



WHAT WE DO:

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Government’s program of recovery and reconstruction works within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice administration of public reconstruction and resilience funds. QRA is also the state’s lead agency responsible for disaster recovery and resilience policy, working collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

OUR VISION:

Stronger, safer, resilient Queensland communities.

OUR PURPOSE:

Coordinate action to improve the resilience of Queensland communities and facilitate locally-led disaster recovery.



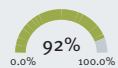
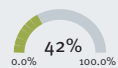






DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Disaster Assistance and Resilience Grants Program

Since establishment, QRA has administered a recovery and reconstruction program through the joint State-Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth almost \$20 billion. Works for 23 events from the 2020, 2021 and 2022 disaster seasons are currently in delivery or acquittal with an estimated value approaching \$4.8 billion.

In addition to DRFA, QRA is currently administering 17 other state, Commonwealth and joint-funded grant programs with a capped value of \$183 million, focused on disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

Status of Active Grants Programs administered by QRA

	Prior Events in delivery	2020 Events	2021 Events	2022 Events
NUMBER OF EVENTS	-	5	11	7
\$4.8B Delivery Program	\$235M Program	\$919M Program	\$817M Program	\$2,783M Program
Deadline for Delivery	Complete	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2024
 Time Elapsed	Remainder being delivered under EOT's	 92%	 42%	 0%
 % Completion	 97% complete	 66% complete	 18% complete	 0% complete

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

In April

In April, one disaster event occurred with four local government areas in Cape York activated for Counter Disaster Operations and Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets measures arising from the Cape York Tropical Low and Rainfall event, 22–28 February 2022. This adds to the six other events activated in the 2021–22 disaster season for which QRA is managing recovery.

QRA has continued to be on the ground supporting councils and communities towards recovery from these current and prior events. This support has included activation of disaster assistance, development of guidelines to implement the wide range of special funding packages approved for the event, coordination of recovery efforts by state agencies and early assistance with the development of state and local recovery plans. A key role has included providing support to the State Recovery Coordinator, Major-General Jake Elwood, in his travels around disaster-impacted areas to assess recovery needs and inform development of the State’s Disaster Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Throughout April, QRA also progressed the assessment of applications for the North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program (NQNDMP), the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF) and the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (NFMIP) 2021–22 resilience programs.

Resilience and Recovery

The Resilience and Recovery team within QRA provides leadership, coordination, direction and advice for the development and implementation of disaster resilience and recovery planning, policy, funding, and support.

To deliver on this commitment, roles and responsibilities are dispersed between and across levels of government and with key stakeholders.

QRA is pleased to outline some of the key activities and progress that has occurred in the month of April 2022.

RECOVERY

QRA works extensively on recovery planning with communities impacted by major disaster events, increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support for local recovery governance.

Current Recovery Operations

In April Queensland was activated under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for an additional event – Cape York Tropical Low and Rainfall event, 22–28 February 2022

Between 22–28 February 2022, this event concentrated heavy rainfall across Cape York causing significant flooding across Aurukun Shire Council, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Torres Shire Council and Torres Strait Island Regional Council. This was the second activation for Aurukun in the 2021–22 disaster season.

The current event prolongs the disaster season, taking Queensland into the sixth month of the disaster season and increases the state-wide impact to over 70% of local government areas and Queensland communities (commencing in November 2021 and on-going).

Recovery in Action – progress updates

Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 10 November – 3 December 2021

During early December 2021, in the immediate aftermath of the Western Queensland flooding, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) undertook damage assessments in the Goondiwindi region to help inform recovery planning.

This month, as part of QRA’s regular follow-up to monitor recovery and reconstruction progress after significant events, QRA visited more than 130 Goondiwindi homes and businesses to collect information about the current damage to properties, including structural damage, insurance matters and residents’ ability to access financial support.

Only 12 properties remain with moderate or severe damage, and QRA will continue to work with our state recovery partners and council to support recovery.

