

Monthly Report

December 2018

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Information security

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Disaster Assistance

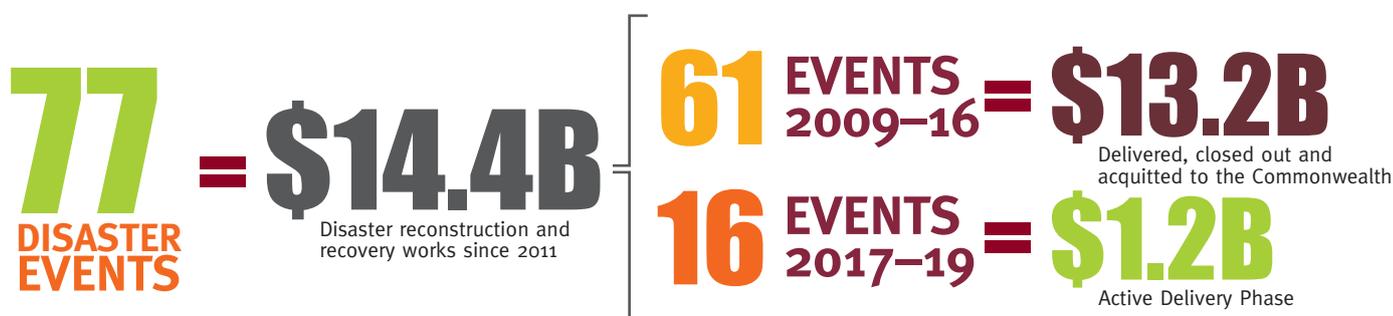
Overview

QRA has responsibility to administer Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) 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.

QRA is now also managing two disaster events under DRFA, with the *Central Queensland bushfires, 22 November – 6 December 2018* event and the *Redland Bushfires, 28 November – 5 December 2018* event being the first events to occur after implementation of DRFA from 1 November 2018.

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 and 2018 Event disaster programs are finalised. The first event of the 2019 Event period, the *Wide Bay-Burnett Severe Storms, 11–14 October 2018* event also occurred prior to the implementation of DRFA and will be the final event administered under NDRRA.

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 (that occurred prior to 1 November 2018) 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 apply to any disaster events that occur from 1 November 2018.

Two events to which DRFA applies were activated in November – *Central Queensland bushfires, 22 November – 6 December 2018* and the *Redland Bushfires, 28 November – 5 December 2018*. These events are the first to be activated under DRFA for Queensland and also the first events activated under DRFA nationally.

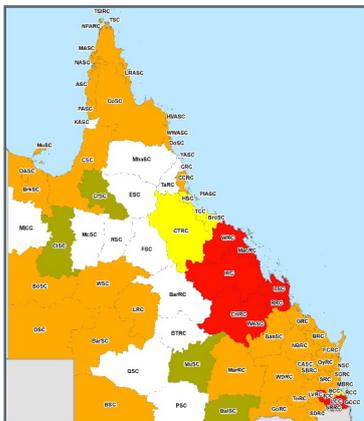
The main change under DRFA relative to the existing NDRRA model is that natural disaster recovery funding for the restoration of essential public assets will be based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs rather than reimbursement of actual costs incurred. DRFA also provides 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

two DRFA activations new in November 2018

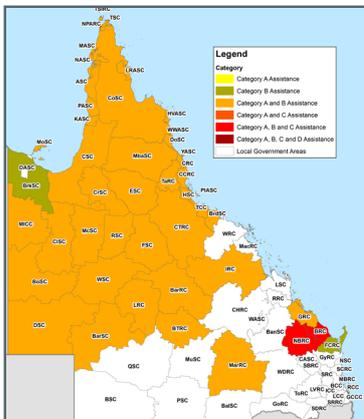
The information below shows the LGAs activated for NDRRA and DRFA relief measures for the 2017 to 2019 event periods that are still in the delivery phase.



