

Quarterly Report

September 2019



Document details:

Security classification	Public
Date of review of security classification	September 2019
Authority	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Author	Chief Executive Officer
Document status	Final
Version	1.0

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.qra@qra.qld.gov.au

Licence

This material is licensed by the State of Queensland under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) 4.0 International licence.

CC BY License Summary Statement

To view a copy of the licence visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority requests attribution in the following manner:

© The State of Queensland (Queensland Reconstruction Authority) 2019.

Information security

This document has been classified using the Queensland Government Information Security Classification Framework (QGISCF) as PUBLIC and will be managed according to the requirements of the QGISCF.

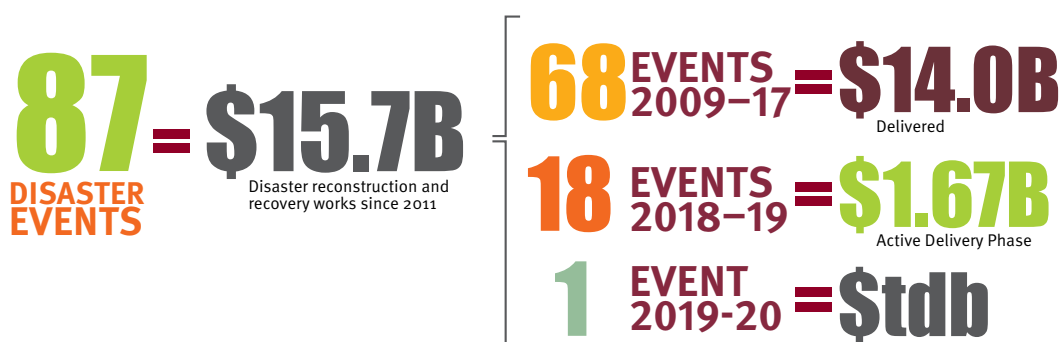
Disaster Assistance

Overview

QRA has responsibility to administer Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) measures in Queensland, coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities.

Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated \$15.7 billion of disaster reconstruction and recovery works for 87 disaster events activated for disaster relief measures.

The list of activated disaster events is found on www.disaster.qld.gov.au.



NDRRA

Although disaster funding arrangements transitioned to DRFA from 1 November 2018, the state will continue to administer and submit claims under the existing NDRRA Determination for a three year period whilst the existing NDRRA program for disasters occurring in the 2017 and 2018 event periods¹ are finalised. Three events also occurred in the 2019 Event period prior to the implementation of DRFA and will be the final events administered under NDRRA.

With an allowable time limit of two financial years to deliver reconstruction works, \$14.0 billion of works from 68 events across the 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 events have been delivered and NDRRA works estimated at \$300 million for the remaining nine events from the 2018 and 2019 event periods (that occurred prior to 1 November 2018) are currently in the delivery phase (Delivery Program).

Of the total program, \$13.4 billion of completed works have been closed out and acquitted in audited claims, with the remainder of the program from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 events to be acquitted in annual claims through to 2021 following completion of works.

DRFA

The DRFA arrangements apply to activated events that occur after 1 November 2018.

Ten events with damage estimates estimated in excess of \$1.37 billion have been activated to date under DRFA in Queensland, including the recent Southern Queensland Bushfires, 6 – 12 September 2019 event.

The main change under DRFA relative to the NDRRA model is that natural disaster recovery funding for the restoration of essential public assets is based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs rather than reimbursement of actual costs incurred. DRFA also provides the potential for the state to retain savings delivered in the state's restoration program for allocation to disaster mitigation and resilience projects.

¹ Event periods are based on the closing date of the financial year, ie the 2018 event period represents the 2017/18 financial year.

Disaster Assistance

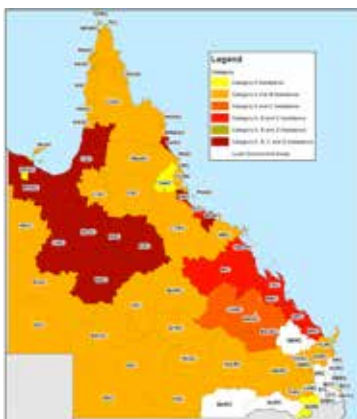
Activations

The information below show the LGAs activated for NDRRA and DRFA relief measures for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 event periods that are in the delivery phase.



