

Monthly Report

July 2019

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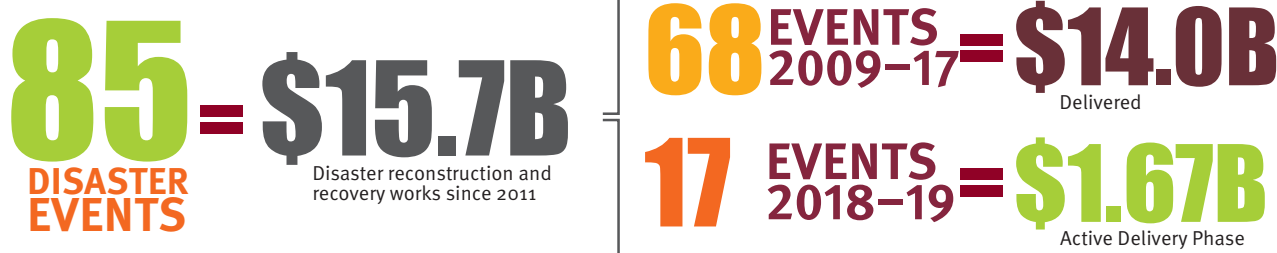
Disaster Assistance

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 \$15.7 billion of disaster reconstruction and recovery works for 85 disaster events activated for disaster relief measures.

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



During July, QRA completed a review of disaster program estimates. The review is undertaken on a regular basis and involved a complete review of the active NDRRA and DRFA program of each local government authority (LGA) and state agency. The review included updated estimates for the 2018 and 2019 events, which are in the delivery phase, and preliminary final costs for the 2017 event works, which were due to be completed by 30 June 2019.

NDRRA

Although 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 disasters occurring in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 event periods¹ 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, \$14.0 billion of works from 68 events across the 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 events have been delivered and works worth \$300 million for the remaining nine events from the 2018 and 2019 event periods (that occurred prior to 1 November 2018) are currently in the delivery phase (Delivery Program).

As all works were reported to be complete within the 30 June 2018 deadline to deliver NDRRA works arising from the 2016 events, the 2016 event program is no longer reported in the Delivery Program. The portion of the 2016 event program completed in 2017-18 will now be closed out and acquitted in the next (2017-18) claim, due to be submitted to the Commonwealth in March 2019.

Of the total program, \$13.4 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 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 after 1 November 2018.

Eight events with damage estimates of \$1.37 billion have been activated to date under DRFA 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.

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.

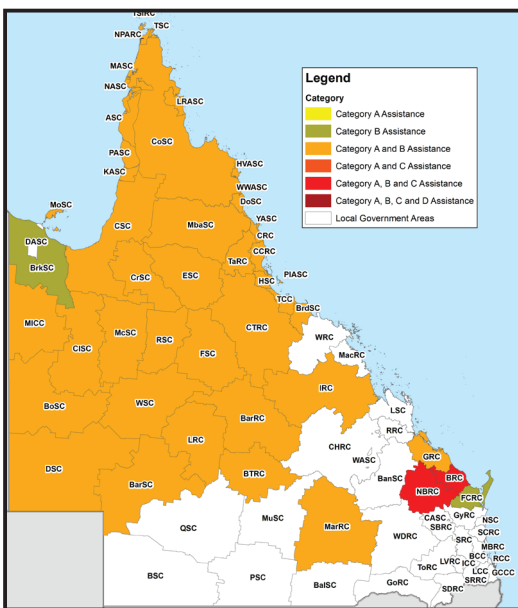
¹ Event periods are based on the closing date of the financial year, ie the 2018 event period represents the 2017/18 financial year.

