



**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 recovery and reconstruction programs through the joint State-Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth more than \$16.5 billion. Works for 25 events from the 2020, 2021 and 2022 disaster seasons are currently in delivery or acquittal with an estimated value of \$5.3 billion.

In addition to DRFA, QRA is currently administering 19 other state, Commonwealth and joint-funded grant programs with a capped value of \$190 million, focused on disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

**Status of Active Grants Programs administered by QRA**

	Prior Events	2020 Events	2021 Events	2022 Events
NUMBER OF EVENTS	-	5	11	9
\$5.3B Delivery Program	\$235M Program	\$919M Program	\$817M Program	3,354M Program
Deadline for Delivery	Complete	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2024
Time Elapsed	Complete Remainder under EOT's	96%	46%	-
% Completion	98% complete	74% complete	24% complete	- complete

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

**In May**

During May, two more disaster events occurred to continue the extreme 2021–22 disaster season. These two events alone impacted 39 of the state’s 77 local government areas, practically all of which were already in recovery from earlier disasters in the season.

In May, the Australian Government approved the state’s request to jointly fund a third phase of exceptional circumstances packages to support recovery from the 2021–22. This \$721 million package supplements \$1.3 Billion of packages already approved to help address the immediate, medium and long-term recovery and resilience needs of Queenslanders.

From 12 May, Queenslanders whose homes were damaged by the floods were invited to register to access grants to raise, repair, retrofit or have their home voluntarily bought back under the \$741 million Resilient Residential Recovery Program.

QRA has continued to be on the ground supporting councils and communities with the long process towards recovery from these current and prior events. This support has included the 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 May, 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 May 2022.

### RECOVERY

**QRA works extensively on disaster recovery planning with councils impacted by major disaster events. The QRA does this by increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support for local recovery governance. The disaster recovery planning provides opportunities for locally-led, integrated and appropriate disaster recovery. This work often provides a unique opportunity to rebuild stronger, more resilient communities, economies, and natural and built environments, supporting the vision of making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.**

#### Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Activations (DRFA)

In May, an additional two events, Northern and Central Queensland Rainfall and Flooding 21 April – 12 May and the Southern Queensland Flooding, 6 May – 20 May 2022 have been activated for assistance.

##### *Northern and Central Queensland Rainfall and Flooding 21 April – 12 May 2022*

Concentrated severe rainfall totals fell across Northern and Western Queensland late April and early May causing significant flooding resulting in substantial damage to the regions’ road network. 20 Local Government Areas have been activated for a range of DRFA measures because of this event, including assistance for reconstruction of essential public assets and infrastructure as well as assistance for the regions’ primary producers.

##### *Southern Queensland Flooding 6 May – 20 May 2022*

Seasonably late rain fell on already saturated catchments causing more destructive flooding to areas in the South of Queensland. To date, 19 Local Government Areas and several State Agencies have requested a range of DRFA assistance in response to this event. Personal Hardship Assistance grants were swiftly activated for 3 LGAs including Lockyer Valley and Southern Downs and select localities in Moreton Bay and Western Downs.

The current event pro-longs the disaster season, taking Queensland into the sixth month of disaster impacts, and increasing the state-wide impact to over 70% of local government agencies and Queensland communities impacted (commencing in November 2021 and on-going).

	May 2022	2021–22 (to date)
Events	2	9
LGAs activated	39	66
LGAs activated multiple events	29	36

#### *Registrations of Interest Open for \$741 M Resilient Homes Fund*

In Mid-May registrations of interest for the Resilient Homes Fund were opened. This funding program is the largest of its kind in Australia’s history.

Community members whose homes were damaged by recent flooding in Queensland may be able to:

- rebuild/retrofit your home with flood resistant materials; or
- raise your home out of harm’s way; or
- consider a voluntary home buy back.




The SRC has stated, “The Resilient Homes Fund will provide people at risk of future flooding with an option to remove or at least mitigate the risk. Ultimately, providing a pathway for a more secure existence at an individual level and a stronger and more resilient community on a broader level.