2018 event period – \$297 million NDRRA program
(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2020, with acquittal by March 2021)

- Central Coast Queensland Severe Weather, 16 – 19 October 2017
- Cape York Queensland Trough, 26 January – 2 February 2018
- Central Queensland Storm, 20 February 2018
- North and North West Queensland Low and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 24 Feb - 8 Mar 2018
- North Queensland Flooding, 6-10 March 2018
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora and Associated Flooding, 24-29 March 2018



2019 event period – \$1.374 billion Combined NDRRA/DRFA program value
(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2021, with acquittal by March 2022)

NDRRA

- Gympie Bushfires, 19 – 27 September 2018
- Mareeba & Tablelands Bushfires, 17 September – 9 October 2018
- Wide Bay-Burnett Severe Storms, 11-14 October 2018

DRFA

- Redland Bushfires, 28 November – 13 December 2018
- Central Queensland Bushfires, 22 November – 6 December 2018
- Tropical Cyclone Owen, 9 – 17 December 2018
- South West Queensland Trough, 14 – 17 December 2018 event
- Tropical Cyclone Penny, 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019
- North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January – 14 February 2019
- Wallangarra Bushfires 12 – 21 February 2019 (new activation)
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Trevor and associated low pressure system, 19 – 27 March 2019
- Southern Queensland Upper Level Trough, 22-25 April 2019



2020 Event Period – \$tbd DRFA program
(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2022, with acquittal by March 2023)

- Southern Queensland Bushfires, 6 – 12 September 2019 (new activation)

Disaster Assistance

NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program status

The **Delivery Program** comprises works for 19 events across the 2018, 2019 and 2020 event periods with an estimated value in excess of \$1.67 billion.

The status of the Delivery Program by event period is as follows:



2018 Events

Across the 2018 disaster season, 48 councils were activated across six disaster events at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$297 million.

To date, 89 per cent of funding submissions have been approved for the 2018 events, and QRA is assisting delivery agents progress remaining outstanding submissions and delivery of the program.

Delivery agents have until 30 June 2020 to deliver eligible NDRRA works from the 2018 Events.

2019 Events

In 2018-19 the State was impacted by 12 disaster events with 61 councils activated for assistance, including bushfires in Central Queensland, the record-breaking monsoon flooding event across North and Western Queensland in January/February 2019 and three cyclones including Severe Tropical Cyclone Trevor which brought flooding to Far Western communities in March.

Of these, three events that occurred in September and October 2018 were activated under NDRRA and nine events that occurred after 1 November 2018 have been activated under DRFA.

An additional 2019 event was activated in September 2019 for “Communities within Southern Downs Regional Council affected by the Wallangarra bushfires, 12-21 February 2019”.

Preliminary estimates of the total NDRRA/DRFA cost for the 2019 events are in excess of \$1.37 billion, including \$265 million of Category C and D exceptional circumstances packages.

The estimate will be refined over coming months as impacted council areas assess damage and progress funding submissions.

2020 Events

The 2020 disaster season has begun early with five councils activated in response to bushfires in Southern Queensland areas from 6 – 12 September 2019.

Preliminary estimates of the DRFA cost for this event will be determined as damage assessments are undertaken over coming months.



Disaster Assistance

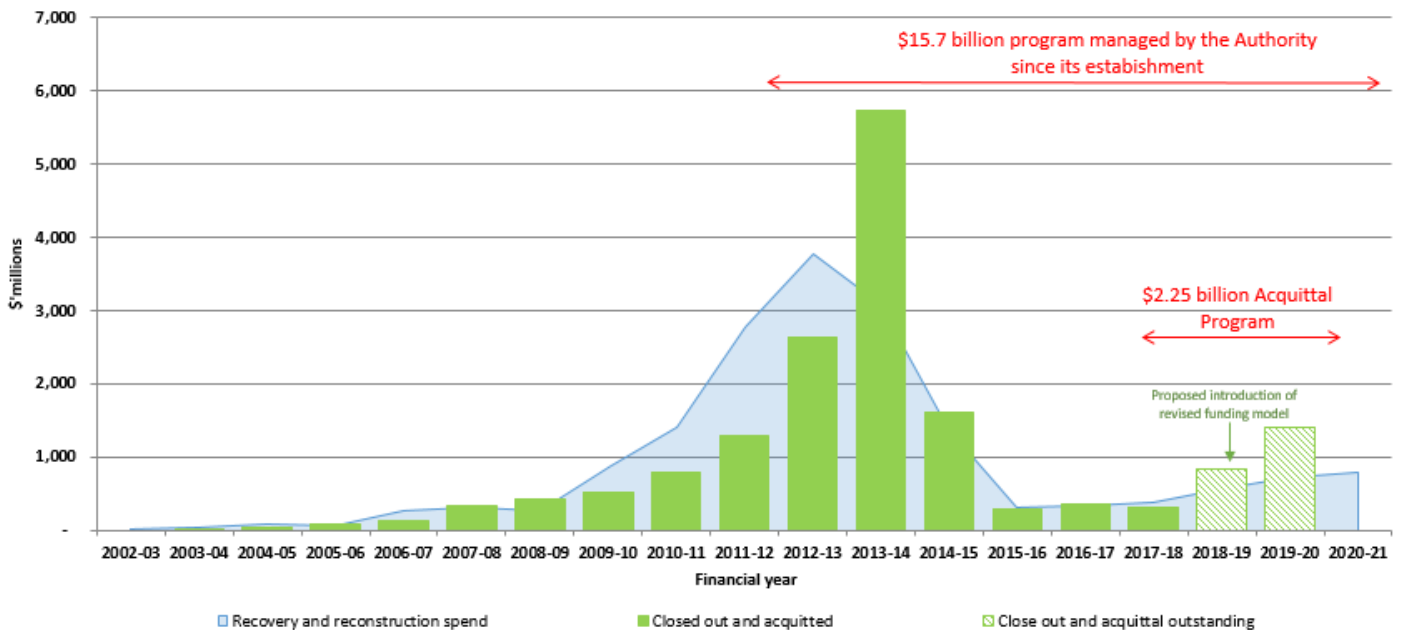
NDRRA/DRFA Acquittal Program status



The **Acquittal Program** comprises works that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth, and is spread across 26 events from the 2017 events that were completed in the year up to the deadline for delivery on 30 June 2019, and the 2018, 2019 and 2020 event periods that remain in the Delivery Program.

