

Monthly Report

November 2018

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Disaster Assistance

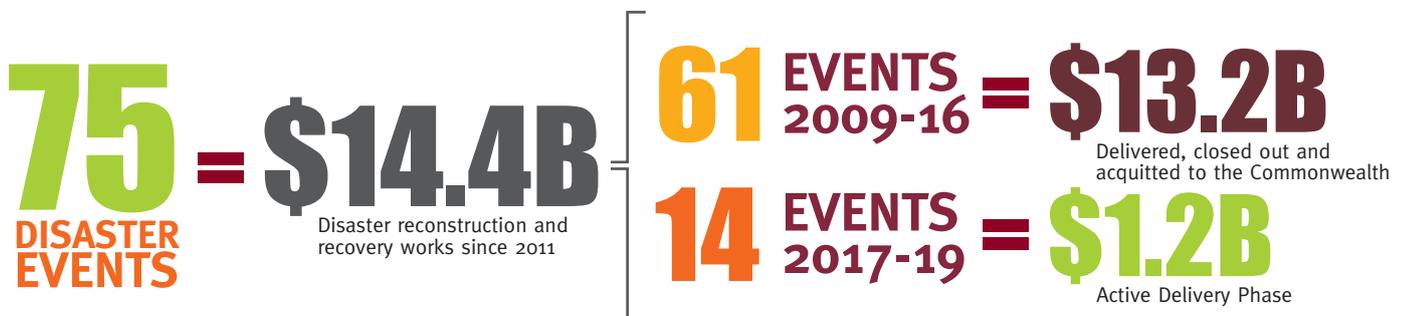
Overview

QRA has responsibility to administer Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) measures in Queensland, coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities.

Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated \$14.4 billion of disaster reconstruction and recovery works for 75 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

Since last month, the state experienced its first activation for 2018-19 for the *Wide Bay-Burnett Severe Storms, 11-14 October 2018* event. This event will be the final event administered under the NDRRA, with all events occurring from 1 November 2018 to be administered under the new DRFA.

The list of activated disaster events is found on www.disaster.qld.gov.au.



NDRRA

Although the disaster funding arrangements transitioned to DRFA from 1 November 2018, the state will continue to administer and submit claims under the existing NDRRA Determination for a three year period whilst the existing NDRRA program for the 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 Event disaster programs are finalised.

With an allowable time limit of two financial years to deliver reconstruction works, \$13.2 billion of works from 61 events across the 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 events have been delivered and works worth \$1.2 billion for the remaining 14 events from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 event periods are currently in the delivery phase (Delivery Program).

Of the total program, \$13.1 billion of completed works have been closed out and acquitted in audited claims, with the remaining \$1.3 billion from the 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 events to be acquitted in annual claims through to 2021 following completion of works.

DRFA

The DRFA arrangements are now operational and apply to any disaster events that occur from 1 November 2018. No events have yet occurred to which DRFA will apply.

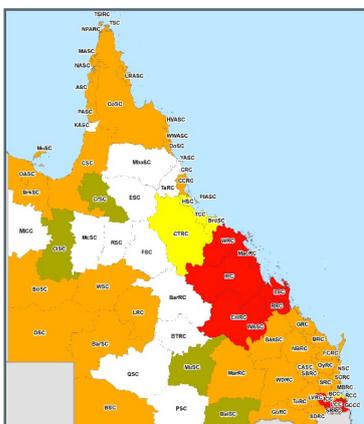
The main change under DRFA relative to the existing NDRRA model is that natural disaster recovery funding for the restoration of essential public assets will be based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs rather than reimbursement of actual costs incurred. DRFA also provides the potential for the state to retain savings delivered in the state's restoration program for allocation to disaster mitigation and resilience projects.

Disaster Assistance

Activations

oneNDRRA activation new in October 2018

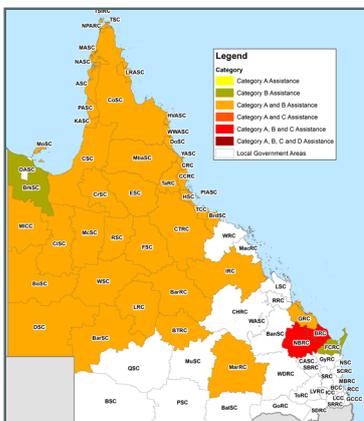
The information below shows the LGAs activated for NDRRA relief measures for the 2017 to 2019 event periods that are still in the delivery phase.



