

# Monthly Report

April 2019

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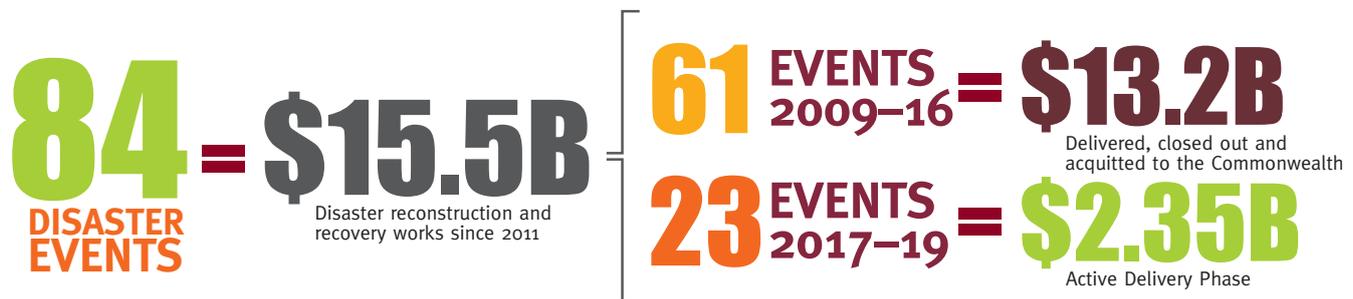
## Disaster Assistance

### 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 \$15.5 billion of disaster reconstruction and recovery works for 84 disaster events activated for disaster relief measures.

The list of activated disaster events is found on [www.disaster.qld.gov.au](http://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 while the existing NDRRA program for disasters occurring in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 event periods<sup>1</sup> are finalised. Three events also occurred in the 2019 event period prior to the implementation of DRFA and will be the final events 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 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 events have been delivered and works worth \$1.1 billion for the remaining 16 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 remainder of the program from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 event periods to be acquitted in annual claims through to 2021 following completion of works.

### DRFA

The DRFA arrangements apply to any disaster events that occur after 1 November 2018.

Seven events with damage estimates in excess of \$1.25 billion have been activated to date to which DRFA applies in Queensland, including the *North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January – 14 February 2019* event and the more recent *Severe Tropical Cyclone Trevor and associated low pressure system, 19-27 March* event. No DRFA program have yet been acquitted.

The main change under DRFA relative to the NDRRA model is that natural disaster recovery funding for the restoration of essential public assets is 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.

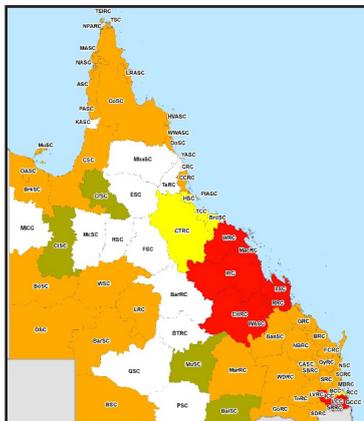
<sup>1</sup> Event periods are based on the closing date of the financial year, ie the 2018 event period represents the 2017/18 financial year.

## Disaster Assistance

### Activations

# one DRFA activation new in March 2019

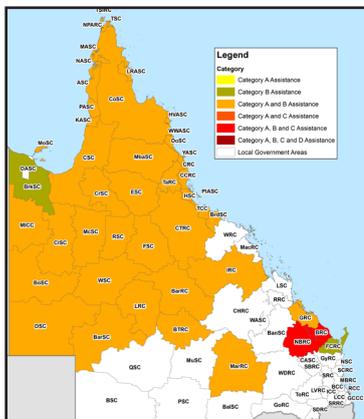
The information below shows the LGAs activated for NDRRA and DRFA relief measures for the 2017 to 2019 event periods that are still in the delivery phase.



