

# Monthly Report

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May 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 \$15.6 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 of \$1.3 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.

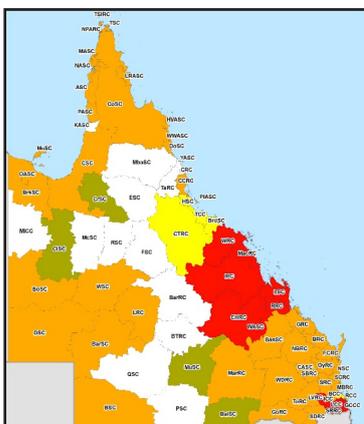
1. Event periods are based on the closing date of the financial year, ie the 2018 event period represents the 2017/18 financial year.

## Disaster Assistance

### Activations

# no DRFA activations new in April/May 2019

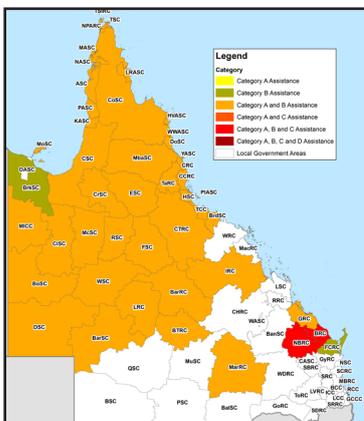
The information below shows the LGAs activated for NDRRA and DRFA relief measures for the 2017 to 2019 event periods that are still in the delivery phase.



#### 2017 event period – \$792 million NDRRA program

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

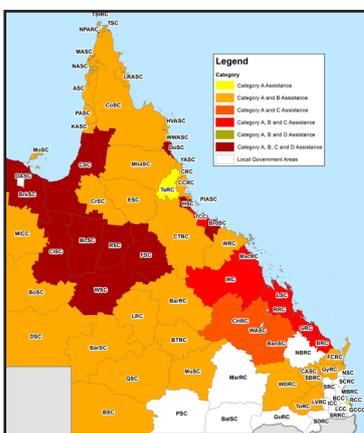
- Far North Queensland Trough, 21–28 March 2017
- Far North Queensland Trough, 3–10 February 2017
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, associated rainfall & flooding, 28 March – 6 April 2017
- Gulf Tropical Low, 15–24 February 2017
- Far North Queensland Low, 8–11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding,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



#### 2018 event period – \$310 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 – \$1.297 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
- 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
- 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 \$2.4 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 \$792 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 \$310 million.

To date, near to 80 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.

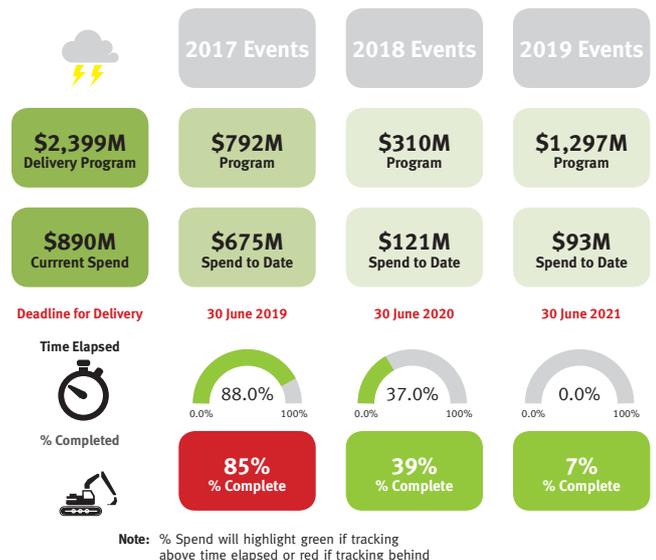
Delivery agents have until 30 June 2020 to deliver eligible NDRRA works from the 2018 Events.

#### 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 59 councils have been activated for assistance. 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 \$1.3 billion, including \$265 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.