2017 Events – \$796 million NDRRA program

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

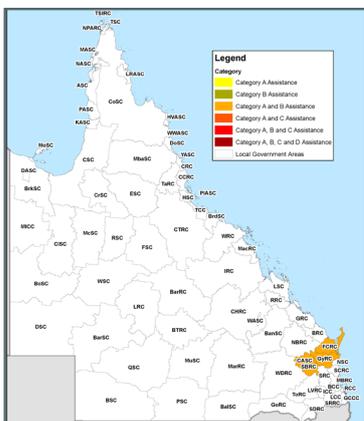
- Far North Queensland Trough, 21-28 March 2017
- Far North Queensland Trough, 3-10 February 2017
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, associated rainfall & flooding, 28 March – 6 April 2017
- Gulf Tropical Low, 15-24 February 2017
- Far North Queensland Low, 8-11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding, 13-20 September 2016
- Central Queensland Severe Weather, 15-20 July 2016



2018 Events – \$437 million NDRRA program

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2020, with acquittal by March 2021)

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora and Associated Flooding, 24-29 March 2018
- North Queensland Flooding, 6-10 March 2018
- North and North West Queensland Low and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 24 Feb – 8 Mar 2018
- Central Queensland Storm, 20 February 2018
- Cape York Queensland Trough, 26 January – 2 February 2018
- Central Coast Queensland Severe Weather, 16 – 19 October 2017



2019 Events – <\$1 million NDRRA program

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2021, with acquittal by March 2022)

- Wide Bay-Burnett Severe Storms, 11-14 October 2018
(activated in October 2018)

Disaster Assistance

NDRRA Delivery Program status

At the beginning of November, QRA completed a full review of the state’s NDRRA program estimates.

The review is undertaken on a regular basis and involves a complete review of the active NDRRA program of each local government authority (LGA) and state agency. The review included updated estimates for the 2017 and 2018 events, which are in the delivery phase, and preliminary final costs for the 2016 event works, which were completed by 30 June 2018. A preliminary estimate was also developed for the first event that has recently occurred in the 2019 event period.

The **Delivery Program** comprises \$1.2 billion of works for 14 events across the 2018 and 2019 Events.

The status of the Delivery Program by event year is as follows:



2017 Events

Across the 2017 disaster season, 62 councils were activated for NDRRA assistance from seven events, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$796 million.

To date, approximately 97 per cent of funding submissions for the 2017 events have been approved, and QRA is actively working with delivery agents to progress the reconstruction program through the delivery phase. Delivery agents have until 30 June 2019 to deliver eligible NDRRA works.

Weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting, all delivery agents have reported that they expect to complete works within the deadline, except for Whitsunday Regional Council’s Shute Harbour project which has experienced delays due to geo-technical complexities. An extension of time request has been submitted to the Commonwealth for this project.

2018 Events

Across the 2018 disaster season, 48 councils were activated across six disaster events at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$437 million.

To date, approximately 38 per cent of funding submissions for the 2018 events have been approved, and QRA is assisting delivery agents to prepare submissions and progress into delivery for the remaining program.

Delivery agents have until 30 June 2020 to deliver eligible NDRRA works from the 2018 events.

2019 Events

One event has occurred to date in the 2019 Event year – *Wide Bay-Burnett Severe Storms, 11-14 October 2018* event. Three councils were activated for the event with preliminary damage estimates less than \$1 million.

Progress of recovery against this event will be included in the Delivery Program following the next estimates review at February 2019.

This event will be the final event administered under the NDRRA, with all events occurring from 1 November 2018 to be administered under the new DRFA.



