



**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**

**Disaster Assistance and Resilience 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 \$16.5 billion. Works for 28 events from the 2019, 2020 and 2021 disaster seasons are currently in delivery or acquittal with an estimated value of approximately \$3.0 billion.

In addition to DRFA, QRA is currently administering six other State, Commonwealth and joint-funded grant programs with a capped value of \$86.75 million, focused on disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

**Status of Active Grants Programs administered by QRA**

	Prior Events	2019 Events	2020 Events	2021 Events
<b>NUMBER OF EVENTS</b>	3	12	5	11
<b>\$3,091M</b> Delivery Program	<b>\$52M</b> Program	<b>\$1,466M</b> Program	<b>\$919M</b> Program	<b>\$630M</b> Program
<b>Deadline for Delivery</b>	Complete	Complete	30 June 2022	30 June 2023
 Time Elapsed	Complete Remainder under EOT's	Complete Remainder under EOT's	 0.0% 75% 100.0%	 0.0% 21% 100.0%
 % Completion	 95% complete	 94% complete	 53% complete	 10% complete

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

**In November**

During November, QRA shifted from ‘Getting Ready’ to ‘being ready’ for disaster season.

Concurrently, the State experienced its first disaster of the season with the Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event impacting the state from 10 November. QRA has been actively assisting impacted regions with their initial phases of recovery from the event and, to date, 18 local government areas have been activated for a range of DRFA assistance measures across recovery and support for individuals, primary producers, small business and reconstruction of essential public assets.

From a grants administration perspective, QRA also focused on finalising the close-out of recovery and reconstruction works completed in 2020-21 and monitor the ongoing progress of works in delivery.

In addition during the month, four new State, Commonwealth and joint-funded grant programs with objectives based around increasing disaster resilience and reducing disaster risk were opened for applications.

## 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.**

### Disaster Season Preparation

#### **Recovery Officers Network**

A Recovery Officers Network is being developed to foster and support a trusted network of recovery practitioners working at a local level across regions throughout the state. The working group will continue to meet monthly to further develop the concept and discuss the most effective means of implementation.

### National Recovery Agenda

#### **Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-Committee (CORS)**

QRA is leading and contributing to key projects developed and delivered through the Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-Committee (CORS) as part of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) framework.

QRA has provided Queensland nominees to participate in the Catastrophic Crisis Model Recovery Arrangements exercise early in the new year. Queensland will also participate in the Functional Domain Reference Groups implementation teams.

The Recovery Workforce Capability Framework is currently being reviewed and work on the Recovery Workforce Capability Strategy has commenced.

Under the ‘Recovery Needs Assessment and Data Sharing Methodology/Mechanism project’, draft Recovery Needs Assessment Guidelines have been completed. QRA will use the guidelines during event specific recovery planning activities with local governments to inform Queensland’s feedback on the guidelines.

### Recovery Planning and Governance

QRA works closely with Councils to develop and enhance understanding of recovery governance and planning at the local level through the delivery of recovery planning workshops and the development of Recovery Sub-plans. This ongoing body of work contributes to QRA’s strategic objective of assisting local governments and communities build knowledge and capability that drives best practice in recovery and building resilience.

There are 53 council recovery plans endorsed across Queensland. A total of 51 Councils have established Local Recovery Groups with 37 Councils having a permanent Local Recovery Coordinator. QRA is continuing to work with councils across the state to support the ongoing or enhancement of their recovery plans.

### District Recovery Project

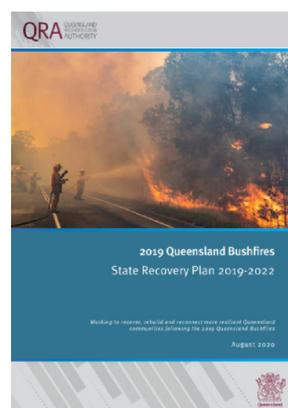
QRA is delivering the District Recovery Project, designed to understand recovery needs at the district level, and provide District Disaster Management Groups (DDMGs) with specific training based on those needs. During November, QRA facilitated workshops in Mareeba and Mount Isa Districts. QRA continues to liaise with the Queensland Police Service to roll out additional workshops associated with the project.