Queensland’s next Claim for NDRRA and DRFA works completed in the 2018-19 financial year is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2020. The 2018-19 claim is preliminarily estimated to acquit approximately \$840 million of NDRRA and DRFA expenditure.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2017-18 financial years and preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2018-19 to 2020-21 in order to finalise the Acquittal Program.



Disaster Assistance

Additional Recovery Measures – North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough (2019)

The Monsoon Trough event brought a deluge that caused widespread devastation from the Torres Strait in the north to the Queensland/South Australian border in the south west.

A range of DRFA relief measures have been activated to alleviate distress for communities, businesses, industries and the environment impacted by the event, and to build resilience to future events:

- increase in the value of Category C recovery grants available to Primary Producers from \$25,000 to \$75,000, and to small businesses and not for profits from \$25,000 to \$50,000
- Commonwealth-funded \$1 million payments to eleven significantly impacted councils to use on priorities they deem most urgent (such as rate relief for impacted properties, infrastructure or livestock carcass disposal). QRA released the total \$11 million funds to the councils on 15 February 2019
- \$242 million of additional assistance measures identified by the Queensland Government to address gaps in assistance and support longer-term recovery.

The \$242 million DRFA Category C and D recovery package includes funding for betterment, business and industry support, riparian and coastal recovery and a resilience grants program. It also incorporates additional assistance for primary producers, funding to address community development, health and wellbeing, as well as damage to community, sporting and recreational assets. Initiatives to strengthen and restore regional economies, businesses, the environment and tourism are also included.

Package	Status
Built/Infrastructure \$134.5M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betterment (\$100M) • Water and sewerage infrastructure (\$14.5M) • Clean-up and repairs of community and recreational assets and facilities (\$20M) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions of interest have been received for initial allocations from the Betterment and water & sewerage packages. To date, more than \$17M funding has been announced for the Flinders Highway and projects in Townsville and Carpentaria. • The Townsville Hockey Sport and Recreation project has been delivered and another 5 Townsville based projects have been approved for funding from the community and recreational asset program.
Economic/Industry \$39M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and industry support (\$10M) • Tourism Recovery Program (\$5M) • NW Queensland Beef Recovery Package (\$22M) • Extraordinary fodder supply (\$2M) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 79 x \$10K small business grants have been approved across the local governments of Burdekin, Charters, Douglas, Richmond and Townsville. • Travel bursaries enabled 17 people to attend the Destination Q Events Conference in Cloncurry in August 2019. • 9 Industry Recovery Officers are operating across North West and Coastal Communities and 3 Rural Financial Counsellors in place. • \$1.1M funding has been provided to 5 councils for fodder supply costs.
Environment \$36M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian (rivers) & coastal recovery program (\$33M) • Weeds and pest management program (\$3M) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Riparian Program is being delivered through seven Natural Resource Management Bodies and two Local Governments and Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust.
Human & Social \$12.75M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health and Wellbeing (\$7M) • Community Development Program (\$5.25M) • Monitoring and Evaluation (\$0.5M) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Community Development Officers are operating across Carpentaria, Cloncurry (acting), Cook (Douglas, Cook and Wujal Wujal), Flinders, Richmond (appointed), McKinlay (appointed), Townsville (appointed) and Winton (acting). • Mental Health program has commenced delivery with 5 clinicians in Townsville Hospital and Health Service (HHS), 1 clinician in the North West HHS and 2 clinicians and 1 health worker in the Central West HHS. Remaining roles in Townsville and the North West HHSs are being recruited.
Resilience \$19.75M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible Grants Program (\$15.5M) • Community information and education (\$0.75M) • Flood mapping and flood warning programs (\$3.5M) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRA has engaged with Barcoo, Cairns, Torres, Torres Strait Island, Carpentaria, Burke and Richmond Councils on development and/or submission of Flexible Grant program applications. • Funding has been allocated to Townsville City Council for initiating its flood mapping project.

Disaster Assistance

Additional Recovery Measures – Central Queensland Bushfires (2018)

A suite of DRFA Category C recovery measures has been approved for communities across eight LGAs affected by the devastating bushfires in Central Queensland in November and December 2018.