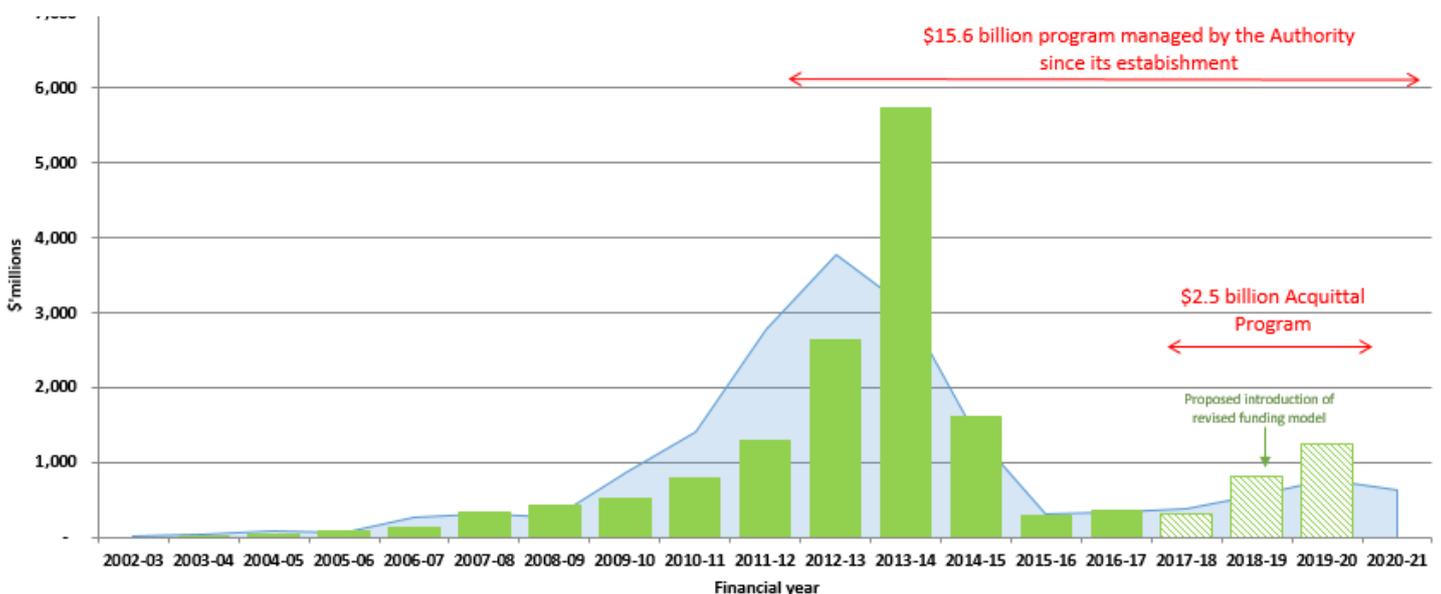
On 28 March 2019, QRA submitted the State’s annual NDRRA claim to the Commonwealth for works completed in the year to 30 June 2018. The claim included final works from the 2016 events and components of the 2017 and 2018 event works completed by 30 June 2018.

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.

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>	

### Additional Recovery Measures – Central Queensland Bushfires (2018)

A suite of DRFA Category C recovery measures has been approved for communities across eight LGAs affected by the devastating bushfires in Central Queensland in November and December 2018.

The \$12.042 million package will be delivered across two years and comprises:

- engagement of Community Development Officers to work with affected communities and identify how best to support the recovery effort going forward
- targeted specialist mental health support program, including access to specialists, mental health awareness programs and clinical interventions, to assist disaster-affected individuals, carers, families, volunteers and communities with specialist clinical mental health support and emotional wellbeing post disaster
- \$6 million flexible funding grants program for community led recovery and resilience activities
- targeted community grant to support clean-up and reinstatement activities beyond that otherwise available under DRFA
- funding to build community resilience through a range of information and education initiatives to help people understand how they can better prepare for and respond to bushfire events.