### Event Specific Recovery plans

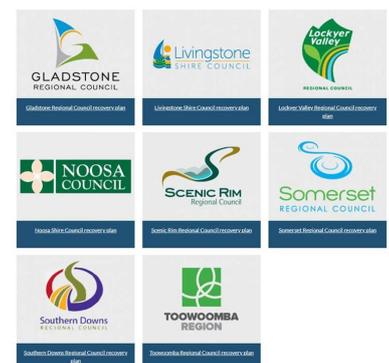
State event-specific recovery plans underpin the Government’s commitment to supporting the locally led rebuild, recovery and reconnection of disaster affected communities. State event-specific recovery plans contain Local event-specific recovery plans, highlighting initiatives that support recovery and reconstruction activities and provide opportunities for communities to reconnect.

### **Queensland Bushfires**

Currently, the Queensland Bushfires (2019) recovery plan is being implemented. QRA is monitoring the progress of recovery activities, with functional recovery groups reporting that the recovery objectives are either complete or in progress/on track.



### **Local Recovery Plans**



**Recovery Capability**

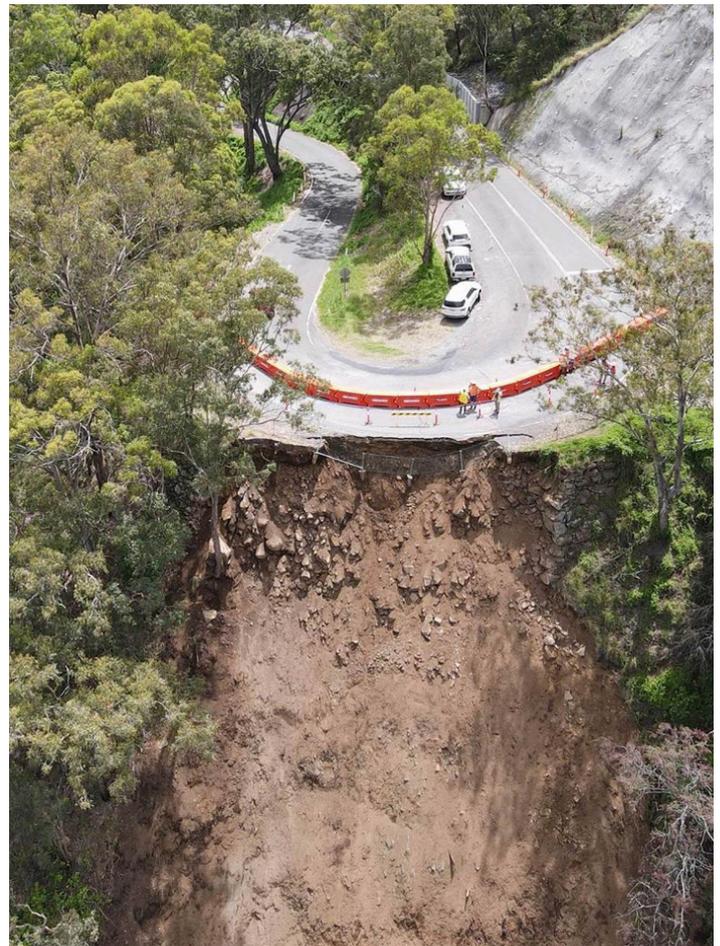
QRA supports recovery capability at the local, district and state disaster management levels. Recovery capability development activities undertaken this month include:

- Support for impacted councils for the Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (November-December 2021)
- Facilitation of a Disaster Funding Arrangements (DFA) workshop in Townsville region, Burke Shire Council, South Burnett Regional Council, Gympie Shire Council and North Burnett Regional Council
- Attendance at Livingstone’s Response and Recovery exercises

- Conducted Recovery Training with Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Facilitation of a District Recovery Workshop in Mount Isa and Mareeba
- Engaged with QFES, QPS, IGEM and LGAQ for the quarterly Disaster Management Training Engagement Group Meeting
- Attendance at the annual Cairns Local Disaster Management Group exercise
- Participation at Richmond Hill State School for a Get Ready event with QFES and Charters Towers Regional Council.



*Jack Taylor Bridge, Carnarvon Hwy – Balonne.*



*Lamington National Park Road.*



*Livingstone’s Response and Recovery exercise.*

**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**FLINDERS SHIRE COUNCIL - BETTERMENT - ALDERLEY CROSSING BRIDGE**

**On 10 November 2021, QRA attended the official Flinders Shire Council’s new bridge over Alderley Crossing on Dalkeith Road following a \$6.7 million reconstruction and upgrade.**

Dalkeith Road crosses the Flinders River approximately 43 kilometres north-west of Hughenden and is a key freight route to transport produce and livestock to international export markets.

The old causeway was the only access point for locals and travellers, so every time it flooded it meant residents and suppliers were cut off, with the road closed up to 10 weeks a year.

