Disaster Assistance

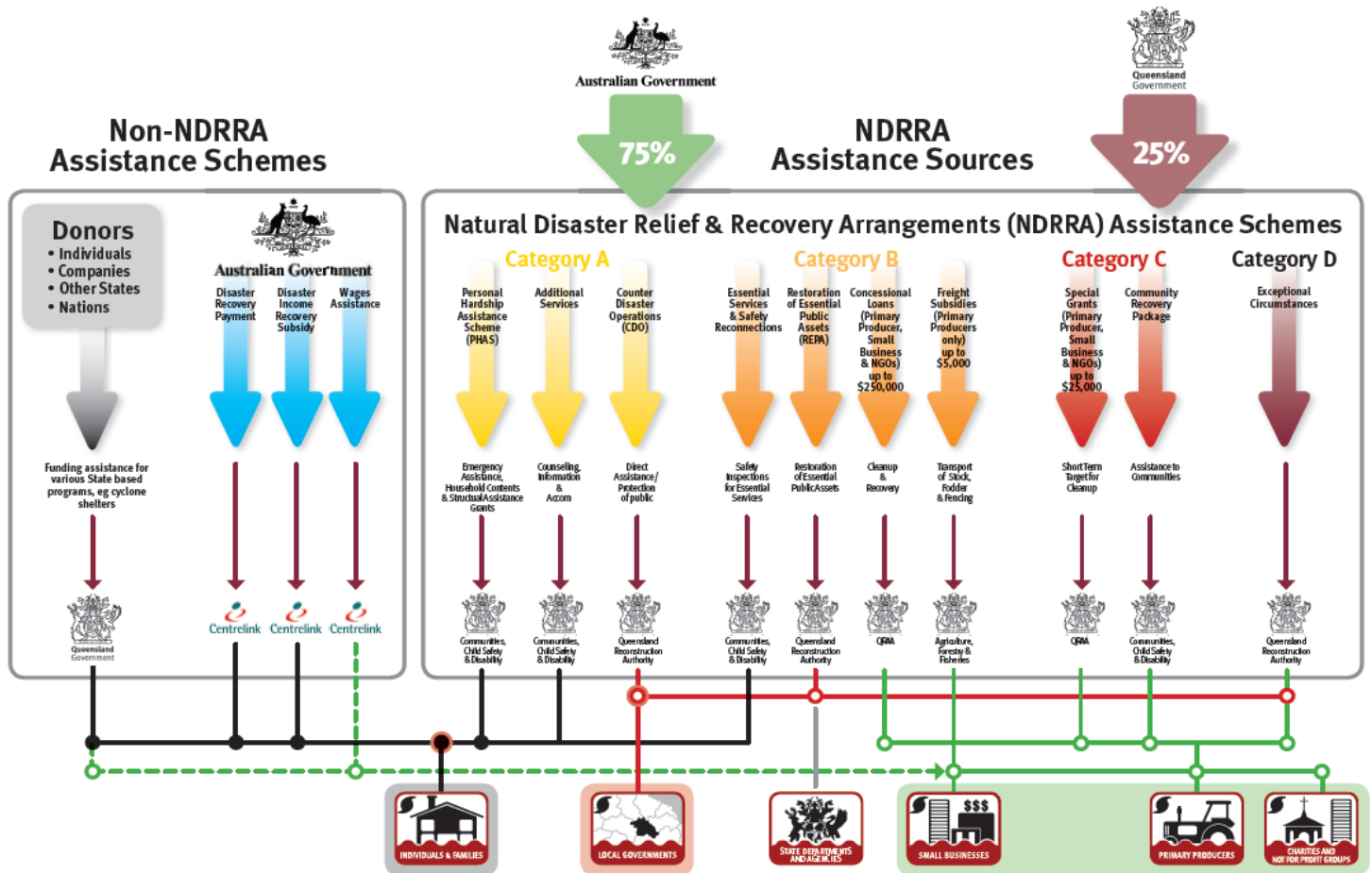


2.0 Disaster Assistance

2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework

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

Figure 2.1.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework



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

Disaster events managed by the Authority

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

This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

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

2.2 Events and relief measures managed by the Authority

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

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

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

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

2015 events

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

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

2014 events

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

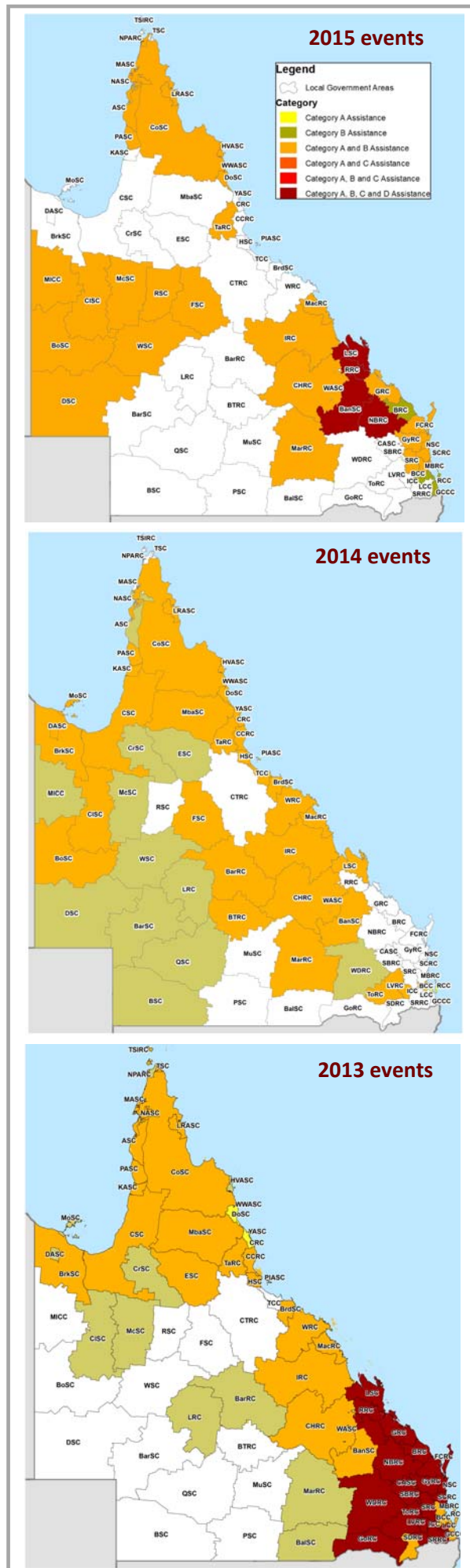
- Tropical Cyclone Ita & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 11-14 April 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Gillian - 10 to 11 March 2014
- Central Coast & Southern Queensland Trough, 26-30 March 2014
- Central & Western Queensland Flooding & Rainfall, 18-28 February 2014
- North East Queensland Monsoonal Rainfall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

2013 events

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

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

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



2.3 Additional assistance measures

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

2015 events (Tropical Cyclone Marcia)