Note: % Spend will highlight green if tracking above time elapsed or red if tracking behind

Disaster Assistance

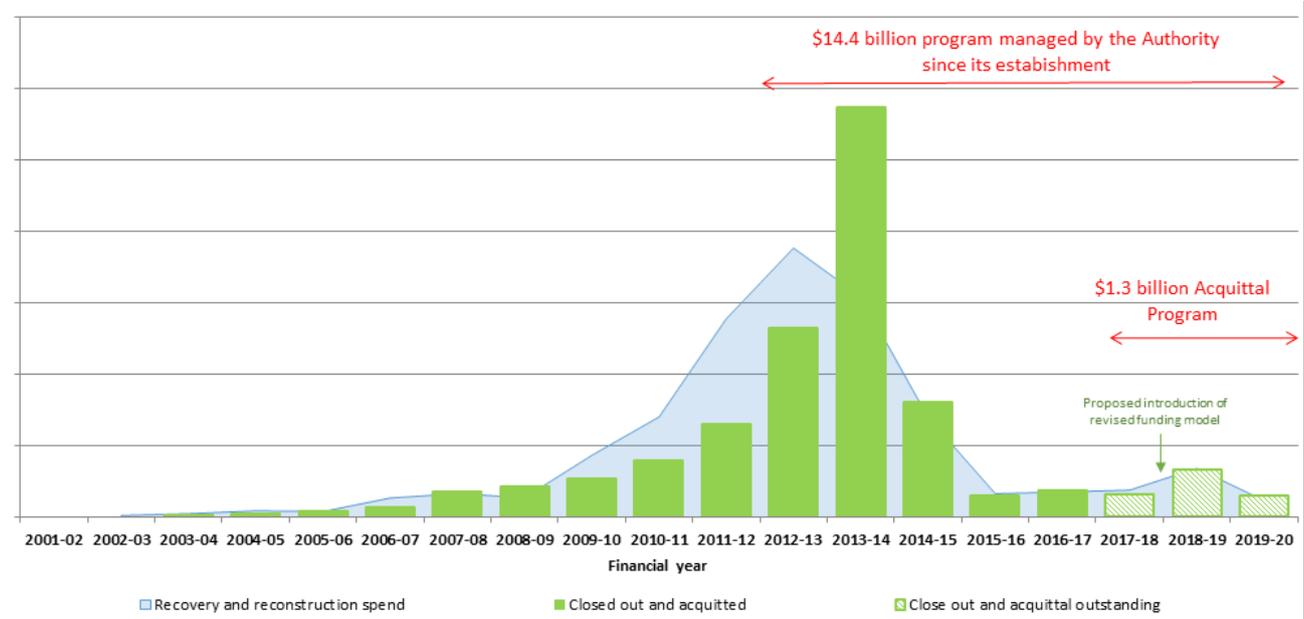
NDRRA Acquittal Program status



The **Acquittal Program** comprises \$1.3 billion works that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth, and is spread across the 14 events from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Events in the Delivery Program, the works from the 2016 event period that were completed in the year up to the deadline for delivery on 30 June 2018 and a small number of projects from the 2015 event period that received extensions of time for delivery.

Queensland’s next Claim for NDRRA works completed in the 2017-18 financial year is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2019. The 2017-18 Claim is estimated to acquit approximately \$320 million of NDRRA expenditure. QRA is currently gathering and processing close out documentation for delivery agents for completed works due to be acquitted in the Claim.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2016-17 financial years and preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2017-18 to 2019-20 in order to finalise the Acquittal Program.



Disaster Assistance

Additional Recovery Measures – Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie (2017)

A range of NDRRA and non-NDRRA relief measures have been activated to alleviate distress for communities, businesses, industries and the environment impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND NDRRA CATEGORY C \$14.9M

- Fund to support initiatives and projects over a two-year period to restore social networks and build community resilience and capacity for the future in the Gold Coast, Isaac, Logan City, Mackay, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim and Whitsunday council areas.
- The Queensland Government Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and Queensland Health are delivering three support programs to individuals and community mental health and community development programs, with detailed status reports provided on a quarterly basis.

