



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:

Stronger, safer, resilient Queensland communities.

OUR PURPOSE:

Coordinate action to improve the resilience of Queensland communities and facilitate locally led disaster recovery.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

NDRRA/DRFA Grants Program

Since establishment, QRA has administered a recovery and reconstruction program through the joint State-Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth more than \$16.5 billion.

Status of NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program

| | Prior Events | 2019 Events | 2020 Events | 2021 Events |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| NUMBER OF EVENTS | - | 12 | 5 | 10 |
| \$2,690M Delivery Program | \$78M Program | \$1,465M Program | \$855M Program | \$292M Program |
| Deadline for Delivery | 30 June 2020 | 30 June 2021 | 30 June 2022 | 30 June 2023 |
| Time Elapsed | 100% Remainder being delivered under EOT's | 83% | 33% | - |
| % Completion* | 74% complete | 80% complete | 33% complete | 4% complete |

*% complete represents delivery progress reported by delivery agents. This may reflect greater progress than inferred by spend due to program efficiencies.

In April

In April, a number of existing disaster activations were extended to include additional measures and council areas, including an extension of the Queensland Severe Weather (20-31 March) event to Bulloo Shire Council, and extension of the Tropical Cyclone Niran (25 February to 3 March) event to include special disaster assistance recovery grants for primary producers in Cairns, Cassowary, Hinchinbrook, Mareeba and Tablelands council areas. During the month, the Prime Minister and Premier also agreed to increase primary producer grants to \$75,000 for council areas affected by both of these events.

The focus of the disaster assistance grants program in April was to progress assessment of reconstruction submissions arising from 2020 and 2021 disaster events for approval to enable councils and state agencies to progress reconstruction efforts.

Works for **27** events from 2019 | 2020 | 2021 disaster seasons

are currently in delivery with an estimated value in excess of **\$2.6B**

An additional \$78 million of works from the 2017 and 2018 event periods remain in delivery under approved extensions of time.

Acquittal:

The state, through QRA, is up to date with the acquittal of NDRRA/DRFA claims to the Commonwealth. The 2019-20 claim was lodged with the Commonwealth on 31 March 2021. The claim included \$1.2 billion of DRFA expenditure for the 2019-20 financial year, and will secure \$775 million of revenue to the state on acquittal by the Commonwealth.

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.

Event Specific Recovery plans

QRA is currently coordinating three state event specific recovery plans that underpin the Government’s commitment to helping communities recover, rebuild and reconnect from the following major weather events of recent years:

1. Queensland Bushfires (2019)
2. North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough (2019)
3. Central Queensland Bushfires (2018)

In addition, QRA is supporting local governments in the implementation of their event-specific recovery plans. Local recovery plans highlight initiatives to support recovery, reconstruction and opportunities for communities to reconnect.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Central Queensland Bushfires (2018) | 5 |
| North Queensland Monsoon (2019) | 14 |
| Queensland Bushfires (2019) | 9 |
| COVID-19 (2020) | 21 |
| South West Queensland Flooding (2020) | 1 |

Recovery Planning and Governance Project

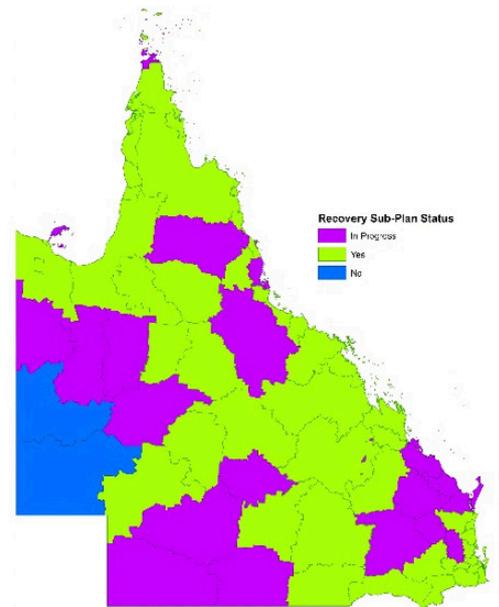
The Recovery Planning and Governance project is designed to develop and enhance understanding of recovery governance and planning at the local level, and is continuing to be rolled out across the state.

There are 51 Council Recovery Sub-plans endorsed across Queensland and QRA is continuing to work with 25 councils to support the development of their recovery sub-plans.

The recovery team is also working with state agency counterparts to adapt and improve on recovery outcomes and practice. In April, QRA facilitated Recovery Sub-plan Development workshops with Southern Downs and Logan City Councils.