## 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.

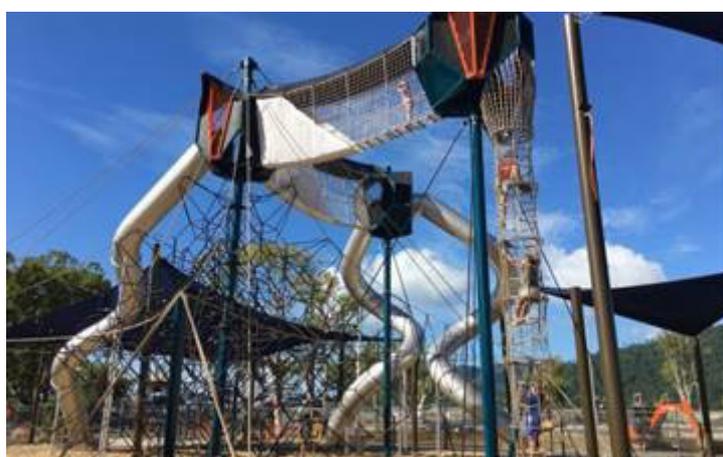
## COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND NDRRA CATEGORY C \$14.9M

- 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.
- The most recent status as at 31 March 2019 (18 months through the two year program) is as follows:

Package Purpose and status	Key metrics to date	
<b>Individual Support Program (DCDSS)</b> \$6.120m funding available		
<b>Financial Counselling</b> 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	8,136 625
<b>Personal Support</b> 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	15,885 2,779
<b>Targeted Family Support</b> 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	2,696
<b>Community Mental Health Program (QHealth)</b> \$6.126m funding available		
To support emotional wellbeing of disaster-affected individuals, carers, families & communities, through mental health support. Mental Health Screening continues in all regions with clients being referred to appropriate mental health services as part of the program delivery. Clear referral pathways have been established and are resulting in referrals of 'severe and complex cases' through to specialist and targeted mental health services. Interagency collaboration continues with mental health teams across all regions actively engaged with schools, state agencies, non-government organisations neighbourhood centres and community groups. This broad engagement, especially from schools, continues to be a source of new referrals. Resilience programming has been well received and has demonstrated that members of the community are motivated to cope and learn skills for future emergencies.	People assessed Clients Clinical hours	6,549 255 10,103
<b>Community Development Program (DCDSS)</b> \$2.38m funding available		
This quarter focussed on disaster preparedness and community recovery activities across all regions with Community Development Officers (CDO) actively involved with presentations and developing guides for use in recovery. All CDOs participated in the roll out of Operation "Knock Knock"; a new multi-agency, state-wide initiative aimed at raising awareness of the importance of resilience, preparation for hazards, and community connectedness. A highlight of this quarter was the delivery of educational sessions for Transcultural Mental Health and community members from Indigenous and CALD communities.	Hours developing & delivering events Hours developing resources tools Hours on training and learning	8,342 9,583 1,572
<b>Reporting and Evaluation (DCDSS/QRA)</b> \$288k funding available		
DCDSS has received a draft evaluation report from The Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) and their partner URIBs, which is currently being reviewed by DCDSS. DCDSS will provide feedback to URIBS for refinement of the evaluation report. The project is on track for it to be finalised by 30 June 2019		

## EXCEPTIONAL NDRRA DISASTER MEASURES 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 funding clarification phase.</li> <li>• Airlie Beach repairs - Construction of Airlie Beach foreshore parklands in final stages. Playground opened 19 April 2019, with remaining works due to complete in June 2019.</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>• 41 projects have been completed and a further 39 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Coastal</li> <li>B. Environmental</li> <li>C. Riparian</li> <li>D. Mapping</li> <li>E. Water Courses.</li> </ul> </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 76% 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>



Airlie Beach Foreshore playground opened on Friday 19 April, ahead of the Easter long weekend.

## 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). Through this project 11 recovery sub-plans are actively being refined and developed for approval. The North and Far North Monsoon Trough will see an increase in the number of recovery sub-plans developed with support of the QRA.

### 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 and 26 local 'Recovery Plans on a Page' are currently actively in delivery or development 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 13 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. Councils are finalising their Local Recovery plans-on-a-page for inclusion in the Recovery Plan. Recovery Plan is due for completion in June 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 not-for-profits, to build disaster resilience across the state.