#### 2017 event period – \$788 million NDRRA program

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

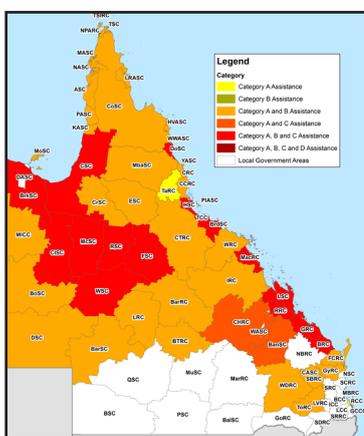
- Far North Queensland Trough, 21–28 March 2017
- Far North Queensland Trough, 3–10 February 2017
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, associated rainfall & flooding, 28 March – 6 April 2017
- Gulf Tropical Low, 15–24 February 2017
- Far North Queensland Low, 8–11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding,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



#### 2018 event period – \$294 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 February – 8 March 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 event period – \$1.267 billion Combined NDRRA/DRFA program value

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

##### NDRRA

- Wide Bay-Burnett Severe Storms, 11–14 October 2018
- Mareeba & Tablelands Bushfires, 17 September – 9 October 2018
- Gympie Bushfires, 19 – 27 September 2018

##### DRFA

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Trevor and associated low pressure system, 19 – 27 March 2019 (New Activation)
- North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January – 14 February 2019
- Tropical Cyclone Owen, 9 – 17 December 2019
- Tropical Cyclone Penny, 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019
- South West Queensland Trough, 14 – 17 December 2018 (New Activation)
- Central Queensland Bushfires, 22 November – 6 December 2018
- Redland Bushfires, 28 November – 13 December 2018

## Disaster Assistance

### NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program status

The **Delivery Program** comprises works for 23 events across the 2017, 2018 and 2019 event periods with an estimated value of \$2.35 billion.

The status of the Delivery Program by event period 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 \$788 million.

All funding submissions have been approved, and QRA is actively working with delivery agents to ensure the reconstruction program is delivered by 30 June 2019, the deadline to deliver eligible NDRRA works.

Weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting, all delivery agents have reported that they expect to complete works within the deadline. Whitsunday Regional Council's Shute Harbour project has an extension of time approved due to geo-technical complexities.

#### 2018 Events

Across the 2018 disaster season, 48 councils were activated across six disaster events at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$294 million. The estimated cost for the 2018 events has reduced from the previous estimate of \$437 million as a result of a substantial amount of reconstruction sites being re-damaged by the recent monsoon event, such that the reconstruction works have now been subsumed into the 2019 event program.

To date, approximately 70 per cent of funding submissions for the 2018 events have been approved, and QRA is assisting delivery agents to prepare any remaining outstanding submissions and progress delivery of the remaining program.

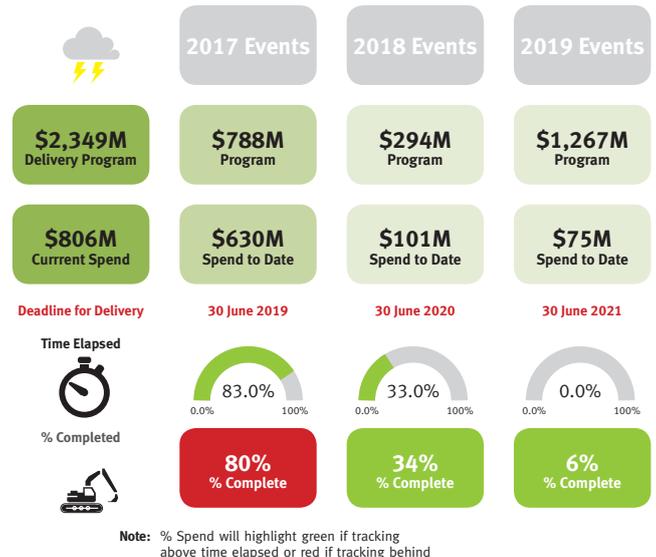
Delivery agents have until 30 June 2020 to deliver eligible NDRRA works from the 2018 Events.

#### 2019 Events

In 2018-19 the State has been impacted by a series of significant disaster events, including the December bushfires in Central Queensland, the record-breaking monsoon flooding event across North and Western Queensland in January/February 2019 and three cyclones including Severe Tropical Cyclone Trevor and the associated low pressure system which has brought flooding to Far Western communities in March.

To date, ten events and 58 councils have been activated for assistance in 2019. Of these, three events that occurred in September and October 2018 were activated under NDRRA and seven events that occurred after 1 November 2018 have been activated under DRFA.

Preliminary estimates of the total NDRRA/DRFA cost for the 2019 events are in excess of \$1.25 billion, including \$253 million of Category C and D exceptional circumstances packages. The estimate will be further refined over coming months as impacted council areas assess damage.



