**QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY** 

# Monthly Report

**December 2017** 

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# **Information security**

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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 December 2017 Monthly Report – the 82nd report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

QRA was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (the Act) following the unprecedented natural disasters that struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11.

QRA is charged with helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters through managing and coordinating the Queensland Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities and being the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy.

The December 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.

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, \$612 million has been approved by QRA and additional submissions worth \$456 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. \$352 million (26%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 30 September 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 assessment of completion documentation to close out the 2015 event and other works for acquittal in the next disaster funding claim, due to the Commonwealth in March 2018.

The December report's Program Spotlights profile:

- the recent activation of Category C assistance under the NDRRA for disaster-affected primary producers in the Bundaberg and North Burnett regional council areas following the Central Coast Queensland Severe Weather, 16-19 October 2017 event
- the Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) reconstruction progress on the Lamington National Park Road, which sustained extensive damage during Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, with more than 80 landslips directly above and below the road
- the completion of restoration works at Ipswich's popular recreation area, Sapling Pocket Reserve, which has experienced significant vegetation damage following years of successive flooding events.

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 disaster-affected 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 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 69 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 29 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. Other than three projects that requested extensions of time, delivery agents consistently indicated works were completed on time. QRA is working with delivery agents to gather and assess completion documentation to close out the 2015 events' works for acquittal in the 2016-17 claim.

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

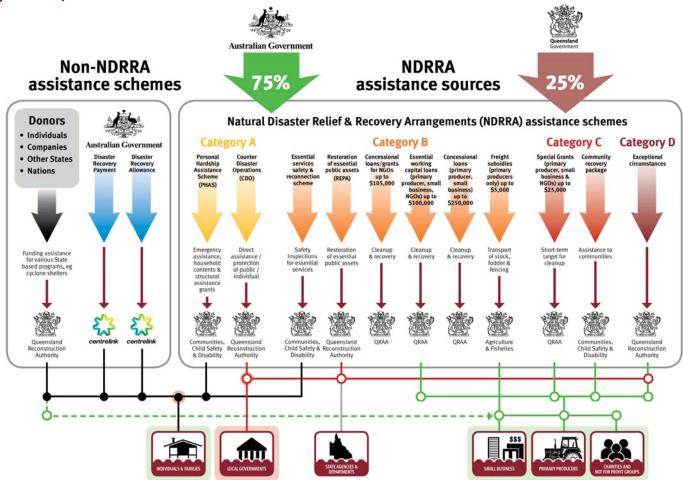
# Section two: Disaster Assistance

# 2.0 Disaster Assistance

# 2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework

The available Queensland Disaster Assistance schemes 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.

Figure 2.1.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework



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.

# 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 www.disaster.qld.gov.au.

This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

- 2018 events: disaster events occurring in the financial year ending 30 June 2018
- 2017 events: disaster events occurring in the financial year ending 30 June 2017 (including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie)
- 2016 events: disaster events occurring in the financial year ending 30 June 2016
- 2015 events: disaster events which occurred in the financial year ended 30 June 2015
- 2014 events: disaster events which occurred in the financial year ended 30 June 2014
- **2013 events:** disaster events which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2013** (including Tropical Cyclone Oswald and associated rainfall and flooding (January 2013))
- 2012 events: disaster events which occurred in the financial year ended 30 June 2012
- **2011 events:** disaster events which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2011** (including Tropical Cyclone Yasi and Queensland flooding (December 2010 to February 2011)).

# 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 69 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 26 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 phase<sup>1</sup>.

The figures opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2015 to 2017 event periods that are either still in delivery and/or acquittal phase. A summary of previous events dating back to 2007 that have been managed through to acquittal by QRA is provided in Appendix B.

# 2018 events

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

• Central Coast Queensland Severe Weather, 16 – 19 October 2017<sup>2</sup>

### 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 and associated rainfall and 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

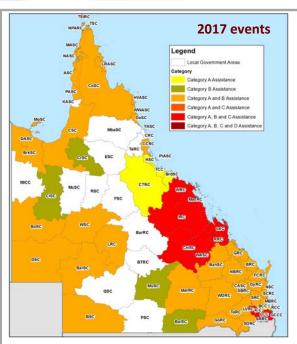
(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2018, with final acquittal due by March 2019)

- 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.

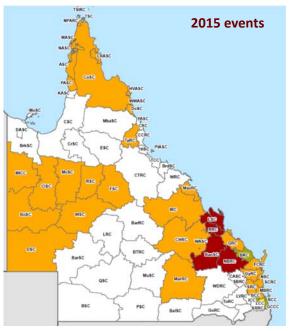
## 2015 events

(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 and Flooding 8 to 14 December 2014
- Brisbane Severe Thunderstorm 27 December 2014.