Disaster Assistance

Activations

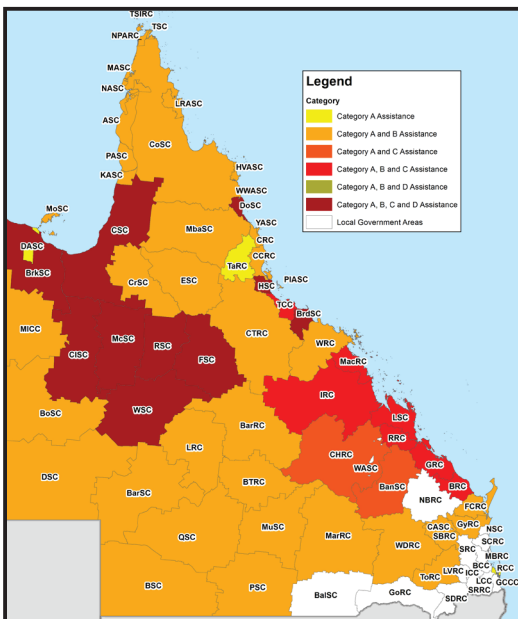
no DRFA activations new in July 2019

The information below shows the LGAs activated for NDRRA and DRFA relief measures for the 2018 to 2019 event periods that are in the delivery phase.



2018 event period – \$297 million NDRRA program
(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2020, with acquittal by March 2021)

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



2019 event period – \$1.374 billion Combined NDRRA/DRFA program value
(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2021, with acquittal by March 2022)

NDRRA

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

DRFA

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

Disaster Assistance

NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program status

The **Delivery Program** comprises works for 17 events across the 2018 and 2019 event periods with an estimated value of \$1.67 billion.

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



2018 Events

Across the 2018 disaster season, 48 councils were activated across six disaster events at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$297 million.

To date, 87 per cent of funding submissions have been approved for the 2018 events, and QRA is assisting delivery agents prepare any remaining outstanding submissions and progress delivery of the program.

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

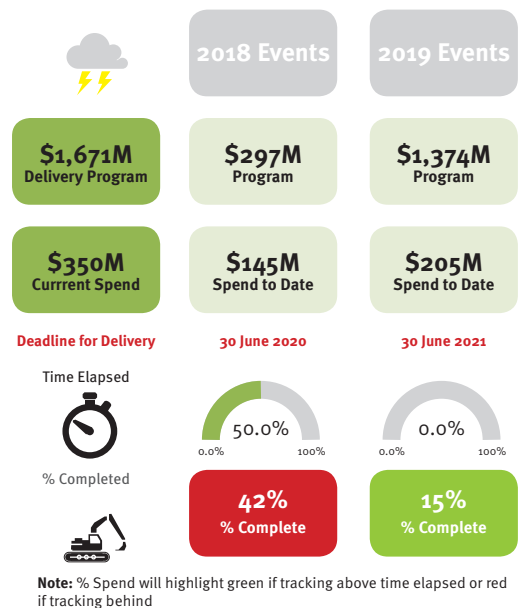
2019 Events

In 2018-19 the State has been impacted by an unprecedented 11 disaster events with 61 councils activated for assistance, 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 which brought flooding to Far Western communities in March.

Of these, three events that occurred in September and October 2018 were activated under NDRRA and eight events that occurred after 1 November 2018 have been activated under DRFA.

Preliminary estimates of the total NDRRA/DRFA cost for the 2019 events have been revised to \$1.4 billion, including \$265 million of Category C and D exceptional circumstances packages.

The estimate will continue to be refined over coming months as impacted council areas assess damage.



Completion of 2017 Events

The 2017 events were due for completion by 30 June 2019 in order to be eligible for NDRRA funding.

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 \$800 million.

All works were reported to be complete on time other than three projects which have received or requested extensions of time – Whitsunday Regional Council’s Shute Harbour project has an extension to 30 June 2020 due to delays arising from geo-technical complexities and Mackay Regional Council has requested short extensions for two projects delayed by weather.

As the deadline has passed, the 2017 event program is no longer reported in the Delivery Program and the balance of the program completed up to the deadline will be closed out and acquitted in the next (2018-19) claim, due to be submitted to the Commonwealth in March 2020.