## Disaster Assistance

### NDRRA/DRFA Acquittal Program status



The **Acquittal Program** comprises works that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth, and is spread across the 23 events from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 event periods 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 three projects from the 2015 event period that received extensions of time for delivery.

On 28 March 2019, QRA submitted the State’s annual NDRRA claim to the Commonwealth for works completed in the year to 30 June 2018. The claim included final works from the 2016 events and components of the 2017 and 2018 event works completed by 30 June 2018.

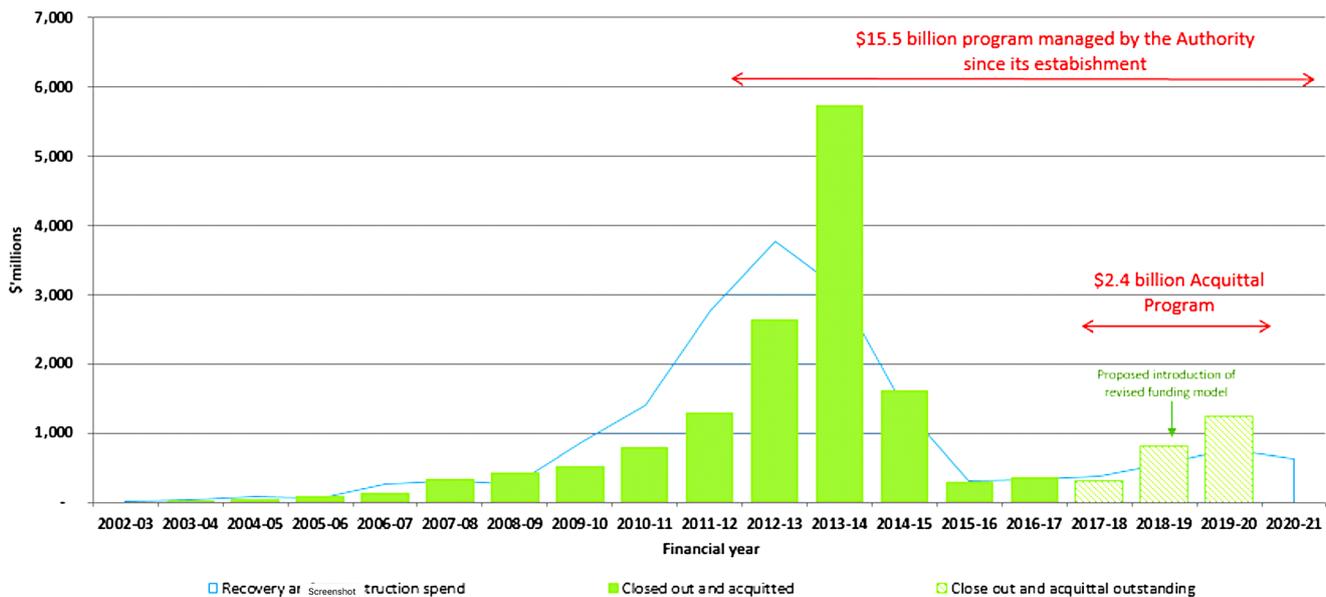
The claim, accompanied by an unqualified audit opinion, comprised \$314 million of State Expenditure and will result in more than \$130 million reimbursement when accepted and acquitted by the Commonwealth.

This amount will remain in the Acquittal Program until formally acquitted by the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth will undertake its own assurance activities over the claim before releasing payment and QRA is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to progress the review in order to expedite the acquittal of, and payment due on the claim prior to 30 June 2019.

Queensland’s next Claim for NDRRA and DRFA works completed in the 2018-19 financial year will not be due for lodgement with the Commonwealth until March 2020.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2017-18 financial years and preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2018-19 to 2020-21 in order to finalise the Acquittal Program.



## Disaster Assistance

### Additional Recovery Measures – North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough (2019)

The Monsoon Trough event brought a deluge that caused widespread devastation from the Torres Strait in the north to the Queensland/South Australian border in the south west.