District Recovery Alignment Project

The District Recovery Alignment Project is designed to understand recovery needs at the district level and provide District Disaster Management Groups (DDMGs) with specific training based on those needs. In April, the results from the DDMG survey have been collated and analysed and discussed with the Functional Recovery Group (FRG) leads. A Consolidated Findings and Outcomes report is being developed and when finalised will be shared with QPS, IGEM and the FRGs for endorsement. Training package material is currently being drafted for each District.



Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

M&E activities are underway to determine the appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the Community Recovery Programs in relation to the Far North & Northern Queensland Monsoon (2019), Central Queensland Bushfires (2018) and Queensland Bushfires (2019). Evaluations completed to date include:

- Far North & Northern Queensland Monsoon (2019)
 - Industry Recovery Officers
 - Community Development Officers
 - Small Business Recovery Program.
- Central Queensland Bushfires (2018):
 - Rural Residential Recovery Program.

Evaluation reports for the completed programs are being developed in consultation with key stakeholders.

Monitoring of the extraordinary funding packages for these events continues with quarterly progress reports completed from a local government, state agency and FRG perspective. Recommendations for future community recovery funding and delivery of future extraordinary funding packages will be developed.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

QUEENSLAND ASSISTS WESTERN AUSTRALIA WITH CYCLONE RECOVERY

Queensland’s experience in disaster recovery has been recognised and called on by Western Australia to help ensure communities impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja get back on their feet as soon as possible.

At 8pm on 11 April 2021, Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja crossed the WA coast as a Category 3 cyclone at Kalbarri, a beachside community approximately 600 kilometres north of Perth.

Wind gusts of up to 170 kilometres per hour pummelled the tourist hub, with destructive winds also impacting Geraldton and WA’s famed Wheat Belt.

To provide some perspective, Kalbarri lies on almost the same latitude as Brisbane, and like Brisbane, did not have homes that were cyclone rated. This resulted in widespread damage, including homes destroyed, businesses suffering major losses and widespread, prolonged power outages.

With major natural disasters impacting the sparsely populated state so infrequently, the team within the Western Australian Department of Fire and Emergency Services that deals with disaster recovery funding sought Queensland’s assistance to support the development of recovery funding packages, as well as to tap into the knowledge and expertise of the QRA team.

Two QRA staff travelled to Perth to provide assistance to our WA counterparts as they responded to the devastation caused by Cyclone Seroja. Jimmy Scott, General Manager, Resilience and Karen McPaul, Director, Resilience Policy shared Queensland’s experience in responding to severe natural disasters and helped the WA team navigate the sometimes complex world of the DRFA.

Jimmy and Karen supported the team to craft assistance packages to address immediate recovery needs, as well as to identify some medium to long-term activities that may support recovery as the situation evolved. They also provided a demonstration of QRA’s Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring system used to monitor recovery and reconstruction progress following disaster events.

Queensland is all too familiar with responding to natural disasters and we are more than happy to share our experiences with our colleagues in Western Australia in a show of support and solidarity to help them help their communities.

Using the knowledge and experience we’ve gained in disaster recovery and resilience over the past decade to build stronger, safer and better connected communities, wherever they may be, is a testament to the Queensland and Australian spirit.

We know that natural disasters are becoming more frequent and more severe, so the more we increase capability across the nation, the better prepared we will be in the future to respond to whatever nature throws at us.



Image: Jimmy Scott and Karen McPaul receiving a briefing at the WA State Operations Centre from Deputy Commissioner Mal Cronstedt on the impacts of TC Seroja.



Image: Karen McPaul (right) assisting Western Australian Department of Fire and Emergency Services staff: Robbie Stainton, Katherine Clarke and Peter Crawford (seated centre).

RESILIENCE

QRA is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risks and improving the resilience of communities, and facilitating mitigation against potential disasters.

Resilience grant programs



Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) and Prepared Communities Fund (PCF)

For 2018–19, \$10.65 million was allocated to 75 projects to strengthen the resilience of Queensland communities under the State-funded QDRF (\$9.5M, 65 projects) and the joint State-Commonwealth funded PCF (\$1.15M, 10 projects). As at 31 March 2021, 47 projects were complete and 28 projects were in progress.

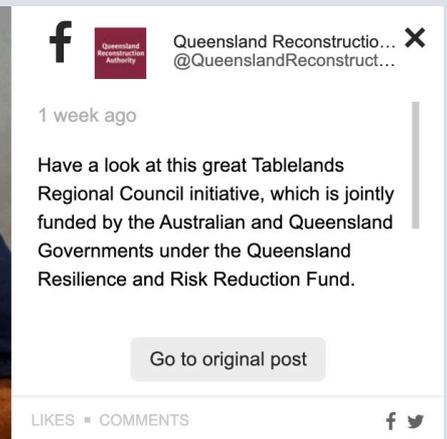
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF)

The QRRRF is part of a five-year National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments. This partnership has seen more than \$66.5 million in joint funding dedicated to resilience and risk reduction.

