



**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.

**DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE**

**NDRRA/DRFA Grants Program**

Since establishment, QRA has administered recovery and reconstruction programs through the joint State-Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth more than \$16.8 billion.

Works for 28 events from the 2019, 2020 and 2021 disaster seasons are currently in delivery with an estimated value of \$2.6 billion. An additional \$78 million of works from the 2017 and 2018 event periods remain in delivery under approved extensions of time.

**Status of NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program**

	2019 Events	2020 Events	2021 Events
NUMBER OF EVENTS	12	5	11
\$2,603M Delivery Program	\$1,456M Program	\$855M Program	\$292M Program
Deadline for Delivery	30 June 2021	30 June 2022	30 June 2023
Time Elapsed 	 100% Remainder being delivered under EOT's	 50%	 -
% Completion* 	 85% complete	 36% complete	 3% complete

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

**In the June quarter**

The focus of the disaster assistance grants program in the June quarter was to finalise the approval, delivery and acquittal aspects of the DRFA program with completion deadlines of 30 June 2021.

Final approvals to establish the estimated reconstruction cost (ERC) for the eight disaster events that occurred in 2019–20 were required by 30 June 2021. This was achieved with all reconstruction programs approved ahead of the deadline. The ERC for the 2019–20 is more than \$700 million and will be included in the next annual DRFA due for lodgement with the Commonwealth by 31 March 2022.

The 2019 event and residual 2018 event program were due for delivery by 30 June 2021. A number of projects within the program have extensions of time to deliver beyond June due to COVID-related impacts but all other works have been reported as delivered within the deadline.

Following lodgement on 31 March 2021, the audited 2019–20 Claim required a further assurance review by the Commonwealth prior to its acquittal and payment of the amount due. This occurred on 30 June 2021 in line with expectations.

Acquittal of the 2019–20 claim was a significant achievement, being the first claim for the state and the first claim nationally, to include an ERC under the new DRFA arrangements. This required QRA to develop and implement a new system to address the Commonwealth’s complex requirements for establishing an ERC, and was made inherently more complicated given the massive 2019 Monsoon Trough was the first event to which the system was applied.

The \$1.2 billion claim was acquitted by the Commonwealth with no significant issues. Consequently, the State secured \$774.6 million of revenue, including a cash payment of \$654.5 million received on 30 June 2021.

Delivery agents are also revising 2021 events estimates as damage is assessed and submissions prepared. The current estimate of \$292 million relates to the first four events and is expected to increase towards \$600 million once estimates are gathered and refined for all 11 events that occurred during the season.

**RECOVERY**

**QRA works extensively on recovery planning with communities impacted by major disaster events, increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support.**

Overview

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

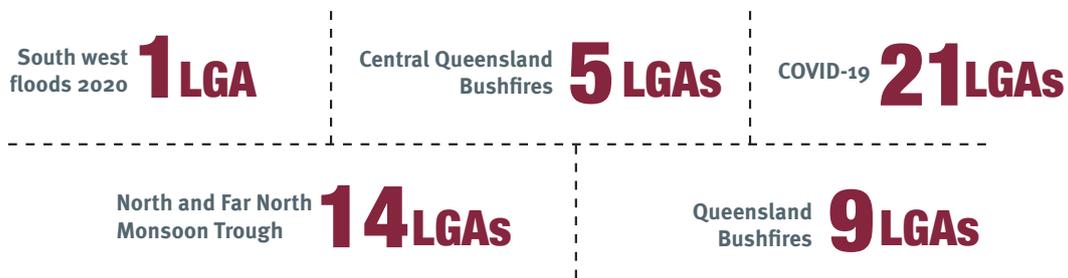
Operations

**State Event Specific Recovery plans**

QRA is currently coordinating the implementation of 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:

- **Queensland Bushfires (2019)**
- **North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough (2019)**
- **Central Queensland Bushfires (2018)**

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



Capability

The Recovery team supports recovery capability at the local, district and state disaster management levels. The Capability program incorporates participation in and guidance and recommendation for local Recovery Groups, District Disaster Management Groups and the Functional Recovery Groups.

In June 2021, QRA facilitated a Community Profile Mapping Workshop for Lockyer Valley Regional Council. Participants included the Lockyer Valley Mayor and Councillors, local and state government staff, Lockyer Valley community leaders and the Disaster Management Officer from Somerset Regional Council.

