QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

March 2018

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Contact for Enquiries:

All enquiries regarding this document should be directed to: Queensland Reconstruction Authority Phone the call centre - **1800 110 841**

Mailing Address

Queensland Reconstruction Authority PO Box 15428 City East Q 4002

Alternatively, contact the Queensland Reconstruction Authority by emailing info@qldra.org.au

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Major General Richard Wilson AO (Ret'd) Chairman Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Dear Major General Wilson

It is with pleasure that I present the March 2018 Monthly Report – the 85th report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

QRA was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* following the unprecedented natural disasters that struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11 and is charged with helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters through managing and coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities. QRA is also the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy.

The March report provides a snapshot of progress in the State's Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) program of recovery and reconstruction works from the disaster events of recent years and an update on progress in in recovery, resilience and mitigation activities.

During February, six councils were activated for relief measures under NDRRA for two events - *North Queensland Low, 24 February - 2 March 2018* and *Central Queensland Storm, 20 February 2018*. These activations bring to 21 the total number of councils activated across four events in the 2018 disaster season as at February 2018. With continuing weather impacts and flooding in Northern and Central Queensland since month end, an additional 24 councils have already received or indicated an intention to seek activation for NDRRA relief to date in March.

Of the estimated \$1.3 billion program of reconstruction works for 16 events from the 2016 and 2017 disaster periods that are in the active delivery phase, \$861 million has been approved by QRA and additional submissions worth \$341 million are being assessed by QRA or awaiting additional information. QRA is working with delivery agents to progress their preparation of submissions for the remaining program. \$423 million (32 percent) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 31 January 2017 as in progress or delivered.

QRA is also managing the close out of an estimated \$1.6 billion works from the 2013 to 2017 disaster periods that will be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth over the next three financial years. Of this, QRA is currently finalising the 2016-17 claim, due to the Commonwealth in March 2018.

The March report's Program Spotlights profile:

- the start of works on the \$22 million Shute Harbour restoration project in the Whitsundays, with demolition works set to begin this month following damage caused by Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie
- Delivery of the Australian-first 'Wujal Wujal Emergency Management Network', a stand-alone, all-weather network that functions like a home wireless network allowing residents in the remote Far North Queensland community to stay connected and receive emergency warnings when the mobile network is down
- the ramping up of major repair works to state roads across the Gold Coast hinterland damaged in the STC Debbie event, with the award of major construction contracts by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) for Lamington National Park Road and Gold Coast–Springbrook Road.

I commend the report to you and recommend its release to the Minister and the public pursuant to Section 41 of the Act.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Moon Chief Executive Officer Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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Section one: Introduction

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) was established on 21 February 2011 under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (the Act) following the extensive series of natural disasters that impacted Queensland over the summer of 2010-11.

QRA's mission is to reconnect, rebuild and improve Queensland communities and its economy.

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disasteraffected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.

QRA is also the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. In this role QRA is working collaboratively with other agencies and key stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

Initially established for a two-year period, QRA was extended a number of times as its role expanded to cover historical and continuing disaster events. In June 2015, QRA was made permanent, enabling it to continue the critical work of helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from, and build resilience to the impacts of natural disasters.

As part of its role, QRA administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works, Restoration of Essential Public Assets, Category C and Category D assistance to State Departments and Agencies (SDA) and Local Government Authorities (LGA). Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 71 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

1.2 Timing

The Commonwealth NDRRA Determination imposes time limits for the delivery and acquittal of works.

The Determination provides for a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works and a further nine months after the end of the financial year in which the works were completed in order to acquit the works. NDRRA funding is formally acquitted through the annual submission of a financial statement to the Commonwealth comprising claims for financial assistance in respect of state NDRRA expenditure incurred on eligible disasters in the preceding financial year (Commonwealth Claim). Lodgement of Commonwealth Claims is required to secure reimbursement of the Commonwealth's share of eligible expenditure.

As QRA is managing a series of events that occurred across a number of financial years, QRA's program is spread across various stages in the delivery and acquittal phases as follows:



Following acceptance of the 2015-16 NDRRA Claim by the Commonwealth in June 2017, QRA has finalised the close out of all works up to and including the 2014 events other than a small number of projects that received extensions of time for drought-related impacts.

NDRRA works for 31 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 event periods are currently in the delivery and/ or acquittal phases.

On 30 June 2017, the deadline passed to complete NDRRA works from the 2015 events. Currently QRA is finalising the close out of 2015 events' works for acquittal in the 2016-17 claim, due to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2018.

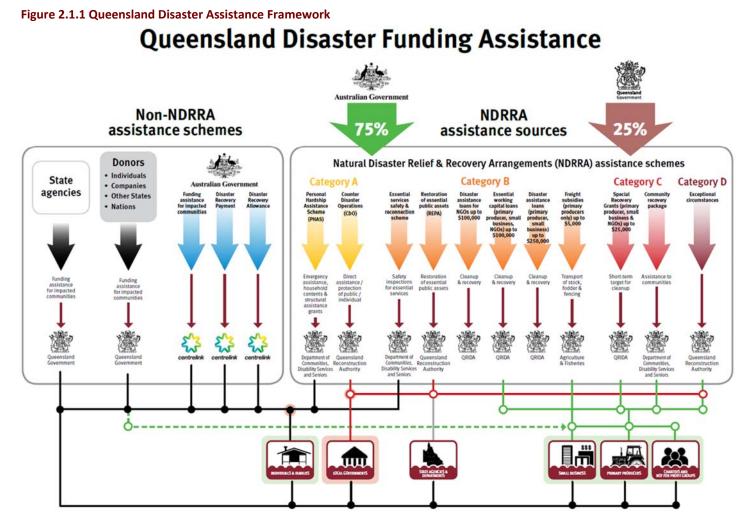
QRA is also working with delivery agents to progress delivery of the 2016, 2017 and 2018 event programs including providing advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation for Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and other recent events.

Section two: Disaster Assistance

2.0 Disaster Assistance

2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework

Disaster Assistance schemes available in Queensland are broadly are separated between NDRRA (jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State governments) and non-NDRRA funding schemes. The diagram below indicates the different elements of assistance available and how each element operates.