Expressions of Interest for 2020–21 QRRRF opened in March 2021 with \$19.1 million of funding available for allocation. Councils, state agencies and not-for-profit organisations were eligible to apply, with more than 450 applications received by the closing date of 7 April, seeking more than \$162 million.

This high level of enthusiasm from applicants demonstrates the desire across the state to improve resilience within our communities.

The 2019-20 round of the QRRRF is also currently being delivered. The fund fully allocated \$13.1 million of funding available at the time to 68 projects across 61 recipients. A list and interactive map of the successful projects is available on the QRA website.



Facebook Post 5 May 2021. www.facebook.com/836372666556783/posts/1674717899388918/
www.trc.qld.gov.au/free-radio-licence-training/?fbclid=JwARoJE5xuupBNZqeBXj2XCW5qJ8EwbEEukIGTKlQcV7nwQCE7wtPgxxA6zSc

Recovery and Resilience Grants

QRA is administering a \$12 million grant fund to support locally-led recovery and resilience activities in 14 local government areas most impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, January-February 2019.

The grants are being funded by the Commonwealth Government through the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency.

Local governments have submitted their Programs of Work to QRA. These programs, up to a maximum of \$857,000, outline projects and activities they deem essential for the recovery of their communities and to increase resilience.

Resilience projects and activities



QRA is currently actively delivering or participating in a suite of projects and activities with the intent of building the resilience of Queensland communities:

- Phase 2 of the statewide rollout of regional resilience strategies as part of Resilient Queensland 2018-2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience
- oversight of 52 actions including 12 actions that QRA is responsible for under the Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP)
- delivery of \$1 million Burdekin and Haughton Catchment Resilience Strategy Project and other components of the Flood Mapping and Flood Warning Programs being funded through DRFA Category D following the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough
- contributing to a whole-of-government response to recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (RCNDA)
- leading reform negotiations on behalf of Queensland Government agencies in the Commonwealth’s review of DRFA.

Key progress in April 2021 included:



Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP)

- QRA has finalised the ‘Framework for economic assessment of flood risk management projects’ which addresses action FM7 of the SFMP, with the framework published on 30 April 2021. The framework was also presented at the EGU General Assembly 2021 online forum.
- QRA successfully completed the implementation of Damage Assessment (DA) report modifications. Commensurate modifications to QRA’s DARM system are now underway with a final report and recommendations to be finalised in May 2021. This addresses the post event data collection action FM4.1 of the SFMP.
- SFMP Implementation Learnings and Way Forward workshop was held on 22 April 2021 with external agency stakeholders focussing on lessons learnt from implementation so far, Steering Committee strategic focus and risks, and planning the next stage of SFMP reportable actions and priorities.



Images: SMFP workshop at QRA on 22 April 2021..



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

- As part of the \$8 million Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project, site assessments have been undertaken for priority flood locations across impacted areas of Queensland that require flood warning infrastructure. Tender processes to select delivery contractors for the North Queensland area of operation and the Far North Queensland area of operation have been closed and are currently being assessed. The tender for the North West area of operation will open in early May.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

HERVEY RANGE ROAD SLOPE STABILISATION WORKS COMPLETED

Geotechnical works to restore landslide sites on Hervey Range Road, west of Townsville, were completed in March 2021.

Hervey Range Road serves as a heavy vehicle route for agriculture, freight and mining in north Queensland, connecting Townsville to key inland routes including the Gregory Developmental Road.

The road was damaged as a result of heavy rainfall during the 2019 North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough disaster event, which temporarily blocked the range section with fallen boulders and other debris. Emergency works were completed within two weeks to reopen the road to two-lane traffic, restoring vital access to and from Townsville for Hervey Range residents and heavy vehicle operators.

Some additional work was required on the range section of Hervey Range Road to repair damaged slopes and reduce the risk of future landslides. Following detailed damage assessments and site investigations, geotechnical engineers developed design solutions and tenders were called in late May 2020.

Tenders were awarded in August 2020 and slope stabilisation works commenced in mid-September 2020 on the range section of Hervey Range Road, between Rifle Range Road and the range lookout. Works included repairing debris flows, slips and rockfalls; removing two large, unstable boulders from above the road; installing erosion control matting, shotcreting and hydromulching; and installing flexible debris flow barriers.