The workshop was designed to be interactive and enabled participants to mark on a map areas of community interest and provide summary information while highlighting where resources are located. The community profile generated from this activity will be used to inform Council’s local recovery planning documentation.

Due to the success of the Community Profile Mapping Workshop, the Recovery team has received a request to facilitate a similar workshop for Somerset Regional Council and their community members.



Image: Community Profile Mapping Workshop, Lockyer Valley.

**Projects**

**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. The Districts will have the opportunity to tailor the workshop to meet their needs by choosing one of the following options:

1. Review current process only with no change to recovery governance arrangements and no further action following workshop;
2. Review and update governance arrangements to include District Recovery Groups, with possible District Recovery sub-groups; or
3. Develop a District recovery sub-plan that includes recovery governance arrangements.

Engagement has also occurred with the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) in June 2021 and confirmed the project’s intent will satisfy the Review Recommendations.

**Recovery Planning and Governance Project**

The Recovery Planning and Governance Program is designed to develop and enhance understanding of recovery governance and planning at the local level.

There are 52 Council Recovery Sub-plans endorsed across Queensland. QRA is continuing to work with 47 councils to support the development or ongoing enhancement of their recovery sub-plans.

The QRA Recovery Team engaged with Burke Shire, Cairns Regional, Croydon Shire, Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire, Etheridge Shire, Flinders Shire, Ipswich City, Lockyer Valley Regional, McKinlay Shire, Somerset Regional, Southern Downs Regional and Western Downs Regional Councils to plan for or deliver a Recovery Planning and Governance Workshop.



*Image: Richmond Recovery Sub-Plan Workshop*

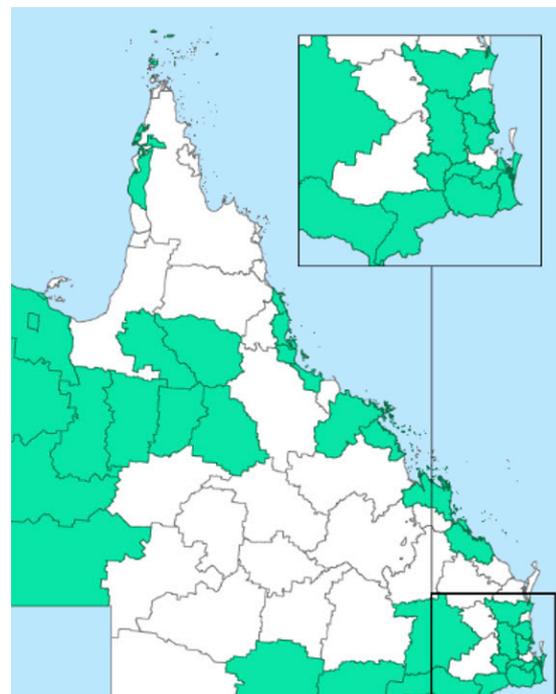
**Engagement**

The 2021 Queensland Disaster Management Conference was held in June 2021. QRA Recovery presented on the development and future of Recovery in Queensland. The conference was also used as a networking opportunity with Disaster Management Officers across Queensland.



*Image: Panel discussion with Brendan Moon and Deputy Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewskialong with representatives from QFES and IGEM.*

The Recovery team engaged broadly over the previous quarter supporting project delivery and recovery operations. During this quarter, Local Government Areas were visited that were previously inaccessible due to COVID restrictions.



*Quarterly Engagement Visits.*

## Recovery Strategy

QRA is contributing to national recovery strategy through participation in key projects developed and delivered through the Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee (CORS), part of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) framework. Work continues on the Catastrophic Recovery Model Arrangements, National Recovery Capability Framework, Functional Domain Reference Groups, Recovery Needs Assessment Guideline and the Update of the National Recovery Framework. QRA has participated in workshops associated with each of these projects and drafted relevant documentation.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

QRA is undertaking the evaluation of several Community Recovery packages in relation to the 2019 Monsoon Trough, and the 2019 Queensland Bushfires. These include:

- **2019 Monsoon Trough:**
  - Small Business Recovery Program – *nearing completion*
  - Riparian and Coastal Environmental Recovery Program – *nearing completion*
- **2019 Queensland Bushfires:**
  - Wine and Tourism Recovery Officers program – *monitoring and evaluation framework developed.*

Monitoring of the extraordinary funding packages for these events continues, with quarterly progress reports completed from local governments and state agencies. Recommendations for future Community Recovery funding, and delivery of future extraordinary funding packages, will be developed.