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

2014 events

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

2013 events

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

2011 events

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

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

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

Section three:

Program Status



3.0 Program Status

3.1 Recent developments

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

During July, the Authority completed its regular review of damage estimates, which involved a complete review of the program of each LGA and State agency for works arising from disaster events managed by the Authority.

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

3.2 Program status

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

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

Delivery Program status

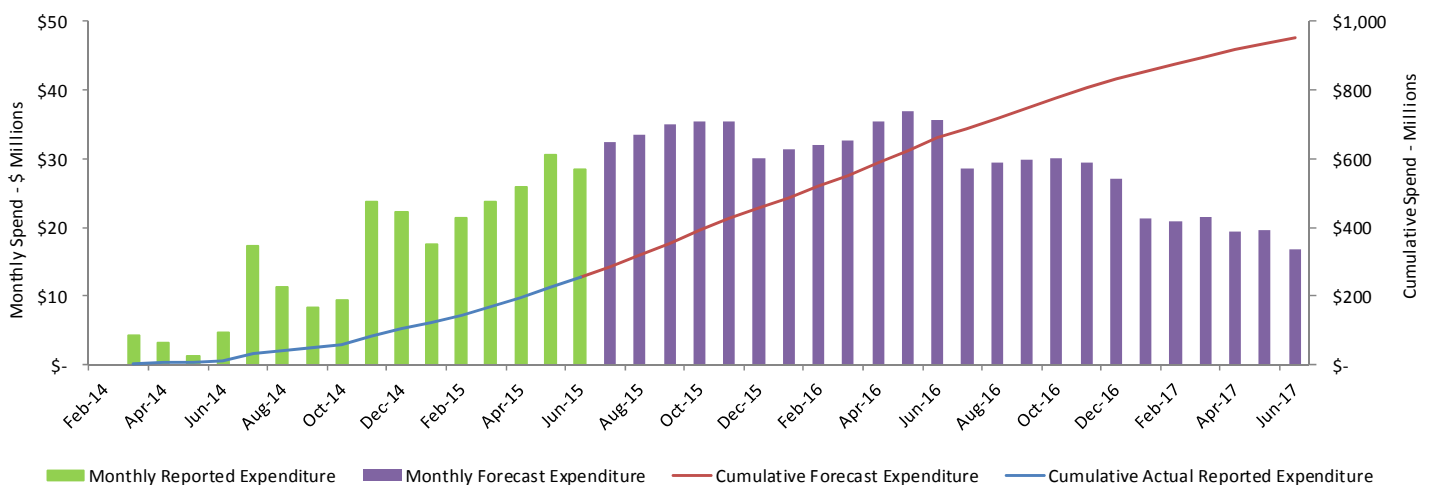
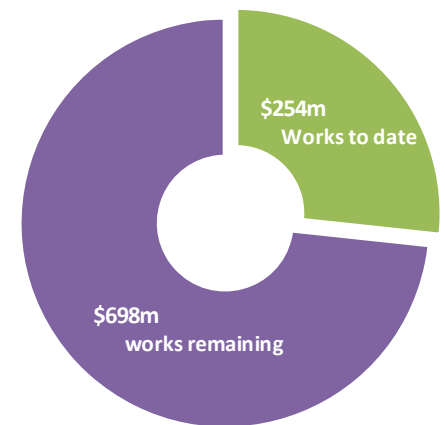
Since the last report, the Authority's program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$722 million in submissions have been received, representing an increase of \$89 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$437 million has been approved, representing an increase of \$54 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$176 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$254 million of the \$1.0 billion Delivery Program has been reported to the Authority at 30 June 2015 as in progress or delivered.

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

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecasted monthly costs to completion at 30 June 2015 on a combined basis for the Delivery Program (2014 and 2015 Events).