More info about damage impact assessments can be found at www.qra.qld.gov.au/darm

	April 2022	2021–22 (to date)
Events	1	7
LGAs activated	4	56
LGAs activated (multiple events)	1	28

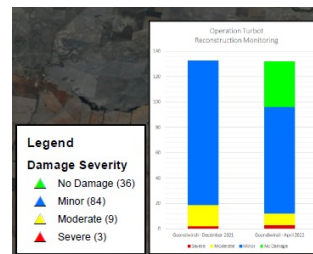


Image: Goondiwindi region – damage assessment recovery data.



Image: Goondiwindi region - damage assessments.

South East Queensland Rainfall and flooding event

The State Recovery Coordinator Major General Jake Ellwood to date has visited all of the 23 local government areas affected by SEQ Floods.

Of note in April the SRC visited local government areas that have been impacted three times this season, such as Bundaberg Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council. The SRC has been inspired by many stories of community resilience, with councils sharing their short and long-term recovery and resilience priorities and initiatives. The SRC visit to Balonne Shire Council highlighted effective community-led recovery, with cross-border collaboration part of Balonne Local Disaster Management Group’s disaster mitigation and preparedness activities. While this month’s visit to Gympie was a stark contrast to the ‘ghost-town’ in the immediate aftermath of the floods, with recovery well underway, including a local traffic jam, shops open and the community getting ready for the Easter Festival.



Image: (Left) Balonne Shire Council disaster mitigation and preparedness. (Right): Maryborough business owner impacted by two major floods – blue line in the picture is the height reached of second flood.



Image: Western Downs Regional Council recent flooding impact.

The Queensland Government is working with the Australian Government, local councils and communities to deliver the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund, to support the recovery of flood affected Queenslanders and help improve the resilience of their homes to future flooding.

It will include opportunities to retrofit homes with flood-resilient designs or raise homes out of harm’s way, in addition to working with local councils to explore voluntary buybacks to improve the safety of communities and Queenslanders affected by floods this disaster season.

QRA and the Department of Energy and Public Works is consulting with key stakeholders including affected communities, councils, the building and insurance industries and the Australian Government, to ensure this program can help as many Queenslanders as possible.

There has never been a program of this size and scale in Australia focused on increasing resilience in households and as it has the opportunity to truly change the face of flood-resilience in South East Queensland, we want to make sure we get it right.

This assistance is made available through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



INNOVATIVE RESEARCH FOR WICKED PROBLEMS
CALLING ALL EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

ENTRIES CLOSE 30 JUNE
DISASTERCHALLENGE.COM.AU

THE WICKED PROBLEM

How can disaster preparation engage with the unengaged, the moving or the hard to reach?

THE CHALLENGE

Tell us what you or your team would do to address this wicked problem – to engage a transient sector of the community with disaster preparation information.

QRA is committed to ensuring Queensland’s recovery policy is reflective of international and national practice.

With this in mind, we are proud to support the launch of the Natural Hazards Research Australia (NHRA) Disaster Challenge.

The national challenge aims to encourage new ideas, new thinking and new research from across the country to help solve the wicked problem.

QRA, along with our state and national partners look forward to considering participants solutions and how they may apply for Queensland communities.

The winner will be announced on the 13th of October 2022.

For more information on eligibility, how to enter and details of the inaugural Disaster Challenge, visit disasterchallenge.com.au.

RESILIENCE

QRA is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risks and improving the resilience of communities, and facilitating mitigation against potential disasters.

As the most disaster-prone state in Australia and with on-going disaster impacts across the state, QRA are continually considering new ways to improve the safety and resilience of Queensland communities.

Building Resilient Communities

QRA is continuing to engage with key stakeholders to finalise development of Regional Resilience Strategies and Local Resilience Actions Plans across the state.