**Queensland Health hosted a Lessons Summit** focused on the implementation of the three<sup>1</sup> Mental Health Disaster Recovery programs across 11 Hospital and Health Services (HHS). All Mental Health practitioners from the nine Disaster Recovery Teams at HHSs attended the summit in conjunction with QRA's Monitoring and Evaluation Team. The lessons identified through the summit will enhance future service establishment and implementation.

**The Industry Recovery Officer program** concluded on 30 June 2021. A 'wrap up' meeting was hosted by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and included all program stakeholders. To support the evaluation of this program QRA attended the session. The outcomes from the session will be incorporated into the Industry Recovery Officer Evaluation Report.

To support the evaluation of the Environmental Recovery Program, QRA and the Department of Environment and Science (DES), completed a number of site visits across North-west Queensland over the previous quarter. During these visits it was identified that projects are on track for completion.



Image: Southern Gulf NRM Riparian project site, Richmond.

<sup>1</sup> CQ Bushfires, Monsoon Trough and Qld Bushfires.

## ADDITIONAL RECOVERY MEASURES

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

### **QUEENSLAND BUSHFIRES (2019) – \$66.975M**

<b>TOURISM RECOVERY PACKAGE \$6.0M</b>	
<b>Marketing Campaign \$1.5M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism Events Qld has delivered two regional marketing campaigns working with Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast and Noosa LGAs.</li> <li><i>Go Local</i> campaign is being finalised and will support Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast and Noosa LGAs.</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Recovery Officers (TRO's) \$0.75M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three Tourism Recovery Officers have been appointed for Scenic Rim, Southern Downs and the wine industry who will work across the region. The Scenic Rim and Southern Downs Officers are supporting the delivery of each council's activities and initiatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Recovery Fund for Local Government \$2.75M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scenic Rim Regional Council has developed six activities/initiatives and Southern Downs Regional Council has developed 12 initiatives for funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience \$1.0M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works for the Gwongoorool Pool walking track (3kms) completed and re-opened mid-March but re-closed due to severe weather.</li> <li>Illinbah walking track (13kms) remains at 10% complete with repairs due to March severe weather.</li> <li>Procurement underway for Lower Bell Bird Track and the section of the GC Hinterland Great Walk track.</li> </ul>
<b>Binna Burra Recovery Package \$1.775M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean-up and recovery works are progressing for Binna Burra Lodge and the third of five milestones under the deed agreement with BBL and DSDTI has been made.</li> <li>Separate works (not part of the Binna Burra Package) by DTMR for the restoration of the road to Binna Burra completed.</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND \$14.0M</b>	
<b>Mental Health and Wellbeing \$4.7M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinical staff now fill all 9.25 funded positions and are providing mental health support to the communities in the Hospital and Health Service districts of Central Queensland, Sunshine Coast, West Moreton, Darling Downs and Metro South.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Development Officers \$3.0M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five Community Development Offices (CDO) have been appointed to support six LGAs allocated CDOs with Lockyer Valley and Somerset allocated a part time resource (0.5 CDO).</li> </ul>
<b>Flexible Funding Grants \$6.0M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37 Flexible Funding Grant Projects approved in Round 1 to a value of \$1.799M.</li> <li>72 Flexible Funding Grant Projects approved in Round 2 to a value of \$4.1972M.</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation \$300K</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring and Evaluation framework and resources are under development.</li> <li>Tourism program – two meetings with DTIS and recovery officers have been held to discuss and develop a monitoring and evaluation template and framework for data collection.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Economic Recovery Program \$36.8M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressions of interest closed 7 September 2020.</li> <li>Six projects for \$6M, across five Local Government Areas have been approved.</li> </ul>
<b>Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package \$8.4M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% funding distributed to 13 impacted councils identified by the Commonwealth.</li> <li>Councils are progressively submitting project plans to QRA.</li> </ul>