2017 Events – \$796 million NDRRA program

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

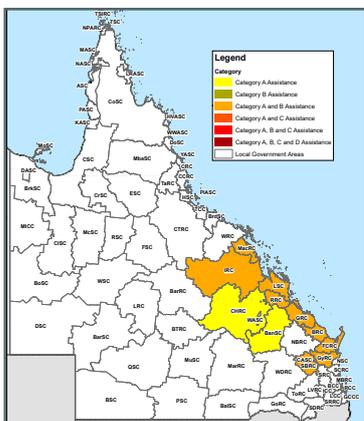
- Far North Queensland Trough, 21–28 March 2017
- Far North Queensland Trough, 3–10 February 2017
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, associated rainfall & flooding, 28 March – 6 April 2017
- Gulf Tropical Low, 15–24 February 2017
- Far North Queensland Low, 8–11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding, 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 – Combined NDRRA/DRFA program value to be determined

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

NDRRA

- Wide Bay-Burnett Severe Storms, 11–14 October 2018

DRFA

- Central Queensland affected by bushfires, 22 November – 6 December 2018
- Redland Bushfires, 28 November – 5 December 2018

Disaster Assistance

NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program status

The **Delivery Program** comprises works for 16 events across the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Events.

Of this, QRA is actively monitoring and reporting in relation to \$1.23 billion of works from the 2017 and 2018 Events. The three 2019 Events in the program, including the first two events activated under DRFA, will be formally reported against following the next estimates review process to be undertaken in early 2019.

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 45 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.

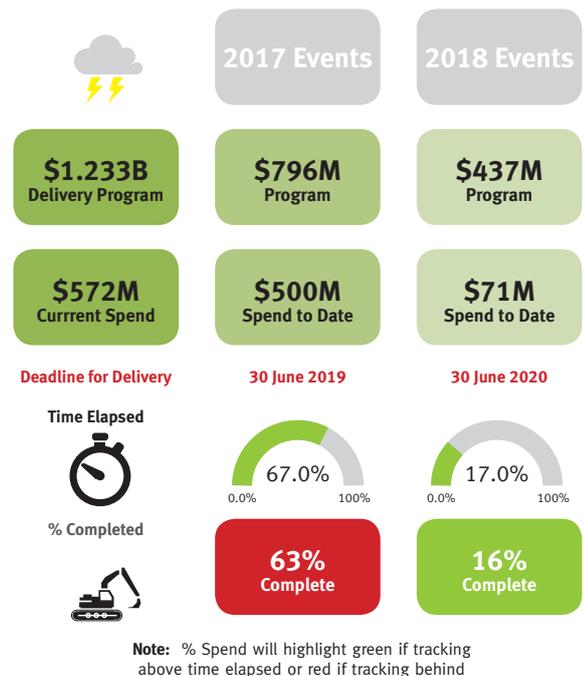
Delivery agents have until 30 June 2020 to deliver eligible NDRRA works from the 2018 Events.

2019 Events

Three events have occurred to date in 2019:

- *Wide Bay-Burnett Severe Storms, 11–14 October 2018* – Three councils activated with preliminary damage estimates expected of less than \$1 million. This event will be the final event administered under the NDRRA.
- *Central Queensland affected by bushfires, 22 November – 6 December 2018* – the first event to be administered under the new DRFA. To date, eight councils have been activated for DRFA assistance, with additional activation requests expected. QRA is currently on the ground assisting with DRFA advice, recovery planning, and assistance.
- *Redland Bushfires, 28 November – 5 December 2018* – The second event to which DRFA will apply was activated in response to the fires on Stradbroke Island within the Redland City Council.

Progress of recovery against the three 2019 events will be included in the Delivery Program following the next estimates review in early 2019.