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.

<sup>2.</sup> Bundaberg, Fraser Coast, Gladstone and North Burnett LGA's activated for the 2018 Events to date

Section three:

**Program Status** 

# 3.0 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 and 2017 event years in the active delivery and/or acquittal phases.

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

# 2014 Events

All 2014 event works have been acquitted by the Commonwealth other than three councils' programs granted extensions of time to deliver works for drought-related reasons.

These works are now complete and will be closed out and acquitted in the next (2016-17) claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2018.

## 2016 Events

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.

# 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 have indicated works

were completed 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.

# In other areas relevant to NDRRA:

- The first event of the 2018 event year *Central Coast Queensland Severe Weather, 16-19 October 2017* also forms part of the delivery program, with reporting of estimates and progress to occur once damage assessments are complete.
- 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.



Above: Repairs in progress at Tomewin
Mountain Road



Above: Clean up of main landslip site on Nerang– Murwillumbah Road



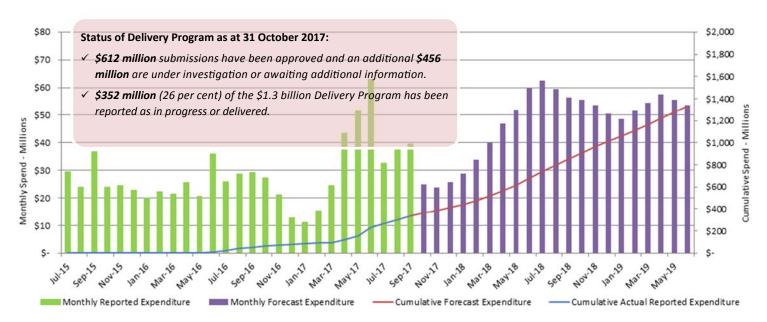
Above: Monitoring station to detect movement at main landslip site on Sarina Range

# 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**)<sup>1</sup>.

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.

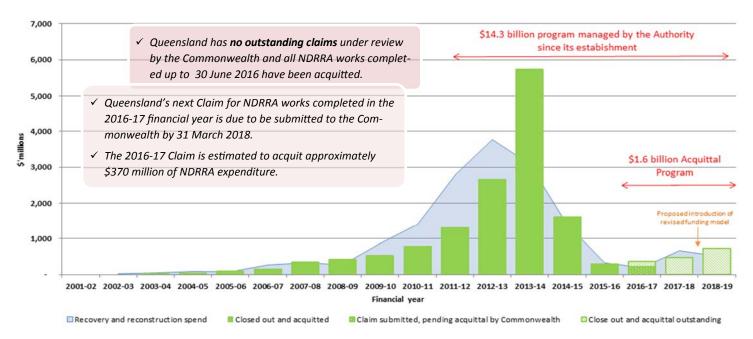


Source: expenditure reported to QRA to 31 October 2017; and estimates per September 2017 NDRRA Estimates Review

# **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 Events<sup>1</sup> 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. Program estimates and reporting in relation to the 2018 Events (one of which has occurred to date) will commence following the next estimates review process at February 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

Package	Purpose	Status
Category C NDRRA mea	isures	
Community Recovery Package (\$14.9 million)	<ul> <li>To deliver support programs to individuals, and community mental health and community development programs.</li> <li>Over a two year period, the program will support initiatives and projects aimed at restoring social networks and building community resilience and capacity for the future in the local government areas of Gold Coast, Isaac, Logan City, Mackay, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim and Whitsunday.</li> <li>The Queensland Government Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) and Queensland Health (QHealth) will deliver three programs:         <ul> <li>Individual Support Program (DCCSDS)</li> <li>Community Development Program (QHealth)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The procurement process for counselling services is complete with all 28 contracts finalised.</li> <li>Mobile and static services are being delivered on the ground in all locations.</li> <li>Procurement is underway for the Reporting and Evaluation component of the program.</li> <li>Mental Health screening continues in both North Queensland Region (Whitsunday and Mackay) and South East Queensland Region.</li> <li>Referral pathways are being refined as part of delivery models being finalised.</li> <li>Over 100 clinical hours of service delivered in the impacted communities.</li> <li>Recruitment for most clinical positions have been finalised. There are still some vacancies due to low numbers of applicants. Alternative arrangements are currently being examined concurrent to clinical delivery.</li> </ul>
Category D NDRRA mea	sures	
Local Council Package (\$17.3 million)	<ul> <li>Infrastructure projects in key impact areas to generate employment, boost the local economy, drive community resilience and build resilience:</li> <li>Shute Harbour Marina (\$15.2 million) - demolish and replace the existing jetty, rebuild the terminal building, repair an existing seawall, and replace ancillary infrastructure</li> <li>Airlie Beach repairs, Whitsundays (\$850k) - for repairs</li> <li>Bluewater Trail, Mackay (\$1.2 million) - to repair damage and remove debris caused by STC Debbie.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Whitsunday Regional Council are in the process of engaging a consultant to prepare draft concept design and a cosestimate. Applications to the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) have been made for the demolition of the Lloyd Roberts jetty and terminal building. Functional design brief is nearing completion. Demolition is schedule to commence in February 2018.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Resilient Infrastructure (Betterment) (\$41.9 million)	<ul> <li>To restore or replace essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed predisaster.</li> <li>The normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard is funded under Category B NDRRA and the incremental cost to 'better' the</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>\$1.9 million of the Betterment has been pre-approved by the Commonwealth to cover the betterment component on the Shute Harbour Marina seawall</li> <li>Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the remaining \$40 million funding were received from 19 of the 29 eligible (councils</li> </ul>