Elements of the assistance schemes are delivered by State agencies, however all NDRRA assistance sources (and elements of the non-NDRRA assistance schemes) are administered by QRA for historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland.

2.2 Events and relief measures managed by QRA

QRA has responsibility to administer NDRRA relief measures for historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland.

Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 71 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, 40 events are complete, having been delivered, closed out and acquitted to the Commonwealth in audited claims.

Works for 28 events from the 2015 to 2018 event periods are currently in the delivery phase and completed works from a further three events from the 2014 event period are also in the acquittal phase¹.

Disaster events managed by QRA

The list of activated disaster events managed by QRA is set out in **Section 2.2** and can also be found on <u>www.disaster.qld.gov.au</u>. A summary of previous events dating back to 2007 that have been managed through to acquittal by QRA is provided in Appendix B.

^{1.} The NDRRA Determination imposes a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works (delivery phase) and a further nine months to acquit completed works (acquittal phase) through lodgement of an annual claim to the Commonwealth. Following extension of time approvals, a number of projects from the 2014 and 2015 event period are still in delivery and/or acquittal phases.

2.2 Events and relief measures managed by QRA (cont.)

The figures opposite show the LGAs activated as at 28 February 2018 for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2015 to 2018 event periods that are either still in delivery and/or acquittal phase. During February, six councils were activated for relief measures under NDRRA for two newly declared disaster events.

An additional 24 councils have received or indicated an intention to seek activation for NDRRA relief to date in March. These activations will be reflected in the April 2018 Monthly Report.

2018 events

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2020, with final acquittal due by March 2021)

- North Queensland Low, 24 February 2 March 2018 (new activation)
- Central Queensland Storm, 20 February 2018 (new activation)
- Cape York Queensland Trough, 26 January 2 February 2018
- Central Coast Queensland Severe Weather, 16 19 October 2017

2017 events

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2019, with final acquittal due by March 2020)

- Far North Queensland Trough, 21-28 March 2017
- Far North Queensland Trough, 3-10 February 2017
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, associated rainfall & flooding, 28 March-6 April 2017
- Gulf Tropical Low, 15-24 February 2017
- Far North Queensland Low, 8-11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding, 13-20 September 2016
- Central Queensland Severe Weather, 15-20 July 2016

2016 events

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2018, with final acquittal due by March 2019)

- Central Western Queensland Flooding, 13-19 June 2016
- Far North Queensland Upper Level Trough, 21-23 May 2016
- South West Queensland Floods, 7-9 May 2016
- Far North and North West Queensland Tropical Low, 14-18 March 2016
- Western Queensland Trough, 7-11 March 2016
- Central Coast Surface Trough, 4-8 February 2016
- Central Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall & Flooding, 2-4 February 2016
- Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough 20-31 December 2015
- Fernvale Severe Storm, 27 October 2015.

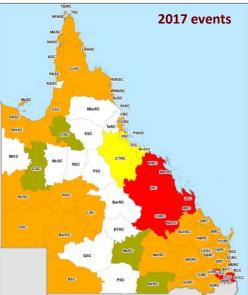
2015 events

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2017, with final acquittal due by March 2018)

- South East Queensland Low, 30 April 1 May 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Nathan and associated rainfall & flooding, 11-15 March 2015
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia and South East Queensland Trough - 19 to 22 February 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Lam, 15-18 February 2015
- North Queensland Severe Weather and Flooding 8 to 15 February 2015
- Central Eastern Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding - 21 to 29 January 2015
- Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding 5 to 18 January 2015
- Central Queensland Heavy Rainfall & Flooding - 8 to 14 December 2014
- Brisbane Severe Thunderstorm 27 December 2014. www.qldreconstruction.org.au









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Section three: Program Status





3.1 NDRRA program status

The estimated value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by QRA since its establishment is \$14.3 billion.

Of this, \$12.7 billion of works from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 events have been finalised (delivered and acquitted) with remaining works for components of the 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 event years in the active delivery and/or acquittal phases.

Progress of Delivery Program (2016 & 2017

Events)

remaining

\$911m

The current status of each active program is summarised as follows:

2015 Events

The deadline passed to complete NDRRA works from the 2015 events on 30 June 2017. Other than three projects that requested extensions of time, delivery agents completed all works on time.

QRA is currently finalising the close out of the balance of 2015 event works that were completed up to 30 June 2017 for acquittal in the 2016-17 claim.

2017 Events

Across the 2017 disaster season, 62 councils were activated for NDRRA assistance from seven events.

QRA is currently assisting, as required, with damage assessments in order to progress

the reconstruction program into delivery as soon as possible. Delivery agents have until 30 June 2019 to deliver eligible NDRRA works.

2016 Events

Works to date

\$423m

All submissions for the 2016 events have been pre-approved and works are required to be complete by 30 June 2018 in order to be eligible under NDRRA.

> QRA continues to monitor and assist councils and state agencies with progressing their program of 2016 event works through delivery.

2018 Events

Across the 2018 disaster season to date, 21 councils have been activated across four disaster events, including six councils activated for two events in February 2018.

QRA is currently assisting with activation re-

quests and damage assessments in relation to these and events that have since occurred, as required.

Reporting of estimates and progress will commence following QRA's next estimate review process scheduled to occur during March 2018.

In other areas relevant to NDRRA, QRA is continuing to trial and participate in consultation with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions in relation to potential funding reforms.

The Commonwealth is investigating a model to provide natural disaster recovery funding based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs.



Disaster reconstruction works underway by TMR during January 2018 following impacts of STC Debbie: Soil nailing on upslope of main landslip site on the Sarina Range (left); damage to Gladstone–Monto Road (right)

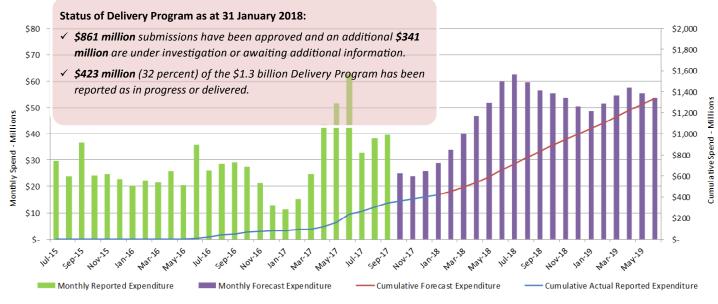
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3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

Delivery Program status

The QRA is managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$1.3 billion for 16 events comprising the 2016 and 2017 Events (**Delivery Program**)¹.