Delivery Program (2014 and 2015 Events) progress



(Source: The Authority, 31 July 2015)

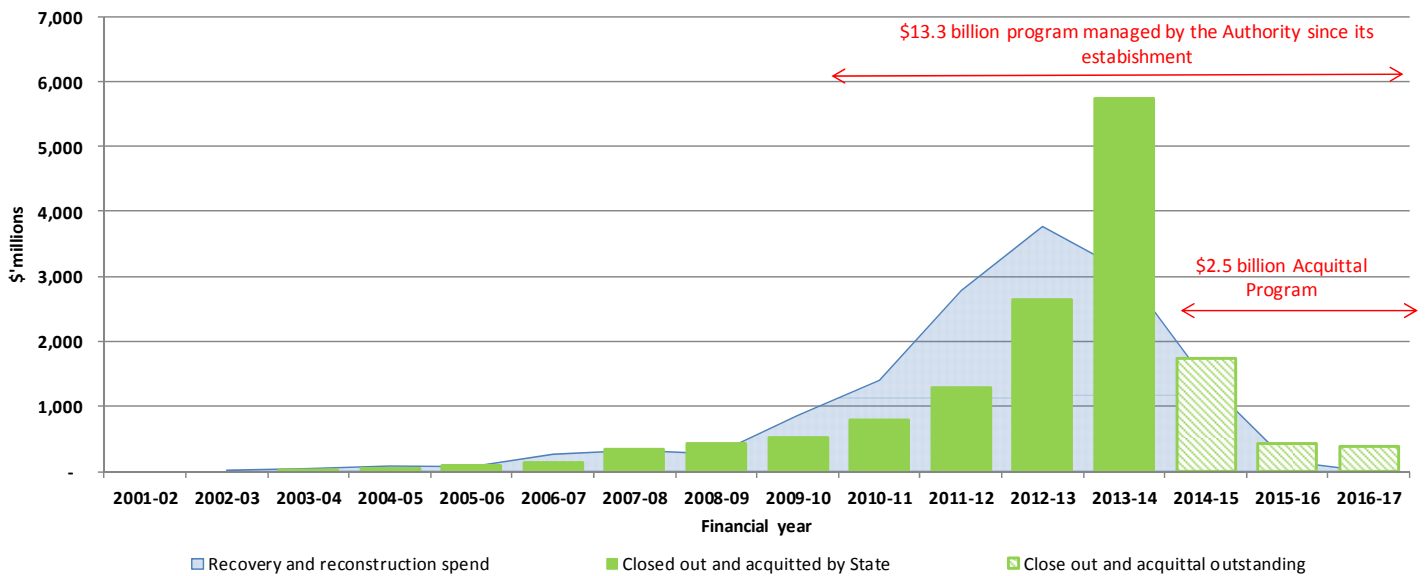
3.2 Program status (cont.)

Acquittal Program status

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

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

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



(Source: The Authority, 31 July 2015)

3.3 State-controlled roads and highways

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

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

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

Current status

- All Queensland Rail lines affected by disaster events have been recovered.
- All ports, navigation aids, jetties and other boating infrastructure damaged by natural disaster events have been recovered.
- Of the 214km of roads forecast to be reconstructed following damage from the 2014 events, 204km of works have been completed and the remaining 10km is under construction on active works contracts as at 30 June 2015. During June 2015, DTMR completed works on the Captain Cook Highway and Mulligan Highway in Far North district.
- Following completion of the initial recovery phase of works, DTMR is currently scoping its reconstruction program for the 2015 events.

A profile of the substantial completion of DTMR's 2014 events program of works is provided in Section 3.5.

(Source: DTMR, 30 June 2015)

3.4 Betterment fund status

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

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

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

2013 Event Betterment Fund

- Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received by the Authority from 48 councils with approximately \$1 billion worth of Betterment projects to improve the resilience of infrastructure to natural disasters following the 2013 events.
- The 2013 Event Betterment Fund was allocated to 232 approved projects across 35 LGAs. Betterment projects include improved bridges, floodways, culverts, levees, water treatment plants and numerous roads across Queensland.
- The deadline for completion of works from the 2013 events, including betterment projects, passed on 30 June 2015. Whilst formal reporting will occur over coming months, councils have indicated that the 2013 Event Betterment projects were completed on time other than three projects impacted by excessive rainfall in 2014 and 2015. Requests for extension of time for delivery of the impacted projects have been submitted for consideration by the Commonwealth and remain under consideration. Completion of the projects has been delayed pending the Commonwealth's response to the extension requests.
- Recognising the considerable savings realised on final delivery of betterment works, it is expected that approximately \$75 million funding will be allocated from the 2013 Event Betterment fund on final reporting of completed works.

2015 Event Betterment Fund

- In late May 2015, the Commonwealth Government agreed to contribute funding towards an additional \$20 million Betterment fund to restore or replace essential public assets that were damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia to a more disaster resilient standard.
- During July, the Authority wrote to relevant councils seeking expressions of interest for potential projects for consideration for 2015 Event Betterment funding. The projects will be assessed over the coming months as responses are received.

3.5 Program spotlights

DTMR

2014 Event works nearing completion well ahead of deadlines

Work to repair damage to the state-controlled road network following natural disasters in 2014 is nearing completion, one year earlier than the two-year NDRRA delivery deadline.