- ry B NDRRA and the incremental cost to 'better' the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard is funded by a capped allocation from the Betterment fund and Council contributions.
- 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 \$41 million.
- 89 submissions have been received from 12 Councils. 37 submissions across six Councils have been progressed for endorsement.

# 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

# Additional NDRRA assistance measures - 2017 Events

Package	Purpose	Status	
Category D NDRRA measures			
Environmental Recovery Package (\$35 million)	<ul> <li>To ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, including the clean-up of beaches, recreational parks, rivers and waterways</li> <li>\$35 million of the Environmental Recovery Package across five areas:         <ul> <li>A. Coastal</li> <li>B. Environmental</li> <li>C. Riparian</li> <li>D. Mapping</li> <li>E. Water Courses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>QRA &amp; the Department of Environment &amp; Heritage Protection (EHP) have agreed on a notional allocation of \$20 million for part A and B packages, and \$15 million for part C, D &amp; E packages following a review of all Expressions of Interest (EOIs).</li> <li>QRA is administering Parts A &amp; B. EOIs were received from 14 of the 37 eligible Councils seeking \$31.5 million. Projects were shortlisted and Councils were requested to submit detailed applications.</li> <li>31 submissions have been received from eight Councils and one State Agency. Eleven submissions across six Councils have been approved.</li> <li>EHP is administering packages C, D &amp; E. EOIs from 7 Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies were received seeking \$21.9 million.</li> <li>Submissions were shortlisted, with \$4.8 million of priority projects approved as Stage 1.</li> <li>For Stage 2, EHP received project proposals requesting an estimated \$25.9 million in funding from six NRM bodies. Working group meetings held on 1st and 5th December to review and finalise funding recommendations to steering committee. Steering committee to meet 8th December to finalise assessment and progress recommendations for approval.</li> </ul>	
Economic Recovery Package (\$2.1 million)	To support recovery of industry and busi- nesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and dam- age	<ul> <li>The Department of Agriculture &amp; Fisheries (DAF) has all Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) on the ground in the impacted areas.</li> <li>Rural financial counselling services are also delivering support on the ground in impacted areas.</li> <li>QRA, DAF and DTESB have coordinated workshops undertaken on 16-18 October in the hardest hit areas. These workshops supported cross sector work with primary producers, small business and the tourism sector.</li> </ul>	

# Other active Category D measures

• The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to continue the **Day Labour** exemption for the 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 events, which enables councils to deliver restoration works with their own workforce on condition that they provide evidence of 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 \$220 million Category D proposal to the Commonwealth.
- The State will fund an additional \$62 million of recovery measures in addition to its \$48 million (50 percent) contribution to the \$96 million package of 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 for the project of \$2.83 million is being provided through the state's Building our Regions program and \$850,000 is being provided through the Category D program.