The \$12.042 million package will be delivered across two years and comprises:

Package	Status
Human & Social \$3.792M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Development Program (\$1.08M) Community Mental Health Program (\$2.412M) Monitoring and Evaluation (\$0.3M) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Development Officers have been appointed in Livingstone (Rockhampton and Central Highlands), Mackay (Isaac) and Gladstone (Bundaberg and Banana) Mental Health program has appointed 2 clinicians in Rockhampton, Mackay and Wide Bay HHSs. To date 475 people have been screened, 23 individuals have received clinical treatments and 125 community events have been attended.
Recovery and Resilience \$8.25M	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible Grants Program for community led recovery and resilience activities (\$6M) Targeted support for clean-up and reinstatement activities not otherwise available under DRFA (\$1.5M) Community information and education (\$0.75M) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rural Residential Recovery program has been initiated and is providing support to a number of impacted residents. 17 Queensland-based community groups, non-government organisations, industry groups, and local governments delivering projects across the Banana, Bundaberg, Central Highlands, Isaac, Gladstone, Livingstone, Mackay and Rockhampton local government areas as result of successful Flexible Funding Grant applications. Community information and education funding has been provided to specifically address bushfire awareness as a supplement to the 2019-20 Get Ready campaign.

Disaster Assistance

Additional Recovery Measures – Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie (2017)

The state committed to fund \$110 million of additional recovery assistance measures to alleviate distress for communities, businesses, industries and the environment impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie following STC Debbie.

This commitment included \$48 million (50 percent) contribution towards the \$96 million NDRRA Category D packages approved by the Commonwealth, all of which were delivered by 30 June 2019, except for Whitsunday Regional Council's Shute Harbour project which has an Extension of Time for delivery to 30 June 2020.

The State has also committed to separately fully fund \$62 million of recovery measures.

**STATE
PACKAGES \$62M**

Key projects announced to date for state funding for additional recovery measures to repair damage and revitalise impacted regions following STC Debbie include:

- \$25 million towards the South Rockhampton Flood Levee
- \$8.8 million towards revitalising the iconic tourism destinations of Mackay's Bluewater Trail and Queens Park
- \$5.775 million for the restoration of Proserpine Entertainment Centre
- \$5 million for repairs to the Whitsunday Regional Council Administration Building in Proserpine, which serves as the region's local disaster coordination centre
- \$4.562 million for sand replenishment at Midge Point and Lamberts Beach and construction of new rock groynes on St Helens Beach in Mackay
- \$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)
- \$1 million to Toowoomba Regional Council to contribute towards a new regional SES headquarters in Charlton
- \$895,000 to Whitsunday Regional Council for the rectification of the Bowen Front Beach Seawall
- \$880,000 to Logan City Council consisting of \$770,000 towards Flooded Road Smart Warning System and \$110,000 for an updated flood study of Logan and Albert Rivers
- an additional \$3 million of additional state funding across six Resilience projects for Central Highlands, Fraser Coast, Gladstone, Rockhampton, and Scenic Rim Regional Councils and Herbert River Improvement Trust / Hinchinbrook Shire Council.

These projects continue to be delivered.



In August 2019, Whitsunday Regional Council adopted a concept design for the Proserpine Entertainment Centre based on stakeholder feedback. Council will now proceed to detailed design with construction expected to commence early 2020. (Photos courtesy of the Whitsunday Regional Council)



Recovery

Local Recovery Planning

QRA continues to work extensively on recovery planning with councils impacted by major disaster events of recent years, increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support for local recovery governance.

Local Recovery Planning support includes supporting impacted councils to identify their damage and impacts, recovery objectives and tasks and measures for success. This approach has assisted councils to develop and/or strengthen their individual recovery capabilities.

Recovery Plans across four events are currently in delivery or development:

Event	Overview	Status
Southern Queensland Bushfires (2020)	City of Gold Coast, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Southern Downs and Sunshine Coast councils have been impacted by the September 2019 Southern Queensland Bushfires. All four councils have, or will be developing an event specific Local Recovery Plan-on-a-Page.	Scenic Rim Regional Council: A Local Recovery Plan-on-a-Page development workshop was facilitated by QRA on 1 October 2019. Noosa Shire Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council: QRA is in discussions with both councils regarding the development of a Local Recovery Plan-on-a-Page. Southern Downs Regional Council: Local Recovery Plan-on-a-Page was endorsed by council on 25 September 2019.
Severe Tropical Cyclone Trevor (2019)	In March 2019, Severe Tropical Cyclone Trevor and associated low pressure system impacted 21 LGAs across Far North and Central West Queensland. Two councils are developing an event specific Local Recovery Plan-on-a-Page.	Barcoo Shire Council: Local Recovery Plan-on-a-Page endorsed by Council on 21 August 2019. Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council: Draft Local Recovery Plan-on-a-Page is currently with Council for review.
North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough (2019)	39 councils across North and Central Queensland were impacted by flooding associated with the monsoon trough in January and February 2019. The North and North West Floods State Recovery Plan includes 14 event specific Local Recovery Plans-on-a-Page developed by Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Douglas, Flinders, McKinlay, Palm Island, Pomppuraaw, Richmond, Torres, Torres Strait Island, Townsville, Winton and Wujal Wujal councils. Cloncurry, McKinlay and Flinders Shire Councils developed Event Specific Recovery Action Plans.	Carpentaria Shire Council: Local Recovery Plan-on-a-Page endorsed by Council on 18 September 2019. North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough State Recovery Plan was released on 3 September 2019.
CQ Bushfires (2018)	In November and December 2018, the Central Queensland Bushfires devastated 35 communities across eight LGAs, burning 1.4 million hectares of land. The CQ Bushfires Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans (on a page) for five severely impacted council areas.	QRA is currently finalising the first three month progress report and will soon be published.