Seven disaster events affected Queensland in 2013–14, including Tropical Cyclone Ita in April 2014, Tropical Cyclone Fletcher in February 2014 and Central and Western Queensland Flooding in February 2014, with most impacts felt in Queensland’s far north, northwest and central areas. More than 6,000km of the state-controlled road network was impacted by the events although damage was less than in recent years.

The 2014 NDRRA program includes reconstruction of 214 kilometres of roads, 52 structures including bridges and culverts, and 57 locations requiring earthworks and batters.

Key 2014 event reconstruction projects were completed on:

- Burke Developmental Road
- Gulf Developmental Road
- Hughenden–Muttaborra Road
- Mossman–Mt Molloy Road
- Captain Cook Highway
- Millaa Millaa–Malanda Road
- Flinders Highway.

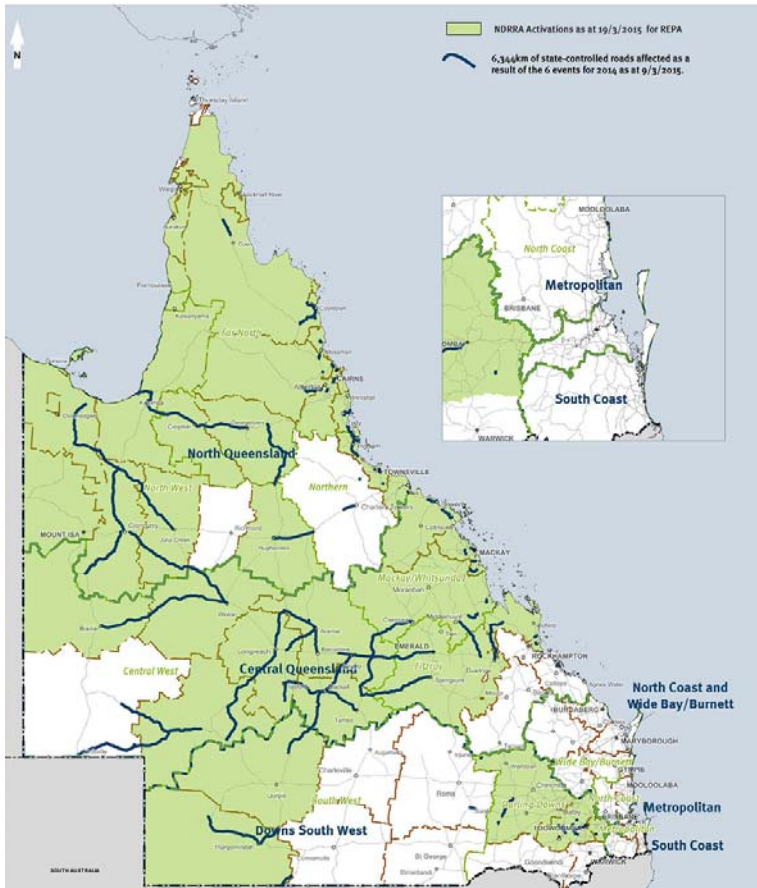
Works on one project site in Far North District that were impacted by Tropical Cyclone Nathan in March 2015 is the only 2014 event project yet to be completed. These works are expected to be completed by December 2015, well ahead of the funding deadline.



Gregory Developmental Road - damage caused by rainfall and flooding event in February 2014 (top) and following completion of reconstruction works (above)



Kennedy Developmental Road— following completion of reconstruction works following 2014 event damage



State roads affected by the 2014 events

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

North Burnett Regional Council Reconstruction effort underway following Cyclone Marcia

North Burnett Regional Council has started its reconstruction effort to repair over \$10 million worth of damage suffered as a result of Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February this year.

Having only just completed works associated with the 2013 events, Council has already commenced its program of 2015 event works starting on Cannindah Road, which runs north from the Burnett Highway and connects Gladstone - Monto Road in the town of Bancroft.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad said North Burnett Regional Council was well placed to successfully deliver this latest reconstruction program.

“Like many areas of Queensland, North Burnett Regional Council has really been tested by Mother Nature in the past few years and each time Council just gets back on to the job of rebuilding for its community,” Ms Trad said. “Council has done a great job on its Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) reconstruction programs to repair damage from the 2011 and 2013 events, with 2013 in particular causing widespread damage and devastation.”

Since 2011, Council has completed approximately \$135 million worth of reconstruction works under NDRRA.

North Burnett Regional Council Mayor Don Waugh said once again he asked the community for their patience as the reconstruction works were being done.

“We are in the unenviable but all too familiar position of having to rebuild again and are aware that some of the works may inconvenience road users, so please bear with us,” Cr Waugh said. “Council has worked closely with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority on our submissions for NDRRA so we can get on with the job of rebuilding as quickly as possible.”

Council will be working on the most damaged sections of the region first, starting in the Monto area, where the majority of damage occurred. Other areas that restoration works will be carried out on include Gayndah, Mundubbera, Biggenden and Mount Perry.

“Council is aiming to have all reconstruction works completed within twelve months, which is almost a year ahead of the eligible timeframe under the NDRRA,” Cr Waugh said.

North Burnett Regional Council is also eligible to apply for funding as part of the \$20 million Betterment Fund to re-build infrastructure damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia to a stronger, more disaster resilient standard.

Council has first hand experience of the benefits of the betterment program. Following the 2013 flooding and cyclone events, North Burnett was approved for eight projects with a total project cost of approximately \$19 million, including approximately \$7 million from the Betterment Fund. Some of the major projects included the Gayndah Mundubbera Road and the Gayndah Water Intake. Both of these betterment projects were able to withstand the effects of Tropical Cyclone Marcia, remaining functional and with minimal damage.