In 2019, high velocity water flow brought on by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough made the causeway unstable and caused severe damage and scouring to the downstream foundation, concrete batters and road surface.

The new 150 metre long concrete bridge will help minimise the impacts of future flooding and will improve access for essential services and supplies, which is a great outcome for everyone involved.

Following the devastating 2019 North Queensland floods, the Australian and Queensland Governments established a **\$102 million Betterment Fund under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)** to allow impacted councils like Flinders to build damaged infrastructure back to a more resilient standard.

Flinders Shire Council Mayor Jane McNamara said the new bridge on Dalkeith Road was identified as council’s top priority when the 2019 Betterment Fund was announced.

*“The old causeway flooded every year causing it to close for up to 10 weeks during the wet season.”*

*“Now the community will have uninterrupted access to emergency services, better access to services for graziers and the community can access Dalkeith Road similar to the other areas of Flinders without limitations.*

*“I’d like to thank the Australian and Queensland Governments for providing the Betterment funding for this project through the DRFA.”*

Ms McNamara said.



*Image: Alderley Crossing Bridge.*



*Images: The damaged causeway prior to Betterment.*

## 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.**

### Recently Opened Resilience grant programs



#### State funded program

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

The \$10 million NQNDMP opened on 11 November 2021 to fund disaster mitigation initiatives that aim to help reduce the cost or growth of insurance premiums in high risk, cyclone-prone coastal areas by reducing disaster risk and/or supporting a better understanding of future risk.

The program is open to high risk, cyclone-prone coastal areas with population centres within 50 kilometres of the coastline, from Bundaberg north to the Northern Territory border.

*Eligible councils have until 18 February 2022 to submit their expressions of interest.*

#### State and Commonwealth funded programs

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

The QRRRF is part of a five-year National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments. This partnership has seen more than \$66.5 million in joint funding which aims to help communities understand, mitigate and manage the risks associated with natural disasters.

QRA is also administering through the QRRRF the Commonwealth funded Managing Disaster Risk (MDR) program, with an additional \$6 million available in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 QRRRF round, available to the 14 local government areas hardest hit by the 2019 North Queensland Monsoon Trough.

The 2021-22 round of QRRRF is now open for applications. A total of \$19.1 million is available, with the Queensland Government contributing \$8.3 million and the Commonwealth Government contributing \$10.8 million.

*Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the 2021-22 round of QRRRF close on 18 February 2022.*

#### Commonwealth funded programs

##### **Preparing Australia Communities Program (PACP) for projects of local significance**

The PACP local program was released by the National Resilience and Recovery Agency (NRRA) on 1 November 2021 and opened 10 December 2021, and aims to improve the resilience of communities against natural hazards, specifically bushfires, floods and tropical cyclones.

*NRRA are administering this program, with applications due by 6 January 2022.*

##### **National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (NFMIP) 2021-22**

The NFMIP 2021–22 was released by the NRRA on 30 November 2021, and aims to support state, territory and local governments to build long-term, national flood resilience and preparedness and reduce the often-devastating impacts of flooding events on communities.

QRA is responsible for coordinating applications on behalf of the state, in consultation with local governments and communities. *State applications are due by 4 February 2022.*



**Resilience grant programs in delivery**



**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 Commonwealth funded PCF (\$1.15M, 10 projects).

*As at 31 October 2021, 5 projects remain in progress.*

**Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund**

The 2020-21 round of QRRRF received more than 450 applications seeking a total of \$162 million. This high level of enthusiasm from applicants demonstrates the desire across the state to improve resilience within our communities. In July 2021 82 projects were announced for \$19.1 million, these include extensive road, floodway and levee upgrades, flood and river studies, and disaster management workshops across Queensland.

The 2019–20 round of the QRRRF fund fully allocated \$13.1 million at the time to 68 projects across 61 recipients. A list and interactive map of the successful projects is available on the [QRA website](#).

*As at 31 October 2021, 19 projects were complete, 43 projects were in progress and 6 projects were yet to commence.*

**Recovery and Resilience Grants**

QRA is administering a \$12 million grant fund, which was announced on 16 December 2020, supports 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.

*QRA is administering this program on behalf of NRRA.*

**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, such as:

- 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)
- scoping the implementation of the *Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework*
- continuing to deliver on the *Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan*
- reviewing and updating the *Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2017*
- 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 *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements*.

**Key progress in November 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*, a group procurement arrangement has been established, with QRA supporting work across three areas of operation; Far North Queensland; North West Queensland; and Townsville and Surrounds. One contractor has been appointed for all three areas of operations and works are due to be delivered by June 2022.