# 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
Queensland Recovery Plan	The Queensland Recovery Plan informs stakeholders of good recovery procedures and processes that should be employed across all entities during recovery operations and planning.  The plan applies to all Queensland disaster recovery partners, local governments, Local Disaster Management Groups, District Disaster Management Groups, Queensland Government agencies, governmentowned corporations and statutory bodies representing the state, non-government organisations and other disaster recovery stakeholders.	<ul> <li>The Queensland Recovery Plan has been approved and endorsed by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee.</li> <li>The plan has been publicly released via the QRA website and distributed to all disaster management groups, as required by the Queensland Disaster Management Act, 2003.</li> <li>Implementations of the Queensland Recovery Plan will be supported by the Recovery Capability Development Project, which includes a program of training workshops and exercises to build recovery capability.</li> </ul>
Recovery Capability Development	Recovery from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie high-lighted the varying levels of recovery capability across local governments.  The Recovery Capability Development Project aims to address gaps in recovery capability through a series of workshops, training and exercising.	<ul> <li>An initial analysis of vulnerability, disaster management plans, recovery plans, NDRRA activations, NDRP and LGGSP projects, Get Ready, Flood Investment Plans, Flood Classifications and Hazard exposure has been undertaken to develop a prioritised list of local governments to be included in the Recovery Capability Development Project.</li> <li>This project will be delivered in the following stages:         <ol> <li>Scoping.</li> <li>Engagement with local governments to confirm recovery capabilities.</li> <li>Development and delivery of training and exercise packages.</li> <li>Evaluation</li> </ol> </li> <li>The Recovery Capability and Development Project will be developed and delivered collaboratively with state government recovery partners, including QFES, QPS and DCCSDS.</li> <li>Where possible, related resilience work will be incorporated into the engagement activities conducted as Stage 2 of the project.</li> </ul>
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.  The QRA review 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.	<ul> <li>11 of the 14 recommendations have been completed to date.</li> <li>The three remaining recommendations are progressing:         <ul> <li>Technical leadership in Commonwealth funding negotiations</li> <li>Greater role in prioritisation of disaster recovery funding</li> <li>QRA provide support to QFES for a central repository for the collection and storage of whole-of-government disaster management data.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy (pilot project)	QRA is delivering a pilot project for a catchment scale approach to flood resilience that 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 methodologies for potential State-wide application.	<ul> <li>The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy is a pilot project to facilitate delivery of improved flood resilience on a catchment scale.</li> <li>The Pilot project will test technical methodologies and assess the suitability of this work being delivered across the remainder of the state.</li> <li>The project has the support of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils, who will act as the Steering Committee for the project.</li> <li>Several risk workshops have been successfully held in Bundaberg and Biggenden and the project is on track to be delivered by mid-2018.</li> </ul>

# 3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities (continued)

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 overarching framework to empower Queenslanders to factor in resilience measures and activities as they anticipate, respond and adapt to changing circumstances.	A draft Implementation Plan has been developed for consideration in consultation with key stakeholders including government, non-government and community organisations independently and through a Focus Group which has met four times.
Operation Queensland Recovery Plan and reporting	The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery following STC Debbie.  The plan focuses on empowering local governments, 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 government areas.	<ul> <li>The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan was tabled in Queensland Parliament and publicly released on 9 May 2017.</li> <li>QRA is monitoring and coordinating recovery issues and monitoring the progress and effectiveness of recovery efforts by each Functional Recovery Group.</li> <li>A six month report is being developed to document recovery progress. This report will be released to the public via the QRA website, following consideration of the QRA Board.</li> </ul>
Brisbane River Catchment 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 Management Plan (SFMP) that will guide a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.	<ul> <li>The Flood Study is complete and available to the public following its launch on 5 May 2017.</li> <li>The Flood Study supports the development of a draft SFMP, which is underway and scheduled for completion in early 2018.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Community engagement was undertaken for the project between 14 August 2017 and 15 September 2017. This included public information displays and an online survey.</li> <li>Detailed Local Floodplain Management Plans will commence from 2018.</li> </ul>
Flood Warning Gauge Network Project	QRA continues to assist the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) to ensure the best available information is available for providing flood warnings and forecasts.	<ul> <li>All Stage 1 Flood Gauge Network Investment Plans have been finalised and issued to 40 priority local councils identified in a state-wide review as requiring more detailed review of flood warning infrastructure.</li> <li>All Stage 2 Network Investment Plans for the remaining local councils have been approved by all parties and are in the process of being issued to the LGA's that are receiving a plan. A number of site visits and workshops took place across the State with eight reports are being completed. This includes a Cape Report integrating all the Cape councils together.</li> <li>QRA has finalised the forecast location recommendations to the Bureau, which identifies eleven new forecast locations for consideration. This is in the process of being issued.</li> <li>The Brisbane catchment audit has now been completed by the QRA and is in the process of being 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.</li> </ul>
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).	<ul> <li>QRA is undertaking this project in partnership with QYAC with support from the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (DNPSR).</li> <li>All three plans are scheduled for completion in early 2018.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

# 3.3 Program spotlights

# **NDRRA**

# Impacted Queensland Primary Producers among Category C funding recipients

Disaster weary primary producers in Bundaberg and North Burnett have been thrown a \$25,000 lifeline from the State and Federal Governments with the recent activation of Category C assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

The Central Coast Queensland Severe Weather, 16-19 October 2017 event caused extensive damage in the North Burnett, Gladstone, Bundaberg and Fraser Coast areas, with between 150 and 450mm of rain falling across the region.

The heavy rainfall and consequential flooding significantly impacted the horticulture and farming industries across North Burnett and Bundaberg, causing damage to sugar cane, winter cereals and vegetable and pulse crops, with some destroyed just prior to harvest.