Other recovery projects and activities

Queensland Recovery Plan

The Queensland Recovery Plan is Queensland's principal reference document when planning for and conducting recovery operations.

The focus of the Plan is empowering local governments. Supported by state agencies, local governments are encouraged to deliver local solutions, and to ensure communities own the recovery process. The Queensland Recovery Plan is currently under review by QRA and state agency partners.

Recovery

Recovery Planning and Governance Project

As a result of the 2018-19 disaster season, assisting local governments with developing and/or strengthening local disaster recovery capabilities has been identified as a key recovery priority for Queensland.

This project aims to identify the existence of, and where assistance is required to, develop or enhance local recovery plans across Queensland's local governments through a coordinated strategic program approach. This will be accomplished through the delivery of a training package resulting in the development of local recovery plans. These plans detail community strengths and challenges, recovery governance and recovery actions. The project is due for completion in July 2022.

Engagement with local governments is underway. Sixty percent of councils have been contacted to establish the status of their Recovery Sub-plans and set, where required, dates for a Recovery Sub-plan development workshop.

The project has resulted in the drafting of seven recovery sub-plans, and feedback has been provided to five local governments to enhance existing recovery sub plans. One of the seven recovery sub-plans has been endorsed by local government.

Queensland Recovery Strategy Project

QRA is undertaking a project to develop a comprehensive strategy which takes into account the complete system of relief and recovery activities and supports, necessary to deliver inclusive and integrated community recovery outcomes for a safer and more disaster resilient Queensland.

QRA co-facilitated a national workshop on Catastrophic Planning and recovery workshop in Melbourne on 18-19 September 2019 and substantial engagement on the project has occurred with partners agencies in Queensland, including the Department of Communities Disability Services and Seniors, the Department of Environment and Science, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

State Recovery Coordinator Guide and associated documentation

The State Recovery Coordinator Guide (the Guide) provides information and guidance relating to the State Recovery Coordinator and Deputy State Recovery Coordinator roles. The Guide had been developed to align with the requirements details in the Queensland Disaster Management Act 2033 (s. 21D (1)-(4) and 21E (1)).

As a result of an After-Action Review after the 2018-19 disaster season and feedback from previous State Recovery Coordinators, the State Recovery Coordinator Guide has been revised and finalised for the 2019-20 season, fulfilling the QRA's requirement for annual review of this document.



During September QRA resilience staff participated in a desktop exercise focussing on a pandemic outbreak across multiple disaster districts with participants from Qld Health, Darling Downs Hospital & Health service, Toowoomba, Warwick, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Southern Downs & Lockyer Valley DDMGs and Toowoomba & Dalby LDMG's.

Resilience

QRA is leading disaster resilience and mitigation policy in Queensland.

Resilience grant funding programs

Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

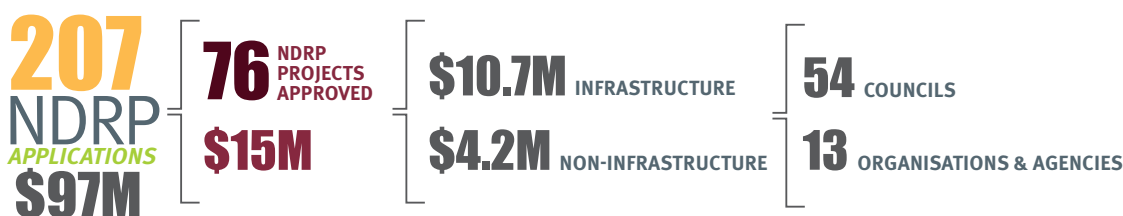
\$15M
FUNDING AVAILABLE
NDRP

Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) supports community groups, government and non-government agencies, as well as Queensland based not-for-profits, to build disaster resilience across the state.

The 2017-18 NDRP is administered by QRA with total funding available of \$15.0 million.

A total of \$14.9 million of funds has been allocated to 76 approved projects from 54 councils and 13 organisations and agencies.

To 30 June 2019, 18 NDRP projects have been reported as complete, with the remaining projects required to be delivered by 30 June 2020.



Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund

\$38M
OVER 4 YEARS
QDRF

The Queensland Government's \$38 million Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) is aimed at strengthening the state's resilience to future disasters.

The fund supports local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations in delivering disaster mitigation projects and initiatives that build resilience throughout the state over the next four years in parallel with disaster reconstruction works.