The 2017-18 NDRP is administered by QRA with total funding available of \$15.0 million.

A total of \$14.9 million of funds has 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 Disaster Resilience Fund 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. Applications are currently being assessed with approvals expected in June 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 will be rolled out to facilitate delivery of improved disaster resilience on a regional scale, and support councils to develop 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>	<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>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 was released on 9 April 2019.</li> <li>• QRA is responsible for leading the delivery of 12 of the 52 recommended actions from the SFMP and will oversee the coordination of the remaining actions to be delivered by local governments and state agencies.</li> <li>• Local governments are now delivering the fourth and final phase of the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies, which is the development of Local Floodplain Management Plans using the data gained from the Flood Study and SFMP.</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>• QRA will develop a strategic approach to deliver flood warning infrastructure improvements using the \$2M of Category C and D DRFA funding made available for councils impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough.</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 mid-2019.</li> </ul>
<b>Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes</b>	<p>Provide the building industry and homeowners with information about ways to strengthen the resilience of their homes to floods.</p> <p>The guide was developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders including the building and insurance industries, local government and state agencies as part of the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies project.</p> <p>The purpose of the guide is to help Queenslanders reduce the impact of flooding to their homes and in doing so reduce the cost of future flood events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive building guide was developed specific to improving the flood resilience of new and existing Queensland homes.</li> <li>• The flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes was released on 9 April 2019 and is available at <a href="http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-homes">www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-homes</a></li> </ul>

Central West Regional Resilience Strategy – Community consultation in Longreach – 14 April 2019



Public release of the Brisbane River SFMP and Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes

## Program spotlights

### Central Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan 2018-21

On 3 April 2019, the Queensland Government released its recovery plan to assist bushfire-affected communities in Central Queensland to recover, reconnect and rebuild following the unprecedented disaster event from 22 November to 6 December 2018.

1.4 million hectares of land burned statewide during the bushfire crisis, with 4200 firefighters and 59 aircraft using 12 million litres of suppressants to battle the disaster.

Even though the State was subsequently impacted by record floods in North and North West Queensland, the Queensland Government has been continuing to work closely with impacted communities to prepare for their long-term recovery.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA), and State Recovery Coordinator Major-General (ret'd) Stuart Smith, have been on the ground over the past fourth months working closely with the eight most impacted communities of Banana, Bundaberg, Central Highlands, Gladstone, Isaac, Livingstone, Mackay and Rockhampton.

This event did not see large infrastructure damage but instead, the devastating impact has been on people and the environment.

QRA and the SRC have been undertaking local engagement with impacted communities (such as Gladstone, Wartburg, Agnes Water, Eungella, Finch Hatton and Bloomsbury) in recent months to keep people informed on bushfire recovery activities and provide support to those traumatised by the event.

With more than 1482 kilometres of fire trails damaged and 140,000 hectares of protected natural areas burned, the impacts to the environment will be felt for many years to come.

These assessments are still going and the impacts to our environment – particularly across areas like Eurimbula and Deepwater National Parks – will need to be addressed for many years to come.

Of course, most important are the people of these communities. The people that witnessed these widespread and catastrophic fires as they tore through their region. We are continuing to work closely with them.

In December, the Queensland and Australian Governments announced a Category C package under the jointly funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

This package delivers long term initiatives that build on the recovery work already underway.

This \$12 million package includes a \$6 million flexible funding grants program aimed at driving recovery and building awareness and resilience within the eight impacted council areas; a mental health program; and the placement of three community development officers in impacted communities to work on recovery.

The Central Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan 2018 – 2021 formalises the recovery efforts to date, and the short and long term timeline for recovery moving forward.

Delivery of the Recovery Plan is being overseen by QRA, Australia's only permanent disaster recovery agency, and eligible recovery and reconstruction activities will be jointly funded through the joint Commonwealth-Queensland Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



*Photo courtesy of QFES: Rural Fire Brigade battling a bushfire at Deepwater, south of Gladstone 3 December 2018.*

## Program spotlights

### Disaster resilience now has a permanent home in legislation

Amendments to strengthen the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011 were passed by the Queensland Parliament on Tuesday 3 April 2019.