The graph below shows the actual reported and forecast monthly remaining expenditure for all NDRRA works since 1 July 2015, and estimated total costs to deliver the 2016 and 2017 events that are in the delivery phase.

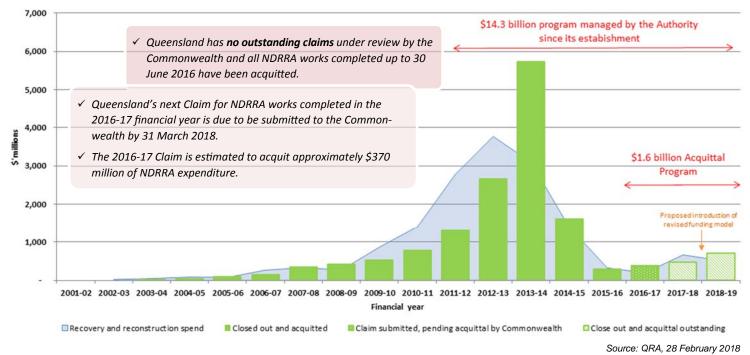


Source: expenditure reported to QRA to 31 January 2018; and estimates per September 2017 NDRRA Estimates Review

Acquittal Program status

The QRA is currently managing an acquittal program worth \$1.6 billion, comprising the remaining works for 29 events from the 2014 to 2017 Events¹ that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2015-16 financial years and preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2016-17 to 2018-19 in order to finalise the Acquittal Program. Should funding reforms be introduced as envisaged from 1 July 2018, the state will administer and submit claims under both the existing NDRRA Determination and also under the revised arrangements for a two year period (2018-19 and 2019-20) whilst the existing model is phased out.



1. Reporting of estimates, and progress of the 2018 events will commence following the next regular estimates review process scheduled for March 2018.

3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

Additional NDRRA assistance measures - 2017 Events

The State Government in conjunction with the Commonwealth has activated a range of Category C and Category D relief measures to alleviate distress for communities, businesses, industries and the environment impacted by STC Debbie.

Category C Community Recovery Fund (\$14.9 million)

- Fund to support initiatives and projects over a two year period to restore social networks and build community resilience and capacity for the future in the Gold Coast, Isaac, Logan City, Mackay, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim and Whitsunday council areas.
- The Queensland Government Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS) and Queensland Health (QHealth) is delivering three support programs to individuals, and community mental health and community development programs, with detailed status reports provided on a quarterly basis.

Category D Exceptional Disaster Measures (\$96.3 million)

Package	Purpose	Status
Local Council Package (\$17.3 million)	 Infrastructure projects to generate employment, boost the local economy and drive community resilience in key impact areas: Shute Harbour Marina (\$15.2 million) - demolish and replace the existing jetty, rebuild the terminal building, repair an existing seawall, and replace ancillary infrastructure Airlie Beach repairs, Whitsundays (\$850k) - for repairs Bluewater Trail, Mackay (\$1.2 million) - to repair damage and remove debris. 	 Shute Harbour: Whitsunday Regional Council are in the process of engaging a consultant to prepare draft concept design and a cost estimate. Demolition works on the Lloyd Roberts jetty and terminal building will commence in March 2018. Functional design brief is nearing completion. Refer Section 3 for more detail on the project. Repairs are underway to Airlie Beach foreshore parklands with insurance covering a portion of the cost. Whitsunday Regional Council are in the process of determining the eligible NDRRA Category D component. Repairs are underway to Bluewater Trail with insurance covering a portion of the cost. Mackay Regional Council are in the process of determining the eligible NDRRA Category D component.
Resilient Infra- structure (Betterment) (\$41.9 million)	to a more disaster resilient standard.	 \$1.9 million has been pre-approved by the Commonwealth to cover the betterment component on the Shute Harbour Marina seawall Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received from 19 of 29 eligible councils activated for Category B (REPA) seeking \$114 million. Betterment EOI assessment outcomes were sent to LGAs on 19 September, inviting detailed applications for projects seeking more than \$40 million. 98 submissions have been received from 21 Councils: 57 submissions worth \$24m have been approved 41 submissions are currently under assessment by QRA.
Environmental Recovery Package (\$35 million)	 To ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, including the clean-up of beaches, recreational parks, rivers and waterways \$35 million of the Environmental Recovery Package across five areas: A. Coastal B. Environmental C. Riparian D. Mapping E. Water Courses 	 QRA & the Department of Environment & Science (DES) agreed on notional allocations between categories following a review of all EOIs. A & B (Coastal, Environmental) - \$20 million EOIs were received from 14 of 37 eligible Councils seeking \$31.5 million. Projects were shortlisted and Councils requested to submit detailed applications. 43 submissions have been received from 15 Councils and one State Agency. 33 submissions of more than \$9 million for 12 Councils approved to date. C, D & E (Riparian, Mapping, Water Courses) - \$15 million Following receipt of EOIs from seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies, DES has allocated all funding under a two stage process: \$4.8 million priority projects approved November 2017 (Stage 1) \$10.8 million of projects approved December 2017 (Stage 2).
Economic Re- covery Pack- age (\$2.1 million)	 To support recovery of industry and busi- nesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and dam- age 	 Department of Agriculture & Fisheries (DAF) has Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) on the ground in impacted areas across five primary producer industries including nursery, grazing and cropping, horticulture, sugarcane and dairy. Rural financial counselling services are delivering support on the ground in impacted areas and IRO's have been assisting primary producers with Category C Recovery Grant applications to QRIDA. Agronomic advice is being provided to farmers on a needs basis.