(left to right) North Burnett Regional Council Program Director Trevor Harvey, Site Supervisor Henry Spletter, Councillor Paul Lobegeir, Deputy Mayor Faye Whelan, Authority Chief Executive Officer Frankie Carroll, Councillor Paul Francis and Therese Seeney inspecting reconstruction works underway at Cannindah Road.

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

Gympie Regional Council Derrier Bridge

Gympie Regional Council has completed work on a new concrete bridge on Derrier Road over Yabba Creek near Imbil. The bridge provides the only maintained road link to important dairying and forestry properties in the area.

The pre-existing 10 metre timber bridge was destroyed by floodwaters as a result of the Tropical Cyclone Oswald event of January 2013.

The new single-lane concrete bridge is 10 metre long and 4.3 wide, the same dimensions as the old timber bridge.

Works included demolishing and removing the old bridge, clearing silt and debris, reconstructing floodway approaches and concrete batters and aprons, and reinstating flood depth indicator and guide posts.

The final cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$550,000, representing a saving of around 15% to the original estimated cost.

Work on the project were completed in June 2015.



Derrier Bridge all but washed away in the 2013 events (top) and



Wallaman Falls Road—damage post event (top) and following completion works (bottom)

Hinchinbrook Shire Council Completion of seven years of reconstruction works

Hinchinbrook Shire Council has completed its 2014 reconstruction bringing an end to seven consecutive years of restoration works from natural disaster events dating back to 2007-08.

Like much of Queensland, Hinchinbrook faced an extremely challenging task to rebuild following the 2011 events with Cyclone Yasi causing damage totalling almost \$100 million. Natural disasters again hit the region in 2012 and 2013 with further reconstruction bills of around \$25 million each year. In comparison, the damage from 2014 disasters was smaller but Council still faced a reconstruction program in excess of \$4 million.

Council has continued to evolve and improve its approach to the reconstruction task across the years and the Authority has worked closely with Council to provide assistance to ensure it could successfully deliver the programs. Council streamlined its submission process to fast track the approvals of the 2013 and 2014 works enabling council to get on with the job of delivering the works in such a short time period.

Significant projects completed in this time include restoration works on Warrens Hill Road, Wallaman Falls Road, Lannercost Extension Road and McIlwraith Street.

Hinchinbrook also had three projects funded from the 2013 Betterment Fund. The betterment projects at Michael Creek Crossing on Mount Fox Road and Palm Creek Crossing on Bosworths Road involved installing or upgrading culverts, concrete floodway and approaches to make the crossings more resilient to flooding. On Old Wharf Road the levee protecting the road was extended and supported with increased rock protection and concrete capping.

**Section four:
Communications**



4.0 Communications

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

4.1 Communicating progress

Media analysis

There has been a total of 165 media items in July 2015 (93 print – 56%, 21 TV – 13%, 51 radio – 31%), which reached a cumulative audience of almost 4 million people, with the focus this month being on ongoing recovery efforts from Tropical Cyclone Marcia, the completion of 2013 works and the announcement of \$40 million for recovery funding in the state budget.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from the current and previous natural disaster events, including articles in B Magazine, Canungra Times, Capricorn Coast Mirror, City North News, The Courier-Mail, Warwick Daily News, Dalby Herald, Fassifern Guardian, Gympie Times, High Country Herald, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Tamborine Times, and the Toowoomba Chronicle; TV coverage on the ABC, Channel 10, Nine, WIN, and Seven networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4RO Rockhampton, 4GR and 4WK Toowoomba, 4BC Brisbane, and 4CA Cairns.

Making news this month was the Queensland Government's announcement of a \$40 million budget allocation for Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council to invest in waterfront rehabilitation and revitalisation projects in the wake of Cyclone Marcia. This saw extensive coverage in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin and Capricorn Coast Mirror, as well as radio and television.

Also making news this month was the completion of major flood mitigation projects in Toowoomba funded under Category D NDRRA funding. These projects included new detention basins in Garnet Lehman Park and Ballin Park, and upgraded detention basins in Spring and Ramsay Streets, which will provide greater flood resilience for the Toowoomba community. The completion received coverage in The Toowoomba Chronicle, High Country Herald, as well as radio coverage on 4WK and 4GR Toowoomba.

Engagement activities

On 30-31 July 2015, **Queensland Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad, Authority Chief Executive Officer Frankie Carroll** along with staff from the Department of Local Government, Infrastructure and Planning attended the Local Government Association of Queensland Bush Councils Convention in St George.

The two-day event was attended by 29 councils, with the Deputy Premier delivering the keynote address including an update on natural disaster funding reform, day labour and plant and equipment hire eligibility.

Communications

The Authority's website provides information to the public and continues to be enhanced with ongoing updates, including information about Betterment projects and current recovery efforts. There have been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 31 July 2015, total website visits amounted to 471,713- a 1% increase since last month.

