

Burdekin and Haughton Catchment Resilience Strategy Project

About the Burdekin and Haughton catchments

The Burdekin River catchment includes two main tributaries, the Burdekin River, one of Australia's larger rivers flows from the north, and the Belyando River flows from the south. They join at the Burdekin Falls Dam. Downstream of the Dam, the Bowen and Bogie Rivers join the Burdekin River before it flows into the sea near Ayr/Home Hill. The neighbouring Haughton River catchment includes the major tributaries, Reid River and Major Creek.

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Recent repeated and severe flooding has impacted the properties and livelihoods of those living and working in the Burdekin and Haughton Catchments. To support Queensland communities in their recovery following the *North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough* disaster event from 25 January to 14 February 2019, the \$1 million Burdekin and Haughton Catchment Resilience Strategy Project was approved as part of the \$242 million Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Category C and D package jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments.

Working together towards a shared vision of flood resilience

Flood waters don't respect boundaries. Therefore, it is critical to investigate ways we can better prepare for the future and keep our communities safe by coordinating efforts, sharing knowledge and capability, and setting a proactive agenda for improving resilience over time across the catchments.

Project purpose

The purpose of the project is to develop a flood resilience strategy for the Burdekin catchment, including the adjacent smaller Haughton River catchment that impacted on the town of Giru. The strategy will be our guide to how we work together to proactively reduce flood risk and increase resilience throughout the catchments.

Locally-led and regionally-coordinated resilience solutions will address recent and emerging disaster risks and provide pathways for improving resilience over time. This will result in a clear suite of strategies outlining a range of approaches required to improve the flood resilience of the catchments. It will also identify government systems that are critical for success.

Our approach

Like other Queensland resilience building initiatives, the project will use a philosophy of co-design with local and regional stakeholders to build a mutually agreed technical scope of works for delivery that meets the objectives of the *Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience* and addresses local need.

Council project partners

There are eight local governments that touch the Burdekin and Haughton catchments. The six councils with a majority area contained within the catchment boundary are: Burdekin Shire Council; Charters Towers Regional Council; Whitsunday Regional Council; Isaac Regional Council; Barcardine Regional Council; and Townsville City Council. Two councils with a partial area within the catchment boundaries are Tablelands Regional Council and Mackay Regional Council.



Stakeholder engagement

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) will facilitate and administer the project in collaboration with partner councils and other stakeholders.

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