### **NORTH & FNQ MONSOON TROUGH (2019) – \$242M**

<b>Infrastructure \$124M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$116.6M allocated to 166 projects, to restore and improve the disaster resilience of flood damaged essential public, community and water assets.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic \$34M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) and Rural Financial Counsellor programs successfully concluded on 30 June 21.</li> <li>427 small business grants approved with payments to date of \$4.12M.</li> <li>Over 257 business owners accessed free mentoring under the Mentoring for Growth program. 12 scholarships awarded for Event Management and Tourism Programs.</li> <li>41 Travel bursaries provided for delegates to attend the Destination Q Events Conference.</li> <li>\$1.93M provided to councils and Rural Aid for fodder supply costs.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment \$46M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16 riparian reconnaissance projects are complete and close out documentation submitted to the QRA.</li> <li>17 of 25 urgent riparian projects are complete, with eight projects requiring an extension of time to June 2022.</li> <li>53 riparian projects are underway, including an additional 14 projects allocated in late 2020.</li> <li>32 weeds and pest projects are underway, including an additional 8 projects resulting from an additional \$1M allocated to this program.</li> <li>20 coastal projects are almost complete.</li> </ul>
<b>Human &amp; Social \$12.25M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Development Officer Program concluded on 30 Jun 21 with the Winton Shire CDO being granted a 12 month EOT.</li> <li>Mental Health program concluded on 30 Jun 21 after delivering services through Townsville, North West and Central West HHS's,</li> </ul>
<b>Resilience \$25.75M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$12.4M Flexible Funding Grants programs delivered 181 projects with 6 projects totaling \$645k granted EOTs.</li> <li>Townsville Flood Mapping project initiated.</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation \$500K</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field work is ongoing to support evaluation in the Environmental Recovery Program.</li> <li>Interim reviews have been completed on the Mental Health and Community Development Officer Programs.</li> </ul>

## 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



#### ***National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)***

The final round of the joint State-Commonwealth NDRP program allocated \$14.9 million to 76 approved projects from 54 councils and 14 organisations and agencies in 2017–18. The program aims to build disaster resilience across the State. All NDRP Projects were completed by 31 December 2020.

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

For 2018–19, \$10.65 million was allocated to 74 projects to strengthen the resilience of Queensland communities, including funding under the fully State-funded QDRF (\$9.5M, 65 projects) and the joint State-Commonwealth funded PCF (\$1.15M, 10 projects). As at 31 May 2021, 49 projects were completed and 25 were in progress.

#### ***Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF)***

Queensland's commitments under the National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction are being delivered via the \$13.1 million QRRRF. The fund consists of \$8.3 million in State Government funds and \$4.8 million from the Australian government.

The 2019–20 QRRRF allocated funds to 67 projects across 53 recipients. A list and interactive map of the successful projects is available on the [QRA website](#). As at 31 May 2021, 10 projects were completed, 42 were in progress and 15 were yet to commence.

The 2020–21 QRRRF funding round closed for expressions of interest on 7 April 2021 with \$19.1 million available for allocation. The \$19.1 million is made up of \$3.5 million funded by the Queensland Government for resilience projects, \$9.6 million joint State-Commonwealth-funding for risk reduction projects and \$6 million Commonwealth-funding to manage disaster risks for 14 local governments severely impacted by the 2019 North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough event. Successful projects are expected to be announced in July 2021.

#### ***Recovery and Resilience Grants***

\$12 million has been made available from the Commonwealth's National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency to support locally-led recovery and resilience activities in the 14 local government areas most impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, January-February 2019.

The objective of the Recovery and Resilience Grants is to provide impacted Local Governments with funding for projects and activities they deem essential for the recovery of their communities and to increase resilience, consistent with the strategic pillars and actions identified in the Australian Government's, *'After the flood: A strategy for long-term recovery'*.

Each local government will receive up to \$857,000 for eligible activities. Councils have submitted and have been approved for their programs of work and are currently in delivery. Projects must be delivered by 1 December 2023.

#### ***National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program***

The 2020-21 \$50 million National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program is funded through the Australian Government's Emergency Response Fund. QRA applied for 20 projects under the Fund, with a requested value of over \$127 million. On 11 May 2021 it was announced that Queensland was successful with three applications: Armstrong Creek Causeway, Normanton to Burketown; Floraville and Truganini Roads Upgrades, Burketown to Normanton; and Dutton Street Bridge (Palm Creek Crossing), Ingham, which was not fully funded. QRA is currently working with the Commonwealth Government to formalise the administration of these projects.