## 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.

### Get Ready launches new animations to put Queenslanders in the eye of the storm.

New 3D animations by Get Ready Queensland are placing viewers at the centre of Queensland’s most frequent natural disasters – *severe storms, cyclones and flooding* – highlighting the risks of extreme weather.

Even though Queenslanders know all too well the impact of natural disasters, research shows complacency is the greatest challenge the Get Ready Queensland program faces in encouraging people to prepare for severe weather.

More than 40 per cent of Queenslanders will wait until a disaster event is almost upon them before they take steps to prepare, which is often too late.

Queensland has also seen an influx of people moving from interstate and many new residents are unlikely to be aware of their unique disaster risks they need to prepare for.

A series of three hyper-realistic videos, developed by Get Ready Queensland in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology were launched this month to remind new and existing Queenslanders of the importance of being prepared. The videos don’t just simulate the intensity and impact, but also the speed of severe weather, to really bring home how important it is to take the three steps to Get Ready.

For example, the cyclone video shows the increasing impacts of a Category 1 cyclone to a Category 5 cyclone, with a caravan being blown away, trees down, a roof torn off and the risks that come with subsequent flooding including a crocodile swimming in floodwaters.

With many Queenslanders already experiencing the impacts of severe weather, the release of these videos is a timely reminder that everybody should be planning ahead to keep themselves, their family and friends, and all community members safe.

The videos were launched at The Cube, QUT Gardens Point and are currently being promoted online through the Get Ready Queensland website and social media channels.

The videos are available to watch on the [Get Ready Queensland website](https://www.getready.qld.gov.au).



*Image: The cyclone video shows viewers the impacts of each category of a cyclone. The videos are presented by experts from the Bureau of Meteorology.*



*Image: Video launch at The Cube, QUT Gardens Point in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology.*



*Image: Get Ready Queensland Ambassador Johnathan Thurston joined the team at Mary MacKillop Catholic College in Toowoomba.*

### JT and Get Ready Queensland help Toowoomba students prepare for disasters

Get Ready Queensland Ambassador Johnathan Thurston joined the Get Ready Queensland team in Toowoomba this month to talk to students at Mary MacKillop Catholic College about how they can help their household and community better prepare for disasters.

Mary MacKillop Catholic College won the visit from JT as the random draw winner of the 2021 Get Ready Queensland Schools Competition.

The visit was a great opportunity to talk to students about simple steps they can take to get ready including how to find their local disaster risks, how to write an emergency plan and what to pack in an emergency kit.

The Get Ready team weren’t the only ones presenting. Students from the winning grade five class had the opportunity to present their competition entries which included designing a flood-resilient house using Minecraft.

[A video of the visit is available on the Get Ready Queensland website.](https://www.getready.qld.gov.au)

The 2021 Get Ready Queensland Schools Competition received entries from nearly 50 classes involving almost 1,000 students. The classes completed Get Ready activities to help them learn about severe weather and disasters, with many classes integrating the materials into their STEM and HASS curriculum classes.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### TMR GETS READY WITH PRE-SEASON PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is gearing up for the coming summer with its annual Natural Disaster Program (NDP) pre-season preparedness sessions across the state.

Seventeen one-hour sessions are being delivered remotely to staff from the department's Program Delivery and Operations Branch and RoadTek construction business, along with local government authorities involved in delivering TMR's natural disaster repairs. The NDP preparedness sessions complement pre-season disruptive event and business continuity training recently facilitated by TMR's Transport Network Security and Resilience Unit.

As well as serving as a refresher on key processes, the sessions enable staff new to roles in disaster recovery to gain a better understanding of their responsibilities before, during and after an event. Content covers statewide processes for consistency, with an opportunity for questions and discussion about local issues in each district.

Each NDP session provides an overview of the expected seasonal outlook and key actions for participants to undertake before disaster events occur, including downloading the latest version of the Recording Asset Damage and Restoration (RADAR) app for collecting damage evidence. Taking photos is a focus of the session, with advice on when photos are required to be taken and discussion on best practice examples of damage evidence photos. Learnings from the 2019 disaster events program in using vehicle mounted cameras to document damage are also included.

In addition to advice on taking photos, this year's program covers emergency works scope and documentation, engaging appropriate resources promptly to expedite damage assessment and scoping of reconstruction works, and managing reconstruction scope changes where required. Follow-up training and assistance in using TMR's RADAR app will continue throughout the summer.



*Image: Capturing damage evidence in the RADAR app is a focus of TMR's pre-season preparedness program.*