(See Figure 4.1.1)

In July, the Authority received an additional 16 calls to its dedicated phone line and 221 additional pieces of written correspondence were received. *(See Figure 4.1.2)*

Fig. 4.1.1 Website traffic

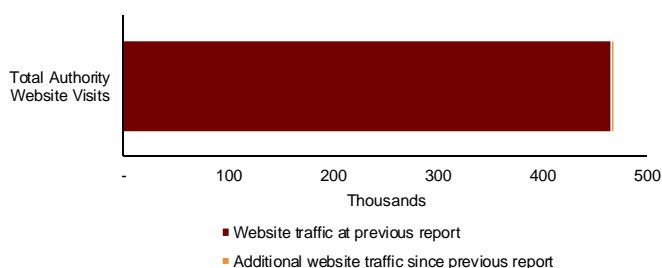
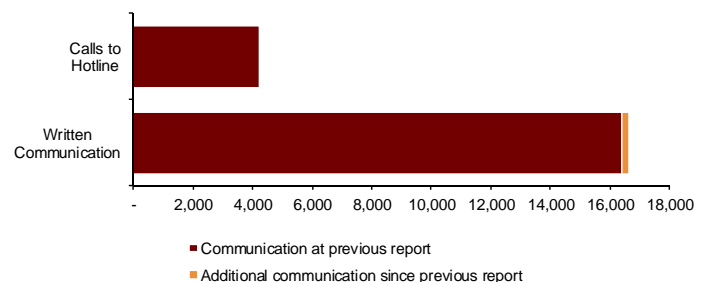


Fig. 4.1.2 Communications



(Source: the Authority at 31 July 2015)

4.2 Media reports



FOR the first time in six years, the Scenic Rim Regional Council offers will not be boosted by Federal and State Disaster Restoration funding.

Mayor John Brent said it was an end to a rolling reconstruction program which began with the flood rains in late 2010.

"It has been a long journey and a significant chapter in the history of this Council, but in moving forward into 2015-16 we can say mission accomplished on disaster restoration," Cr Brent said.

Cr Brent said the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) program funding had provided almost \$110 million.

"This bolstered what would be our normal budget bottom line by approximately 30% over a number of years, but was spent exclusively on the delivery of disaster restoration programs approved by the

Queensland Reconstruction Authority," he said.

"Council also invested \$7.95 million in the delivery of complementary works in association with NDRRA funded projects where it represented value for money or a long-term improvement plan was in place."

Delivery of this significant restoration program, which compounded in cost and complexity due to the impact of three years of declared disaster events, has been a major focus for Council for several years," he said.

"What we have been able to achieve for the Scenic Rim community over this period has been nothing short of outstanding.

"I commend all connected with the restoration program including Council staff and management, project managers AECOM and our numerous restoration contractors."

Fassifern Guardian, 1 July 2015

\$40M STATE BUDGET WIN FOR ROCKY AND YEPPON

BUDGET EXCLUSIVE: Major jobs and tourism boost for region as State Government approves disaster recovery funding for Rocky riverbank and Yeppoon foreshore projects: Details PAGE 5



Margaret Strelow We will deliver an extraordinary Riverbank and Quay Street project using these funds and those allocated in our recent budget.

Bill Ludwig It will generate immediate construction jobs, business and investment confidence as well as deliver the long-term hospitality, tourism and service industry jobs our economy needs.

Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, 14 July 2015

Funding boost from State Govt much-needed

YEPPON'S foreshore has received a massive \$25 million injection from the Palaszczuk Government for critical infrastructure projects in the wake of Cyclone Marcia.

State Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga said Livingstone Shire was one of the hardest-hit areas during Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February.

"Most of the region lost power and communications, hundreds of properties and community facilities were damaged and many businesses lost valuable stock," Ms Lauga said.

"Councils that were hardest hit, including

Livingstone Shire Council, identified important infrastructure projects that would assist in their recovery, and we subsequently sought support from the Federal Government for joint funding under Category D of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

"The Abbott Government did not approve any funding for these important infrastructure projects.

"However, I'm proud to announce that the Palaszczuk Government, in its first budget, is standing up to fill this critical local need.

"We will not abandon our communities on the road to recovery.

"The physical recovery after a cyclone is one aspect of recovery, but the emotional recovery can be just as important.

"This funding will deliver a major cash injection to the local economy, creating jobs and boosting community morale.

Projects such as this assist in bridging the gap between an emergency response and the return to normality, building back not just their homes and community, but their confidence and giving them the resilience they need.

"This project is designed to improve infrastructure and help the community and local economy recover in the short and long term through associated social, tourism, events and recreational infrastructure.

"This is expected to be a catalyst for the staging of new and larger-scale events and festivals generating significant economic benefits and will promote private investment.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to advocate for the Abbott Government to come to the table and provide support for this key project for the community."

Capricorn Coast Mirror, 15 July 2015

Detention basin upgrade completed

THE upgrade of the Spring and Ramsay Sts detention basin in Toowoomba has been completed, bringing improved flood control and now landscaping.

Toowoomba Regional Council's Infrastructure Committee chair Cr Carol Taylor said a larger box culvert had been installed under Spring St along with construction of new headwalls and a low-flow pipe in the basin area.

The upgraded Spring and Ramsay Sts detention basin was designed to provide significant flood mitigation benefits for the city in conjunction with the Garnet Lehmann Park and Ballin Drive Park detention basins and East Creek culvert upgrades at South and Mary Sts, Cr Taylor

said.

The Spring and Ramsay Sts detention basin will capture overflow from that enters the system from the catchment area south of the site. During large flood events, water will be temporarily stored in the basin and slowly released.

During lower rainfall events, the water will pass under the basin surface through a low-flow pipe into the inlet near the Jubilee St end where it will travel down the East Creek system.