Package Purpose and status	Key metrics to date	
Individual Support Program (DCDSS) \$6.12m funding available		
Financial Counselling Financial Counsellors have assisted families provide budget support for household, education and finance related expenditure through programs including Money Ready, Parent Next and Budgeting for the Unexpected	Hrs direct service user contact Service users case plans closed	5,328 376
Personal Support Counsellors are working across impacted regions in direct contact through general counselling and support to individuals experiencing personal, social or emotional difficulties. Individuals are also being referred to other existing support services where relevant. Service demand has significantly increased in the quarter, particularly service users from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds	Hrs direct service user contact Service users with improved quality of life	12,695 2,182
Targeted Family Support Counselling and support to families, addressing the heightened sensitivities of families following the impact of STC Debbie on their emotional and economic wellbeing. The programs help build the skills and capabilities of families so they are more resilient in the long term.	Family Support online programs activated	284
Community Mental Health Program (QHealth) \$6.126m funding available		
To support emotional wellbeing of disaster-affected individuals, carers, families & communities, through mental health support. Mental Health Screening continues in all regions with clients being referred to appropriate mental health services as part of the program delivery. Clear referral pathways have been established and are resulting in referrals of 'severe and complex cases' through to specialist and targeted mental health services. Interagency collaboration continues with mental health teams across all regions actively engaged with schools, state agencies, non-government organisations neighbourhood centres and community groups. This broad engagement, especially from schools, continues to be a source of new referrals. Resilience programming has been well received and has demonstrated that members of the community are motivated to cope and learn skills for future emergencies.	People assessed Clients Clinical hours	5,931 220 6,827
Community Development Program (DCDSS) \$2.38m funding available		
This quarter focussed on disaster preparedness and community recovery activities across all regions with Community Development Officers (CDO) actively involved with presentations and developing guides for use in recovery. All CDOs participated in the roll out of Operation "Knock Knock"; a new multi-agency, state-wide initiative aimed at raising awareness of the importance of resilience, preparation for hazards, and community connectedness. A highlight of this quarter was the delivery of educational sessions for Transcultural Mental Health and community members from Indigenous and CALD communities.	Hours developing & delivering events Hours developing resources tools Hours on training and learning	5,957 7,909 1,189
Reporting and Evaluation (DCDSS/QRA) \$288k funding available		
The Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) reviewers have completed their field visits and are compiling a final draft report.		

EXCEPTIONAL NDRRA DISASTER MEASURES CATEGORY D \$96.3M

Package	Purpose	Status
Local Council Package (\$17.3 million)	<p>Infrastructure projects to generate employment, boost the local economy and drive community resilience in key impact areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shute Harbour Marina (\$15.2 million) – demolish and replace the existing jetty, rebuild the terminal building, repair an existing seawall, and replace ancillary infrastructure • Airlie Beach repairs, Whitsundays (\$850k) – for repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitsunday Regional Council has engaged a design consultant for Shute Harbour. Demolition works on the Lloyd Roberts jetty and terminal building were completed in July 2018. • Unforeseen geotechnical complexities and identification of coral bommies within the construction area has resulted in delays to project design, impacting the project completion date. QRA submitted an Extension of Time application to Emergency Management Australia on 31 July 2018, requesting a 12 months extension for delivery to 30 June 2020. • Detailed design is completed for the Airlie Beach foreshore parklands. The construction works have commenced and are expected to be completed March 2019, weather permitting.
Resilient Infrastructure (Betterment) (\$41.9 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To restore or replace essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard. • The normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard is funded under Category B NDRRA and the incremental cost to 'better' the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard is funded by a capped allocation from the Betterment fund and Council contributions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received from eligible councils activated for Category B (REPA) seeking \$114 million. • 83 projects have been approved worth \$41.9 million, fully allocating the Betterment funding across 22 councils. • 13 projects have been completed and a further 31 have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2019.
Environmental Recovery Package (\$35 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, including the clean-up of beaches, recreational parks, rivers and waterways • \$35 million of the Environmental Recovery Package across five areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Coastal B. Environmental C. Riparian D. Mapping E. Water Courses 	<p>A & B (Coastal, Environmental) – \$19.4 million</p> <p>EOIs were received from 14 of 37 eligible Councils seeking \$31.5 million.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 submissions worth more than \$19.2 million has been approved to date across 15 Councils. • 26 projects have been completed and a further 10 projects have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2019. <p>C, D & E (Riparian, Mapping, Water Courses) – \$15.6 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following receipt of EOIs from seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies, all funding has been allocated to eligible projects. • This program of work is approximately 52% complete.
Economic Recovery Package (\$2.1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support recovery of industry and businesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture & Fisheries has Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) in impacted areas across five primary industries including nursery, grazing and cropping, horticulture, sugarcane and dairy. • Rural financial counselling services are delivering support on the ground and IROs have been assisting primary producers with Category C Recovery Grant applications to QRIDA. Agronomic advice is being provided to farmers on a needs basis.

