

WHAT WE DO:

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Government’s program of **recovery and reconstruction** works within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice administration of public reconstruction and resilience funds. QRA is also the state’s lead agency responsible for **disaster recovery and resilience policy**, working collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

OUR VISION:

Make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

OUR PURPOSE:

Enable recovery and build resilience to disaster events within our communities.

Status of NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program

	2018 Events	2019 Events	2020 Events
\$1,770M Delivery Program	\$288M Program	\$1,466M Program	\$16M Program
\$630M Current Spend	\$215M Spend to date	\$395M Spend to date	\$19M Spend to date
Deadline for Delivery	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022
Time Elapsed	79%	29%	-
% Completion	75% complete	27% complete	Program subject to update

In February

1 NEW EVENT FOR DRFA MEASURES

Southern Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding 8-14 February 2020

\$70M SUBMISSIONS APPROVED

\$33M WORKS REPORTED AS DELIVERED

DISASTER ASSISTANCE - Additional Recovery Measures

QRA is administering a suite of exceptional DRFA assistance measures for recent events.

Southern Queensland Bushfires and Eastern Queensland Bushfires (2019) - \$28.2M

Additional funding under the DRFA has been approved in Queensland in response to the 2020 bushfires. \$28.2M in Category C and D DRFA funding is being made available to assist with the recovery from these bushfires. This includes new packages announced in February of \$1.775M to assist with the clean-up of the Binna Burra Lodge and undertake master planning to inform the Lodge’s recovery and restoration needs, and additional \$1.425M top-up payments to five councils under the previously announced Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package. The current packages are outlined below.

Recovery package	Amount (\$)
Marketing Campaign	\$1.5M
Tourism Recovery Officers (TROs)	\$500k
Tourism Recovery Fund for Local Government	\$3M
Binna Burra Recovery	\$1.775M
Binna Burra Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience	\$1M
Mental Health and Wellbeing	\$4.7M
Community Development Officers (CDOs)	\$3M
Flexible Funding Grants	\$6M
Monitoring and Evaluation	\$300k
Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package	\$6.425M

North & FNQ Monsoon Trough (2019) - \$242M

Infrastructure \$134.5M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$81.3M allocated to date to 56 projects, to restore and improve the disaster resilience of flood damaged essential public, community and water assets.
Economic \$39M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Industry Recovery Officers and 3 Rural Financial Counsellors in operation. 145 small business grants approved to the value of \$1.45M. 41 Travel bursaries provided for delegates to attend the Destination Q Events Conference. \$1.7M provided to councils for fodder supply costs.
Environment \$36M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riparian Recovery Program – 114 projects worth \$33.74M recommended across riparian reconnaissance, urgent riparian works, Coastal Recovery Program and the Regional Invasive Species Program. \$100,000 Emergency Response Program for Parthenium Weed is being delivered through Department of Agriculture and Fisheries as an emergency response.
Human & Social \$12.75M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Community Development Officers in place. Mental Health program is in delivery with 13 clinicians, social and health workers and one Child and Youth Mental Health service delivering services through the Townsville, North West and Central West Hospital and Health Services (HHS).
Resilience \$19.75M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible Funding Grants totalling \$4.5M approved across 68 projects. The projects will continue to support and enable recovery, and contribute to building awareness and resilience. Townsville Flood Mapping project initiated.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

NDRRA/DRFA Grants Program	Acquittal:
QRA administers and coordinates joint Commonwealth/State disaster recovery grant measures in Queensland through Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).	The 2018-19 NDRRA/DRFA Claim is currently being audited by the Queensland Audit Office, and is due for lodgement to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2020. The Claim will acquit \$840M recovery expenditure delivered in the 2018-19 financial year.



2018
2019
2020

disaster seasons are currently in delivery with an estimated value in excess of

\$1.77B

Central Queensland Bushfires (2018) - \$12.0M

Human & Social \$3.79M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Community Development Officers delivering program across 8 councils Mental Health program - 6 clinicians appointed across Rockhampton, Mackay and Wide Bay HHSs.
Resilience \$8.25M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.5M Rural Residential Recovery program has commenced roll-out with over \$1.2M paid to date \$5.19M has supported 78 Queensland-based community groups, non-government organisations, industry groups and local governments to deliver projects across 8 local government areas as a result of successful Flexible Funding Grant applications. Bushfire awareness campaign underway.

RECOVERY

QRA works extensively on recovery planning with councils impacted by major disaster events, increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support for local recovery governance.

Recovery Plans

QRA is currently coordinating three state event specific recovery plans:

Queensland Bushfires (2020)

The Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan addresses the Southern Queensland Bushfires and Eastern Queensland Bushfires. Functional Recovery Groups have completed recovery action plans which have been incorporated into the Plan. Southern Downs, Noosa, Livingstone, Somerset and Toowoomba Regional Councils have endorsed their event specific local recovery plans. Gladstone, Lockyer Valley and Scenic Rim Regional Councils are being assisted by QRA to develop event specific recovery plans.

