

Monthly Report

August 2018

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Information security

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Disaster Assistance

Overview

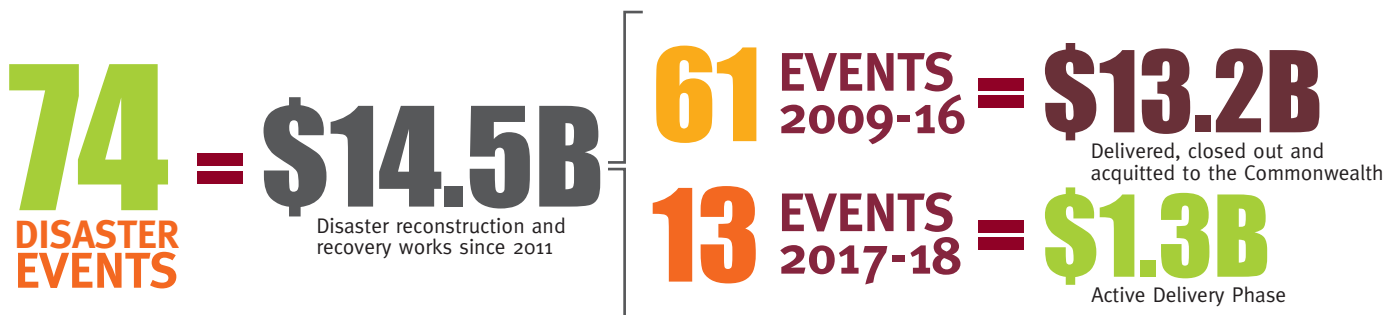
QRA has responsibility to administer Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) measures in Queensland, coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities.

Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated \$14.5 billion of disaster reconstruction and recovery works for 74 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

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

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 \$1.3 billion for the remaining 13 events from the 2017 and 2018 event periods are currently in the active delivery phase (**Delivery Program**).

During July, QRA completed a review of NDRRA program estimates. The review is undertaken on a regular basis and involved 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 due to be completed by 30 June 2018.



Natural Disaster Funding Reforms

On 8 June 2018, the Commonwealth released its finalised reforms to natural disaster funding arrangements, known as Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 (DRFA).

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 any savings delivered in the state's restoration program for allocation to disaster mitigation and resilience projects.

DRFA will apply to any disaster events that occur from 1 November 2018, although the state will also continue to administer and submit claims under the existing NDRRA Determination for a two year period whilst the existing 2016, 2017 and 2018 Event disaster programs are finalised.

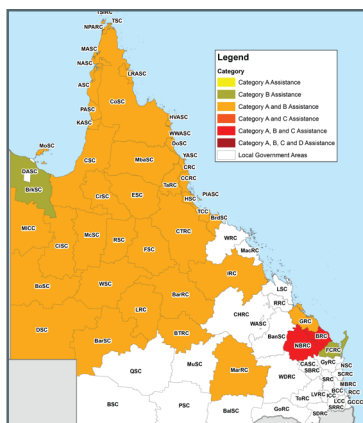
QRA is currently preparing for the transition to DRFA.

Disaster Assistance

Activations

NO NDRRA activations new in July 2018

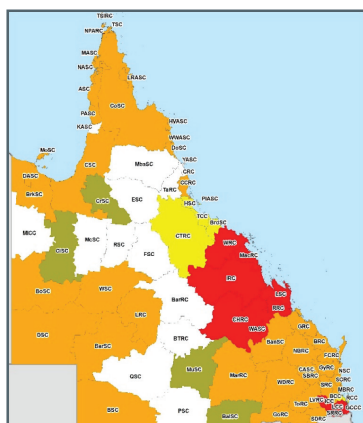
The figures below show the LGAs activated for NDRRA relief measures for the 2016 to 2018 event periods that are either still in delivery and/or acquittal phase



2018 Events – \$470 million NDRRA program

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

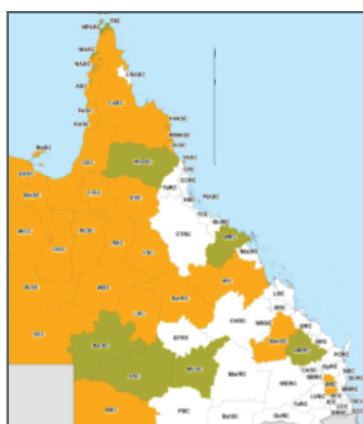
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora and Associated Flooding, 24-29 March 2018
- North Queensland Flooding, 6-10 March 2018
- North and North West Queensland Low and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 24 Feb – 8 Mar 2018
- Central Queensland Storm, 20 February 2018
- Cape York Queensland Trough, 26 January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



2017 Events – \$811 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



2016 Events – \$229 million NDRRA program

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

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

Disaster Assistance

NDDRA Delivery Program status

The **Delivery Program** comprises \$1.3 billion of works for 13 events across the 2017 and 2018 Events. The status of the Delivery Program as at 30 June 2018 is summarised 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 \$811 million.