#### ***North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program (NQNDMP)***

The \$10 million North Queensland Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NQNDMP) is a fully state funded grant program, announced as part of the 2021-22 state budget. QRA will administer the program. QRA is currently developing the program guidelines. The NQNDMP aims to help reduce insurance premiums for Queensland families and businesses in high-risk and cyclone-prone areas.

**Resilience projects and activities**



**Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience**

In line with international best practice, the *Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience* seeks to incorporate the considerable knowledge and experience that exists across government and non-government organisations to deliver a comprehensive and coordinated all-hazards approach to building disaster resilience throughout Queensland.

A key component of the strategy is harnessing local knowledge that supports actions to create stronger, safer, healthier and more secure communities.

The strategy capitalises on the good work already being delivered by our state agencies, local governments and communities and provides a cohesive approach to building resilience throughout the state.

[www.qra.qld.gov.au/QSDR](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/QSDR)

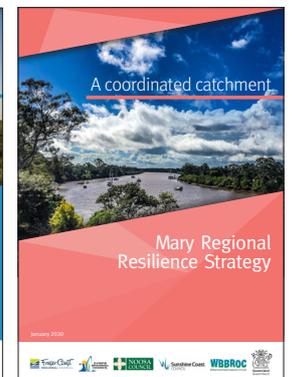
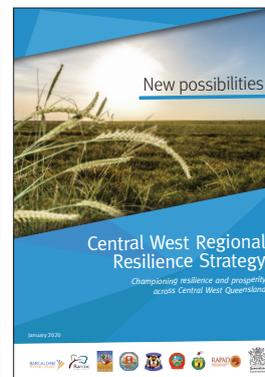
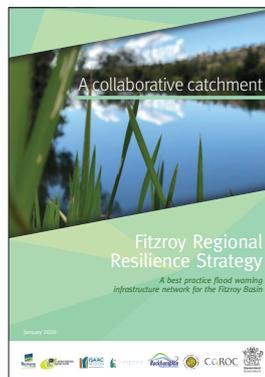
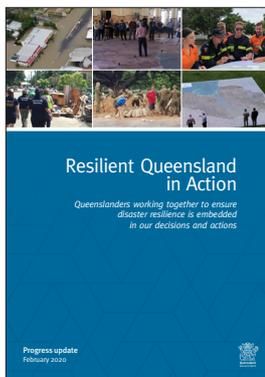
**Resilient Queensland 2018–2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience**

*Resilient Queensland – Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2018–2021* is a blueprint for use across government, the community, not-for-profit sector, business and industry that sees regions across Queensland co-develop individually tailored regional resilience plans.

Activities delivered under *Resilient Queensland* are strengthening our communication networks, encouraging shared knowledge, identifying gaps and opportunities and supporting greater coordination of disaster resilience activities across all levels of government, private and community sectors across Queensland.

*Resilient Queensland in Action*, released in February 2020, is the 18-month progress report highlighting how Queensland is delivering on the objectives of the *Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR)*. It showcases achievements including case studies and initiatives by our state agencies, local governments and communities, incorporating climate risk and delivering a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to building disaster resilience.

[www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-queensland](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-queensland)



**Regional Resilience Plans**

A key outcome of *Resilient Queensland* is the development of regional resilience plans to support the coordination and prioritisation of future resilience building and mitigation projects across Queensland.

By 2022, every local government in Queensland will be part of a regional resilience strategy that clearly identifies and prioritises actions to strengthen disaster resilience over time.

This locally led, regionally coordinated and state-facilitated approach is strengthening relationships between local governments and state agencies to support the development of resilient building strategies that can be better coordinated and aligned to future funding opportunities, providing better value for money and a more disaster resilient Queensland.

Under phase 1 of the project, regional resilience strategies have been delivered for the Central West, Mary, Fitzroy and Burnett Catchment regions.

Phase 2 of the statewide rollout of regional resilience strategies commenced early October 2020 and the project team completed inception visits to all state regions by 31 December 2020. Strategy co-design activities and the development of Terms of Reference documentation is underway.