North & FNQ Monsoon Trough (2019)

The second quarterly progress report is being progressed through Government for consideration.

Central Queensland Bushfires (2018)

Local Government and State agencies are continuing to support the recovery objectives outlined in the recovery plan. Flexible funding grants have enabled Council to use innovative approaches to recovery including the development of Rural Community Connect in the Central Highlands and an art education program in Mackay. The third progress report is currently progressing through Government for consideration.

Delivery underway on completed Council event-specific recovery plans related to the Central Queensland Bushfires and the FNQ Monsoon Trough

20

8 Council event-specific recovery plans being finalised for the Southern Queensland Bushfires

8

Recovery Planning and Governance Project

As a result of the 2018-19 disaster season, assisting local governments with developing and/or strengthening local disaster recovery capabilities has been identified as a key recovery priority for Queensland.

49 Council Recovery sub-plans underway or endorsed

102 participants have attended
6 workshops delivered in 2020 across
Central Highlands
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
Barcaldine Regional Council
Longreach Regional Council
Winton Shire Council and
Charters Towers Regional Council.

Queensland Recovery Project

A revised Queensland Recovery Plan has been provided to State Government Functional Recovery Groups for input. The revised plan captures key learnings from events including the Central Queensland Bushfires 2018, the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon and the 2019-20 Queensland Bushfires.

Publications

Local Recovery Planning Process for Wujal Wujal, an article outlining the recovery planning process used to develop Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council's event specific recovery plan from the 2019 Monsoon Trough has been published in the Australian Journal of Emergency Management.

The article can be found at <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/ajem-january-2020-local-recovery-planning-process-for-wujal-wujal/>

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

CARPENTARIA MAKES AN EARLY START TO BUILD LOCAL CONFIDENCE

Due to significant rainfall and flooding from the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough early in 2019, Carpentaria Shire was activated for the joint Commonwealth and State funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for Counter Disaster Operations, Emergency Work and Restoration of Essential Public Assets, to restore damage after a significant hit to the shire.

Council identified an early gap in the programming of current works and worked with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to get works started as soon as it was safe to do so.

QRA worked closely with Council to enable the restoration of Iffley Road (approximately 60km south of Normanton) resulting in an extension to the construction season and delivering a much-needed boost to local business confidence.

Following the devastating impact to the local economy from the 2019 flood event, the ability to support and extend business opportunities has kept people employed locally and significantly contributing to the stimulation of the shire's economy.

Giving businesses comfort in being able to continue work over this period has put them and the Shire in a greater fiscal position, maintained specialist skill sets locally and developed new local opportunities. Carpentaria Shire is in a more sustainable position coming into the 2020 construction season thanks to these works.

Council's Chief Executive Officer, Mark Crawley said the establishment of a major works program is a massive undertaking.



"Carpentaria Shire's roads provide access to a range of local tourist destinations and regional commercial centres so ensuring our residents and tourists are safe on the roads is an important consideration for our town. It is the backbone of what we do here at Council," Mr Crawley said.

"Taking into consideration Council looks after 64,000 square kilometres, the accelerated approval process to repair damage to the road network through QRA put the council in a better position to manage quality of work and performance outcomes.

"It has also provided workers and businesses a greater sense of security to be able to provide competitive rates.

"It is important we recognise the impact this funding has for rebuilding business sustainability and confidence in our shire," he said.

In addition to the 2019 reconstruction program, Carpentaria has now been activated through QRA for assistance measures following the recent Queensland Monsoonal Flooding in January 2020, with damage inspections underway to ensure the road network is in a trafficable state as soon as practicable.



Image: (Above): Major flooding on the Burke Development Road 89A (Cloncurry Road) at the Flinders River as flood waters peaked over the bridge at Walkers Bend. (Left) Council inspecting Iffley Road.

RESILIENCE

QRA leads the coordination and development of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risk, improving the resilience of communities, and facilitating mitigation against potential disasters.

Resilience grant programs

Get Ready Queensland

GRQ provides Queensland Government funding for grants and community awareness campaigns to help local governments improve their communities' resilience.

Submissions are now open for the 2020 Resilient Australia Awards. The Resilient Australia Awards is a national program to recognise initiatives that strengthen community disaster resilience across six categories including community, school, business, local government, state/federal government and photography.

Since 2000, the awards have celebrated innovation and exemplary practice across Australia to inspire others to build greater disaster resilience in their local area. Get Ready Queensland is proud to be the state convener for the Awards to help promote the excellent work local councils, community groups, schools and individuals do to prepare and protect communities across Queensland.



For more information and to nominate your project or initiative, visit www.aidr.org.au/programs/resilient-australia-awards.

Submissions close 18 May 2020.

The GRQ team is currently trialling an app to use when visiting schools and other conventions to educate children and adults on how to prepare their household for natural disasters. The user plays through a series of nine levels, which get progressively harder.

Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) and Prepared Communities Fund

\$10.65M allocated to 73 projects for the 2018-19 round of the State-funded QDRF (\$9.5M, 62 projects) and State-Commonwealth Prepared Communities Fund (\$1.15M, 11 projects). Applications for the 2019-20 allocation of resilience funding are expected to open in Q2 2020.