Other active Category D measures

- The State and Commonwealth have agreed to continue the Day Labour exemption for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 events, to enable councils to deliver NDRRA works with their own workforce on condition they provide savings in both time and cost.
 Additional State non-NDRRA assistance measures 2017 Events
- The state has committed to fund the full \$110 million of additional assistance measures that it would have funded under its original
- The state has committed to fund the full \$110 million of additional assistance measures that it would have funded under its original Category D proposal to the Commonwealth. Of this, the State will fund an additional \$62 million of recovery measures in addition to its \$48 million (50 percent) contribution to the \$96 million NDRRA Category D packages approved by the Commonwealth.
- To date, the State has announced funding of \$2.65 million towards the revitalisation of the Airlie Beach Foreshore. Additional funding is being provided through the state's Building our Regions program (\$2.83 million) and Category D (\$850,000).

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3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities

QRA is leading disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy in Queensland. A summary of recent progress is set out below:

Activity	Purpose	Status
Recovery Capability Development	Recovery from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and IGEM's 2017 Disaster Management Plan Assessment Report highlighted the varying levels of recovery capability across local governments. The Recovery Capability Development Project aims to address gaps in recovery capability through a se- ries of training workshops and exercises. The project will initially focus on 21 local govern- ments, identified as priorities through an analysis of relevant recovery and resilience indicators.	 The Recovery Capability Development project will be delivered in three stages: Initial Engagement Training and Exercise Package Development Training and Exercise Delivery (complete by 1 June 2018) The project will be developed and delivered collaboratively with state government and local recovery partners. Phase 1 engagement has commenced with QRA presenting at Whitsundays and Maranoa Local Disaster Management Groups. These groups have identified key recovery themes for focus through the project - recovery planning, governance, communi- ty-led recovery, information collection and development of metrics to monitor local recovery progress and effectiveness.
Disaster Management Reviews	In 2015, a series of reviews were conducted into disaster management operations following Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia. An Interdepartmental Committee was established to review 160 recommendations from these reviews, including KPMG's operational review of QRA. KPMG's operational review of the QRA identified 14 recommendations relating to operational and policy- related matters, including the need for clarity in the disaster management framework on the roles and responsibilities of the QRA.	 11 of the 14 recommendations have been completed to date. The three remaining recommendations are progressing: Technical leadership in Commonwealth funding negotiations (QRA has participated in 11 national workshops to date in relation to funding reforls) Greater role in prioritisation of disaster recovery funding QRA provide support to the lead agency, QFES for a central repository for the collection and storage of whole-of-government disaster management data. Two workshops have been held between QRA and QFES to scope the recommendation. QRA is working with QFES to ensure disaster recovery and resilience data and information are aligned across related projects. This includes flood data and information from the Brisbane River Flood Studies project.
Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy (pilot project)	The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy is a pilot project to facilitate delivery of improved flood resilience on a catchment scale, and will support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans. The purpose of the pilot is to test and evaluate the relevant methodolo- gies for potential State-wide application.	 The project has the support of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils, who will act as the Steering Commit- tee for the project. Formal endorsement of the project was provided by the committee on 1 March 2018. Several risk identification and resilience workshops with local councils and a range of other stakeholders were successfully held in Bundaberg and Biggenden between October 2017 and February 2018. The project is on track to be delivered by mid-2018.
Planning Considerations for Recovery from Ter- rorist Events or Acts of Extreme Violence Adden- dum to the Queensland Recovery Plan	QRA is working with recovery partners to ensure better preparedness for recovery operations associ- ated with potential terrorism events. The Planning Considerations for Recovery from Ter- rorist Events or Acts of Extreme Violence Addendum to the Queensland Recovery Plan will provide a guide to issues for consideration when planning for and undertaking recovery from terrorism events and extreme acts of violence.	 Existing governance arrangements, as detailed in the Queensland Recovery Plan, will be used and supported by a Guide to issues to consider in recovery from terrorism events. The draft Addendum to the Queensland Recovery Plan has been completed and will be finalised in mid-March, through a workshop with relevant recovery partners including the Queensland Police Service and the City of Gold Coast.
Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)	The NDRP is a competitive grants and subsidies pro- gram administered in Queensland by QRA, jointly funded (\$12.003 million in total) by the Australian and State Governments under the National Partner- ship Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience. The objective of the NDRP is to enhance Queensland communities' resilience to natural disasters, and seeks to strengthen community resilience to natural disasters, consistent with the Queensland State Nat- ural Hazard Risk Assessment 2017 and the priority outcomes of the National Strategy for Disaster Resili- ence.	 Extension of the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Natural Disaster Resilience occurred in February 2018 following the Premier's counter-signing of the NPA. The NDRP Implementation Plan has progressed for signing by the State and Commonwealth before an anticipated rollout of the program in March 2018.