To date, approximately 95 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. The allowable time limit for delivery of NDRRA works from the 2017 events has now passed into the final 12 months, with delivery agents having until 30 June 2019 to deliver eligible NDRRA works.

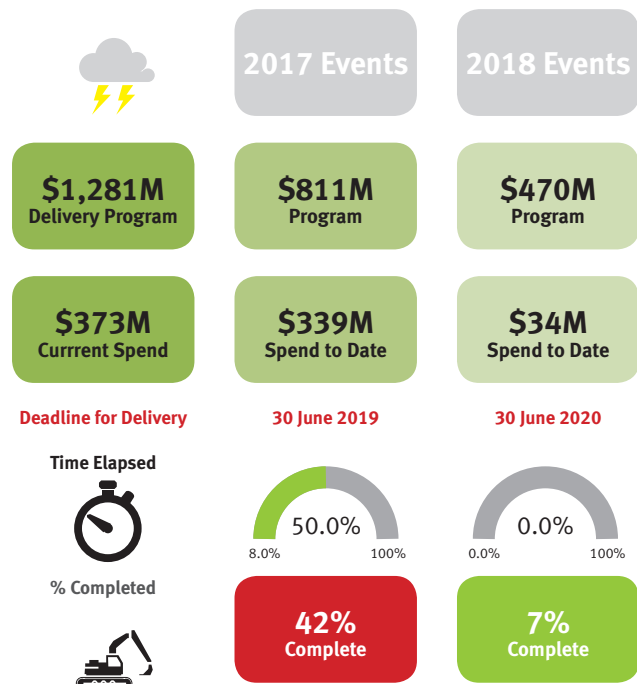
Weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting, all delivery agents have reported that they expect to complete works within the deadline, except for Whitsunday Regional Council's Shute Harbour project which has experienced delays due to geo-technical complexities.

2018 Events

Across the 2018 disaster season to date, 48 councils have been activated across six disaster events at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$470 million.

To date, approximately 38 per cent of funding submissions for the 2018 events have been submitted for approval, 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.



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

Disaster Assistance

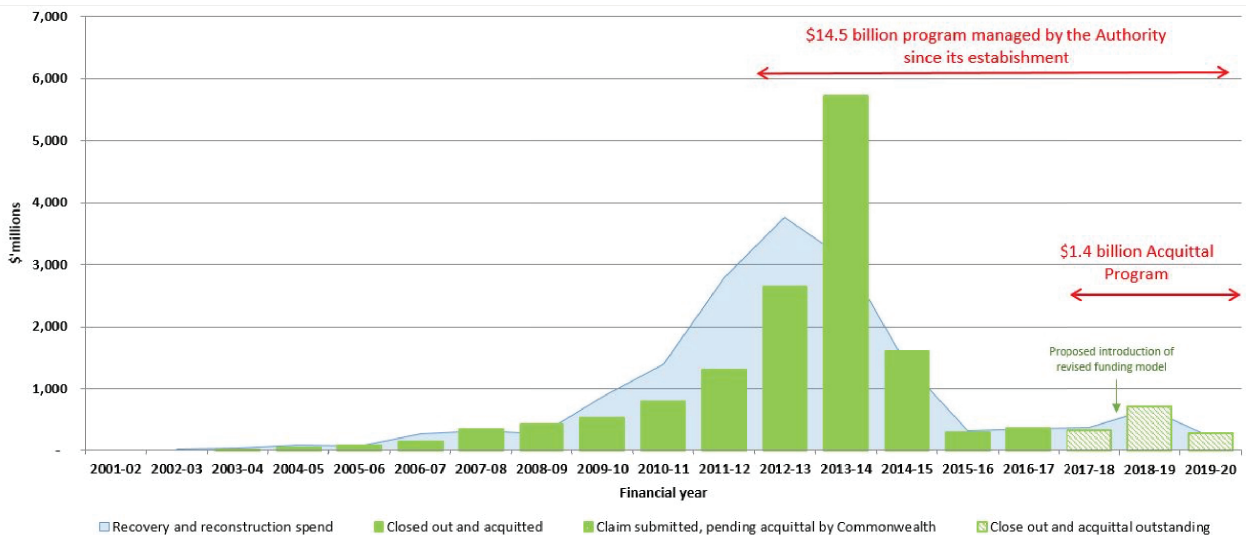
NDRRA Acquittal Program status



The **Acquittal Program** comprises \$1.4 billion works that is yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth, and is spread across the 13 events from the 2017 and 2018 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 expected to acquit approximately \$335 million of NDRRA expenditure and is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2019.