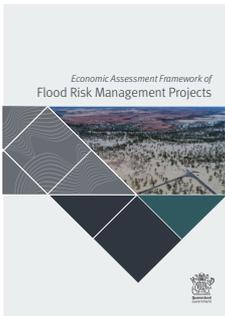
[www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-queensland/regional-resilience-strategies](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-queensland/regional-resilience-strategies)

**Resilience projects and activities**



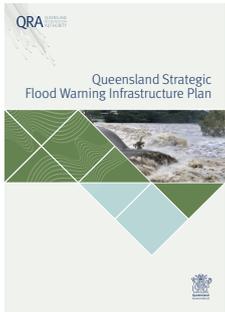
**Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP)**

- QRA has oversight of 52 SFMP actions including 34 for State government, of which QRA is responsible for 12 actions. The 52 SFMP actions translate currently to 77 reportable actions by the various agencies.
- Work progresses on coordination of multiple actions and deliverables.
- The QRA project team finalised and published in April 2021, the *Framework for the economic assessment of flood risk management projects*, which addresses action FM7 of the SFMP.
- The QRA project team finalised and received government endorsement in May 2021, for the ‘*Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework*’, which together with other guidance will address action FM5 of the SFMP.
- The QRA-led *Strategic Assessment of Service Requirement for Brisbane River Catchment Flood Forecasting and Warning Systems* reached technical completion with support from stakeholders in June 2021. Pending final approval and distribution, this delivers on action DM4.2 of SFMP.
- Brisbane City Council (BCC) has completed their *Local Floodplain Management Plan (LFMP)* (action FM3 of the SFMP). Incorporating into their obligations for their LFMP were SFMP actions, SO4, FM8, FM9, CAR3, DM3.1, DM3.2, LU2.1 and LU2.2.
- QFES completed their action DM4.1 to develop a disaster data information framework to provide all stakeholders with access to consistent and up-to-date data for the region.
- A milestone *Lessons Learned and Way Forward* planning workshop was held with stakeholders in April 2021, which generally acknowledged flood risk management in the catchment has improved as a direct consequence of the Flood Study and SFMP outputs. Of note, stakeholders were appreciative of QRA’s role and were positive about the current governance arrangements.
- Overall, 26 of 77 SFMP reportable actions are now formally complete.



**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. As at 30 June, this project is now complete.
- The \$8 million Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project has seen the three area of operations prepare their tender documents for the appointment of delivery contractors. Asset delivery has commenced for the Townsville and surrounds AO. The remaining two AOs, the Far North and the North West, are both on track to commence asset delivery by the end of July 2021.
- 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.



**Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (RCNDA)**

- The Royal Commission’s final report was released in late October 2020. It contains 80 recommendations across 20 themes focussing on improvements to national preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery arrangements, including clarification of roles and responsibilities of all levels of government, warning systems and community education, and improvements to firefighting capabilities and resource sharing.
- QRA contributed to a whole-of-government response to the Commission’s recommendations. DPC and QFES lead a submission for Cabinet consideration in early 2021, which has yet to be formally announced.

**we continually improve how we prepare, respond and recover from disasters**

**Review of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements**

- On 13 March 2020, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) tasked Emergency Management Australia (EMA) to lead a review of the DRFA in consultation with States and Territories.
- Following stakeholder consultation, EMA identified the following key areas for review:
  - national comparison of state and territory DRFA assistance measures;
  - streamlining the Category C activation process; and
  - reviewing the assurance arrangements for the DRFA.
- QRA is leading reform negotiations on behalf of Queensland Government agencies.
- Key progress on each of the reform measures includes:
  - *National comparison of state and territory DRFA assistance measures* – The Commonwealth is pursuing increasing consistency in recovery measures available between states. The Commonwealth has implemented benchmarks for assistance measures to be considered by state and territory governments for the 2020–21 disaster season.
  - *Streamlined Category C activation process* - An updated Category C activation process, which removes the need for states to meet the strict criteria previously applied, is in place for the 2020–21 disaster season. Jurisdictions are also working on ‘off-the-shelf’ Category C packages to enable fast and efficient delivery of recovery measures.
  - *Review of assurance arrangements for the DRFA* - QRA is continuing to participate in the review of assurance arrangements

**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. Insurance awareness advertising campaign**

2021–22 GRQ council funding

GRQ 2021–22 plans of activities, signed certification and funding schedules were due on Friday 30 June 2021. Of the 78 required, 52 were submitted, with 26 outstanding. The outstanding submissions are being followed up. Assessment of the funding is due to take place in a single panel sitting on Thursday 15 July 2021, to allow enough time to support the release of funds in August as requested by councils in 2020 feedback.