Disaster Assistance

STATE PACKAGES \$62M

The state has committed to fund the full \$110 million of additional assistance measures that it would have funded under its original Category D proposal to the Commonwealth following STC Debbie. Of this, the State will fund an additional \$62 million of recovery measures in addition to its \$48 million (50 per cent) contribution to the \$96 million NDRRA Category D packages approved by the Commonwealth.

Key projects announced to date for state funding for additional recovery measures to repair damage and revitalise impacted regions following STC Debbie include:

- \$8.8 million will go towards revitalising the iconic tourism destinations of Mackay's Bluewater Trail and Queens Park.
- \$5 million has been committed for repairs to the Whitsunday Regional Council Administration Building in Proserpine, which was badly damaged by STC Debbie and serves as the region's local disaster coordination centre.
- \$4.562 million is being provided to determine the best long-term solutions to help prevent erosion prior to sand replenishment at Midge Point and Lamberts Beach and the construction of new rock groynes on St Helens Beach in Mackay.
- \$2.65 million towards the revitalisation of the Airlie Beach Foreshore. Additional funding is being provided through the state's Building our Regions program (\$2.83 million) and Category D (\$850,000).
- \$500,000 for the restoration of Proserpine Entertainment Centre.
- \$1 million to Toowoomba Regional Council to contribute towards a new regional SES headquarters in Charlton.
- \$895,000 to Whitsunday Regional Council for the rectification of the Bowen Front Beach Seawall.



Replenishment works underway at Midge Point Beach – October 2018

Recovery and Resilience

QRA is leading disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy in Queensland.

Resilience grant funding programs

Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

\$15M
FUNDING AVAILABLE
NDRP

Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) supports community groups, government and non-government agencies, as well as Queensland based not-for-profits, to build disaster resilience across the state.

The 2017-18 NDRP is administered by QRA with total funding available of \$15 million, comprising \$12 million of new funding for 2017-18 and \$3 million of program savings from earlier funding rounds.

Applications were received for 207 projects seeking \$97 million NDRP funding in the 2017-18 funding round.

Funding of \$14.3 million was allocated in June 2018 to 72 approved projects. An additional \$557,000 was allocated to four projects in September 2018 following the transfer of additional savings realised from prior year NDRP programs. A total of \$14.9 million of funds has now been allocated to 76 approved projects from 54 councils and 13 organisations and agencies.



Disaster Resilience Fund

\$38M
OVER 4 YEARS

The Queensland Government announced a \$38 million Disaster Resilience Fund in the 2018-19 Budget to strengthen the state's resilience to future disasters. The Disaster Resilience Fund will be administered by QRA.

DRF

The fund will support local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations in delivering disaster mitigation projects and initiatives that build resilience throughout the state over the next four years in parallel with disaster reconstruction works.

The Disaster Resilience Fund aligns with the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, which identifies a need for the state to invest in resilience and mitigation projects that:

- address the state's assessed natural disaster risks and the potential impacts of climate change
- align with locally led risk, vulnerability and capability assessments; and consider local and district priorities
- support communities to build resilience to future natural disaster events through education and awareness programs, and
- protect existing essential public infrastructure from future natural disaster events.

QRA is currently preparing the framework for allocation of DRF funding and related program guidelines, for release in 2018-19.