It was estimated approximately 40 per cent of primary producers in North Burnett and up to 60 per cent of producers in the Bundaberg region were directly impacted by this severe flooding event.

It was the second blow from Mother Nature this year with many of these same farmers still recovering from the damage caused by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in April 2017.

The total Gross Value of Agriculture Production for the identified industries impacted by the October event is estimated at more than \$250 million.

Category C assistance will ensure eligible primary producers in the severely impacted regions of North Burnett and Bundaberg can access grants of up to \$25,000 to help with their clean-up and recovery costs.

This activation of assistance is in addition to concessional interest rate loans and freight subsidies already being offered to primary producers in the area, supporting a holistic approach to recovery and ensuring they have the support they need following this disaster.

(From top) submerged pumping station on a cane farm in Bundaberg; waterlogged tree crop in Bundaberg; waterlogged crop in Bundaberg; QRA CEO, Brendan Moon man inspecting destroyed wheat in Monto following severe weather events in October.









# 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

# TMR Lamington National Park Road repairs under way

Lamington National Park Road sustained extensive damage during Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March 2017, with more than 80 landslips directly above and below the road.

The road provides access to eco-tourism resort O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat and the surrounding Lamington National Park, a popular regional tourist destination due to its international conservation status as part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area.

Many sections of the 36km narrow, winding road require the steep embankment to be reinstated and the missing road rebuilt.

Reconstructing the road at these sites is complex and difficult given the constrained access and almost perpendicular terrain. The road repair treatments range from building new capping beams to support the new road being rebuilt over the top, and constructing sleeper walls and gabion walls to reinstate the embankments.

Repairs at three of the most critical sites commenced in August 2017, with work progressing well. Motorists can still access the summit, however there are daytime roadwork delays. Night time road closures are in place between Sunday and Thursday to allow machinery such as a piling rig to work from the part of the road that is still intact.

A vehicle load limit is in place to ensure safety of travellers through the work sites until the road reconstruction is complete.

Early works at the first three sites are expected to finish in January 2018, followed by the next stage of work to complete the balance of road repairs.



Night works on Lamington National Park Road (above)



Repairs in progress on Lamington National Park Road (left)

# 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

# Ipswich City Council Restoration works at Sapling Pocket complete in time for summer

Following years of successive flooding events at Ipswich's Sapling Pocket, works to repair the popular family recreational area are now complete, revitalising the riparian zone.

Situated on the Brisbane River near Spring Mountain, Sapling Pocket contains one of the last parcels of remnant rainforest along the river and has been a popular recreational area for local families and visitors to the Ipswich area.

As a result of heavy rainfall and flooding associated with Tropical Cyclone (TC) Marcia in 2015, vegetation along the creek was washed away and the embankments were severely scoured, leaving the area dangerous for public use.

Ipswich City Council received more than \$340,000 in joint Commonwealth and State funding to restore Sapling Pocket to its former glory through a \$6 million assistance package funded under Category D of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

Funding was also provided by Seqwater which partnered with Ipswich City Council on the project.

Seqwater engaged a consultancy to undertake bank stability and erosion investigations on the upper reaches of the Brisbane River after TC Marcia, and prioritised Sapling Pocket as the first site for repair.



Aerial photo of the pile fields which will provide scour protection in the long term.



Start of restoration works – construction of the timber pile fields to further reduce velocity and support the establishment of new vegetation.

The project saw the strategic replanting of vegetation washed away during TC Marcia and previous flooding events, to stabilise the area and minimise erosion. Large wooden stakes were also driven in lines to act as baffles to floods.

The Sapling Pocket project was completed in March 2017 and was subsequently impacted by during Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie event in early April 2017. Although the site suffered some damage, Council reported a greatly reduced impact to vegetation during the event requiring only minor repairs.

The NDRRA extraordinary assistance package has allowed Council to rebuild the nature refuge with resilience, providing a great benefit to the environment and for the community.





Revegetation works 28 February 2017 (above left) to 10 April 2017 (above right)

# Section four: Communications

# 4.0 Communications

QRA is focused on building stakeholder confidence in reconstruction by ensuring consistent and regular communication of public information.

From 30 September 2017, the QRA received administrative responsibility for the *Get Ready Queensland* campaign to assist Queenslanders prepare for storm and cyclone season. This campaign aligns with QRA's vision to build a more disaster-resilient Queensland.