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 is 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) \$6.120m 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	3,863 271
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	10,031 1,611
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	180
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. Through interagency collaboration, mental health teams across all regions continue to be actively engage private and public schools, state agencies, non-government organisations neighbourhood centres and community groups. Over this period a majority of new referrals have resulted from this broad engagement, especially from schools.	People assessed Clients Clinical hours	2,497 183 4,246
Community Development Program (DCDSS) \$2.38m funding available		
Events and activities during the period include Keys to success – Resilience building and preparedness calendar, continuation of the Pillowcase; a 'Building local capability to manage spontaneous volunteers'; disaster preparedness for older people and the school holidays projects. Resources and Tools developed or in development include an 'actions and outcomes' document as part of a recovery and resilience program for Scenic Rim; Business Continuity Workshops and Community Engagement and Resilience training activities for the Whitsundays; and Scenic Rim and Logan specific resources for a Disaster Handbook and a Community Centre Community Recovery Handbook.	Hours developing & delivering events Hours developing resources tools Hours on training and learning	4,778 6,303 878
Reporting and Evaluation (DCDSS/QRA) \$288k funding available		
Project Plan finalised and work with stakeholder engagement in the Whitsunday and Mackay area has begun		

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 are in the process of engaging a design consultant for Shute Harbour, anticipated to be awarded in August 2018. Demolition works on the Lloyd Roberts jetty and terminal building commenced in April 2018 and will be complete July 2018. • Unforeseen geotechnical complexities and the 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 to the Allowable Time Limit for delivery to 30 June 2020. • Detailed design is completed for the repair works on the Airlie Beach foreshore parklands, with tenders closed and currently being assessed by Council. Works are expected to be completed by the end of 2018.
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"> • \$1.852 million has been pre-approved by the Commonwealth to cover the betterment component on the Shute Harbour Marina seawall • 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. • Three projects have been completed and a further 26 have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2018.
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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRA & the Department of Environment & Science (DES) agreed on notional allocations between categories following a review of all EOIs. <p>A & B (Coastal, Environmental) – \$19.4 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EOIs were received from 14 of 37 eligible Councils seeking \$31.5 million. Projects were shortlisted and Councils requested to submit detailed applications. • 42 submissions worth more than \$19.2 million has been approved to date across 15 Councils. • 27 projects have been completed and a further 10 projects have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2018. <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 delivered through DES is approximately 40% 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. Of this, the State will fund an additional \$62 million of recovery measures in addition to its \$48 million (50 percent) 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.



Demolition works underway at Shute Harbour (photo courtesy of Whitsunday Regional Council)

Recovery and Resilience

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

Resilience grant funding programs

Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

\$14.3M
FUNDING AVAILABLE
NDRP

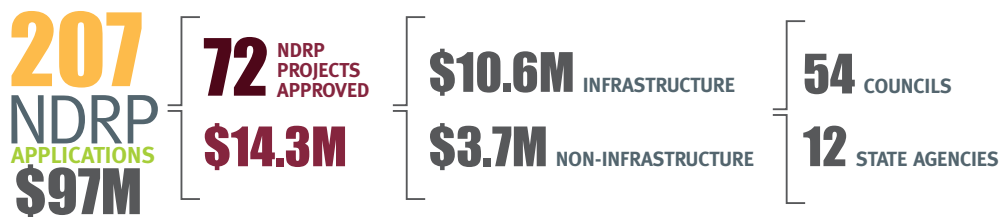
Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) supports community groups, government and non-government agencies, as well as Queensland based not-for-profits, to build disaster resilience across the state.

The 2017-18 NDRP is administered by QRA with total funding available of \$14.3 million, comprising \$12.0 million of new funding for 2017-18 and \$2.3 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.

The full \$14.3 million available funding was allocated in June 2018 to 72 approved projects from 54 councils and 12 organisations and agencies.

An overview of the 2017-18 NDRP funding round is highlighted in the Program Spotlights.