Recovery and Resilience

Other Recovery and Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
Resilient Queensland 2018-2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience	Resilient Queensland 2018-21 was released on 31 May 2018 and represents the plan for implementing the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QRA has undertaken a stocktake and analysis of the last nine years of state and/or Commonwealth funded activities contributing to improved disaster resilience at the local level, for reporting to the new Queensland Resilience Coordination Committee (QRCC) to provide insight into future policy and project initiatives. The inaugural QRCC meeting was held on 20 September 2018 QRA is working with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to ensure QRCC governance arrangements are aligned with proposed changes to the remit of the State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG).
Resilient Queensland pilot projects	<p>Pilot projects to facilitate delivery of improved flood resilience on a catchment scale, and to support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans.</p> <p>The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy was a pilot project in partnership with Bundaberg, Cherbourg, North Burnett and South Burnett councils.</p> <p>The purpose of the pilots are to test and evaluate the relevant methodologies for potential State-wide application.</p> <p>The pilot projects are now being developed across additional regions in close partnership with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy was officially released at the Floodplain Management Australia conference on 31 May 2018, followed by a panel session with QRA and council representatives. The delivery of final reports and communication packages (including website with an interactive map and case studies) has been provided for endorsement by the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils (WBBROC) (as steering committee for the project). Resilient Queensland pilot projects are now being developed in Central Western Queensland, the Mary and Fitzroy River regions. NDRP funds have been approved for Resilient Queensland pilot work including funding Regional Resilience Coordinators for both the Burnett and the Central West Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD). The Regional Resilience Coordinator for the Burnett commenced on 18 September 2018. Initial planning and Council engagement is well underway in all pilots, with co-design workshops held with RAPAD and Fitzroy Councils in late August and early September respectively and the Mary River Region in October/early November. Continued Council and stakeholder engagement is occurring with all pilot locations throughout November.
Recovery Capability Development	<p>Recovery from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and IGEM's 2017 Disaster Management Plan Assessment Report highlighted the varying levels of recovery capability across local governments.</p> <p>The Recovery Capability Development Project aims to address gaps in recovery capability through a series of training workshops and exercises.</p> <p>The project is being developed and delivered collaboratively with state government and local recovery partners in 3 stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial Engagement 2. Training and Exercise Package Development 3. Training and Exercise Delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 for the 21 identified priority governments is now complete. Phase 2, Training and Exercise Package development is nearing completion. The training package on Data Collection Impact Assessment has been sent to QFES to confirm alignment with their training modules. Phase 3 training has been delivered to eleven local governments. Engagement with the remaining councils is continuing to confirm suitable dates for workshops and recovery capability development. Confirmed dates for Phase 3 training for local governments in the first tranche of the project are Scenic Rim Regional Council 2 November, Hinchinbrook 20 November, Maranoa Regional Council 22 November and Rockhampton 12 December 2018. Six Far North Indigenous Councils are being provided assistance to write their local recovery plans (Kowanyama, Mapoon, Napranum, Yarrabah, Aurukun, Northern Peninsular) across November/December 2018. A recovery Masterclass in Community Participation is scheduled for 20 November. Participants will include selected Emergency Management Coordinators, invited QRA staff and broader recovery staff across Queensland Government.
Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies	<p>The Queensland Government, through QRA and partner agencies, and local councils (Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley) 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 (SFMP) that will guide a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Flood Study is complete and available to the public following its launch on 5 May 2017. The Flood Study supports the development of a draft SFMP, which is underway and scheduled for release in early 2019. A range of regional scale opportunities are being investigated as part of the SFMP including structural mitigation options, disaster management, land use planning, community awareness and resilience, building controls and integrated catchment management. Detailed Local Floodplain Management Plans (LFMPs) will commence in late 2018.