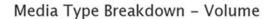
# 4.1 Communicating progress

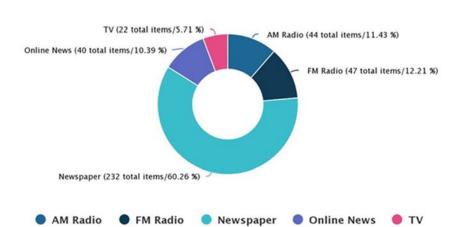
# Media analysis

There were a total of 385 media items in November 2017 (232 print, 22 TV, 91 radio, 40 online) as shown in the graph below, which reached a cumulative audience of 6.8 million people. This is slightly lower than coverage in October 2017 (506 media items).

Peak media coverage was on 16 and 17 November 2017 with articles regarding the activation of NDRRA Category C assistance for primary producers following severe flooding in October 2017. Other leading media interest included getting ready for storm season as part of the *Get Ready Queensland* campaign.

# Media type breakdown - volume

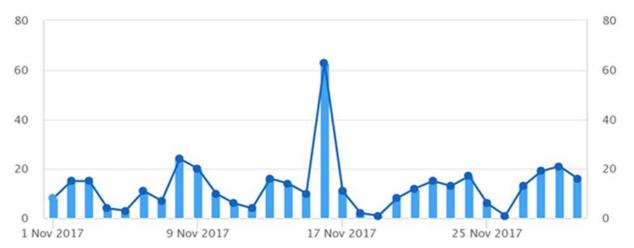




# QRA Engagement activities—November 2017

- 20 November: Queensland Reconstruction Authority CEO Mr Brendan Moon attended an Australian Defence Force ceremony for the promotion of former State Recovery Coordinator Brigadier Chris Field to the rank of Major-General.
- 29 November: Mr Moon attended the North West Regional Organisation of Councils meeting at Mount Isa.

# Peak media coverage



Source: QRA at 30 November 2017

# 4.1 Communicating progress (Cont.)

# **Get Ready Queensland**

# Engagement activities—November 2017

- 3 November: Visit to Pullenvale State School with 96five and Channel 7
- 7 November: Presentation to QFES Community Engagement Officers (via teleconference)
- 10 November: Get Ready Queensland visit to Queensland Health Disaster Management Unit for collaboration
- 17 November: Visit to Redeemer Lutheran College with 96five and Channel 7
- 27 November: GRQ and Resilience & Recovery meeting with QFES Assistant Commissioner and team at Albion
- 29 November: GRQ and SunWater meeting 'Get Rain Ready'
- 1 December: Visit to Seville Road State School with 96five and Channel 7

### Communications

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.

### Website

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

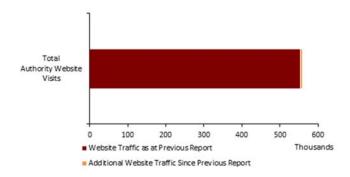
During November 2017, there were 5526 unique visits to qldra.org.au. The Get Ready Queensland website is now also managed by the QRA – helping to engage and assist Queensland communities prepare for storm and cyclone season. There were 1428 unique visits to the homepage of getready.qld.gov.au during November 2017.

# Hotline and correspondence

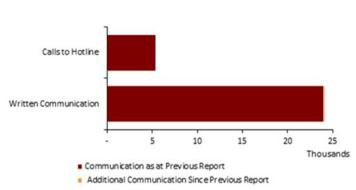
In November, QRA received an additional 44 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 213 pieces of written correspondence.

# **Website & Communications Traffic**

# Website traffic



## Communications



# Social Media

- **QRA LinkedIn** As at 30 November 2017, the QRA LinkedIn account had 213 followers. All scheduled November 2017 LinkedIn social media posts were postponed due to the Queensland Government entering Caretaker Mode.
- Get Ready Queensland Facebook During November, the Get Ready Queensland Facebook page added 37 posts. From 1 30 November 2017, this page received 367 views, 19 page likes and reached 9,789 people (29% increase). 1,166 people actively engaged with the posts (clicked for more information).
- Get Ready Queensland Twitter As at 30 November, the Get Ready Queensland Twitter account had 1,223 followers.

# 4.0 Communications (cont.)

# 4.2 Media reports

# Stay well connected to survive threat

# Access to any information is vital during adverse weather conditions

BEFORE, during and after a cyclone, the internet is a vital tool to help you keep up to date with the latest information and

Cyclone movements and important news and updates are instantly dissemi nated via the world wide web, so while

the power is still on at home, it's important to stay connected.