The QDRF objectives are to support delivery of disaster resilience and mitigation projects that align with the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience objectives, are cost effective and evidence based and address state-risk priorities such as those identified in the Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment 2017.

The first funding round of the QDRF of \$9.5 million was heavily oversubscribed with 223 applications received. A total of 62 projects submitted by local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations were approved under the QDRF with successful applicants notified in June 2019.

In conjunction with the QDRF, \$1.15 million in Australian Government funding has been allocated to 11 projects under the Prepared Communities Fund, as part of the Australian Government's Preparing Australia Package.

The QDRF and Preparing Australia projects will be delivered through to 30 June 2021.



The North West Queensland – Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project workshop in Cloncurry, 9-10 September 2019, had 47 stakeholders participating including nine councils, community members, QFES, QPS, TMR, NQLIRA, BoM, pastoral companies (Stanbroke, AACo), NWQROC, and Queensland Rail.

Resilience

Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
Resilient Queensland 2018–2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience	<p>Resilient Queensland 2018-21 was released on 31 May 2018 and represents the plan for implementing the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience.</p> <p>Pilot projects will be rolled out to facilitate delivery of improved disaster resilience on a regional scale, and support councils to develop their own disaster risk management strategies and resilience plans.</p> <p>The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy was the first pilot project to be completed in mid-2018 and was delivered in partnership with Bundaberg, Cherbourg, North Burnett and South Burnett councils.</p> <p>The purpose of the pilots are to test and evaluate the relevant methodologies for potential State-wide application.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three regional resilience pilot projects commenced in late 2018 for councils in Central Western Queensland, the Mary River and Fitzroy regions to provide a coordinated blueprint to leverage social, economic, built and environmental resilience. • The pilot projects are progressing well with each focused on a locally-led approach designed to meet the needs of local Councils using a regional approach with support by the state. • Work undertaken includes: detailed background research and multiple workshops to identify local issues, challenges, and opportunities; a detailed local landscape and hazard knowledge capture process in the Central West; collective examination and review of flood warning infrastructure in the Fitzroy; and identification of regional aspirations and actions in the Mary region. • NDRP funds have been approved for Resilient Queensland pilot work including funding Regional Resilience Coordinators for both the Burnett region and the Central West regions. The Regional Resilience Coordinators commenced in the Burnett region in September 2018 and Central West region in late 2018. • QRA is also developing a flood resilience strategy for the Burdekin catchment, including the adjacent smaller Haughton River catchment that impacted on the town of Giru.
Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan	<p>The Queensland Government, through QRA and partner agencies, and local councils (Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley) 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.</p> <p>The project includes development of a Flood Study followed by a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP) that is now guiding a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP) was a joint winner in the Government category of the Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards. • The Flood Study was released on 5 May 2017 and the supporting SFMP was released on 9 April 2019. • QRA is responsible for leading delivery of 12 of the 52 recommended actions from the SFMP and is overseeing remaining actions to be delivered by local governments and state agencies. • Local governments are now delivering the fourth and final phase of the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies, which is the development of Local Floodplain Management Plans using the data gained from the Flood Study and SFMP. • Eight other State agencies and SEQWater are responsible for 22 SFMP actions in total.
Flood Warning Infrastructure Program	<p>QRA is assisting the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) to ensure the best available information is available for providing flood warnings and forecasts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRA continues to review the status of each of the councils' Network Investment Plans with regards to the implementation of recommendations. • QRA worked with the Bureau of Meteorology and key stakeholders to develop the <i>Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan</i> that will support the Bureau's National Flood Warning Infrastructure Framework. • QRA is developing a strategic approach to deliver flood warning infrastructure improvements using the \$2 million of Category C and D DRFA funding made available for councils impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, the four project areas of operation Far North Queensland, North West Queensland, Townsville and surrounds, and Central West and South West QLD. Information and maps are provided at www.qra.qld.gov.au/fwin • The <i>Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan</i> has been noted by the to the Queensland Flood Warning Consultative Committee and finalised.
Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes	<p>Provide the building industry and homeowners with information about ways to strengthen the resilience of their homes to floods, cyclones, storm tide and bushfire.</p> <p>The purpose of this suite of guides being developed is to help Queenslanders reduce the impact of disasters to their homes and in doing so reduce the cost of future disaster events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive building guide was developed specific to improving the flood resilience of new and existing Queensland homes. • The flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes was released on 9 April 2019 and is available at www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilient-homes. The guide was developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders including the building and insurance industries, local government and state agencies as part of the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies project. • The Cyclone and Storm tide resilient guides for Queensland Homes are being finalised prior to release. • Planning is underway for bushfire building guide for Queensland homes.

Program spotlights

Southern Queensland Bushfires

Queensland has had a fierce reminder that disasters can strike anywhere at any time.

Representing an early start to the traditional 'disaster season', the State has dealt with more than 2000 bushfires and seen more than 60,000 hectares burnt since the start of September.