Disaster Assistance

NDRRA Acquittal Program status

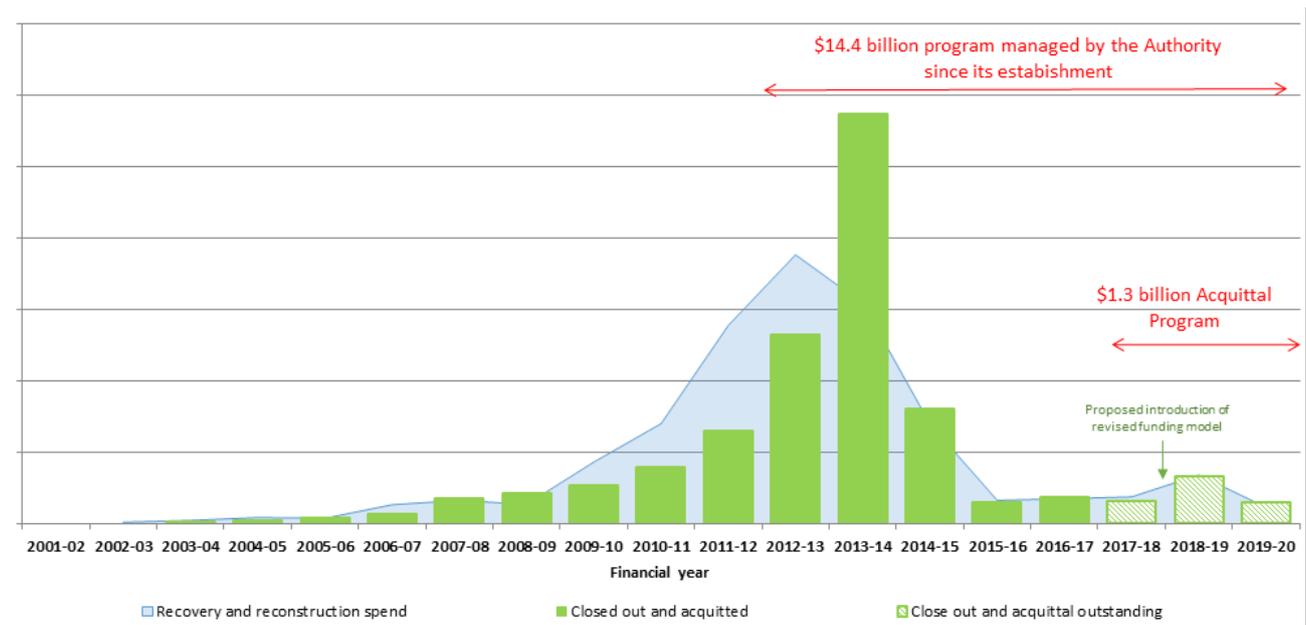


The **Acquittal Program** comprises \$1.3 billion works that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth, and is spread across the 15 events from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Events in the Delivery Program, the works from the 2016 event period that were completed in the year up to the deadline for delivery on 30 June 2018 and a small number of projects from the 2015 event period that received extensions of time for delivery.

Preliminary program values for the two 2019 events will be included in the Acquittal Program following the next estimates review in early 2019.

Queensland’s next Claim for NDRRA works completed in the 2017–18 financial year is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth in March 2019. The 2017–18 Claim is estimated to acquit approximately \$320 million of NDRRA expenditure. QRA is currently processing close out documentation for completed works due to be acquitted in the Claim. On completion of the close out processes, the Queensland Audit Office will audit the claim in early 2019 prior to its lodgement with 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 are delivering three support programs to individuals and community mental health and community development programs, with detailed status reports provided on a quarterly basis.

EXCEPTIONAL DISASTER MEASURES NDRRA 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 February 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. • 14 projects have been completed and a further 35 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 submissions worth more than \$19.2 million has been approved to date across 15 Councils. • 27 projects have been completed and a further 13 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"> • All funding has been allocated to eligible projects across seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies. • This program of work 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 following STC Debbie. 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 for sand replenishment at Midge Point and Lamberts Beach and 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. This funding was announced by the Premier and Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning on 25 September 2018.
- \$895,000 to Whitsunday Regional Council for the rectification of the Bowen Front Beach Seawall.
- \$880,000 to Logan City Council consisting of \$770,000 towards Flooded Road Smart Warning System and \$110,000 for an updated flood study of Logan and Albert Rivers.



QRA Board members inspect revitalisation works at Airlie Beach Foreshore with 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)

\$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.

QRA is currently actively monitoring and assisting with delivery of the projects.



Disaster Resilience Fund

\$38M
OVER 4 YEARS
DRF

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.

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"> • 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. The appointment of the RAPAD Coordinator is currently under finalisation with the respective Councils. • 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. An additional co-design workshop was held in the Fitzroy region in 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. QFES has approved the Impact Assessment Module. • Phase 3 training has been delivered to nineteen local governments. Planned workshops for Lockhart River and Northern Peninsular had to be cancelled due to operational requirements. Ongoing engagement is occurring with Hope Vale, Pormpuraaw and Wujal Wujal. • A recovery Masterclass in Community Participation was conducted. Participants included 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 continuing to work with the Bureau of Meteorology on finalising a State Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan and a National Flood Warning Infrastructure Strategy.
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"> 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 Seniors, 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

Central Queensland Bushfires – Case Study

The dry La Nina conditions across the state were set for an unprecedented fire storm when, in late November 2018, 60 bushfires sprung up across the state. On Monday 26 November 2018, the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) stood up, and a disaster declared in Gladstone Regional Council area as communities were evacuated, providing authorities the untied powers and resources of the entire Queensland Government to fight the fires and supporting the impacted communities.

By Tuesday 27 November 2018, the number of fires had grown to over 70 and exhausted firefighters, many of them volunteers, looked to the skies for relief, but found only more hot dry winds.