The region-specific resilience strategies prioritise resilience building and mitigation projects to enhance economic resilience, improve infrastructure, advance disaster recovery operations and increase government capability and capacity.

The majority of strategies have been developed, and are at various stages of stakeholder review, and will be progressively published over the coming months.

All completed Local Resilience Action Plans are held by local government areas.

Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR)

With the implementation of Resilient Queensland due to complete in 2022, QRA is building on the evidence and data collected as part of this project to develop the next iteration of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR). The revised QSDR strategy will take into consideration the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters and focus on actions to build resilience into business-as-usual activities.

In April 2022, QRA chaired the Queensland Resilience Coordination Committee (QRCC) bringing together leaders across Queensland Government to provide strategic direction and advice on policies and capabilities to enhance resilience in Queensland.

One of the key roles of the QRCC is to provide strategic leadership and support for the implementation of the QSDR and the Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework (QFRMF). This group will be instrumental as these two strategic pieces of work develop over the next few months – with further stakeholder engagement planned for May and June 2022. The revised Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience will leverage the local resilience action plans delivered through Resilient Queensland Implementation to continue to strengthen community resilience over time.

The updated Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience is due to be launched by the end of 2022. www.qra.qld.gov.au/QSDR.

Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework

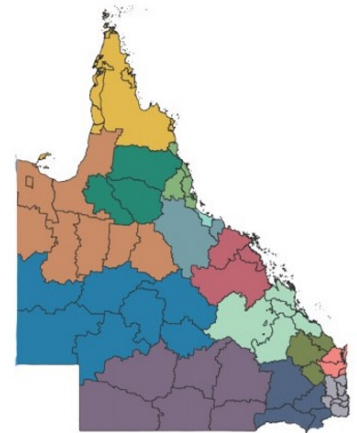
This disaster season, Queensland has already experienced eight disaster events all of which were flood related.

It is therefore timely that last year, the Queensland government endorsed the *Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework*, which sets the direction for flood risk management in Queensland, outlines roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders, and guides and supports decision-making by councils.

In Queensland, governance of flood risk management is based on a collaborative and decentralised model, with QRA coordinating the Framework implementation. Some actions to deliver expectations articulated in the Framework include building capacity with stakeholders, coordinating funding streams and facilitating a flood warning gauge network that complies with best practice.

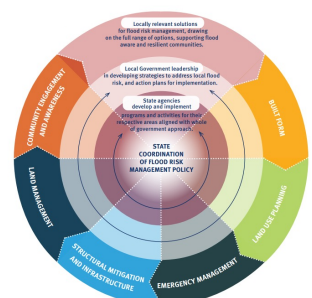
Alongside QRA's coordination role, other core agencies are required to lead the development and implementation of their respective policies and programs, to support decision-making by local governments.

The Framework embeds the mandate for coordinated collaboration across all levels of government to ensure flood risk management responsibilities are understood and delivered. www.qra.qld.gov.au/resilience/flood-resilience/queensland-flood-risk-management-framework.



As Queenslanders, we are disaster resilient when:

- 1 we understand the potential disaster risks we face
- 2 we work together to better manage disaster risk
- 3 we seek new opportunities to reduce disaster risk
- 4 we continually improve how we prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters



Resilience grant programs - Highlights



QRA has completed reviews of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) received for the North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program (NQNDMP) and Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund and those applicants short-listed to progress to the next stage were invited to submit detailed applications by 6 May 2022.

Both programs were heavily oversubscribed, showing the ongoing state-wide appetite and commitment to build community resilience.

For the \$10 million NQNDMP EOIs totalling nearly double the funding (over \$19 million) was sought, and for the \$19.1 million QRRRF EOIs totalling five times the funding (over \$100 million) were sought. Successful applicants will be notified by 30 June 2022.