Disaster Assistance

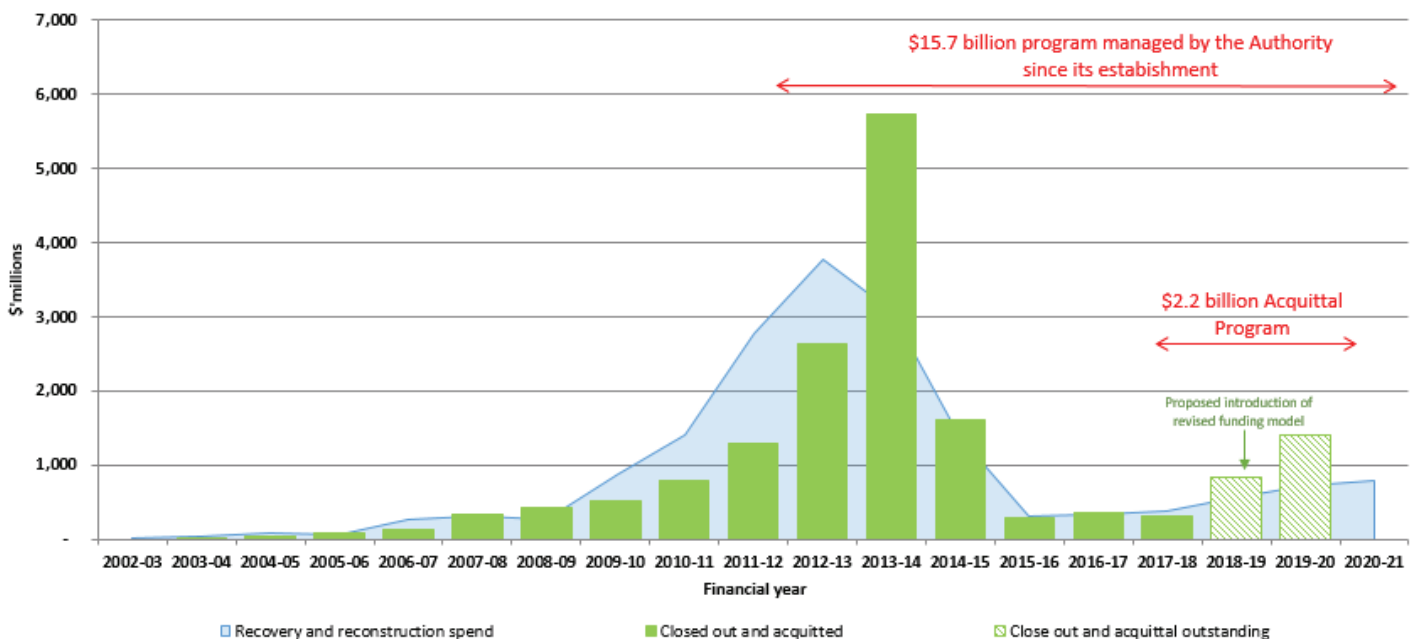
NDRRA/DRFA Acquittal Program status



The **Acquittal Program** comprises works that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth, and is spread across 24 events from the 2017 events that were completed in the year up to the deadline for delivery on 30 June 2019, and the 2018 and 2019 event periods that remain in the Delivery Program.

Queensland’s next Claim for NDRRA and DRFA works completed in the 2018-19 financial year is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2020. The 2018-19 claim is preliminarily estimated to acquit approximately \$840 million of NDRRA and DRFA expenditure.

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
- \$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.

All package guidelines have been released, and Expressions of Interest or applications are now progressing for submissions for the built /infrastructure and environment programs.

The \$242 million package comprises the following elements:

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

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 were delivered to alleviate distress for communities, businesses, industries and the environment impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie.

Consistent with the wider program for the 2017 event program, the additional NDRRA measures were required to be delivered by 30 June 2019.

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.
- On completion at 30 June 2019, the status of the community recovery fund program was as follows:

Package		
Purpose and status	Key metrics	
Individual Support Program (DCDSS) \$6.120m funding available		
Financial Counselling		
Financial Counsellors 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
Personal Support		
Counsellors worked across impacted regions in direct contact through general counselling and support to individuals experiencing personal, social or emotional difficulties. Individuals were also being referred to other existing support services where relevant. Service demand significantly increased in the June 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	15,896 2,784
Targeted Family Support		
Counselling and support to families, addressing the heightened sensitivities of families following the impact of STC Debbie on their emotional and economic wellbeing. The programs helped build the skills and capabilities of families so they are more resilient in the long term.	Family Support online programs activated	2,696
Community Mental Health Program (QHealth) \$6.126m funding available		
To support emotional wellbeing of disaster-affected individuals, carers, families & communities, through mental health support. Mental Health Screening continued in all regions in the June quarter with clients being referred to appropriate mental health services as part of the program delivery. Clear referral pathways were established resulting in referrals of 'severe and complex cases' through to specialist and targeted mental health services. Interagency collaboration occurred 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, was a source of new referrals. Resilience programming was well received and demonstrated that members of the community are motivated to cope and learn skills for future emergencies.	People assessed Clients Clinical hours	6,674 257 11,498
Community Development Program (DCDSS) \$2.38m funding available		
The June 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 the June 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 9,585 1,572
Reporting and Evaluation (DCDSS/QRA) \$288k funding available		
Final evaluation report has been received. A covering document to the evaluation report is being finalised based on feedback and will be completed by the end of August 2019.		

EXCEPTIONAL NDRRA DISASTER MEASURES CATEGORY D \$96.3M

Package	Purpose	Status
Local Council Package (\$17.3 million)	<p>Infrastructure projects to generate employment, boost the local economy and drive community resilience in key impact areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shute Harbour Marina (\$15.2 million) – demolish and replace the existing jetty, rebuild the terminal building, repair an existing seawall, and replace ancillary infrastructure. • Airlie Beach repairs, Whitsundays (\$850k) – for repairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 with tenders closing in March 2019. Council are progressing with their tender clarification phase. All piles have been delivered to site and 50% of rock has been crushed and stockpiled. All approvals are in place, with the exception of silt and sediment controls, which are contractor specific. • Airlie Beach parklands was completed in June 2019 and has been officially reopened.
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 were approved worth \$41.9 million, fully allocating the Betterment funding across 22 councils. • All projects were completed prior to 30 June 2019, other than Shute Harbour, a portion of which is being delivered with Betterment funding (refer above).
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: <ol 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 projects worth more than \$18.5 million were completed across 14 Councils and the Department of Environment and Science <p>C, D & E (Riparian, Mapping, Water Courses) – \$15.6 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All funding was allocated to eligible projects across seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies. • All projects were completed by 30 June 2019.
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"> • The Economic Recovery Package has been delivered by the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries, with Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) now demobilised and Rural financial counselling services completed.



Pile delivery for Shute Harbour, Whitsunday Regional Council



Disaster Assistance

STATE PACKAGES \$62M

The state has committed to fund the full \$110 million of additional recovery measures 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:

- \$25 million towards the South Rockhampton Flood Levee
- \$8.8 million 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.

These projects continue to be delivered.



Whitsunday Regional Council held official opening celebrations at the new Foreshore on Saturday 29 June, The Airlie Foreshore Fiesta was a huge success, with over 2000 people enjoying the new area over the afternoon. (Photos courtesy of the Whitsunday Regional Council)

Recovery

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.

Recovery Plans across three events are currently in delivery or development:

Event	Overview	Status
Severe Tropical Cyclone Trevor (2019)	In March 2019, Severe Tropical Cyclone Trevor and associated low pressure system impacted 21 LGAs across Far North and Central West Queensland. Two councils are developing an event specific Plan-on-a-Page.	Barcoo Shire Council has finalised their Local Recovery Plan-on-a-Page and will be submitted for endorsement by Council in August. Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Councils Local Recovery Plan-on-a-Page is currently under development.
North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough (2019)	39 councils across North and Central Queensland were impacted by flooding associated with the monsoon trough in January and February 2019. The North and North West Floods State Recovery Plan will include 13 of the 14 local Recovery Plans on a Page developed by Burke, Cloncurry, Douglas, Flinders, McKinlay, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Richmond, Torres, Torres Strait Island, Townsville, Winton and Wujal Wujal councils. Cloncurry, McKinlay and Flinders Shire Councils developed Event Specific Recovery Action Plans.	Carpentaria Shire Council: Local Recovery Plan on a Page is currently under development. North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough State Recovery Plan is near finalisation.
CQ Bushfires (2018)	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 five severely impacted council areas.	QRA is currently finalising the first three month progress report and will soon be published.