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Activity	Purpose	Status
Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resili- ence— Implementation Plan	The Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience was released in July 2017 and provides an over- arching framework to empower Queenslanders to factor in resilience measures and activities as they anticipate, respond and adapt to changing circumstances.	 Resilient Queensland, Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disas- ter Resilience 2018-2021, has been drafted and progressed for Queensland Government Cabinet consideration.
Operation Queensland Recovery Plan and reporting	The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan pro- vides the framework for a community-led ap- proach to recovery following STC Debbie. The plan focuses on empowering local govern- ments, supported by state agencies, to deliver local solutions to ensure communities are able to lead their own recovery and build resilience for future events. The Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans for the eight most severely impacted local gov- ernment areas.	 The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan was tabled in Queensland Parliament and publicly released on 9 May 2017. QRA is continuing to monitor and coordinate recovery progress and effectiveness of recovery efforts, with a focus on the 12 month anni- versary of STC Debbie on 28 March 2018.
Brisbane River Catch- ment Flood Studies	The Queensland Government and local councils are working together on a long-term plan to manage the impact of future floods and enhance community safety and resilience in the Brisbane River floodplain. The project includes development of a Flood Study followed by a Strategic Floodplain Man- agement Plan (SFMP) that will guide a coordinat- ed approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.	 The Flood Study is complete and available to the public following its launch on 5 May 2017. The Flood Study supports the development of a draft SFMP, which is underway and scheduled for completion in mid 2018. The QRA is working with four councils (Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley) as well as government agencies and industry to coordinate a regionally consistent approach to managing the Brisbane River Floodplain. A range of regional scale opportunities are being investigated as part of the SFMP including structural mitigation options, disaster management, land use planning, community awareness and resilience, building controls and integrated catchment management. Community engagement was undertaken for the project between 14 August 2017 and 15 September 2017. This included public information displays and an online survey. Detailed Local Floodplain Management Plans will commence following completion of the Strategic Floodplain Management Plan.
Flood Warning Gauge Network Program	QRA continues to assist the Bureau of Meteorol- ogy (Bureau) to ensure the best available infor- mation is available for providing flood warnings and forecasts.	 All Stage 1 and Stage 2 Flood Warning Gauge Network Investment Plans have been finalised. In total 44 Investment Plans have been issued and 62 local councils identified in a state-wide review as re- quiring more detailed review of flood warning infrastructure. The Brisbane catchment audit has now been completed by the QRA and has been issued. The Queensland (rest of state) gauge audit report has been received in draft from the Bureau. QRA has provided feedback and is awaiting the final report back from the Bureau.
North Stradbroke Island Bushfire Management Plan	The QRA and Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) are partnering to deliver Township Bushfire Management Plans for Point Lookout (Mooloomba), Amity (Pulan Pulan) and Dunwich (Goompi).	 QRA is undertaking the project in partnership with QYAC with support from the Department of Environment and Science. All three plans are scheduled for completion in early 2018. QYAC / QRA have presented the concept of the township bushfire management plans to the Southern Fire Managers Group, on North Stradbroke Island and to the Bushfire IDC in Caboolture. Both groups welcomed this approach and are keen to be involved. Community consultation to raise awareness of the concept of the bushfire management plans to the three townships is intended to occur in late March. QYAC will lead the community consultation with QFES and Redland City Council also invited to attend. DSDMIP and DNRME continue to be updated on project status due to its close ties to parts of the Economic Transition Strategy for Minjerribah.

3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities (continued)

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3.3 Program spotlights

Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie recovery Shute Harbour NDRRA Category D Restoration Project Begins

Demolition works on the \$22 million Shute Harbour restoration project in the Whitsundays will begin this month following damage caused by Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie.

The Whitsundays was one of the worst hit regions when STC Debbie tore through Queensland communities last year, causing extensive damage to homes, businesses and public infrastructure.

While Queensland is no stranger to natural disasters, the damage caused to communities across the state was catastrophic and in some circumstances, beyond repair.

In response, the Commonwealth and Queensland governments made NDRRA funding available to support the recovery of regions affected by STC Debbie, including funding to restore vital community infrastructure.



Deputy Premier Jackie Trad surveys the damage at Shute Harbour following STC Debbie

The funding for Shute Harbour is part of a \$96.2 million STC Debbie 'exceptional circumstances' package that was approved by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments under the NDRRA



The Terminal buildings were also severely damaged by STC Debbie

Restoration works to terminal buildings, jetties, pontoons and the protective seawall will help to re-establish Shute Harbour's commercial operations and future-proof the facility for future weather events.

As the gateway for tourism in the Whitsundays, the restoration works will also help to revitalise the tourism industry, providing visits with a royal welcome, or send-off, from Airlie Beach.

Following the demolition works, restoration works will start in September 2018 and will bring this landmark facility back to full operation by mid-2019.

The demolition is a significant milestone for the revitalisation of marine facilities at Shute Harbour and a great example of all levels of Government working together to build resilience across Queensland communities.

Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council Emergency Management Network



QRA Regional Liaison Officer Keiran Mau was honoured with a naming ceremony for his ongoing work with the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) recently joined with the Department of Local Government, Racing & Mulitcultural Affairs, the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council to deliver the Australian-first 'Wujal Wujal Emergency Management Network'.

The Emergency Management Network is a stand-alone, all-weather network that functions like a home wireless network allowing residents in the remote Far North Queensland community to stay connected and receive emergency warnings when the mobile network is down.

Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council faces major challenges during heavy monsoonal rain and floods including an unreliable phone service which impacts recovery efforts and can leave residents disconnected and isolated.

The innovative network ensures the ongoing safety of the community by providing uninterrupted communications during and after natural disaster events and a direct line to district and state disaster management support agencies.

By increasing the town's capacity for communication during an emergency, it has also made the community more resilient, and able to recover quicker, from future events.

QRA's Regional Liaison Officer for Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council, Keiran Mau, acted as Project Manager for the network, assisting with a risk assessment and historic impact assessment, preparation of contract documentation, cost management advice, on-site inspections and process of all claims, payments and variations for the project.

The in-kind support was provided by QRA as part of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Capability Development Initiative, which assists with the facilitation of council projects outside its core scope of work, as well as improvements to councils' future delivery capability.

The project was funded by the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland program, and its innovative model could be considered for roll-out across other councils in Queensland.

For his ongoing work with council, Kieran was honoured with a naming ceremony and adoption by the Kuku Yalanji and Kuku Nyungkal clan groups, the original custodians of the land surrounding the base of Bloomfield Falls near Wujal Wujal.



Keiran's ceremony and adoption was held at the base of Bloomfield Falls near Wujal Wujal

3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

TMR STC Debbie repairs ramp up on Gold Coast hinterland

Works are ramping up to repair major damage caused to state roads across the Gold Coast hinterland as a result of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, with the award of major construction contracts by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) for Lamington National Park Road and Gold Coast–Springbrook Road.

In late March 2017, strong winds and heavy rain associated with STC Debbie resulted in many roads across the South Coast region being obstructed by debris and fallen trees, or structurally damaged by landslips. Some roads were temporarily closed while maintenance crews worked to reinstate access for residents and local communities.

Where roads required further reconstruction, TMR has been working on road and embankment designs for these vital travel routes.

Work to repair three of the most critical sites on Lamington National Park Road is expected to be completed in February 2018. Recon-



Damage site on Gold Coast-Springbrook Road

struction works on the remaining 83 sites will begin in February 2018, with completion expected by late 2018.