Key online resources

- cairnspost.com.au: non-stop news coverage, extensive advice, plus the coverage, extensive advice, plus the promise of uninterrupted live coverage of any cyclone or other natural disaster approaching the Far North; ■ twitter, com/thecaimspost: get all of the very latest cyclone and disaster news
- via Twitter. Search for #TC??? (insert
- name of cyclone), for example #TCIta;

  bom.gov.au: the Bureau of Meteorology has the most accurate, frequently updated cyclone tracking maps. During a

severe weather event, BoM provides regular cyclone warning updates on this page plus historical information and an

rview of how tropical cyclones form.
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/naturaldisasters: during an emergency, this page will be replaced with the new Cairns Dis-

aster Dashboard. You can also follow the Cairns Disaster Coordination centre on Facebook (www.facebook/CairnsDCC) or Twitter (@CairnsDCC) to stay up to date. getready.qld.gov.au: the RACQ Get

Ready Queensland website contains a wealth of information, tools and tips

EVERY year, Brisbane experiences

severe weather due to its subtropi cal climate, and the current storm

season is proving to be no excep-

Meteorologists are predicting a wet summer this year, and with the prospect of more nasty weather on the radar, now is a good time to

prepare.
The following tips offer advice on what you should have in your emer-

gency kit and how to stay safe be-fore, during, and after a severe

Have a household plan: prepare water and non-perishable food to last up to three days, as well as es-sential medicines, clothing and baby supplies. Have a household

emergency plan that everyone is familiar with. Consider potential risks in your neighbourhood that

may prevent you from reaching your home or loved ones. Prepare your home: clean up your

property and make an effort to maintain it for the duration of the

storm season. If your property has

large trees that are not protected

Cairns Post-30 November

Take steps to

storm season

prepare for

their home state super resilient.

Stay tuned to your radio
In severe weather, stay tuned to your radio before, during and after the storm. If and when power, internet connections and phone networks go down in tions and phone networks go down in your area, your battery-operated radio will be your main source of information. And don't forget to have spare batteries at the ready, as you could be using your radio for several days.

### Local stations

- Local stations

  ABC Far North: 801AM
  (Cairns), 106.7FM (Cairns),
  95.5FM (Cairns North), 639AM
  (Mossman), 720AM (Atherton),
  95.7FM (Babinda);
- Cairns FM Community Radio: 89.1FM (multicultural
- Bumma Bippera Media: 98.7FM (indigenous radio); 4CA: 846AM
- HitFM: 103.5FM (Cairns).
- 97.9 (Atherton/M. SeaFM: 99.5FM
- 4AM (Port Douglas): 1422AM Radio Port Douglas: 90.9FM



In the event of a cyclone, the power can easily go out, leaving your battery operated radio as your most important household source of information.

under council law, arrange for an arborist to carry out a check-up. Check and clean your roof, gutters and downpipes, and identify hazards such as loose objects in your yard.

yard.
Tune into warnings: Become familiar with storm warnings and how to access information and updates throughout a weather existing up to council's early warning alert service.
Help neighbours: Get to know your neighbours, particularly the elderly, so you can help each other in the event of a storm.

Visit disaster.qld.gov.au for more details on how to prepare.

SEVERE STORM SEASON

SEVER STORM SEASON Sky News Weather has released its detailed Severe Weather Outlook 2017/2018, forecasting another warmer than average severe weather season with an increased risk of bushfres, heatwaves and severe thunderstorms. The upcoming thunderstorm season is likely to be extremely active across northern and eastern Australia.

# Debbie racks up second biggest claims bill

THE Insurance Council of Australia is calling Cyclone Debbie the second most expensive cyclone in Australian history, and Queensland's most expensive, as insurance losses surss \$1.5 billion.

Newly received insurance claims have pushed Cyclone Debbie, which made landfall near Airlie Beach on March 28, past 2011's Cyclone Yasi into second position behind Cyclone

Tracy, which remains Australia's big-

gest storm event by cost.
Since the middle of September, insurers have received a further 3919 household and business claims, adding \$89 million to losses valued at \$1.565 billion from 72,767 claims, according to the ICA.

ICA chief executive Rob Whelan said more than 85 per cent of claims were now closed, with insurers pay-

ing out \$1 billion of the \$1.565 billion total in what the ICA calls the industry's fastest response to a disaster of Debbie's magnitude.

"Insurers are injecting \$11.8 mil-lion each working day into affected communities stretching from the Whitsundays through to southern New South Wales," Mr Whelan said. The Bureau of Meteorology last month said the summer storm season

may include 10 to 13 cyclones to form off Australia's coastline, with up to

four expected to make landfall.

Median premiums for home and contents in North Queensland had remained relatively stable over the past couple of years, Mr Whelan said yesterday, quoting a government report suggesting insurers were paying \$1.40 for every dollar they received in

# Funds for land recovery



Bush Telegraph Warwick

21 November



Central & North Burnett Times -26 October

Disaster help PRIMARY producers and small businesses directly affected by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and associated rainfall and flooding may be eligible for low-interest loans up to \$250,000. Non-profit organisations directly affected may be eligible for a loan and grant package up to \$105,000. These grants are available for recovery efforts to pay for clean-up and restoration costs arising out of direct damage. To find out more, visit the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority website at www.qrida.qld.gov.au.