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 currently under review by state agency partners and consultation commenced in August.

Recovery

Recovery Planning and Governance Project

As an outcome of the Recovery Capability Development Project and lessons learned during recovery operations during the NFNQ Monsoon Trough event, this project will involve a gap analysis in terms of local government recovery planning, identify where assistance is required, and develop recovery sub-plans with Queensland local governments through a coordinated strategic program approach. This will also enhance local recovery governance. The project is due for completion by July 2020.

Data analysis and review of the current status of Local Government's Recovery Sub-plans has been completed with the project to commence rollout to relevant councils from August 2019.

Recovery Information Hub

This project has been initiated as a result of QRA being identified as the lead entity to address recommendation number two of the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management's (IGEM) review into the Efficacy of Recovery Governance. Recommendation number two states: "Practical guidance on what community-led recovery means, and how it can be best implemented should be captured and shared with all who have responsibility for it. This should be done to help individuals and communities take the lead in recovery and so that community-led recovery become the norm following disasters and other events."

When the hub goes live, it will enable Local and State Government Agencies and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to access a range of recovery resource material including: recovery reporting cycle documents, research material, recovery case studies, Local Recovery Plans-on-a-Page, Recovery Sub-plans as well as reference materials such as the Community Recovery Handbook, Queensland Recovery Plan and Queensland Recovery Strategy.

The project is currently in initiation stage.

Queensland Recovery Strategy Project

QRA is undertaking a project to develop a comprehensive strategy which takes into account the complete system of relief and recovery activities and supports, necessary to deliver inclusive and integrated community recovery outcomes for a safer and more disaster resilient Queensland.

The development of the Queensland Recovery Strategy will inform national policy discussions to occur across the coming 12 to 18 months.

The project commenced in July 2019 and is due for completion in April 2020.

State Recovery Coordinator Guide and associated documentation

The State Recovery Coordinator Guide (the Guide) provides information and guidance relating to the State Recovery Coordinator and Deputy State Recovery Coordinator roles. The Guide had been developed to align with the requirements detailed in the Queensland Disaster Management Act 2033 (s. 21D (1)-(4) and 21E (1)).

The Guide is currently in consultation and is scheduled for completion by the start of the 2019/20 disaster season.



QRA CEO Brendan Moon, General Manager - Liaison and Recovery Jo Killick and Regional Liaison Officer Michael Mackintosh were joined by staff from the Community Recovery Referral and Information Centre in Cloncurry at a dinner in July 2019 hosted by the Cloncurry Regional Council for agencies and individuals who provided support during the North Queensland Monsoon Flood event

Resilience

QRA is leading disaster resilience and mitigation policy in Queensland.

Resilience grant funding programs

Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

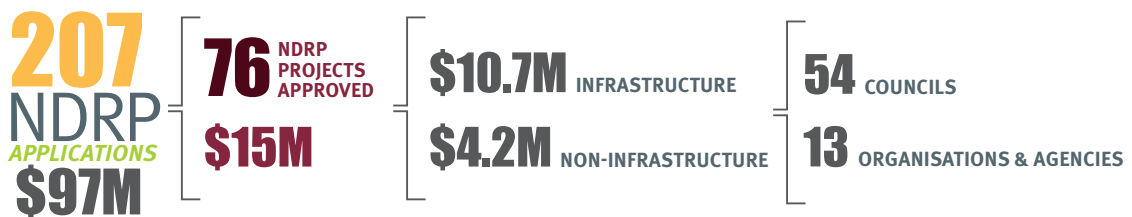
\$15M FUNDING AVAILABLE
NDRP

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 13 organisations and agencies.

To 30 June 2019, 18 NDRP projects have been reported as complete, with the remaining projects required to be delivered by 30 June 2020.



Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund

\$38M
OVER 4 YEARS
QDRF

The Queensland Government's \$38 million Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) is aimed at strengthening the state's resilience to future disasters.

The fund supports 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 heavily oversubscribed with 223 applications received. A total of 62 projects submitted by local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations were approved under the QDRF with successful applicants notified in June 2019.