On Gold Coast–Springbrook Road, an eight-kilometre section from Neranwood to Pine Creek Road has been closed since April 2017, after a geotechnical assessment deemed it unsafe for motorists due to ongoing instability.

Gold Coast–Springbrook Road is the primary access route between the Gold Coast and the township of Springbrook, which has a local population of 624 (2011 census). Springbrook is also a popular tourist destination due to its proximity to the World Heritagelisted Gondwana Rainforests, in addition to offering boutique shopping, dining and accommodation.

Alternative access is being provided via Pine Creek Road, which was also damaged by STC Debbie. Pine Creek Road was temporarily repaired and access reinstated within approximately 36 hours, with long-term repairs completed in July 2017.

On Gold Coast–Springbrook Road, challenging terrain, scoured embankments downslope from the road corridor and ongoing landslips in areas near the road corridor have created significant challenges during the planning and design phase.

Work on the 18 critical sites and 35 minor sites within the closed section of road is expected to commence in early February 2018 and be completed by late 2018, weather permitting, with some minor ancillary works to be carried out in early 2019.



Landslip repairs underway on Lamington National Park Road

Section four: Communications

4.0 Communications

QRA is focused on building stakeholder confidence in reconstruction by ensuring consistent and regular communication of public information. QRA keeps its stakeholders and the community informed and ensures access to the latest information regarding the reconstruction effort through its website, social media, phone hotline and management of correspondence.

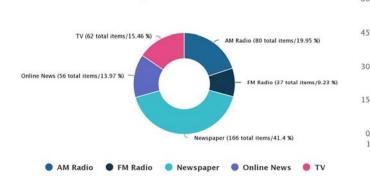
4.1 Communicating progress

Media analysis

There were a total of 401 media items in February 2018 (166 print, 62 TV, 117 radio, 56 online) as shown in the graph below, which reached a cumulative audience of 11.5 million people. This is an increase of more than 43 per cent when compared with coverage in January 2018 (291 media items), due to an increase of storm activity during disaster season.

There were articles covering NDRRA activations in Far North Queensland for the Cape York Queensland Trough event, as well as media showing the United Nation's appreciation of Queensland's response and recovery efforts following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017. Peak media coverage was on 20 February following the severe storm that resulted in the NDRRA activated event, *Central Queensland Storm, 20 February 2018*.

Media type breakdown - volume



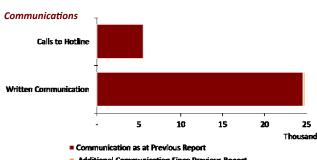
Media Type Breakdown - Volume

Social Media

QRA LinkedIn – As at 31 January 2018, the QRA LinkedIn account had 267 followers.

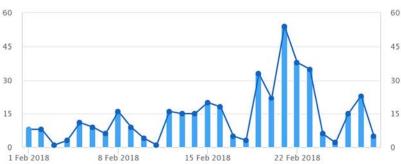
Get Ready Queensland Facebook – During February, the Get Ready Queensland Facebook page added 26 posts. From 1-28 February, 2018 the page received 64 likes – an increase of 1.6 per cent from January. Get Ready Queensland's posts reached 4,496 people, a decrease from January, however the page received 704 page views (an increase of 171 per cent from January). During February 2018, Get Ready Queensland received 1,503 engagements on posts.

Get Ready Queensland Twitter – At 28 February, the Get Ready Queensland Twitter account had 1246 followers. Six posts were shared from 1-28 February. Posts received 5,600 impressions and 34 engagements.



Additional Communication Since Previous Report

Peak media coveraae



Website

QRA's website is regularly updated with information on the progress of current recovery efforts.

During February 2018, there were 5,350 unique visits to qldra.org.au. This is an increase of 25 per cent compared to January 2017 (4,286). The Get Ready Queensland website is also managed by the QRA – helping to engage and assist Queensland communities prepare for storm and cyclone season. There were 815 unique visits to the homepage of getready.qld.gov.au. Although this is a slight decrease from previous months, the Natural Disaster/Cyclone page received 1,297 unique page views which may reflect a seasonal interest.

Hotline and correspondence

In January 2018, QRA received an additional 49 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 212 pieces of written correspondence.

QRA Engagement activities - February 2018

- 14 February: QRA CEO, Mr Brendan Moon visited Lockyer Valley Regional Council to discuss natural disaster funding reform.
- 22 February: QRA CEO, Mr Moon attended the ANZEMC meeting in Sydney.

Source: QRA at 28 February 2018



4.2 Media reports

UN praises emergency services' response to Cyclone Debbie chair Lyn McLaughlin said the **COMMUNITY** Mikayla Mayoh

QUEENSLAND'S emergency service groups have been praised by the United Nations for their efforts during Cyclone Debbie.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Dis-aster Risk Reduction, Robert Glasser heads the United Na-

tions International Strategy Reduction Disaster for (UNISDR) and said the response from Queenslanders to Cyclone Debbie epitomises the type of action the UN would like replicated across all United Nations.

"The response to Cyclone Debbie truly epitomises the type of action we would like to

see everywhere else. It was very impressive to see how the BOM disseminated warnings which were quickly acted on by the emergency services," Mr Glasser said.

Burdekin Shire Council Mayor and Burdekin Local Disaster Management Group

PT. oran Ta

Statut I

UN's praise was a testament to the response from right across the community.

"The UN praise for Queensland's response during Cyclone Debbie is a testament to our emergency services, vol-unteers and all agencies and individuals who contributed to the effort," Cr McLaughlin said.

Cyclone Debbie was a so-

bering reminder for our community that cyclones are unpredictable and even though we were lucky on this occasion, it is still so important residents prepare well and not become complacent." Cyclone Debbie crossed the

coast at Airlie Beach nearly one year ago as a category four storm.