Around Stanthorpe and Applethorpe in the Southern Downs, Sarabah in the Scenic Rim and Peregian Beach on the Sunshine Coast, more than 140 properties were damaged, including the destruction of 17 houses and the historic Binna Burra Lodge.

The destruction has also seen significant economic impacts with primary producers and tourism in the Southern Downs and Scenic Rim in particular linked to the land through the environment, agriculture and wineries, and the bushfires compounding on the severe hardship that the areas were already experiencing from long-term drought.

Bushfires take a terrible toll on the communities they impact. On top of the loss and damage to property, houses, businesses and infrastructure, are the impacts to economy and the social, mental, and physical health of the community – all of which require more complex and long term solutions.

Recognising the severity of the bushfires, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has appointed Ian Stewart as State Recovery Coordinator to take charge of Queensland's recovery.

The Premier said the former Police Commissioner had stood by Queensland as it faced some of its worst natural disasters in the past and knows the importance of starting the work of recovery as quickly as possible.

"Ian Stewart is a familiar face to the people of this State," the Premier said. "He was our State Disaster Co-ordinator during Cyclone Yasi and the devastating Toowoomba, Grantham and Brisbane floods.



SRC Ian Stewart inspects damage at Binna Burra Lodge



Fire scar in the Scenic Rim



Liaison & Recovery General Manager Jo Killick, State Recovery Coordinator Ian Stewart and Southern Downs Regional Council Mayor Cr Tracy Dobie attended a drought & bushfire fundraising event at the Granite Belt Christmas Farm in September

“He stood by us during Cyclones Marcia and Debbie and last year’s bushfires. I can think of no-one better to get us back on our feet after these fires.”

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) is supporting the State Recovery Coordinator and has been on the ground working with impacted councils, fast tracking disaster assistance, assessing damage and planning for long-term recovery.

The jointly funded Commonwealth and Queensland Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) is one path through which recovery support is also up and running, including emergency hardship grants, counselling and outreach services for individuals, and counter disaster operation measures for the protection of the general public across Southern Downs, Scenic Rim, Noosa and Sunshine Coast council areas.

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) has also established the Binna Burra Recovery Taskforce to provide Binna Burra Lodge with assistance as it recovers.

The iconic 86-year-old tourism destination was gutted by bushfires, however, owners of the property have stated their intention to rebuild the facility and add to its proud legacy.

The Taskforce brings together key State Government Departments and Agencies and includes Scenic Rim Council representatives and Binna Burra Board members and management. A core focus of the Taskforce to date has been assisting the Lodge’s 56 staff. More than 50 displaced Binna Burra Lodge employees attended a workers transition session in Beechmont on Wednesday 18 September 2019 with employment agencies and tourism employers. Since then, more than 10 staff have been confirmed in new jobs, with a number also electing to undertake additional training or apprenticeships.

Immediate support has also been announced for Gold Coast hinterland and Scenic Rim tourism operators, including \$1.2 million partnership with the O’Reilly family to deliver a major redevelopment of the Green Mountain campground at Lamington National Park and more than \$1.48 million to partner with Binna Burra Lodge to build Australia’s first permanent cliff climbing course called the “Via Ferrata”.

Other recovery initiatives also underway include \$300,000 for new tourism marketing campaigns to support impacted communities, Sport and Recreation Recovery grants and an additional bushfire awareness campaign that launched in mid-September to coincide with school holidays.



SRC Ian Stewart and Southern Downs Council Cameron Gow meeting Stanthorpe local and markets coordinator Bridget Ryan.

Program spotlights

Betterment pays off in more ways than one

Upgrades to two Scenic Rim bridges damaged by Cyclone Debbie have provided dividends for their community in unforeseen ways.

Jerome and Bennett bridges were rebuilt with Betterment funding after they were significantly damaged during the 2017 floods linked to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), the 2017 Betterment Fund identified infrastructure that had been repeatedly damaged, and enabled them to be rebuilt to higher standards to protect them from future disasters.

This Betterment funding enabled Scenic Rim Regional Council to upgrade Jerome Bridge from a wooden, single-lane structure to a two-way, concrete bridge.

The program also funded the upgrade of Bennett Crossing to Bennett Bridge.

While these structures were rebuilt to be more resilient in the face of future flooding events, the Betterment improvements provided a crucial advantage for emergency responders to fight the recent bushfires in the area.

The upgraded bridges provided firefighting equipment a direct route to the fire front, enabling the rapid deployment of trucks, firefighters, and importantly, water.

The bridges also enabled the smooth evacuation of residents fleeing the flames. This was something the previous crossings would not have supported.

Projects such as Jerome and Bennett Bridges demonstrate the wide ranging benefits of reconstructing essential public infrastructure to a more resilient standard. Following the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough that devastated communities across the state between 25 January and 14 February this year, the Queensland Government worked with the Commonwealth to commit \$100 million for new Betterment projects.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority is working with local councils to identify damaged roads, bridges, causeways and other infrastructure that will benefit from the Betterment program.

Through Betterment funding, Queensland communities are able to stand stronger and recover faster in the face of natural disasters.