It’s really important for us to emerge from this disaster more resilient than before,”



**Registrations of interest now open**

**Making Queensland more flood resilient**

-  Household rebuild or retrofit
-  Home raising
-  Voluntary buy-back

To register your interest go to [www.qra.qld.gov/resilienthomes](http://www.qra.qld.gov/resilienthomes)



**Recovery in Action – progress updates**

**South East Queensland Rainfall and flooding event**

By the end of the first week of May, State Recovery Coordinator (SRC) Major General Jake Ellwood had completed initial visit to all 23 impacted local government areas. This has allowed the SRC to develop an understanding of the localised impacts and meet with local leaders and impacted community members to assist him in the development of the South East Queensland Rainfall State Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Throughout the remainder of May, the SRC continued his visits a number of locations across the impacted areas. In particular, he visited the Paddington Ward of Brisbane City Council with Councillor Peter Matic, who has described the damage as Catastrophic. The SRC has assured members of the public, whose homes have been inundated that getting them back into their properties remains a priority.

In addition to locational visits, the SRC is using a number of mechanisms to engage community members and update on recovery progress. Most recently the SRC presented on ABC Brisbane Breakfast Radio. During the interview the SRC identified he is impressed with the way the community has come together and the importance of community leaders to the success of recovery activities.

To facilitate opportunities for learning across state borders The SRC met with the CEO of NSW’s Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation and some of his key staff. The outcomes of this meeting highlighted the importance of collaboration across borders to support impacted communities. Additionally, the SRC was able to provide advice to the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation on key considerations for their development. The meeting also provided a great opportunity to build relationships between the two organisations.

**2021–22 Rainfall and Flooding – Additional exceptional circumstances package approved**

The third phase of exceptional circumstances packages to support recovery from the 2021–22 was announced on 18 May 2022.

Jointly funded by the state and Commonwealth Governments, the \$721 million package will support Queensland’s medium to long-term recovery and resilience priorities following the 2021–22 summer of flooding. This funding covers the five functional recovery areas and focuses on:

- \$177.7 million for human and social initiatives including psychosocial-mental health services and emotional wellbeing support and short to medium term accommodation
- \$150 million to improve the resilience of road and transport infrastructure
- \$154 million to rebuild and recover and improve the resilience of community and recreational assets
- \$56.9 million for environmental recovery including flood risk management, riparian recovery, weed and pest management, biodiversity conservation and restoration of environmental assets
- \$27 million for industry, small business and tourism recovery
- \$150 million for concessional loans to support medium and large businesses.



Image: SRC presented on ABC Brisbane Breakfast Radio with Loretta Ryan and Craig Zonca.



Image: SRC with residents effected by the flood event.

**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 is continually considering new ways to improve the safety and resilience of Queensland communities. This includes building trusted, reciprocal and robust relationships with community leaders, thought-leaders, and local, state, commonwealth and international partners, and participating in a wide range activities to inform out policies**



In mid-May 2022, QRA facilitated engagement activities to inform the development of the updated strategy with disaster management leaders from each Queensland Government agency, the Bureau of Meteorology and the office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management. The first workshop was an information session designed to set the context, purpose and intent of the updated strategy and sought feedback on the critical strengths, challenges and opportunities to strengthen disaster resilience in Queensland. The second workshop was a face-to-face collaborative session designed to explore proposed strategic commitments and actions over the next five years. QRA looks forward to continuing to engage with key stakeholders over the next few



***Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience***

The revised QSDR strategy will leverage the locally led, regionally coordinated and state-facilitated approach undertaken to develop the regional strategies and local plans, to strengthen the relationships between local governments and state agencies to better coordinate and align to future funding opportunities, and identify actions to strengthen community resilience over time.

***Building resilient communities***

QRA are continuing to engage with key stakeholders to finalise development of the 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.

At the end of May 2022, three strategies have been endorsed and an additional six strategies are awaiting endorsement from their respective steering committees. Additionally, resilience pathways for South East Queensland have been identified and incorporated into the South East Queensland Rainfall State Recovery and Resilience Plan. It is anticipated all remaining strategies will be completed by 31 August 2022.



**2022 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference**

The annual 2022 Floodplain Management Conference was held in Toowoomba during May and three of QRA’s team presented. QRA’s topics focused on Challenges for the Industry and Where to from Here? During the conference, QRA was identified as being instrumental to improving resilience in Queensland holistically. However, QRA’s focus on Flood Resilience, also drew strong praise. QRA recognises the importance of participating in these learning opportunities to ensure our work is informed and enhanced through collaboration.



**Resilience Grant Programs - Highlights**

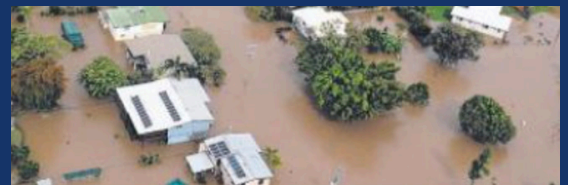
***Resilience programs – Assessment update***

QRA has completed the detailed assessment of applications received for the North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program (NQNDMP) and Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund through our internal processes and use of subject matter experts.