Cr Taylor said the upgrade also included landscaping work and construction of indigenous oaks in Ramsay St and Spring St which would help during drop-off and pick-up times at nearby

Middle Ridge State School.

The appearance of the basin area had also been improved with the planting of extra trees and garden areas and turfing.

Additional landscaping work had also been done along Jubilee St to help beautify the area.

The additional trees and shrubs are designed to complement the existing species at the basin.

The upgrade also included installation of a new shelter, a water bubbler and seats.

The project was funded through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements which includes a joint State and Commonwealth contribution of \$20 million with council contributing \$5 million.

Toowoomba Chronicle, 9 July 2015

Toowoomba Chronicle, 6 July 2015

Rebuilt Middle Road ready for traffic

Middle Road at Anduramba is about to be opened to the public, after a \$3.7 million reconstruction.

Middle Road now becomes the main access to the Anduramba district from Crown Nest, after Anduramba Range Road was washed out in the 2011 floods, rebuilt, then washed out again in 2013.

It became too difficult and too costly for the Toowoomba Regional Council to be able to transfer State Government flood reconstruction funding from yet another attempt to fix the Anduramba Range Road, to the rebuilding of Middle Road as the main access.

Middle Road is in two sections, firstly from Pierces Creek Road (Crown Nest to Blackbutt Road) to the Vonhoff Road intersection, which was bitumen sealed, and was not part of the reconstruction project. Contractors FKG concentrated on the 5km section from the Vonhoff Road intersection to the McGreery Road intersection near the Anduramba Hill.

The road was gravel with blind crests, tight bends, gullies and hills, and a floodway. FKG redesigned sections of the road, cut crests, filled the bottom of valleys and paved it with seven-metre wide bitumen, providing 3-metre lanes and shoulders of half a metre. The paving was wider on some bends.

They also rebuilt the McGreery Road intersection and rebuilt 130 metres of McGreery Road in the northerly direction, and 300 metres to the Anduramba Hill.

This section to the Anduramba Hill was also

raised because the site is prone to water flows.

The project started on March 4 and completed on June 30. The period included 20 wet days, resulting in one month lost to the weather.

The floodway near the McGreery Road intersection is 180 metres long, and a concrete surface has been used rather than bitumen. It is one metre higher than previously and has a Q1 flood rating.

The total project included 23,000 cubic metres of earthworks. Some gullies have four metres of fill.

There are 20 culverts plus two on McGreery Road and most of the 375mm culvert pipes have been replaced with 1200mm by 600mm reinforced box culverts.

Despite the earthworks, Middle Road still has some steep sections although short in distance, with the steepest slope of 14 percent.

During construction, traffic was diverted onto Vonhoff Road. But access for local landholders had to be maintained.

The school bus used Vonhoff Road and the contractor received commendation from the bus company after a construction vehicle escorted the bus along the bypass road to ensure it was safe.

A milk tanker had different problems. It had to pick-up on a farm on Middle Road every two days or so and had to be pulled through wet areas by a grader on more than one occasion as it negotiated road works.

Cr Carol Taylor, leader of the council infrastructure portfolio, said the community

would be pleased to have the road opened. She said they had been very patient and thought that, for the vast majority, using Middle Road will add five minutes to most journeys, compared to previously when the Anduramba Range Road was available. Most trucks travelling between

Toowoomba and Crown Nest are expected to use Maria Creek Road and Middle Road rather than Bluff Road which has a steep section.

High Country Herald, 7 July 2015

Project plaudits

New Farm's Riverwalk earned a gong at the Master Builders Brisbane Housing and Construction Awards. The project won a construction award, along with the inner-north's Kurv Newstead building and Fortitude Valley's Tryp hotel.

City North News, 16 July 2015

Budget bonus huge boost

Christine McKee
christine.mckee@grnews.com.au

LIVINGSTONE'S Mayor calls it a "game-changer" and Rockhampton Region's Mayor says it's the beginning of the city's renaissance.

It's the State Government funding both mayors have desperately needed to upgrade their cities' waterfront precincts.

Before the dust had time to settle on the Rockhampton's first River Festival, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad said the state would commit \$15 million in today's budget to a riverfront upgrade.

Livingstone Shire Council will also receive \$25 million in the budget for its foreshore redevelopment.

Both projects together are expected to support about 400 construction jobs.

"This is the best news we could have hoped for," Livingstone Mayor Bill

in backing this iconic regional project... It will generate immediate construction jobs, business and investment confidence, as well as deliver the ongoing long-term hospitality, tourism and service industry jobs our region's economy needs."

Cr Ludwig said it was now important for the Federal Government to come on board with the region through the National Stronger Regions Fund.

He said given what the region had gone through, it would be a huge disappointment if the Federal Government did not back Yeppoon's foreshore redevelopment project.

Rockhampton Regional Mayor Margaret Strelow was also grateful to the State Government.

"We received the amount we asked for and we will deliver an extraordinary riverbank and Quay St project using these funds and those allocated in our recent budget," she said.

"Job creation will be front

and centre... we are

evaluating the steps and resources required to make Rockhampton a "smart city", that embraces cutting-edge technology to retain and attract high-tech and high-paying job generators, and the accompanying creative industry leaders that will make us a 21st Century leader.

"The end result will be a vibrant and active city centre with a lot more jobs, a lot more things to do, a lot more pride, and importantly a very different view of what Rockhampton has to offer."