A range of DRFA relief measures have been activated to alleviate distress for communities, businesses, industries and the environment impacted by the event, and to build resilience to future events:

- increase in the value of Category C recovery grants available to Primary Producers from \$25,000 to \$75,000, and to small businesses and not for profits from \$25,000 to \$50,000
- Commonwealth-funded \$1 million payments to eleven significantly impacted councils to use on priorities they deem most urgent (such as rate relief for impacted properties, infrastructure or livestock carcass disposal). QRA released the total \$11 million funds to the councils on 15 February 2019
- On 31 March 2019, the Commonwealth agreed to Queensland’s proposed \$242 million of additional assistance measures identified by the Queensland Government to address gaps in assistance and support longer-term recovery.

The \$242 million recovery package focuses on recovery within the built, economic, environmental, and human and social recovery domains and also includes measures to build resilience within affected communities.

QRA is liaising with the Commonwealth and state agencies with lead delivery responsibilities to establish package guidelines and governance protocols for these packages.

The \$242 million package comprises the following elements:

<b>Built/Infrastructure \$134.5M</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Betterment (State and Local Government assets) (\$100M)</li> <li>• Water and sewerage infrastructure (\$14.5M)</li> <li>• Clean-up and repairs of community and recreational assets and facilities (\$20M)</li> </ul>	<b>Economic/Industry \$39M</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business and industry support (\$10M)</li> <li>• Tourism Recovery Program (\$5M)</li> <li>• North West Queensland Beef Recovery Package (\$22M)</li> <li>• Extraordinary fodder supply (\$2M)</li> </ul>
<b>Environment \$36M</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riparian (rivers) and coastal recovery program (\$33M)</li> <li>• Weeds and pest management program (\$3M)</li> </ul>	<b>Human &amp; Social \$12.75M</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Health and Wellbeing (\$7M)</li> <li>• Community Development Program (\$5.25M)</li> <li>• Monitoring and Evaluation (\$0.5M)</li> </ul>
<b>Resilience \$19.75M</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexible Grants Program (\$15.5M)</li> <li>• Community information and education (\$0.75M)</li> <li>• Flood mapping and flood warning programs (\$3.5M)</li> </ul>	

## Disaster Assistance

### Additional Recovery Measures – Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie (2017)

A range of NDRRA and non-NDRRA relief measures are being delivered 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
<b>Local Council Package (\$17.3 million)</b>	<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"> <li>• <b>Shute Harbour Marina (\$15.2 million)</b> – demolish and replace the existing jetty, rebuild the terminal building, repair an existing seawall, and replace ancillary infrastructure.</li> <li>• <b>Airlie Beach repairs, Whitsundays (\$850k)</b> – for repairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shute Harbour- The Commonwealth has approved an Extension of Time for delivery to 30 June 2020. Demolition works on the Lloyd Roberts jetty and terminal building were completed in July 2018. Whitsunday Regional Council released the construction tender to market in January 2019. Tender period closed on 11 March 2019. Project is currently in tender assessment and clarification phase. Contract award currently forecast for May 2019 subject to funding clarification.</li> <li>• Airlie Beach repairs - Construction works for the Airlie Beach foreshore parklands are well advanced and are expected to be completed May 2019, weather permitting.</li> </ul>
<b>Resilient Infrastructure (Betterment) (\$41.9 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To restore or replace essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard.</li> <li>• The normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard is funded under Category B NDRRA and the incremental cost to 'better' the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard is funded by a capped allocation from the Betterment fund and Council contributions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received from eligible councils activated for Category B (REPA) seeking \$114 million.</li> <li>• 83 projects have been approved worth \$41.9 million, fully allocating the Betterment funding across 22 councils.</li> <li>• 33 projects have been completed and a further 42 have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2019.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Recovery Package (\$35 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, including the clean-up of beaches, recreational parks, rivers and waterways.</li> <li>• \$35 million of the Environmental Recovery Package across five areas:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal</li> <li>Environmental</li> <li>Riparian</li> <li>Mapping</li> <li>Water Courses.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p><b>A &amp; B (Coastal, Environmental) – \$19.4 million</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 42 submissions worth more than \$19.2 million have been approved to date across 15 Councils.</li> <li>• 30 projects have been completed and a further 12 projects have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2019.</li> </ul> <p><b>C, D &amp; E (Riparian, Mapping, Water Courses) – \$15.6 million</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All funding has been allocated to eligible projects across seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies.</li> <li>• This program of work is approximately 61% complete.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Recovery Package (\$2.1 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support recovery of industry and businesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Agriculture &amp; Fisheries has Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) in impacted areas across five primary industries including nursery, grazing and cropping, horticulture, sugarcane and dairy.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