The rebuilt Jerome Bridge



Fire scar at Illinbah in the Scenic Rim – September 2019

Program spotlights

Mount Spec Road landslip repairs completed

Works to repair multiple landslip sites along Mount Spec Road north of Townsville were completed in late July 2019.

Mount Spec Road is the winding access route to the community of Paluma, which was temporarily isolated when significant rainfall associated with the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough in late January 2019 caused landslips along the road. This damaged the pavement and blocked the road with debris and large boulders dislodged by the ongoing rain.

As soon as the rain eased, Transport and Main Roads (TMR) geotechnical engineers started inspecting the landslips to determine the works required to remove the debris and repair the pavement. Once ground conditions allowed, RoadTek mobilised to site and began breaking down large boulders.

By 9 February, the road was safe to reopen to restricted traffic for local residents, with further emergency works enabling the road to reopen to two lanes up to Little Crystal Creek by 22 February.

Nine landslips were identified, with works including removing boulders and stabilising slopes. This included two major sites in the upper section of Mount Spec Road, between Little Crystal Creek and Paluma, where repairs were completed in time to reopen the road for expected traffic over the Easter long weekend in April.

A concrete mixture (fibrecrete) was applied to one high-risk site to reduce further erosion. Jute mesh to prevent rock falls was installed at the eight other landslip sites, with hydromulch applied on 31 July to assist with revegetation.

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



Mount Spec Road – landslip caused by NFNQ Monsoon Trough event



Mount Spec Road – installation of fibrecrete



Mount Spec Road – large boulders had to be broken down and removed from the road



Mount Spec Road – application of hydromulch to assist with revegetation

Program spotlights

Queenslanders awarded for building resilience

Eight resilience projects that have helped Queensland communities better prepare for natural disasters and emergencies have been recognised at the 2019 Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards.

The innovative projects from across Queensland, are all working to build this state's resilience to natural disasters.

The Queensland winners were standouts in a highly competitive field, with a record 34 entries across six categories.

Substation33 collected the Community Award for its work on Logan's Flooded Roads Smart Warning System, developed in partnership with Logan City Council and Griffith University, which improves public safety through the use of low-cost automatic flood warning signs made with recycled e-waste.

Swayneville State School near Sarina collected the School Award for its Connecting the Divide mural, which was developed after Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and has come to symbolise recovery and resilience in the region.

Energy Queensland won the Business Award for its Building Resilient Queensland Communities project, which uses innovative technology and prioritised community partnerships to improve disaster response and minimise community impacts.

The People's Choice Photography Award was won by Sarah Ebsworth from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services for her amazing 'Grit and courage' image, taken of a volunteer face to face with a blaze during the Deepwater bushfires of 2018 and capturing the brave heart of disaster resilience in Queensland.

In the Local Government Award category, Redland City Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Council were both recognised for their own resilience programs.

Meanwhile, the Government Award category incorporates state and federal agencies, and was another category to feature multiple winners.

The Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan was recognised as an outstanding example of how locally-led, regionally-focused and state-supported resilience can achieve improvements for all parts of the community.

The Department of Housing and Public Works also received the Government Award for its Household Resilience Program, which helps homeowners in coastal parts of Queensland improve the resilience of their homes against cyclones.

All Queensland winners will be reviewed by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience, which oversees the awards, with selected projects to progress to the National Resilient Australia Awards ceremony on 31 October 2019.

QRA would like to congratulate the applicants, finalists and winners of the 2019 Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards!



Winners at the 2019 Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards.

The winner and highly commended projects were:

People’s Choice Photography Award Winner: Sarah Ebsworth, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services for ‘Grit and courage’.

Community Award Winner: Substation33 for the Flooded Roads Smart Warning System)
Highly commended: Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation for the 2018 Minjerribah bushfires.

School Award Winner: Swayneville State School for its Connecting the Divide Mural Highly commended: Kirwan State High School for the LIVIN Strong Program.

Business Award Winner: Energy Queensland for its Building Resilient Queensland Communities project.

Local Government Award Joint Winner: Redland City Council for its Community Champions Project Joint Winner: Sunshine Coast Regional Council for its Get Ready Schools Program
Highly commended: Townsville City Council for its Townsville Aged Care Partnership Group
Highly commended: Southern Downs Regional Council for its Drought Resilience Sub-Plan
Highly commended: Cairns Regional Council and Animal Care for Seniors at Home for its But what about fluffy? project.

Government Award Joint Winner: Department of Housing and Public Works for the Household Resilience Program Joint Winner: Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council, Somerset Regional Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Queensland Government, Seqwater for the Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan Highly commended: Department of Transport and Main Roads for the Beames Brook Bridge replacement Highly commended: Queensland Health for the Building Resilience in Transcultural Australians Futures Program).



QRA Chair, Dick Wilson with Lynda Fraser and Cathy Buck from Sunshine Coast Regional Council, joint winner of the Local Government Award at the 2019 Resilient Australia Awards



QFES' Sarah Ebsworth's winning photograph: 'Grit and courage'