2021 Resilient Australia Awards

A record 56 Queensland submissions were received for the 2021 Resilient Australia Awards – the largest number in Queensland’s award history and the largest of any state this year. The judging panel met on Tuesday 29 June 2021 to consider the applications. Winners will be announced at the awards night, tentatively scheduled for September 2021. The photography award remains open on Facebook for a public vote. National awards coordinator the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) will inform QRA of the Queensland winner.

**Do you have a disaster resilience initiative to share with Australia?**

Submit now: [aidr.org.au/raa](https://aidr.org.au/raa)

**RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARDS**

**SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN**

**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**RECOVERY FROM 2018 BUSHFIRES AND 2019 MONSOON FLOODING WRAPS UP**

**Queensland’s recovery from the devastating 2018–19 disaster season, which saw 12 natural disasters leave a more than a billion dollar damage bill, is almost complete with the overwhelming majority of reconstruction projects completed or in their final stages.**

A total of 62 Queensland councils were activated for disaster assistance in 2018–19 from a range of events including the catastrophic 2018 Central Queensland Bushfires and the one-in-500-year monsoon trough flooding of early 2019.

No-one will ever forget the indelible images of the bushfires that ravaged Central Queensland and then not long after the record-breaking monsoon trough flooding that left a trail of destruction, with more than half of Queensland’s councils activated for disaster assistance.

Townsville was Ground Zero initially with more than 3000 homes damaged by the unprecedented flooding and then our primary producers were devastated with hundreds of thousands of cattle and other livestock lost.

Queenslanders have worked tirelessly on recovery and reconstruction while also facing the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While COVID-19 and some recent severe weather events have delayed the completion of a small number of the recovery projects, more than \$1 billion in joint Commonwealth and Queensland Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) works are now delivered.

The events of 2018–19 devastated large parts of the state and impacted residents, small business owners, primary producers and a wide range of industry operators.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and other state agencies and non-government organisations worked side-by-side with Queensland communities to help them get back on their feet.

QRA helped develop recovery plans that were locally led, identifying local issues and priorities which were supported by the State and Commonwealth.

To help with the extraordinary challenges presented, a broad range of assistance was made available through the jointly funded DRFA, including a \$242 million extraordinary assistance package established after the 2019 monsoon trough floods and a \$12 million extraordinary assistance package in response to the Central Queensland Bushfires.

QRA administered the \$102 million betterment program, which saw 35 councils upgrade more than 100 projects, including roads, bridges, culverts and other essential infrastructure, to make them stronger and more resilient to natural disasters in the future.

Key projects delivered included Cloncurry Shire Council’s \$9.6 million upgrade of Sedan Dip Road, McKinlay Shire Council’s sealing of a 25-kilometre section of Gilliat-McKinlay Road thanks to \$3.5 million in betterment funding, and Palm Island’s \$800,000 betterment works on Wallaby Point Road.



Image: State agencies, local councils and NGO’s all playing a role in the recovery.

**Other key recovery and reconstruction highlights from 2018–19 season include:**

- **more than \$35 million** distributed in personal hardship assistance to approximately 125,000 people
- **\$129 million in recovery grants** and more than \$7.9 million in low interest loans to more than 3000 primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations.
- **more than 11,000 kilometres of the state road network were closed or had restricted access** during disaster events in activated local government areas, including approximately 3000 kilometres impacted by more than one event.
- **the \$18 million Community and Recreational Assets program**, which saw facilities restored at 45 not-for-profit sport and recreation organisations and councils across the Townsville, Richmond, McKinlay, Flinders, Cloncurry, Hinchinbrook, Lockhart River, Carpentaria and Cassowary Coast Council regions.
- the approval of 145 environmental projects for 17 project partners through the **\$46 million Environmental Recovery Program** to rehabilitate and restore flood-affected riverine and coastal environments.
- The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) developed and assisted with the delivery of the **\$14 million North West Queensland Beef recovery package** which supported initiatives such as:
  - flood freight restocking and agistment subsidies for primary producers of up to \$50,000 per year for up to two years
  - exceptional disaster loans for primary producers
  - industry recovery officers and rural financial counsellors.