## 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 \$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
- \$5.775 million for the restoration of Proserpine Entertainment Centre
- \$5 million for repairs to the Whitsunday Regional Council Administration Building in Proserpine, which serves as the region's local disaster coordination centre.
- \$4.562 million 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).
- \$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.
- \$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
- an additional \$3 million of additional state funding across six Resilience projects for Central Highlands, Fraser Coast, Gladstone, Rockhampton, and Scenic Rim Regional Councils and Herbert River Improvement Trust / Hinchinbrook Shire Council.

## Recovery

### Queensland Recovery Plan

The Queensland Recovery Plan is Queensland’s principal reference document when planning for and conducting recovery operations.

The focus of the Plan is empowering local governments. Supported by state agencies, local governments are encouraged to deliver local solutions, and to ensure communities own the recovery process.

The Queensland Recovery Plan is reviewed annually, and the next review will commence in May 2019 and be completed by the start of the 2019/20 disaster season.

#### Recovery Capability Development

Recent reports and disasters highlighted the varying levels of recovery capability across local governments.

The Recovery Capability Development Project (RCDP) was developed by QRA to address gaps in recovery capability across Queensland’s local governments through a series of training workshops and exercises.

The first phase of the project, which was developed and delivered collaboratively with state government and local recovery partners, identified four training and exercise packages needed for councils. These included:

- Local Government Planning (a subset of this package was the development of recovery plans for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils)
- Governance Arrangements
- Community Participation in Recovery
- Impact Assessment and Data.

QRA has worked with 50 councils across all approaches to recovery capability through RCDP workshops (23 councils’ participating) and through on the ground local recovery planning and training following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie (2017), the Central Queensland Bushfires (2018) and currently for North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough (2019).

#### Local Recovery Planning

QRA continues to work extensively on recovery planning with councils impacted by major disaster events of recent years, increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support for local recovery governance.

Local Recovery Planning support includes supporting impacted councils to identify their damage and impacts, recovery objectives and tasks and measures for success. This approach has assisted councils to develop and/or strengthen their individual recovery capabilities.

Three Event Specific Recovery Plans are currently actively in delivery or development, incorporating 34 recovery sub-plans and 21 local ‘Recovery Plans on a Page’ as follows:

Recovery Plan	Purpose	Status
<b>North &amp; Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough Recovery Plan (2019)</b>	QRA is working with the State Recovery Coordinator, local and state Functional Recovery Groups, and the 39 councils activated to develop the NFNQ Monsoon Trough Recovery Plan. At least nine councils’ local Recovery Plans-on-a-Page will be included.	Liaison and Recovery officers currently meeting with councils and conducting recovery workshops. Functional Recovery Group and council recovery action plans due to QRA by 26 April 2019 for incorporation into overall Recovery Plan. Recovery Plan is due for completion 27 May 2019.
<b>CQ Bushfires Recovery Plan (2018)</b>	In November and December 2018, the Central Queensland Bushfires devastated 35 communities across eight LGAs, burning 1.4 million hectares of land. The CQ Bushfires Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans (on a page) for four severely impacted council areas. Central Highlands is currently working on their Recovery Plan on a Page	The recovery plan to support Central Queensland communities recover, reconnect and rebuild following the bushfires of 2018 was released on 4 April 2019. The recovery progress of key tasks will be monitored against key metrics nominated by councils and agencies through regular recovery status reporting to be undertaken at three, six, nine and 12 months.
<b>Operation Queensland Recovery - Cyclone Debbie (2017)</b>	The Operation Queensland Recovery plan provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery following STC Debbie. The Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans for the eight most severely impacted council areas.	Following the two year anniversary of STC Debbie in March 2019, QRA will be compiling the close out report for Operation Queensland Recovery. The report is planned for release to the public and aims to demonstrate the recovery work that has been undertaken at a local, regional and state level over the last two years to restore impacted areas of Queensland. The report will also provide an update on progress in resilience and mitigation activities.

## Resilience

QRA is leading disaster 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 non-profit organisations, 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 14 organisations and agencies.