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 the 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 to provide insight into future policy and project initiatives.
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). Initial planning is well underway, with a focus on the Central West Queensland pilot to guide development and project management arrangements.
Recovery Capability	<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 is expected to complete following a workshop with Gympie Regional Council on 10 August. Phase 2, Training and Exercise Package development is nearing completion. Recovery Planning and Governance training guides have been completed, with the Community-led Approach to Recovery and Data Collection Impact Assessment progressing. Packages are modified to suit the requirements of each local government. Phase 3 training with Isaac Regional Council has been completed focusing on Recovery Planning and was very well received. Dates for remaining Phase 3 training for local governments in the first tranche of the project have started to be confirmed across August, September and November 2018.
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 completion in the latter half of 2018. 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 the latter half of 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 working with the 16 LGAs who received NDRP funding for related projects (\$2.8m) and the Bureau of Meteorology to deliver optimum catchment based solutions for improving the flood warning gauge network.
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 (Goomp).</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"> All three plans scheduled for completion mid 2018. 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. This is on QRA and QYAC's websites and has been shared at the community information sessions. Engagement with state government departments for implementation and handover is underway.
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 Recovery Plan was tabled in Queensland Parliament and publicly released on 9 May 2017. QRA is working closely with the Mackay and Whitsunday councils, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Queensland Health, and recovery partners to assist these entities address the recovery issues facing impacted residents after STC Debbie. Local agencies are currently tracking and assisting residents of 99 properties in various stages of recovery.
Queensland 2018 Severe Storm, Cyclone and Flood Event Recovery Plan (2018 Recovery Plan)	The 2018 Recovery Plan provides the framework for locally-led approach to recovery following the series of disaster events that impacted 48 LGAs in 2018. The plan will help close the gap between local/community based recovery capability and recovery needs, and harness the capability and knowledge of government agencies and recovery partners, as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2018 Recovery Plan has been developed in consultation with recovery partners at the local, district and state levels. The plan includes Local Recovery 'Plans on a Page', as approved by Hinchinbrook Shire Council and the Cassowary Coast Regional Council The 2018 Recovery Plan work in conjunction with the existing 2017 Recovery Plan, where relevant. The plan, supported by a recovery progress report, will be tabled in Parliament.

Program spotlights

NDRRA reconstruction program complete for 2016 events

The recovery of Queensland communities continues with all works associated with the nine natural disasters to strike the state in 2015-16 now complete.

The 2015-16 disaster season caused close to \$230 million in damage to public infrastructure and saw 35 of Queensland's 77 local governments activated for assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

The disasters caused widespread severe flooding in the Gulf of Carpentaria and throughout Central and Western Queensland. In addition, wild bushfires raged in the south-east at Cape Cleveland, which saw the activation of State Disaster Relief Arrangements.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads reported that 8,394km of Queensland's state road network was closed or had limited access during the events of 2015-16, including 1,655km affected by multiple events.

In total, 15 councils had the mammoth task of rebuilding from multiple events, with Cloncurry impacted by two events, Cook Shire Council impacted by three events and Boulia Shire Council impacted by four events.

All delivery agencies have reported to QRA that works associated with the 2015-16 disaster season were completed by 30 June 2018, as required for NDRRA funding eligibility.

Program highlights included Cook Shire Council's program of works with an estimated final cost of \$32 million. By working closely with QRA, Council was able to deliver more than 90 per cent of works within 12 months.

Carpentaria Shire Council suffered approximately \$56 million in damage from the Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough, 20 December 2015 - 3 January 2016 event alone. Carpentaria Shire's major industries of agriculture, fishing and tourism suffered disruption during this flooding, with many of the cattle properties unable to access roads for supplies or moving stock and produce. Many of the roads servicing unique tourism destinations were also damaged causing disruption to industry operations during this time.

Council employed 11 works crews to deliver the 2016 event program, with works carried out through a combination of day labour and contractors.

QRA continues to provide assistance to many of the 35 local councils activated in 2015-16 as they have been impacted by subsequent and ongoing natural disasters to ensure communities receive the assistance they need on the long road to recovery.



Dunbar to Kowanyama Road, Carpentaria Shire Council damage in 2016 (left) and post reconstruction (right)

Program spotlights

Queensland communities share in \$14.3M to build resilience

Queensland communities will be better prepared for future natural disasters following the announcement of \$14.3 million in grants to build disaster resilience across the state.

Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State 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 more resilient communities.

The 2017-18 funding round saw 72 projects from 54 councils and 12 organisations and agencies approved for NDRP grants, with the number and quality of the applications demonstrating the innovation, enthusiasm and commitment of Queensland communities to build local resilience.

Successful projects included employment of resilience officers, improvement of flood warning gauge networks, infrastructure lightning and storm protection, development of emergency helicopter landing zones and purchase of emergency recovery equipment.