In conjunction with the QDRF, \$1.15 million in Australian Government funding has been allocated to 11 projects under the Prepared Communities Fund, as part of the Australian Government's Preparing Australia Package.

The QDRF and Preparing Australia projects will be delivered through to 30 June 2021.

Resilience

Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
Resilient Queensland 2018–2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience	<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"> • 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. • The pilot projects are progressing well with each focused on a locally-led approach designed to meet the needs of local Councils using a regional approach with support by the state. • Work undertaken includes: detailed background research and multiple workshops to identify local issues, challenges, and opportunities; a detailed local landscape and hazard knowledge capture process in the Central West; collective examination and review of flood warning infrastructure in the Fitzroy; and identification of regional aspirations and actions in the Mary region. • 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. • QRA is also developing a flood resilience strategy for the Burdekin catchment, including the adjacent smaller Houghton River catchment that impacted on the town of Giru.
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 was released on 5 May 2017 and the supporting SFMP was released on 9 April 2019. • QRA is responsible for leading delivery of 12 of the 52 recommended actions from the SFMP and is overseeing remaining actions to be delivered by local governments and state agencies. • 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. • Eight other State agencies and SEQWater are responsible for 22 SFMP actions in total.
Flood Warning Infrastructure Program	<p>QRA is assisting 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"> • QRA continues to review the status of each of the councils' Network Investment Plans with regards to the implementation of recommendations. • QRA worked with the Bureau of Meteorology and key stakeholders to develop the <i>Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan</i> that will support the Bureau's National Flood Warning Infrastructure Framework. • QRA is developing a strategic approach to deliver flood warning infrastructure improvements using the \$2 million of Category C and D DRFA funding made available for councils impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, the four project areas of operation Far North Queensland, North West Queensland, Townsville and surrounds, and Central West RAPAD. Information and maps are provided at www.qra.qld.gov.au/fwim • The Draft <i>Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan</i> was submitted to the Queensland Flood Warning Consultative Committee for endorsement at its July meeting.
Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes	<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"> • A comprehensive building guide was developed specific to improving the flood resilience of new and existing Queensland homes. • The flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes was released on 9 April 2019 and is available at www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-homes



Program spotlights

Queensland fund helps Communities Build Disaster Resilience

Communities across Queensland will strengthen their resilience to natural disasters, with the Queensland Government announcing 62 projects that will share in \$9.5 million in disaster mitigation funding.

The 62 projects from local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations received the funding as part of round one of the \$38 million Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF).

Increasing disaster resilience in our communities not only reduces the risk of damage, it also reduces future restoration costs, and potentially saves lives.

The projects include bushfire mitigation measures such as fire breaks, riverbank stabilisation, flood modelling and mapping, evacuation centre upgrades and disability inclusive disaster risk reduction measures.

In addition, delivery of the Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan is being supported by the QDRF.

The Program will also see the Australian Red Cross deliver disaster preparedness and resilience lessons to 5000 children in Years 3 and 4 across the state through 'The Pillowcase Project', a disaster resilience education program.

Red Cross Queensland Director Garry Page said the Pillowcase Project will help children understand the importance of being prepared.

"This is all about identifying hazards in the community, knowing what to pack in an emergency kit, and assisting them with managing stress during a disaster," Mr Page said.

"The objective of the program is to create a generation of children who are aware of the importance of personal preparedness, are empowered to take action to prepare for emergencies, and who share what they have learnt with friends and loved ones, knowing their actions are contributing to household and community resilience.

"Emergency preparedness education programs have shown to reduce rather than increase children's fears about hazards and emergencies," he said.

The QDRF aligns with the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR) and enables communities to invest in solutions before disaster strikes.



The QDRF will be delivered annually across four rounds to 2021-2022 and will help Queensland achieve its aim of becoming the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

Funding for the 62 projects, from councils and council organisations, state agencies and other organisations including Regional Natural Resource Management bodies and other non-government and not-for profit organisations, is being administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Australia's only permanent disaster recovery agency.

For more information on the QDRF, go to www.qra.qld.gov.au/QDRF

Program spotlights

\$100 million to improve infrastructure resilience in disaster hit communities

The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments have partnered in a \$100 million fund to help communities impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough build back stronger, more disaster resilient infrastructure.