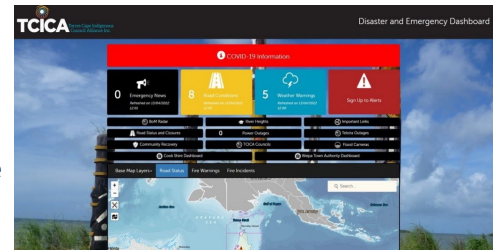
State and Commonwealth Funded Program

Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund – Project Highlight

Under a previous round of QRRRF, the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) secured funding to deliver a potentially life-saving real-time Disaster Dashboard for the benefit of their communities.

Recognising from Cape York, to the Torres Strait and the Gulf region includes some of Queensland's most heavily disaster affected and vulnerable communities, TCICA identified the critical need for accessible up-to-date information to help keep people safe.

This project has delivered a new online Dashboard that provides a suite of real-time information all in one place, including emergency alerts, network outages, weather warnings, road closures and updates from local disaster management groups. The TCICA Regional Disaster Dashboard can be accessed at: dashboard.tcica.com.au.



Commonwealth Funded Programs

Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program (CERMP) 22–23

The \$50 million CERMP was announced by the National Resilience and Recovery Agency (NRRRA) on 13 February 2022, as part of the Australian Government's Emergency Response Fund to target high priority locally and nationally significant coastal and estuarine disaster risk mitigation projects.

The Department of Environment and Science, who are responsible for coordinating delivery of this program on behalf of Queensland.

Program details: recovery.gov.au/coastal-and-estuarine-risk-mitigation-program-22-23.

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

On 7 April 2022, NRRRA announced over 40 projects for Queensland valued at close to \$73 million (with the Commonwealth funding almost \$40 million).

For a full list of Queensland's successful projects, visit the NRRRA website.

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (NFMIP) 2021-22

On 19 April 2022, NRRRA advised that Queensland had two successful projects under this program, being Charleville Levee Remediation Works and Ballin Drive Detention Basin.

A full list of all projects funded under this program can be found on the NRRRA website.



GET READY QUEENSLAND (GRQ)

GRQ is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The program integrates a state-wide research driven awareness campaign led by QRA, alongside a grass roots grants program providing \$2M across Queensland's 77 councils and the Weipa Town Authority to deliver locally-led disaster preparedness initiatives.

Capturing Queensland stories of resilience.

April began with a trip to Wujal Wujal, Far North Queensland, for Get Ready Queensland. Traditional Owners and community leaders shared stories of resilience that emerged from a 2019 flood event which saw families isolated by crocodile-filled floodwaters. The stories highlighted the roles culture and community play in strengthening a township's readiness and response to natural disasters.

Wujal Wujal's stories will form part of a GRQ video series, highlighting unique Queensland perspectives on resilience to be shown at the upcoming Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Other videos will feature a North Queensland high school's transition to online education during the pandemic, a South East Queensland council's innovative animations, and a bird and frog helping small children express big emotions.

The GRQ team also completed preparations for several milestone activities opening in May. This includes the launch of the 2022 Schools Competition, commencing a month earlier this year after feedback from previous participants. Open to all Queensland primary schools, the winning school will be visited by GRQ Ambassador, Johnathan Thurston. Mr Thurston will also feature in a new initiative opening in May – the Get Ready Queensland State Finals Challenge for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aspirations Program, run by the Department of Education and Griffith University. The program aims to inspire Indigenous Australian high school students to pursue tertiary education. GRQ will help participants gain access to industry experts and guide them in the development of disaster preparedness messaging for their specific community. The winning group will be selected during a two-day university campus experience in June.



Image: Get Ready Queensland capturing stories of resilience in Wujal Wujal, Far North Queensland.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

KEY WESTERN SUBURBS CROSSING REOPENS AFTER SEQ FLOODS

Colleges Crossing at Mount Crosby is one of several key river crossings reopened quickly by Transport and Main Roads (TMR), following record rainfall across south east Queensland in late February 2022.

As the region was inundated with water, nearby dams reached capacity and had to undertake regular water releases.