RRC has engaged Urfin, an internationally renowned planning and design firm to develop the riverfront transformation game plan.

Master planning on the attract CBD area is expected to start soon.

Both efforts embrace Smart City concepts and according to the mayor, "lay the foundation for a very bright future".

Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, 14 July 2015

Dalby Herald, 31 July 2015

Small bridge, big relief

Dairy and forestry properties linked once more



ANOTHER REGIONAL REPORTER

gympieregionalcouncil.com.au

Gympie Regional Council yesterday bridged a major gap for two important local industries, after the flood devastation the area suffered in 2011.

Mayor Mick Curran joined his deputy, Larry Frislie, and council construction and maintenance manager Grayden Curry at Durrer Rd where the bridge provided a link to important dairy and forestry properties.

A council spokesperson yesterday said the bridge had restored what was the only maintained road serving those properties.

Since the former timber bridge was all but washed away during the floods, the spokesperson said.

The new \$300,000 single-lane concrete bridge was built by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, she said.

Construction was funded by the Federal Government (25%) and the Queensland Government (25%), the spokesperson said.

Construction was funded by the Federal Government (25%) and the Queensland Government (25%), the spokesperson said.

Gympie Times, 31 July 2015

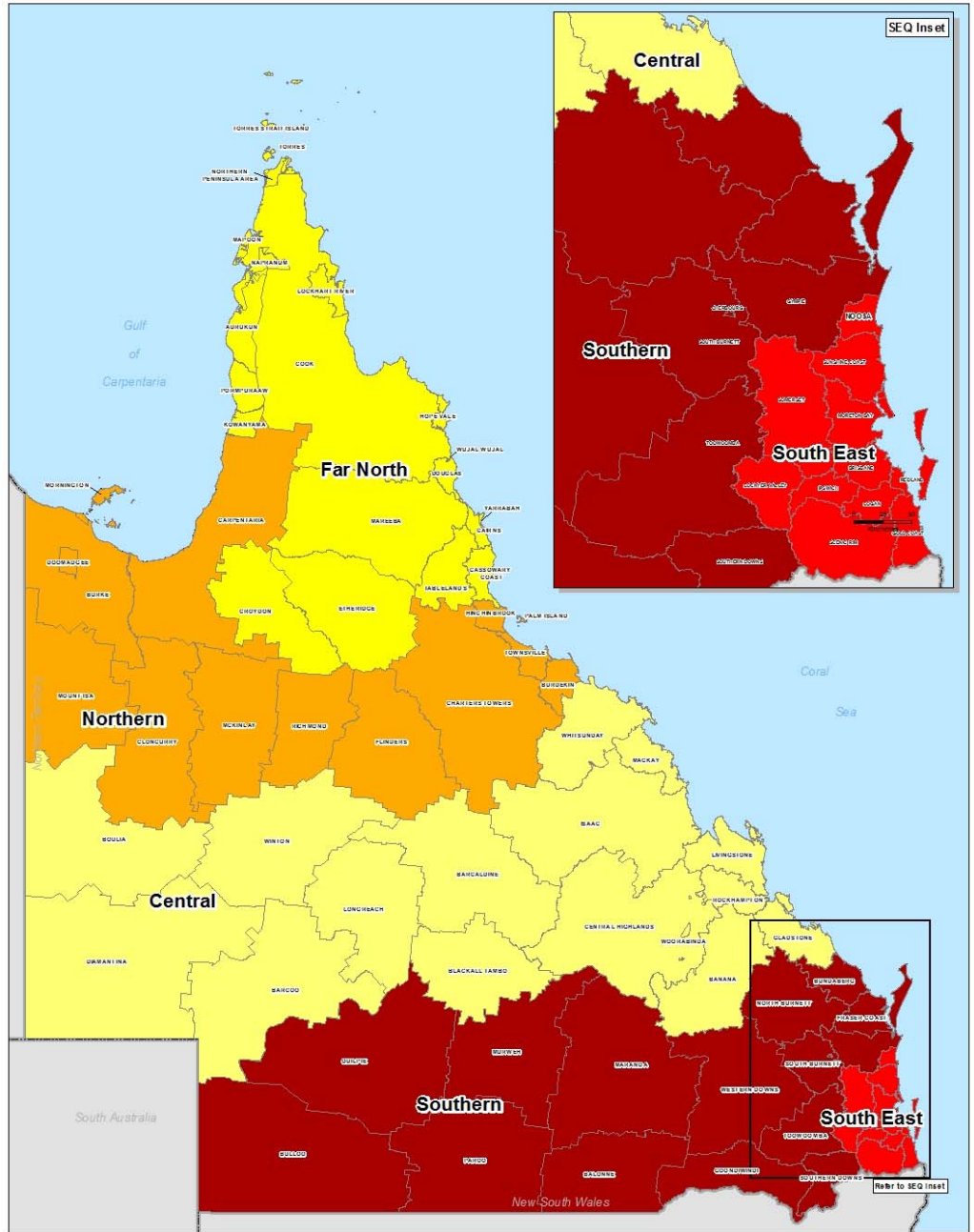


LINA REID FOR D: Deputy Mayor Larry Frislie, construction manager Grayden Curry and Mayor Mick Curran bridge the sometimes troubled waters of Yabba Creek. PHOTO: 2015 WJLW

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	
	CfSC 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 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	
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		



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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