The \$100 million Betterment Fund is part of the \$242 million Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Category C and D recovery package established to help impacted communities get back on track following the devastating floods of January and February 2019.

Following the success of the 2013, 2015, and 2017 programs, the \$100 million 2019 program is the largest Betterment Fund ever established in Australia under the DRFA and will enable the upgrade of essential public infrastructure better than before.

The DRFA allows the repair of damaged assets back to their pre-disaster standard.

The Betterment Fund was created to break this cycle and is part of the Category D exceptional circumstances funding which enables the building back of bridges, roads, floodways and other essential infrastructure to a more resilient standard.

Not only is this the largest pool of funding approved for Betterment projects, it will also be the first time funding will be available for state-owned infrastructure as well as local government infrastructure.

In addition to the \$100 million Betterment Fund, eligible local governments can also submit expressions of interest under a \$14.5 million Water and Sewerage Infrastructure Program to restore infrastructure damaged as a result of the Monsoon Trough.

The Water and Sewerage Infrastructure Program will restore damaged water and sewerage assets, ensuring essential services are delivered to the community.

The Betterment Fund is a great example of all levels of government working together to improve the resilience of our communities.

Almost 260 of the total 370 betterment projects delivered in previous Betterment programs have been impacted by 16 subsequent events since their completion.

From an investment of around \$94 million for these projects, we have seen more than \$145 million in avoided costs, and that's just for those projects that have been re-impacted.

Previous examples of Betterment include the approaches to Grosvenor Bridge on A Creek Road in North Burnett. The now concrete approaches constructed after Tropical Cyclone Marcia withstood the flooding in the Burnett River following Cyclone Debbie in 2017.

Fraser Coast Regional Council has also seen the benefits of Betterment with the recently completed Betterment project on Dakins Road, with more than 1500 cubic metres of concrete going into a new seven-metre wide floodway.

In addition to increasing the resilience of public infrastructure and saving money on future repairs, both of these projects increase safety for the community by providing safer roadways for motorists and vital routes for farmers to transport crops and livestock to market.

Further information on Betterment can be found on the Queensland Reconstruction Authority website, www.qra.qld.gov.au.



Fraser Coast's recently completed Betterment Project for Dakins-Netherby Road



The benefits of Betterment – North Burnett's A Creek Road following Cyclone Marcia and withstanding Cyclone Debbie.

Program spotlights

Nerang–Murwillumbah Road restoration completed

Works to repair a major landslip on Nerang–Murwillumbah Road in the Gold Coast hinterland were completed in June 2019.

Locally, the Numinbah area received approximately 685mm of rain in two days when Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie impacted the region in March 2017, causing several minor landslips along the road and one major slip.

The slip sites first had to undergo extensive excavation to remove landslip material and residual loose material from the slope face. The slope face was then stabilised with revegetation and matting to prevent scouring. Due to the size of the major slip site, which stretched many metres above the road, a four to six-metre high fence nearly 90 metres long had to be constructed to prevent rocks and debris falling onto the road.

It was also necessary to stabilise the downslope batter after severe scouring and align the road to ensure safety during maintenance activities on the debris rock fall fence.

To achieve this, a 145-metre piled retaining wall made of 60 concrete piles each 1.2 metres in diameter, with approximately 100 supporting ground anchors from the top of the wall, was installed before pavements could be fully reconstructed.

Over the course of the project, TMR installed the following:

- nearly 3km of soil nails/anchors
- nearly 500m² of erosion control matting
- more than 1600m² of hydromulch seed
- more than 1300m³ of material excavated
- more than 1600m² of pavement resealing or reconstruction
- more than 160m of guardrail over the retaining wall.

After initial emergency works made the road safe for traffic, the project faced complexities that extended construction timeframes, including ground conditions that increased the time to install the piles and ground anchors for the wall. Further, due to the constrained nature of the site, it took substantially longer to construct the debris rock fall fence to enable the road to remain open during the works.

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



Nerang–Murwillumbah Road – landslip site



Nerang-Murwillumbah Road – completed works



Nerang-Murwillumbah Road – landslip site



Nerang-Murwillumbah Road – completed works