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



Images:(top) Hervey Range Road – landslide following heavy rainfall as a result of the 2019 North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough event. Bottom: Hervey Range Road – completed restoration works.

GET READY QUEENSLAND (GRQ)

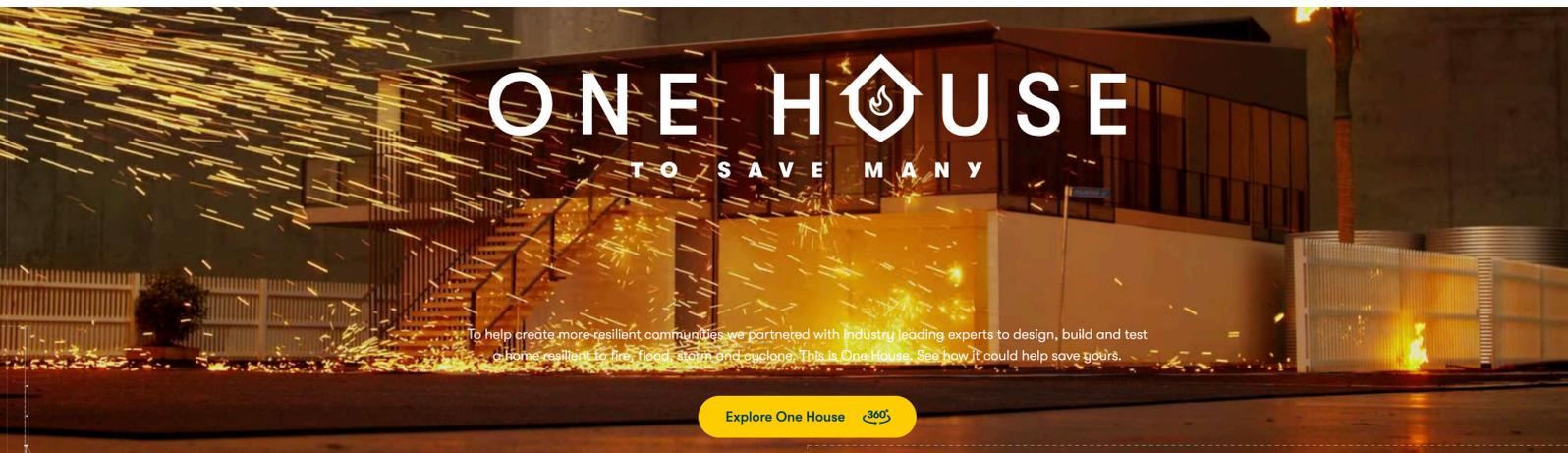
GRQ is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The program integrates a state-wide research driven awareness campaign led by QRA, alongside a grass roots grants program providing \$2M across Queensland’s 77 councils and the Weipa Town Authority to deliver locally-led disaster preparedness initiatives.

Designing a disaster resilient home

Every year, Queenslanders are forced out of their homes due to extensive damage caused by flooding, cyclones, bushfires and severe storms. Following a major disaster, building supplies and workers are scarce which means families can be displaced for months waiting for repairs. As the frequency and intensity of disasters continue to rise, Queensland homes need to be designed to withstand the impacts of future events.

One House, a concept home designed, built and tested by Get Ready Queensland sponsor, Suncorp, in partnership with experts from CSIRO, James Cook University and Room 11 Architects, has highlighted how a ‘traditional Queensland’ can be resilient to the ravages of fire, flood, storm and cyclone.

The experiment has sparked conversation on how we can better design and build to create more resilient and sustainable homes, and through this more resilient communities. For more information about the experiment, visit onehouse.suncorp.com.au/#explore.



2021 Resilient Australia Awards

There’s less than one month left to submit projects for the 2021 Resilient Australia Awards. The awards highlight initiatives that build resilience and inspire others to act, making communities safer, more connected and better prepared for disasters and emergencies.

2020 was a demanding year and Queenslanders have proven time and again they are extremely tough in times of disasters and adversity. Queenslanders have important stories and a wealth of experience to share with all Australians.

There are seven categories in this year’s awards including Business; Government; Local Government; School; Photography; Community; and Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Award is a new national category for the 2021 Resilient Australia Awards and is particularly relevant this year in light of the widespread and isolating impacts of COVID-19.

In 2020, Queensland won the national award for the Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health’s Birdies Tree resources. Queensland also took the top spot in the Schools Category with Thuringowa State School’s Disaster Resilience for a Changing Climate Grand Challenge. The Resilient Australia Awards are managed by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) and coordinated through QRA. For more information and to submit your project, visit aidr.org.au/programs/resilient-australia-awards/.

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