The amendments cemented the role of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) as the state's lead agency for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation.

Although QRA was initially founded to assist in reconstruction and recovery of the state post-floods, QRA has since established itself as a national and international leader in natural disaster resilience.

QRA now has the legislative authority and clarity it needs to support government in building a stronger and more resilient state.

The amendments will ensure QRA can undertake its responsibilities for the full range of disaster events rather than only floods, lead the coordination of resilience and recovery policy, and facilitate mitigation activities outside of post-disaster events.

Queensland was struck by 10 separate natural disaster events over the summer of 2018-19 that triggered joint Commonwealth/State disaster funding, including the Central Queensland Bushfires, Tropical Cyclones Owen, Penny and Trevor, and the unprecedented monsoon floods in North, Far North, Central and Western Queensland.

These events have resulted in loss of life, more than a \$1.3 billion dollars in damage to public infrastructure, impacts to agriculture, industry and tourism, and more than \$1.1 billion dollars in insurance losses.

The 10 natural disaster events of 2018-19, including bushfires, cyclones and floods, are a timely reminder that we can't remain complacent when it comes to building resilience.

These events also highlight the importance of having a permanent all-hazards disaster agency tasked with a mandate to help Queenslanders recover, rebuild and reconnect, no matter what Mother Nature throws at us.

As Queenslanders, we need to build our resilience, make our infrastructure and services stronger, and equip our communities with the tools to better prepare and withstand the disasters that frequently impact our state.

The changes to the Act will ensure the resilience activities QRA undertakes are not just limited to communities affected by a previous disaster event, but extend QRA's functions and demonstrate the state government's commitment to making Queensland the most disaster-resilient state in Australia.



*Bulloo River impacted by flooding from Ex-Tropical Cyclone Trevor on the day amendments to the QRA Act 2011 were passed by the Queensland Parliament – 3 April 2019*

## Program spotlights

### Queensland sets national benchmark for floodplain management

The Queensland Government has set another national benchmark for floodplain management with the release of the Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan and a flood resilient building guide for homes.

The Plan was launched on Tuesday 9 April 2019, by Minister for State Development and Minister responsible for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Cameron Dick.

The Strategic Plan builds on the extensive work already undertaken since 2011 by Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Somerset Regional Council, Seqwater and the Queensland Government to better manage flood risk in the region.

While the Plan was developed for the Brisbane River catchment, it will help communities across Queensland develop strategies to increase resilience to flooding.

The Plan allows all levels of government and their agencies to put lessons from the devastating 2010/11 floods into action and enables Queensland communities to use them to build their flood resilience for the future.

This is about understanding and responding to flood risk.

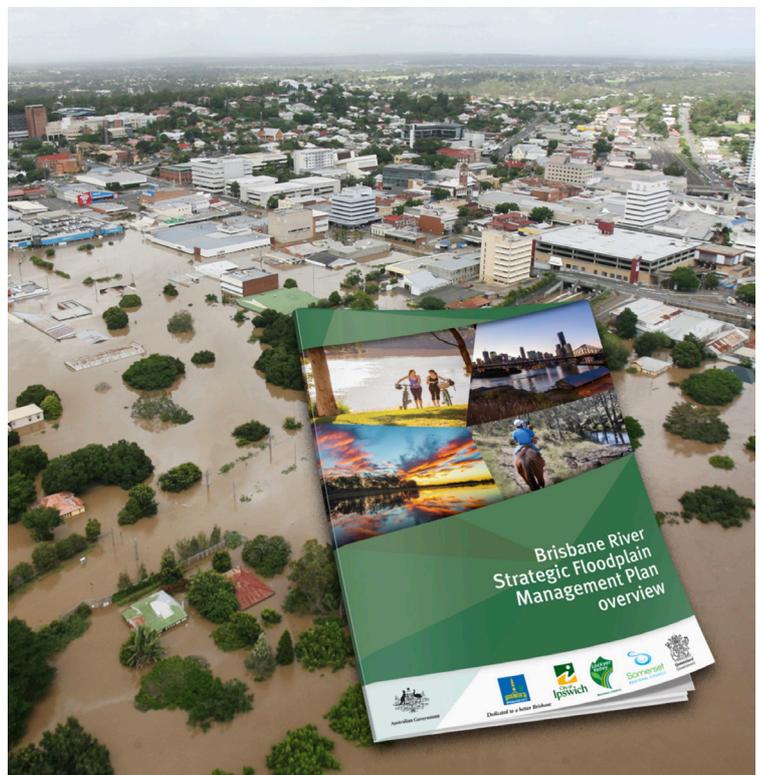
One component of the plan is the development of the Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes, a practical guide to help home owners, builders, designers and councils, improve flood resilience of homes.