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



#### Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund

**\$38M**  
OVER 4 YEARS  
**QDRF**

The Queensland Government announced a \$38 million Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) in the 2018–19 Budget to strengthen the state’s resilience to future disasters. The Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) is 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 QDRF objectives are to support delivery of disaster resilience and mitigation projects that align with the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience objectives, are cost effective and evidence based and address state-risk priorities such as those identified in the Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment 2017.

The first funding round of the QDRF of \$9.5 million was launched on 26 February 2019, with applications closing 18 April 2019.

Projects approved under the QDRF will be allocated funding of up to \$2 million.

In addition to the QDRF, \$1.15 million in Australian Government funding may be available under the Prepared Communities Fund, as part of the Australian Government’s Preparing Australia Package, for eligible projects submitted under the first round of QDRF.

## Recovery and Resilience

### Other Recovery and Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
<b>Resilient Queensland 2018–2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience</b>	<p>Resilient Queensland 2018-21 was released on 31 May 2018 and represents the plan for implementing the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience.</p> <p>Pilot projects to facilitate delivery of improved disaster resilience on a regional scale, and to support LGAs in developing their own disaster risk management strategies and resilience plans.</p> <p>The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy was the first pilot project to be completed in mid-2018 and was delivered 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"> <li>• Three regional resilience pilot projects commenced in late 2018 for councils in Central Western Queensland, the Mary River and Fitzroy regions to provide a coordinated blueprint to leverage social, economic, built and environmental resilience.</li> <li>• NDRP funds have been approved for Resilient Queensland pilot work including funding Regional Resilience Coordinators for both the Burnett region and the Central West regions. The Regional Resilience Coordinators commenced in the Burnett region in September 2018 and Central West region in late 2018.</li> </ul>
<b>Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework</b>	<p>QRA has collaborated 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 recognises the significant work that has already been undertaken in this space across the state.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The framework has now been endorsed and published on the QRA website.</li> </ul>
<b>Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies</b>	<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"> <li>• The Flood Study was released on 5 May 2017.</li> <li>• The Flood Study supported the development of a SFMP, which is in the final stages of completion and scheduled for release in early 2019.</li> <li>• QRA will oversee the implementation of SFMP to be delivered by local governments and state agencies.</li> </ul>
<b>Flood Warning Infrastructure Program</b>	<p>QRA continues to assist the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) to ensure the best available information is available for providing flood warnings and forecasts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QRA continues to review the status of each of the councils' Network Investment Plans with regards to the implementation of recommendations.</li> <li>• QRA worked with the Bureau of Meteorology to develop the draft <i>Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan</i> that will support the Bureau's National Flood Warning Infrastructure Strategy.</li> <li>• The draft <i>Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan</i> was submitted to the Queensland Flood Warning Consultative Committee and is anticipated to be released in early to mid-2019.</li> </ul>

## Program spotlights

### \$242 million funding package approved for Queensland

The recovery of communities impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoonal Trough, 25 January – 14 February 2019 event is a top priority for the Queensland Government.

In less than two months since the start of the unprecedented weather event, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) developed and delivered a comprehensive business case outlining the need for a robust response that supports the ongoing recovery efforts of the state in the short and long-term.

On 21 March 2019, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk sent the business case to the Prime Minister, calling on the Commonwealth to jointly fund a Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Category C and D package.

The \$242 million package was designed to address gaps in current assistance measures to help communities get back on their feet and rebuild for a stronger and more resilient tomorrow.

On 29 March 2019, the Prime Minister agreed to the entire \$242 million package requested with the costs to be equally shared between the Queensland and Commonwealth governments.

The \$242 million package includes funding for Betterment, primary producers, business and industry support, riparian and coastal recovery and a resilience grants program.

It will also provide additional assistance for community development, health and wellbeing, and damage to community, sporting and recreational assets.



*\$7 million for community health and wellbeing – Photo courtesy ADF*



*\$750,000 for community information and education – Photo courtesy Townsville City Council*



*\$3.5 million for a flood mapping and warning program*

Funding to strengthen and restore regional economies, businesses, the environment and tourism is also included.