Resilience projects and activities

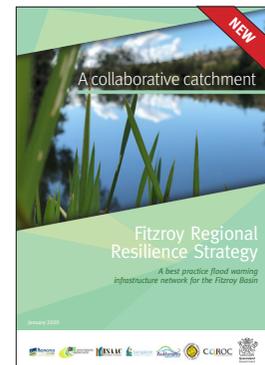
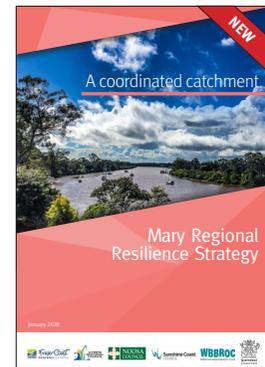
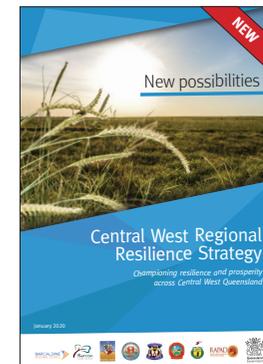
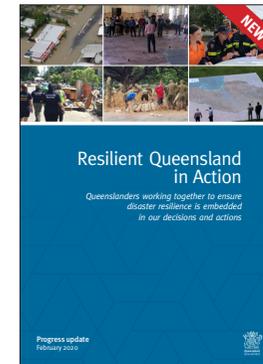
Resilient Queensland 2018-2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR)

Resilient Queensland in Action was released on 21 February 2020 as the progress update on delivering the first 18 months of Resilient Queensland, demonstrating how we are implementing the QSDR. It includes case studies and initiatives showcasing some of the great work happening throughout Queensland to improve disaster resilience. Planning is underway for release in February 2020.

On 21 February 2020, three regional resilience pilot projects were released as part of Resilient Queensland:

- Central West Regional Resilience Strategy**
- Mary Regional Resilience Strategy**
- Fitzroy Regional Resilience Strategy.**

Evaluation and planning for statewide roll-out is underway and expected to commence in Q1 2020.



Resilience projects and activities

North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough Cat D - Flood Mapping and Flood Warning Programs

The \$1 million Burdekin and Haughton Catchment Resilience Strategy Project will develop locally-led and regionally-coordinated resilience solutions to address recent and emerging disaster risks for councils in the catchment area including Townsville City Council. This project is currently underway and due for completion by end of 2020.

The \$2 million Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project will analyse existing flood warning infrastructure, working with the Bureau of Meteorology and councils to identify high priority locations requiring additional flood warning infrastructure capability including repairs of and/or installation of new infrastructure. This project is underway in Townsville and surrounds, North West Queensland, Far North Queensland and Central West Queensland. Procurement has been finalised and delivery is underway for completion of the Network Optimisation Phase by end of March 2020.

The Townsville Recalibrated Flood Modelling and Mapping Project - supporting Townsville City Council to update and recalibrate flood modelling and mapping across the council area including the Ross River - is underway.

Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP)

QRA has oversight of 52 SFMP actions including 34 for State government, of which QRA is responsible for 12.

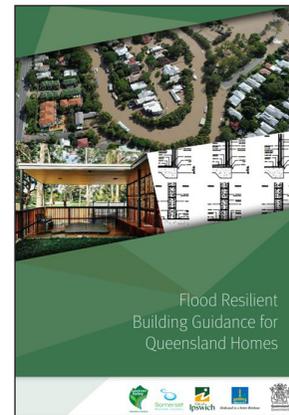
The Brisbane River SFMP Management Group met on 3 December with representation from Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley councils and relevant State agencies.

Resilience policy

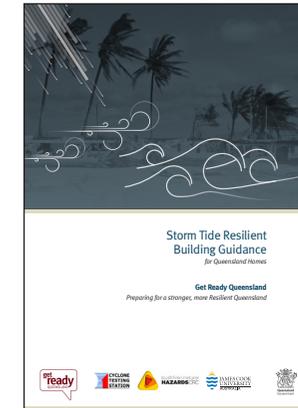
QRA is working with CSIRO to develop an adaptation of their Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach (RAPTA) for Queensland to support resilience building activities. A stakeholder workshop was held on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 February.

Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes

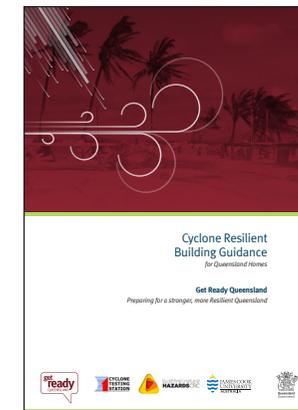
Bushfire Building Guideline for Queensland homes – in development and due for completion by June 2020.



Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes
– launched 9 April 2019.



Storm Tide Resilient Guides for Queensland Homes
– released 17 December 2019.



Cyclone Resilient Guidance for Queensland Homes
– released 17 December 2019.