The Colleges Crossing bridge on Mount Crosby Road crosses the Brisbane River just downstream from Wivenhoe Dam, where a total of 520mm fell over three days from 25 to 27 February 2022. Due to the volume of water from the rain, river tides and dam releases, the bridge was submerged for more than a week.

Mount Crosby Road is one of the few access points for Brisbane's western suburbs, so having this important route out of action impacted many residents and business in the area, and created additional pressure and congestion on surrounding roads including the Warrego Highway, Moggill Road and Centenary Motorway as nearby major connectors.

Once the river level dropped and dam releases were completed on 7 March 2022, TMR inspected the bridge and cleaned the area so the road could be reopened to traffic. Despite being underwater for more than a week, the structure itself was in relatively good condition, however an extensive clean-up was required.

TMR crews prioritised the clean-up of Colleges Crossing and asphalt repairs were completed at both the bridge and culvert locations. Colleges Crossing was reopened to traffic on 9 March 2022.

The extent and cost of damage to the bridge is still being assessed.

Assistance will be provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Image: Mount Crosby Road – Colleges Crossing bridge underwater after heavy rainfall and dam releases.



Image: Colleges Crossing as water levels started to drop.



Image: Colleges Crossing after the water receded.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SWIFT RESPONSE TO REOPEN BRISBANE–WOODFORD ROAD AT BALD HILLS FLATS

Thanks to a swift response from Transport and Main Roads (TMR), Brisbane–Woodford Road in Brisbane’s north was reopened less than three days after flooding receded in February 2022.

The South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event resulted in significant damage to roads and infrastructure across North Coast Region. Many key connectors such as the Bruce Highway and D’Aguilar Highway were severely impacted by flooding, pavement and structure damage, and temporary road closures.

Brisbane–Woodford Road, a key arterial road that runs perpendicular to the Bruce Highway from Bald Hills to Strathpine and on to Petrie, through the outer suburbs of Brisbane, was also impacted. At the south-eastern end of the road, there are bridges crossing the South Pine River near a flood plain locally known as Bald Hills Flats. This section of the road has two separated carriageways constructed at different heights across the plain.

Bald Hills Flats is prone to flooding during periods of excessive rainfall, impacting access to areas of Strathpine and Petrie. Typically, the lower westbound carriageway goes underwater for some time, requiring a contraflow to be installed on the higher eastbound carriageway.

This section of Brisbane–Woodford Road (locally known as Gympie Road) was damaged, with the lower road closed on 25 February 2022 and the higher road inundated and closed on the afternoon of 27 February 2022.

River levels dropped below the adjacent bridge deck overnight on 27 February 2022, exposing both carriageways, with damage assessed at first light on 28 February 2022.

The damage to the higher eastbound carriageway surface required extensive emergency pavement and surfacing repairs and the lower westbound carriageway required extensive debris clean-up before the road could be reopened to traffic.

TMR’s road asset management contractor, Downer, was directed to prioritise the clean-up of the lower carriageway and the pavement, surfacing and embankment repairs for the damaged sections of the higher carriageway. This was able to be expedited due to the close proximity to their Brendale asphalt plant. Road crews worked around the clock to complete the necessary rectification works.

TMR structures inspectors attended the site on 2 March 2022 to assess the integrity of the bridges and major culverts that were inundated and confirmed there was no damage from the flooding.

The lower westbound carriageway was cleaned of debris and reopened to traffic on the evening of 2 March 2022 and the higher carriageway was opened on the morning of 5 March 2022, with final surfacing and linemarking completed under traffic control between 6 and 8 March 2022.

Detailed assessments are underway to determine the extent and cost of damage to roads across North Coast Region.

Assistance will be provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Photo: Brisbane–Woodford Road at Bald Hills Flats – damage from SEQ Rainfall and Flooding.



Image: Brisbane–Woodford Road – emergency works in progress.