Highlights of the 2018 program also include funding of over \$956,000 to upgrade the current Kowanyama multipurpose centre to provide a safe place of refuge for future events.

Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council was also awarded \$600,000 towards the construction of barge facilities, providing an alternative delivery point for fuel, food, goods and supplies and providing an additional evacuation point for the community during emergency events.

The NDRP harnesses the wealth of shared knowledge and hard fought experience in natural disaster management that already exists at a local level to make communities stronger and safer.

It provides communities with the resources needed to reduce their vulnerability and empower them to build their resilience to future natural disasters.

The 2017-2018 NDRP continues the important work initiated by the 2017 Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience and the recently released Resilient Queensland, which aims to make Queensland Australia's most disaster resilient state.

More information on the program, the NSDR and QSDR can be found at:
<http://qldreconstruction.org.au/ndrp>



Flood warning gauges have been approved for funding in the 2017-2018 NDRP program



Flooded road smart warning signs

Program spotlights

Sunshine Coast primary school students Get Ready for disaster season

As part of its Get Ready Queensland program, Sunshine Coast Council has developed and delivered an education program for school students to ensure young people are part of the conversation when it comes to disaster preparedness.

Council's Disaster Management Team visited 15 Sunshine Coast primary schools in semester one to talk about relevant weather events, engaging with students to help them get ready for when a disaster strikes.

Chair of the Sunshine Coast Local Disaster Management Group Mayor Mark Jamieson said early education in promoting resilience against future disasters was key to building stronger communities.

"Disaster education is vital for helping young people make good decisions in the future," Mayor Jamieson said.

"Council established that it was important for students to receive this information from a young age to ensure the idea of being prepared, and how to do so, is embedded in their normal day-to-day thinking. We wanted to provide students with the opportunity to join the conversation on disasters and contribute ideas on how we can all work together to help minimise the risks."

Students were also introduced to the Sunshine Coast Council online Disaster Hub which was also developed with funding from the Get Ready Queensland program.

"Council's Disaster Hub is a one-stop shop for members of the community to access real time information before, during and after natural disasters," Mayor Jamieson said. "The website captures road closures, traffic conditions, power outages, Bureau of Meteorology warnings, as well as useful information about preparing your family for a disaster, evacuation centres, and emergency contacts. We have made the content as interesting and interactive as possible in the hope that students will go home to their families to share their learnings and spread the simple yet potentially lifesaving information."

Mayor Jamieson, who is also president of the Local Government Association of Queensland, said communities across the state could never be too prepared.

"In every location, coastal or inland, we need to adapt, develop and revise strategies to get ready for the next disaster," he said. "Our communities have to be alert to the possibilities of what can happen, whether it be a natural or man-made disaster, and be fully prepared when an event occurs."

The Get Ready Queensland program is a year-round, all hazards, resilience building initiative to help communities prepare for natural disasters. As part of the 2018-19 program, more than \$2 million in state funding has been provided to local governments to help them improve their communities' resilience.

QRA has also developed a video capturing the program's delivery at Palmwoods State School. The video can be accessed on the Get Ready Queensland Facebook page.



Year 5 students checking out the Sunshine Coast online Disaster Hub



"We wanted to provide students with the opportunity to join the conversation on disasters and contribute ideas on how we can all work together to help minimise the risks."

Program spotlights

Canal Creek project reaches completion

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is building a more resilient state road network, with the completion of a long-term solution to keep a key north-west Queensland link open during the wet season.

The Flinders Highway is an important road link between Townsville on the Pacific coast and Mount Isa in the west.

In the Julia Creek–Cloncurry section, a major creek branches on the flood plain and crosses the highway in three places. Overland flows from Canal Creek have changed over the years, leading to silt build-up in culverts along the highway that require cleaning after heavy rain each summer season.

The site was affected by flooding caused by the Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough in December 2015–January 2016, with emergent works undertaken to reopen the Flinders Highway to traffic.

Rather than continuing to clear the same road section each year, TMR worked with QRA on a value-for-money proposal to divert the creek to take the main water flow away from the road. The project, which commenced in late 2017, involved constructing a new creek diversion, removing existing silt, reinstating rock protection on creek bends and reinstating fencing. TMR worked closely with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for waterway barrier permits to enable the works to be undertaken.

Rather than cleared off site, the silt was used to backfill the existing channel to provide further protection to the road.

Eligible reconstruction works will be jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Government under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

The project was completed in June 2018, and marks the completion of the 2016 NDRRA Events Program.



Aerial view of Canal Creek project

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