A call was put out for reinforcements and NSW was the first to join the battle. In total Queensland Fire and Emergency Services operations received assistance from approximately 1200 firefighters and support personnel from every state and territory. Along with the manpower came equipment and logistical support, the most notable was the Large Air Tanker or LAT, a 737 water bomber on loan from NSW that was capable of dumping 15,000 litres in a single hit. It was one of many aircraft that fought the flames from the air, 38 at peak operations, a record for a QFES operation.

QRA was working closely with councils, Functional Recovery Groups, state agencies, and non-government organisations. QRA Regional Liaison Officers (RLOs) worked with impacted councils, supporting operations and providing advice. Recovery Officers were already preparing for the recovery operation following the fire by engaging stakeholders, monitoring disaster impacts and preparing resources.

The recently implemented Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) were activated for the first time in the country for Gladstone Regional Council, providing support for Counter Disaster Operations (CDO), the Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme, and Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS). As the fire burnt impacting even more Central Queensland communities, further activations would be enabled for Banana, Bundaberg, Central Highlands, Isaac, Livingstone, Mackay, Redland City, and Rockhampton, with a mix of CDO, PHAS, Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans, Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Primary Producers, Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers.

Over the next week the fires peaked at between 120 and 130 a day across the state. More reinforcements, equipment and support arrived from interstate, and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services was pushed to the limit as they battled the flames and heat. Finally, the weather turned bringing the desperately needed rain, giving firefighters some relief.

Once it was safe to do so, QRA staff helped QFES officers with the Rapid Damage Assessment of the fires' impacts. The size, scope and intensity of the fires was unprecedented in the state. The ferocity of the fires made national and international headlines, with NASA documenting the fires from the International Space Station (see accompanying image) and the Queen sending a message of support.

Over 1 million hectares has been burnt to ash. So far, almost 2000 applications have been received for Emergency Hardship Assistance grants with more than \$695,000 going to recipients. 878 calls were received by the Community Recovery Hotline as at 12pm 4 December, with 160 community recovery workers helping bushfire affected communities.

QRA is already helping communities on the long road to recovery, with RLOs meeting with councils and Recovery Officers in the impacted areas working with partner agencies to assist communities rebuild and recover from this unprecedented disaster.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk appointed Major-General (retired) Stuart Smith to the role of State Recovery Coordinator to support Central Queensland communities impacted by the recent bushfires. The Major-General will be supported by QRA and other state agencies.



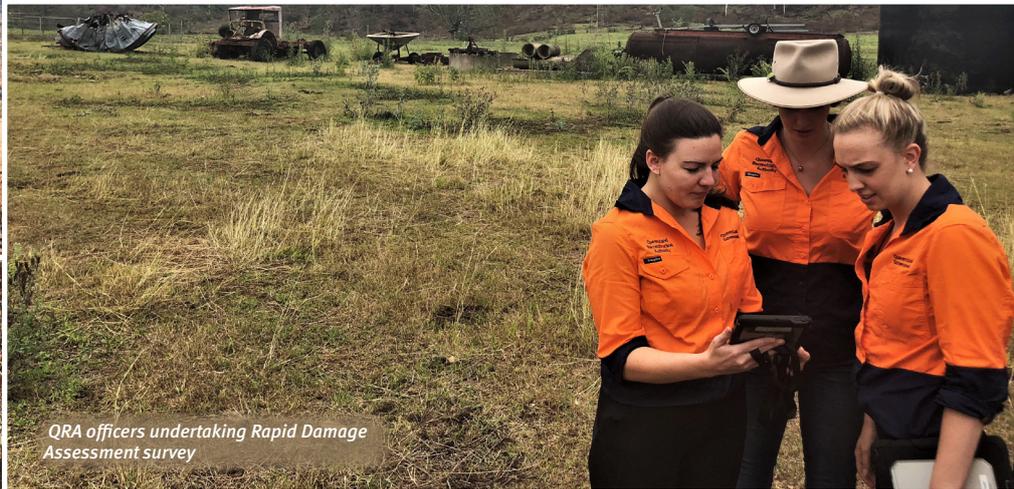
Firefighter on the job



Firefighters at work



QFES and QRA officers undertaking Rapid Damage Assessment survey



QRA officers undertaking Rapid Damage Assessment survey



NSW Rural Fire Services 737 water bomber in full flight



Central Queensland bushfires as seen from the International Space Station

Program spotlights

Toowoomba's flood mitigation wins international award

Congratulations to Toowoomba Regional Council for taking out Gold at the International Project Management Association's (IPMA) Global Achievement Awards, in Helsinki, Finland!