News Mail Bundaberg-30 November

# Signs on short list

AN INNOVATIVE and life-AN INNOVATIVE and mis-saving flood warning system developed by Logan City Council has been short-list-ed for the 2017 Resilient Australia Awards. The Flooded Road Smart

Warning System project was led by Logan Council in partnership with Griffith University students and not-for-profit social enterprise group Substation 33. Substation 33 provides training and support to dis-

advantaged Logan residents

through

recycling business

The project included the design and installation of low-cost automatic warning

low-cost automatic warning signs in the region, to help save lives by advising drivers of flooded roads. The signs are powered by solar energy via recycled laptop batteries and can transmit real-time SMS and email communications, as email communications, as well as update online sources including the council's Disaster Dashboard.

The project was initiated after serious flood events in Brisbane in 2013 and 2015,

rescues and one fatality. The signs were put to the test in March 2017 when more than 100 roads across Logan flooded.

Unlike during previous flash flooding events, no ve-hicles were driven into floodwaters.

The project was one of three short-listed for the national award.

# Greg Kelly from the council with one of the signs

Albert & Logan News-23 November

# Callide crossing reopens

LINKES Road Crossing. the direct route from Biloela to Callide Power Station and Batchfire Mine, is scheduled to reopen late next week.

The low level crossing across Callide Creek has been closed to traffic for 10 months and has been damaged several times during flood.

**Banana Shire Mayor** Nev Ferrier said the new crossing had been lowered to be more disaster-resilient which means there would, at times, be water over the crossing.

"During these times motorists must be vigilant and follow speed and road closed signs as directed." Cr Ferrier said.

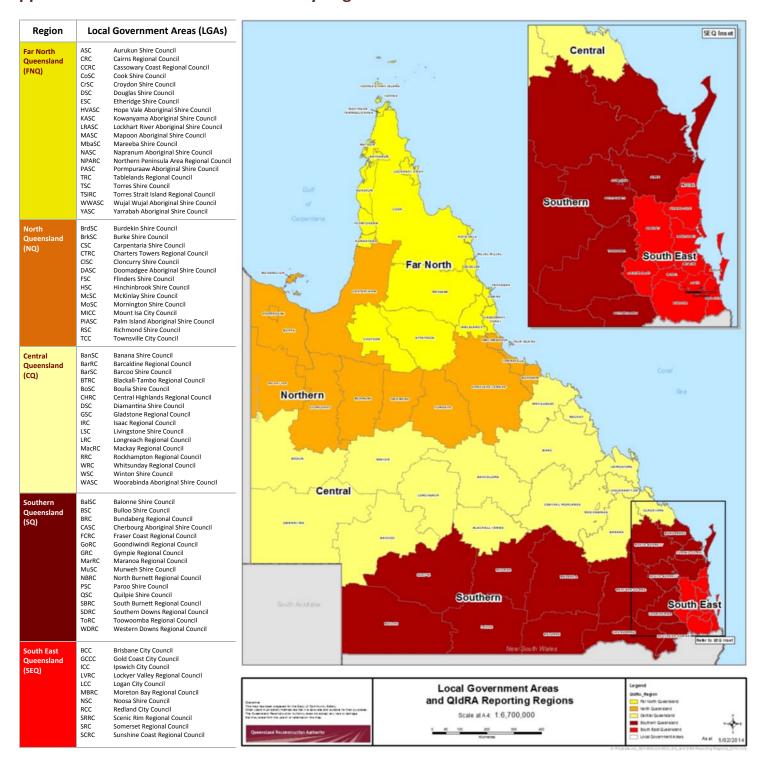
The crossing upgrade was through the 2015 **Retterment Fund.** 

Central Telegraph—30 November

Southwest Satellite-20 November

# **Appendices**

# **Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region**



# 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

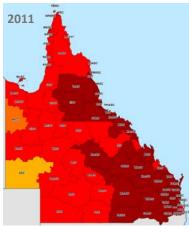
(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three projects that received extensions of time for delivery)

- 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

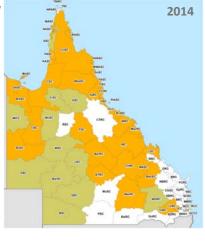
(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

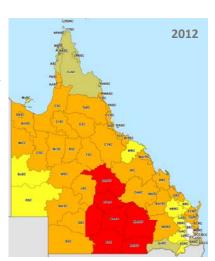
- South West Flooding, April 2011
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding Event, 28 February 2011
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on 2 February 2011
- Queensland Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Tasha & Anthony, Dec-2010 to February 2011.

# 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
- 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.





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