The breakdown of the Category C and D package is:

- \$100 million for an infrastructure betterment fund
- \$14.5 million for the restoration of damaged water and sewerage infrastructure
- \$20 million for the clean-up and repair of community and recreational assets and facilities
- \$10 million for business and industry support
- \$5 million for a tourism recovery package
- \$22 million for a North West Queensland beef recovery package
- \$2 million for extraordinary fodder supply
- \$33 million for a riparian and coastal recovery program
- \$3 million for weed and pest management
- \$15.5 million for a resilience grants program
- \$750,000 for community information and education
- \$3.5 million for a flood mapping and warning program
- \$7 million for community health and wellbeing
- \$5.25 million for a community development program, and
- \$500,000 for monitoring and evaluation.

The collaboration and commitment to recovery from the Australian and Queensland governments as demonstrated by the funding package, combined with the excellent leadership of councils, should reassure impacted Queenslanders that recovery is well in hand.

QRA will continue to administer the DRFA program on behalf of the State and will work with Emergency Management Australia to clarify the details of the approved funding packages.



*\$22 million has been approved for a North West Queensland beef recovery package*



*\$100 million for an infrastructure betterment fund Photo courtesy – Department of Transport and Main Roads*



*Photo courtesy – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services*

## Program spotlights

### A best practice flood warning infrastructure network for Queensland

As part of the *Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience*, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) is partnering with local governments and other flood warning infrastructure owners across the state to coordinate a best practice approach Queensland's Flood Warning Gauge Network. Ultimately this work is helping keep Queenslanders safe by ensuring communities have sufficient warning of future floods.

QRA empowered five local governments in south-west Queensland through the awarding of \$970,000 in Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funding for new flood gauge assets as part of the delivery of Flood Warning Gauge Network Investment Plans.

Together, the local government areas of Balonne, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie and Bulloo identified 26 priority locations for new and upgraded flood gauge assets that would be the most beneficial and cost effective for their communities.

In 2016, each of the councils worked with the QRA and Bureau of Meteorology to develop Flood Warning Gauge Network Investment Plans which identified asset requirements to provide the best possible early flood warning for their communities.

The five local governments have since come together to arrange a joint procurement process for the new flood gauge assets that will deliver better value for money.

The gauges will be delivered in the 2018-19 financial year and following installation, the councils will discuss opportunities for a shared management and maintenance solutions for the region's flood gauge assets, ensuring the infrastructure is working effectively to protect communities.

The local governments are now looking at other ways to support one another to improve flood warnings throughout their region.

Future work being considered includes surveying water crossings to analyse how river gauge heights relate to the water levels at these crossings, which will in turn help the local governments better communicate to the community the impacts of floods.

The councils will continue to work together identifying further efficiencies that can be achieved as part of the regional approach to managing the flood warning gauge network, including a review and update of current flood classifications.



QRA Regional Liaison Officers Greg Scroope and Daniel Piat with members of the South-West Regional Economic Development Group in St George, August 2018.

## Program spotlights

### TMR expedites repairs to reopen Flinders Highway

The most severely damaged section of the Flinders Highway reopened to traffic just 13 days after major flooding receded, thanks to quick action from Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to fast-track essential repairs.

Between 25 January and 14 February 2019, the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough dumped record rainfall across the region, with almost 600mm recorded at Julia Creek during the event. As a result, key transport routes including the Flinders Highway – which forms the main link between Townsville in the east and Mount Isa in the west – were either closed or under restricted access.

The 150-kilometre section of the Flinders Highway from Richmond to Julia Creek was cut when flooding washed away sections of the road pavement. A temporary detour was established via the Landsborough Highway and Winton–Hughenden Road to facilitate access, including for heavy freight vehicles.

Water receded on 14 February, revealing major damage on the Flinders Highway at Nelia. The following day, TMR began damage assessment and discussions to engage local councils and private construction companies to undertake emergency works.

Richmond Shire Council commenced works from the Richmond end of the road section. BMD crews mobilised from Townsville to undertake major works at Nelia, starting on 21 February and enabling the highway to be reopened on 27 February.

Road crews worked under hot and challenging conditions to get the Flinders Highway back on line. In addition to emergency road repairs, crews had to remove and dispose of 68 cattle carcasses from the road reserve along the Flinders Highway.

While reopening the Flinders Highway is an important step in the region's recovery, the severity of the damage means further works will be required.

Eligible reconstruction works will be jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



*Flinders Highway (Richmond–Julia Creek) – damage from the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough event (February 2019)*



*Flinders Highway (Richmond–Julia Creek) – emergency works in progress*

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