This guide, which was developed in partnership with builders, architects and the insurance industry, along with local councils, provides practical steps that can be taken when building or renovating to reduce the impacts and costs of flooding

It identifies simple measures such as wet-proofing the lower level of a home, which can significantly reduce clean up and recovery efforts following floods.

The \$2.4 million Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan project was jointly funded by the Queensland Government and stakeholder councils, with the Australian Government providing \$375,000 through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program.

The Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan is available at [www.qra.qld.gov.au/BRCFS](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/BRCFS) and the Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes is available at [www.qra.gov.au/resilient-homes](http://www.qra.gov.au/resilient-homes).



*Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan*

## Program spotlights

### Working with local government to reopen Hervey Range Road

After multiple landslides closed Hervey Range Road, west of Townsville, Transport and Main Roads (TMR) worked closely with local government to restore access for isolated communities in less than two weeks.

Landslides occurred on Hervey Range on 30 January 2019 due to heavy rainfall from the Monsoon Trough disaster event across north and north west Queensland between 25 January and 14 February 2019. Hervey Range Road was blocked with debris including large fallen boulders, which also damaged the road pavement, guardrails and signs. Some drainage structures were blocked.

Hervey Range Road serves as a vital heavy vehicle route for agriculture, freight and mining in north Queensland, connecting Townsville to key inland routes including the Gregory Developmental Road. The Hervey Range community, consisting of approximately 250 residents, was isolated from both Townsville and Charters Towers due to the road closure, as well as closures at several flooded crossings along the road.

Once crews could safely access the site, TMR carried out specialist engineering assessments to determine the extent of damage. In addition to pavement damage from the landslide, some sections of Hervey Range Road had been undermined by large volumes of water flowing under the road, causing sub-surface erosion.

Following these assessments, TMR worked with Townsville City Council (TCC) – which is responsible for maintenance of Hervey Range Road under a contract with TMR – on a plan for repairing and reopening the road. TCC then sourced materials and machinery for the repair works.

On 8 February, TMR's RoadTek crews mobilised on site and began breaking down large fallen boulders. From 11 February, TCC crews were on site to remove the broken boulders and remaining debris, and to commence emergency repairs.

On 15 February, Hervey Range Road was reopened to local traffic under single lane operation, providing vital access to and from Townsville for Hervey Range residents. On 20 February, TCC completed repair works and the road was reopened to two-lane traffic with access for heavy vehicles also fully restored.

Some additional work is required on Hervey Range Road to reduce the risk of future landslides. Geotechnical engineers are currently developing design solutions for reconstruction works, which are expected to occur in the coming months.

Closer to Townsville on Hervey Range Road, Alice River Bridge remains closed due to significant damage from floodwaters during the monsoon event. TMR has been completing specialist engineering assessments to gain a clear understanding of the scope and timeframe of works required to repair the bridge and reopen it to traffic. A detour will remain in place while works are completed.

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



*Hervey Range Road – landslide following heavy rainfall as a result of the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough event (January 2019)*



*Hervey Range Road – road damage following the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough event (February 2019)*



*Hervey Range Road – emergency works in progress*