DAF also developed and supported the delivery of a **\$3 million pest and weed control** program across the north-west.

Under the Commonwealth’s requirements, DRFA activities from the 2018–19 season were required to be completed by 30 June 2021.

However, both the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments note there have been some extenuating circumstances over the delivery timeframes of these programs, including the COVID-19 pandemic and some recent severe weather, which has delayed the completion of approximately 11 per cent of these programs.

Extensions of time have been granted to those who have needed them to successfully complete these recovery and reconstruction activities.



**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN ROAD WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Emergency stability works on Tamborine Mountain Road (known locally as the Goat Track) are continuing, with crews so far bringing down 13,000 tonnes of unsafe material from the major landslide site above the road.

After more than 350mm of rain fell in six days in the area in December 2020, two large boulders detached and fell from a natural rock outcrop above the road, causing a large path of damage and a landslide onto the road. The boulders, with an estimated combined weight of 140 tonnes, landed further downslope, blocking entry to a private housing estate.

Transport and Main Roads immediately commenced emergency works to remove the large boulders and fallen debris at the site. Rock scaling activities, much of which have had to be completed by hand, have expanded three times more than originally anticipated due to the geotechnical instability of the cliff face.

During June and July 2021, crews will undertake more rock scaling and will begin removing the remaining debris, which currently covers the road to a depth of up to 2.5 metres. Works are being undertaken from 4.30am to 7pm on weekdays and 6am to midday on Saturdays.

Coinciding with the completion of the emergency stability works, a contract for specialist reconstruction works is expected to be awarded in late June 2021, with works expected to commence in July 2021 and to be completed later this year.

Due to the complexity of the works and continued instability and rock fall at the site, Tamborine Mountain Road will remain closed for the safety of motorists until later this year while these restoration works are undertaken.

TMR will continue to liaise with residents of nearby Mingara Estate and the local community to minimise construction impacts. Motorists will be kept informed of traffic changes via electronic message signals and regular updates on TMR’s QLDTraffic traffic and travel information website.

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



*Image: Tamborine Mountain Road – debris on road.*



*Image: Tamborine Mountain Road – damaged rock outcrop above road.*

**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**BINNA BURRA ROAD PROJECT WINS QMCA AWARD**

Transport and Main Roads’ (TMR’s) Binna Burra Road reconstruction project has been recognised for its innovative approach at the annual Queensland Major Contractors Association (QMCA) Innovation and Excellence Awards in late February 2021.

The Binna Burra Road project – which repaired significant slope damage following devastating bushfires in September 2019 – won the 'Project of the Year Below \$100 million' category, highlighting the work of construction contractor McIlwain Civil, design contractor SMEC, contract administrator GHD and project manager TMR.

The project was considered by the judges to demonstrate a high level of construction excellence. The panel highlighted the project's focus on managing changing ground conditions, weather and stakeholder priorities, within a very confined project footprint.

The judges also noted that the Binna Burra Road project demonstrated a high level of innovation in design and design management, with the adaptation of existing technologies to address a changing environment and small footprint setting the project above others in its category.

The reconstruction project was complex due to the steep terrain and narrow, winding nature of Binna Burra Road. This meant works to stabilise the slopes required specialist personnel trained in rope access construction and specialist geotechnical equipment abseiled down the cliff face.

Works involved slope stabilisation above the road, including drape mesh and rock-fall protection. Downslope work involved installing large rock gabions (or rock-filled cages) and anchoring these with long soil nails and rock anchors into the cliff face. Other works included pavement widening, concrete channelling, laying new bitumen seal and asphalt, line marking and installing signage.

An ongoing road closure during construction was required to manage access constraints and community safety, with the road reopening under traffic control in late August 2020 and works completed in mid-November 2020.

Pavement restoration, drainage reinstatement, sealing, asphalt, some guardrail installation and line marking are funded through the Queensland Transport Roads Investment Program (QTRIP). Eligible reconstruction works are funded jointly by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



*Image Project team members at the QMCA awards ceremony.*