Recovery and Resilience

Other Recovery and Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
Flood Warning Gauge Network Program	QRA continues to assist the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) to ensure the best available information is available for providing flood warnings and forecasts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QRA is reviewing the status of the Network Investment Plans with councils with regards to implementation of recommendations. QRA is reviewing the status of each of the councils' Network Investment Plans with regards to the implementation of recommendations.
North Stradbroke Island Bushfire Management Plan	<p>QRA and Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) are partnering to deliver Township Bushfire Management Plans for Point Lookout (Mooloomba), Amity (Pulan Pulan) and Dunwich (Goompi).</p> <p>QRA is undertaking this project in partnership with QYAC with support from the Department of Environment and Science.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional feedback from QFES is being considered prior to handover of the plans to Department of Environment and Science. Community information sessions have occurred in the communities of the three townships. A short video has been produced in conjunction with QYAC to promote the concept of the bushfire management plans on North Stradbroke Island. Engagement with state government departments for implementation and handover is underway. This project won the Community Award at the 2018 Queensland Resilient Australia Awards, announced in October 2018.
Operation Queensland Recovery Plan and reporting (2017 Recovery Plan)	<p>The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery following STC Debbie.</p> <p>The plan focuses on empowering local governments, supported by state agencies, to deliver local solutions to ensure communities lead their own recovery and build resilience for future events. The Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans for the eight most severely impacted council areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2017 Operation Queensland Recovery Plan was tabled in Queensland Parliament and publicly released on 9 May 2017. QRA is continuing to work closely with the Mackay and Whitsunday councils, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Senior, Queensland Health and recovery partners to assist these entities address the recovery issues facing impacted residents after STC Debbie, including raising insurance matters with the Insurance Council of Australia, progressing reconstruction of property and connecting residents in need with targeted recovery services.
Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework	QRA is collaborating with government and industry to develop the Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework (QDRMIF) to provide guidance on effective investment prioritisation to support building resilience and mitigating disasters across Queensland. The QDRMIF defines key principles for investment in disaster resilience and mitigation, and articulates how an investment contributes value to Queensland's broader resilience agenda. It is informed by international and national approaches and recognised the significant work that has already been undertaken in this space across the state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of KPMG in July 2018 to develop the QDRMIF. Two multi-stakeholder workshops were held on 13 September 2018 for early engagement and input for framework from stakeholders. A Future State Workshop was held on 10 October 2018 to review Draft Framework and ensure buy-in from other state agencies and LGAQ. Final draft framework has been circulated to stakeholders for consultation.
Review of NDRRA- Support to Individuals and Families	The review will assess the efficacy of government financial support arrangements for the relief of individuals and families who have been impacted by eligible disasters. It may provide options for revisions to current arrangements to improve efficiencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data analysis, financial modelling and literature review completed. Review expected to complete late 2018.

Program spotlights

MARS has lift off!

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has reached a significant milestone with the transition to a new funding model and a new grants management system.

The new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) will apply to all events from 1 November 2018 and will be processed using the new QRA-developed Management and Reporting System, known as MARS.

The launch of MARS and its new portal for Queensland's local councils and state agencies allows QRA and applicants to work in the same system, sharing functionality and mapping integration to support better quality submissions and assessments.

For future events, applicants will have the opportunity to log in, request activation for events, build and lodge submissions, and view their own road network. MARS will support all parts of a submission lifecycle in one user-friendly system that can be accessed by all applicants at any time.

Feedback from councils across 11 DRFA and MARS training sessions indicates QRA's stakeholders are excited about using MARS and can see the potential to streamline the process of submission lodgement and assessment.

QRA CEO Brendan Moon said the development and roll-out of MARS has been a truly collaborative effort between the MARS delivery team and the broader QRA.

"Change Champions and Subject Matter Experts representing their teams have been instrumental to the development and transition to the new system," Brendan said.

"It is important we continue to work together, supporting each other and our applicants through this transition, particularly through the first events to be managed under DRFA and MARS," he said.

Feedback from councils and state agencies during recent training sessions had been overwhelmingly positive.



QRA representatives Emma Scarborough and RLO Tom Hart demonstrate MARS to officers from Gladstone Regional Council

92 per cent of participants said they like the look and feel and 95 per cent of respondents described MARS as user friendly. To assist users, QRA has also developed a flexible online guidance system called WalkMe to step users through each task when using MARS with 90 per cent of participants saying they feel confident they could complete the training exercises again using only the online WalkMe assistant.

The future looks bright for MARS and the DRFA to do their bit to make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in the nation.

Program spotlights

It's time to Get Ready Queensland!

Wild weather across the state in early October provided a timely reminder to Get Ready for the summer storm season.

On Monday 8 October 2018, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk joined Minister responsible for QRA Cameron Dick as well as Chairman Major-General Dick Wilson and CEO Brendan Moon as they launched Get Ready Queensland Week in Brisbane's Queen Street Mall, kicking off a week of activities around the state.

Get Ready Queensland Week encourages all Queenslanders to be prepared for whatever Mother Nature has in store this summer.

The launch was supported by Brisbane City Council and coincided with the Bureau of Meteorology's release of the Severe Weather and Tropical Cyclone Outlooks for 2018-19.