CENTRAL Highlands townspeople will be out it force again today, assisti with the post-storm clear across the region. cross the region. Clermont recorded wind gusts of 93km/h on Tuesda ats of 90km ong with hailstone-ecsuring 8cm in size. Moranbah Airport ded winds of 104k wight and ed to remain

es had powe

Premier offers to help Puerto Rico

SARAH VOGLER

QUEENSLAND'S disaster experts could be sent to Puerto Rico to help the hurricane-ravaged island get back on its feet. Premier Annastacia Pal-aszczuk yesterday met Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello to offer assistance after the devastation wreaked on the US territory by Hurricane Maria, dubbed the region's worst re-corded natural disaster.

Ms Palaszczuk (pictured) said she wanted to ensure Puerto Rico had full access to Queensland Reconstruction Authority and other depart-mental officials involved in responding to the damage from the hurricane.

She has also offered to welcome the governor and a del-egation to Queensland so they could see first-hand how the state handled disaster management and recovery after disas-ters such as the 2011 floods.

Mr Rossello accepted that offer at yesterday's meeting in Washington.

Ms Palaszczuk said she had also offered to deploy Queensland's disaster experts to Puerto Rico should they be needed. "Sadly, Oueenslanders have had to endure too many natu-

The Courier Mail - 26 February

ral disasters, including Cyclone Debbie last year.

"But it does mean our emergency response and other agencies are well-versed in how to respond to a disaster and in leading the recovery. "I am determined that we

help our friends. The governor understands the experiences we have had, and I believe he is keen to understand what we have done to ensure our practices are the best." Ms Palaszczuk is in the US

on a 10-day trade missing.



Storms smash our region

Wild winds even worse than cyclone Kristen Boeth

She saw of at least 11 homes

This was a signif rm event which n

already compar-one Debbie in ter

Cape funds extension DISASTER recovery funding released to floodstricken areas of the Torres Strait last week

has been extended to areas of Cape York. Emergency Services Minister Craig Crawford announced the Commonwealth and stat government's jointly-funded Natural Disaster and state Relief and Recovery Arrangements would be available to the Aurukun, Mapoon and Northern Peninsula Area regional councils. Funding covers delivery of supplies to

DISASTER RELIEF

communities, debris removal and clean up



Cairns Post - 9 February

Central Queensland Register - 23 February

Cyclone fix at last

BY JOCELYN GARCIA ALMOST a year after ex-Cy-clone Debbie hit the Scenic

Rim works are finally under way to repair the wrecked Lamington National Lamington Park Road.

Park Road. A total of 76 landslides occurred on the road and the damage devastated local

businesses. Transport Minister Mark Bailey said works to restore full access for people living,

nul access for people inving. working and visiting local towns and national parks in the area would continue. "These reconstruction projects follow temporary repairs carried out immedi-ately after the cyclone," he said. "Work at three critical landslip sites on Lamington-al National Park Road will be completed later this month."

al National Park Road will be completed later this month." The road damage has been a big blow to businesses hav-ing to deal with road closures and vehicle restrictions for

almost a year. Mountview Alpaca Farm

Mountview Alpaca Farm co-owner Jenny Pack said she could not return to the farm from her Canungra home for five days after three days of torrential rain. The farm's address was 2503 which means it is 25.03km from town," she said. "There were about 76 landsildes on the road and two major notes were on the 12 and 20 kilometre marks."

living. O'Reilly's Rainforest Re-

Burdekin Advocate - 23 February

O'Reilly's Kainforest Re-treat manager Shane O'Reilly said the business was also missing out on tourism. "The road is still closed at night and disruption during the day continues," he said. Mr O'Reilly said most tourism business had been

turism business had been turism business had been put on hold. "We had 160 people booked to come for hunch on Monday and now well have no one...we have lost \$8000 which is guite sign-nificant and this is the type of event that pays our staff wages for the week, the said. Mr O'Relly said despite the road being fixed, there was noguarantee restrictions would be lifted and works would be lifted and works would be lifted in the complete by December.

complete by December



Beaudesert Times - 21 February

Community generosity saves stranded siblings

Morantus the help th "We're j KELLY and Jason Young found themselves with mothing but the clocks on their backs after their Moranbah home was destroyed during a violent storm. But in a 24-hour cascade of community generosity, the siblings now have us out with ns," Mr Your community generosity, a siblings now have everything they need to rebuild their life bar a permanent home. Ms Young, 32, had just stepped into the shower Tuesday night when cyc sent a large gum tree ing through the roof of rented Archer St home. community and issue, oriented to overyone como together at a sh-time and makes it better." The siblings said their landlord and authorities h ting it was material, she grabbed her dog Ralph and huddled in the laundre new place to live Ms Young's con ble to find them a Eme Craw Mora And grou of we



Ergon Energy Corporate Communications officer Rod Rehbein said yesterday afternoon. "The rest of the Central Highlands are on par with the aftermath of Debbie." As a result of the extreme storms, 970 homes around Moranbah were still withou

affected area with some people saying the damage there was worse than

padd haddocks." Mr Rebbein said 5000 Longreach homes lost power for 15 minutes due to a lightning strike. "Very large numbers streas remain largely unaffected." he said. "Rockhampton, Gladstone and Yeppoon [had] not been affected. "Mosty just the Central Highlands and the Central West to a less extent."

Blackwater we can't easily access and we've been flying choppers in to put in temporary poles. "Once the conditions are better we will go back and do better. "The restoration is going

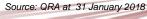
Rockhampton Morning Bulletin - 23 February

power yesterday afternoon. Mr Rehbein said Ergon had restored power to more than 6000 homes in the Highlands however some homes may remain without power for "as long as 48 hours".

hours". "We've tried to get in touch with all our customers with power still out and let them know the current situation," he said. "However, towns like

www.qldreconstruction.org.au

Monthly Report - March 2018



fairly slowly and is challenging work to get them all back on because some poles aren't beside some poles aren't bes roads, they're across paddocks."

Thousands without power Steph Allen

AROUND 15 000 bo AROUND 15,000 homes were left without power for hours on Tuesday night as a result of the storm activity across Central Queensland towns. Even now some remain vithout electricity. Towns around the Central Towns around the Centr Highlands, as far west as Longreach, as north as Moranbah and as south as Springsure were left witho

power as Ergon Energy attempted to restore services

services. There were 1561 homes without power across the Highlands and the Isaac region at 5pn yesterday afternoon. Such areas included Biloela and Rockhampton which only recorded one case of power outage per town.