Council won the award in the Regional Development Projects Category for the Toowoomba Region Flood Recovery Program 2011 to 2016.

International winners were announced and presented with their awards at a special function on 30 October 2018.

The \$300 million works program has delivered more than 1800 projects, providing substantial benefit to Toowoomba's regional community.

Images of the flash flooding through the Toowoomba central business district became one of the iconic memories of the devastating floods in Queensland in January 2011.

Toowoomba Regional Council Infrastructure Service Committee Chair Cr Carol Taylor said after the 2011 floods it became clear Council needed to bring forward some flood mitigation projects that would have been delivered over a longer period of time.

"The 2011 floods had a profound effect on Council and our community but by undertaking the mammoth task of the Toowoomba Region Flood Recovery Program 2011 to 2016, Council and the community have learned from the past, and together have become more flood resilient and better prepared for the future," Cr Taylor said.

"Council's submission to the IPMA covered off on the Toowoomba Region Flood Recovery Program, the Outer Circulating Road creek and bridge works, the Ruthven Street culvert upgrade and the Flood Early Warning Systems Projects.

"The improvements and their effectiveness have been evident through events such as preparation and monitoring of Cyclone Debbie and the mitigation of recent storm events.

"The program would not have been possible without the significant funding support of both the Commonwealth and State Governments, the guidance and support of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, the leadership of our program and delivery teams within Council and the support of consultants and contractors, AECOM, Evans and Peck, McCullough Robertson, FKG, CMC and Probuild," Cr Taylor said.

Toowoomba's Flood Recovery Program has previously won the Australian Institute of Project Management's (AIPM) Queensland State Award and National Award, as well as the 2017 Asia Pacific Federation Award.

Eligible works were jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.



Ballin Drive detention basin



Garnet Lehman detention basin



Mary Street culvert, East Creek channel works



South Street culvert upgrade



Cr Carol Taylor and Council's Manager Project Services, Steve Holland were presented with the award at a special function held in Helsinki, Finland on 30 October 2018.



Program spotlights

STC Debbie works program on track

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is on track to complete the majority of its Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie road repairs program by December 2018, six months ahead of the Commonwealth funding deadline.

The extraordinary rainfall totals associated with STC Debbie caused significant landslips and road damage, particularly in the Mackay/Whitsunday and South Coast Districts. Repairs to state roads are estimated to cost up to \$187.7 million, with \$143.2 million spent to 31 October 2018.

Marlborough–Sarina Road on the Sarina Range, which has been closed due to severe damage, reopened to single-lane traffic on 8 October 2018. Gold Coast–Springbrook Road on the Gold Coast is expected to be complete by late December 2018. A majority of the works program is currently in delivery or completed.

Progress on key sites impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie includes:

- John Muntz Causeway (Tamborine-Oxenford Road) – bridge approach and embankment repaired, and road reopened on 30 June 2017.
- Pine Creek Road – permanent repairs completed in August 2017.
- Gladstone-Monto Road – reconstruction at five landslip sites was completed in May 2018.
- Sarina Range (Marlborough-Sarina Road) – works to reinstate the roadway at the main slip site are almost complete, including all soil nailing and building of the mass block retaining wall. All soil nailing across the entire restoration project has been completed. Work is expected to be completed by December 2018. Reconstruction works have been completed at 24 of the 26 landslip sites.
- Lamington National Park Road – repairs to three of the most critical sites were completed in February 2018. Reconstruction works completed at 39 sites and works in progress at more than 40 remaining sites, with completion expected in late 2018. Heavy vehicle limits apply.
- Gold Coast-Springbrook Road – reconstruction works in progress at 53 sites (18 major and 35 minor) within the closed section of the road and at six of the 19 sites (six major and 13 minor) in the open section. Due to the impact of recent wet weather and geotechnical complexities, Gold Coast–Springbrook Road is expected to be complete by late December 2018.
- Nerang-Murwillumbah Road – reconstruction works in progress at the major landslip site, with completion expected in December 2018.
- Tomewin Mountain Road – repairs to the main landslip site were completed in February 2018. Reconstruction works are in progress at multiple sites, with completion expected in November 2018.
- Beechmont Road – reconstruction works in progress at multiple sites, with completion expected in December 2018.

All STC Debbie reconstruction works will be completed by 30 June 2019, in line with the NDRRA funding timeframe.