A joint effort at the Disaster Preparedness Hub at the launch of Get Ready Queensland Week



QRA's CEO Brendan Moon and Chairman Major-General Dick Wilson accompany Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Minister Cameron Dick in the Queen Street Mall



The Premier and Minister met with scouts trying out QRA's virtual reality Get Ready game



QRA CEO Brendan Moon spreading the Get Ready message urging Queenslanders to check their 'WHAT-IF' plan

Program spotlights

Queenslanders awarded for building resilience

Four innovative projects from across Queensland have been recognised for making communities safer and better prepared for natural disasters and emergencies at the 2018 Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards.

The awards ceremony was hosted by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and took place at South Bank on the evening of 11 October 2018 as part of the state's Get Ready Week activities.

QRA would like to acknowledge the work of all the finalists at this year's awards, with teams from as far north as Wujal Wujal, Hope Vale and Cook down to Moreton Bay and North Stradbroke Island in the south.

The Queensland Resilient Australia Award finalists are all building resilience to natural disasters in their communities and, in many cases, have highlighted the benefits of working in partnership.

All the Queensland Resilient Australia Awards winners have developed resilience building to natural disasters in their communities and in doing so they have highlighted the benefits of working in partnership.

The Wide Bay Regional Organisation of Councils was a joint winner of the Government Award for the Burnett River Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy, which was the first floodplain management plan to bring together four councils to manage flood risk on a regional scale.

This was a locally-led, regionally coordinated and state supported approach to managing flood risk across the Bundaberg, Cherbourg, North Burnett and South Burnett council areas in the Burnett River Catchment.

Moreton Bay Regional Council, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Police Service were also joint award winners for the 'My Resilient Community' project, which is a collaboration between government and non-government agencies, business, volunteers and community organisations to deliver customised local community resilience strategies.

Delivering resilience was also recognised in the Community Award, which was jointly won by the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) for their work in developing the Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) Bushfire Management Plans.

Whitsunday Regional Council won the photography award for Cyclone Resilience – Whitsunday Water which captured the Whitsunday Water team after Tropical Cyclone Debbie working in a temporary office run by generators where they worked 18-20 hours a day for two weeks trying to restore services to the region. A truly resilient team in a resilient community!

The winners of the 'My Resilient Community' project were selected to represent Queensland at the national Resilient Australia Awards, on Thursday 8 November 2018.



QRA Chair Major-General Dick Wilson with the Queensland winners of the 2018 Resilient Australia Awards

Program spotlights

Major milestone for Sarina Range restoration

As repairs progress at the main landslip site on Sarina Range – after the slope was damaged by the effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March 2017 – Transport and Main Roads has installed a reinforced soil wall at the main slip site to provide stability for the restored roadway.

Due to the extent of the landslip, it was identified that the existing shotcrete and soil nails had failed and needed to be removed from the down slope beneath the failed section of road. This resulted in the need to excavate the road to a depth of 6 metres along a 50-metre stretch.

An options analysis was undertaken to determine the preferred restoration option considering safety, efficiency, value-for-money and constructability to reinstate the road. Many options were considered, however the one that best satisfied the prerequisites and minimised construction risk was the reinforced soil wall. Incidentally, this is the first of its kind in Queensland that uses the proprietary products selected.

The reinforced soil wall system consists of pre-cast concrete modular facing blocks in combination with geogrid mesh that reinforces the soil mass behind. The connection between the facing blocks and geogrid creates a strong and durable, maintenance-free retaining wall structure.

The wall was constructed over a four-week period by specialist subcontractors, with each of the 20kg blocks laid by hand to very specific requirements. As the block layers built up three rows, reinforced soil backfill material was added to the roadway to create the road base, which was then compacted. Geogrid mesh was then laid over the top of the material and fixed to the blocks, ready for the next row of blocks and road base to be laid. This continued until the wall and road base were finished, with more than 7000 blocks and 14,000 tonnes of fill material used to rebuild the road back to its original level and create the wall.

The wall was completed in early September 2018, allowing the road to be reopened to traffic control from 8 October 2018. Restoration works remain on track to be completed by December 2018, weather permitting.



Mass block retaining wall at the main slip site on the Sarina Range along Marlborough – Sarina Road

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