"Moranbah was the most

there was worse than Cyclone Debbie last year.'

Daily Mercury – 24 February

Appendices

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www.qldreconstruction.org.au



Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

Region	Local Government Areas (LGAs)
Far North Queensland (FNQ)	ASC Aurukun Shire Council CRC Cairns Regional Council CCRC Carsowary Coast Regional Council COSC Cook Shire Council CrSC Croydon Shire Council DSC Douglas Shire Council ESC Etheridge Shire Council ESC Etheridge Shire Council LRASC Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council LRASC Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council MASC Mapeon Aboriginal Shire Council MASC Mareba Shire Council NASC Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council NASC Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council NASC Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council NPARC Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council TRC Tablelands Regional Council TSC Torres Shire Council TSIRC Torres Strait Island Regional Council WWASC Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council Wujal Suja Shire Council
North Queensland (NQ)	BrdSC Burdekin Shire Council BrkSC Burke Shire Council CSC Carpentaria Shire Council CSC Carpentaria Shire Council CISC Cloncurry Shire Council DASC Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council FSC Flinders Shire Council HSC Hinchinbrook Shire Council MeSC McKinlay Shire Council MoSC Mornington Shire Council MICC Mount Isa City Council PIASC Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council RSC Richmond Shire Council TCC Townsville City Council
Central Queensland (CQ)	BanSC Banana Shire Council BarRC Barcaldine Regional Council BarSC Barcoo Shire Council BTRC Blackall-Tambo Regional Council BOSC Boulia Shire Council BCRC Central Highlands Regional Council DSC Diamatnia Shire Council GSC Gladstone Regional Council LSC Livingstone Shire Council LSC Livingstone Shire Council LRC Longreach Regional Council RRC Rockhampton Regional Council WRC Whitsunday Regional Council WSC Winton Shire Council WASC Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council
Southern Queensland (SQ)	BalSC Balonne Shire Council BSC Bulloo Shire Council BRC Bundaberg Regional Council CASC Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council GORC Goondiwindi Regional Council GORC Goondiwindi Regional Council MarRC Maranoa Regional Council Murxeh Shire Council Nurweh Shire Council NBRC North Burnett Regional Council QSC Quipie Shire Council QSC Quipie Shire Council SBRC South Burnett Regional Council SDRC South Burnett Regional Council SDRC South Burnett Regional Council WDRC Western Downs Regional Council
South East Queensland (SEQ)	BCC Brisbane City Council GCCC Gold Coast City Council LCC Ipswich City Council LVRC Lockyer Valley Regional Council LCC Logan City Council MBRC Moreton Bay Regional Council NSC Noosa Shire Council RCC Rediand City Council SRRC Scenic Rim Regional Council SRC Somerset Regional Council SRCC Sunshine Coast Regional Council

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Appendix B: NDRRA activations managed by QRA - 2007 to 2014 Events

2014 events

Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three LGA programs* that received extensions of time for delivery)

- Tropical Cyclone Ita & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 11-14 April 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Gillian 10 to 11 March 2014
- Central Coast & Southern Queensland Trough, 26-30 Mar 2014
- Central & Western Queensland Flooding & Rainfall, 18-28 February 2014*
- North East Queensland Monsoonal Rainfall & Flooding 7 to 9 February 2014*
- Tropical Cyclone Fletcher, commencing 2 February 2014*
- Far North Queensland Peninsula Flooding (27-31 Jan 2014)
- Tropical Cyclone Dylan, 31 January 2014
- North Stradbroke Island Fires, commencing 29 Dec 2013

2013 events



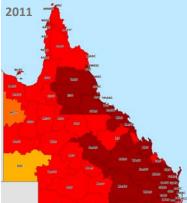
(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three projects that received extensions of time for delivery)

- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late Oct Dec 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013[#]
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013
- Central & Southern Queensland Low, 25 Feb 5 Mar 2013.

2012 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- Queensland Bushfires, August to October 2011
- Localised Heavy Rainfall Northern Queensland, October 2011
- Southern Queensland Flooding, December to December 2011
- South East Queensland Heavy Rainfall and flooding, 23- 26 January 2012
- Western Queensland Tropical Low, January February 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Tropical Low, 3-4 February 2012
- North Coast Queensland Storms & flooding & East Coast Hybrid Low, 24 Feb 7 March 2012
- Northern & Far Northern Queensland Heavy Rainfall & flooding, 15 Mar 2012
- East Coast Low, 22 March 2012.



2011 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- South West Flooding, April 2011
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding Event, 28 February 2011
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on 2 February 2011
- Queensland Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Tasha & Anthony, Dec-2010 to February 2011.

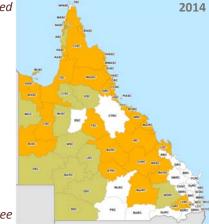
2007-2010 events managed by QRA

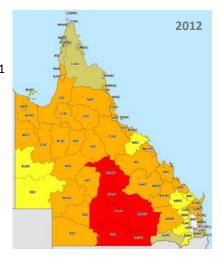
(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul, Jan to Apr 2010
- Northern, Central & South West Queensland Flooding, 22 December 2009 to 8 January 2010
 - South West Flooding, 20 25 December 2009
 - 2010 South East Queensland Flooding, 9-12 October 2010.
 - Queensland Bushfires, September October 2009
- South West Queensland Low and Associated Flooding, September 2010
- South East Queensland Low, May 2009

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- Queensland Monsoonal flooding and Tropical Cyclone Charlotte and Ellie, January February 2009
- Queensland storms and associated flooding, 16-22 December 2008
- South West Queensland flooding, June 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, February March 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, January 2008
- South East Queensland East Coast Low, 27 December 2007 7 January 2008
- Central Western Queensland storms and flooding, 22-30 December 2007
- South West Queensland storms and flooding, 23-30 November 2007
- South East and North Coast Queensland East Coast Low, August 2007.





Three 2013 Event Betterment projects received extensions of time for delivery, with final acquittal due by 31 March 2017. All other 2013 events have completed delivery and acquittal phases.

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