Moderation for the short-listed projects will occur in early June and successful applicants will be notified in the coming weeks.



Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund



North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program

***Commonwealth Funded Programs***

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

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) are responsible for coordinating delivery of this program on behalf of Queensland. DES, in consultation with QRA and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, is currently in the final stages of reviewing Queensland’s coastal and estuarine disaster risk mitigation projects – due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 17 June 2022. Program details [here](#).



## 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.



### GRQ push for accessibility and inclusivity

In 2022, GRQ is concentrating efforts on making the program as accessible and inclusive as possible. The month of May brought opportunities to lean into this commitment, with two notable activities.

On 12 May, GRQ hosted its Resources Accessibility Workshop, setting a new standard for how the program’s resources are designed and produced. Simplicity and universal design were themes that emerged from the meeting, which was attended by representatives from minority communities, state government and local government. The workshop aimed to co-design enhancements to Get Ready Queensland’s key resources, including the household emergency plan. The workshop was the second step in a collaborative process, which started with one-on-one consultation sessions.

New designs have since been completed and are circulating with key stakeholders for feedback.



*Image: GRQ Manager, Kate Retzki, presenting at the Resources Accessibility Workshop.*

Meantime, GRQ travelled well over 1,000 kms in just 4 days on an Outback School Tour in Central Queensland between 21 – 24 May. The journey aimed to ensure rural students have the same opportunities and access to preparedness information as those who live in urban communities.

Six schools enjoyed Get Ready Queensland games and presentations, as well as displays from local SES, police, ambulance and fire services. Children got to share their own stories of disaster resilience and be inspired for careers in emergency services. Get Ready Queensland have been invited to make it an annual event.



*Image: Caption: Students at Blackall State School enjoy the Get Ready Queensland school visit.*

**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**AN ADDITIONAL \$720.6 MILLION PACKAGE TO HELP FLOOD AFFECTED QUEENSLANDERS**

On 18 May 2022, only three days before the federal election, the then Prime Minister Scott Morrison agreed to jointly fund Queensland’s next phase of extraordinary disaster assistance to help areas hit by natural disasters in 2021–22 to recover and build back better.

The \$720.6 million package will be provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), and is in addition to assistance already announced.

The package includes \$177.7 million for human and social initiatives; a \$150 million betterment fund for roads and transport infrastructure; \$154 million for a range of programs to rebuild community and recreational assets and essential services; \$56.9 million for environmental recovery; \$150 million for concessional loans to support medium and large businesses; \$27 million for economic recovery; and \$5 million for monitoring and evaluation.

The package is the latest important phase of Category D assistance from the Australian and Queensland Governments to ensure flood-affected communities in Queensland can address medium to long-term recovery needs and build resilience.

Queensland has been battered by Mother Nature in the 2021–22 disaster season with nine major natural disaster events leaving communities devastated and in need of extraordinary support.

The South East Queensland floods, along with the floods from Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth in December and January as well as the Central, Southern and Western Queensland floods late last year have left a trail of devastation, compounded in some of these communities that have been hit by all three.

Recovery from major events needs to take in a wide range of factors and this package will help fund and address elements not yet covered in previous assistance packages. It will provide a great deal of flexibility for impacted communities for services, grants and programs to help them on their recovery journey.

A range of community health and wellbeing initiatives will be available which will be crucial to recovery, while there is also a strong focus on building resilience including \$150 million to build essential public infrastructure back to a better standard and \$204 million for community and recreational assets and for the recovery and resilience of essential services.

Events of this magnitude require a staged approach to recovery and this latest package will ensure Queenslanders will have access to a suite of support to make a complete recovery from these floods,” he said.



Images: (from top): Gympie underwater from Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth, January 2022. Flooded Maryborough, February 2022, Clean up in Rocklea, March 2022

**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**AN ADDITIONAL \$720.6 MILLION PACKAGE TO HELP FLOOD AFFECTED QUEENSLANDERS, CON'T**

The \$720 million extraordinary disaster assistance package is another example of Queensland’s commitment to ensure stronger, safer and more resilient communities.

All sectors in these Queensland communities have been hit to differing degrees of severity and this latest package has been developed to address that, with input from the State’s five functional recovery groups who know exactly what is needed.

Queensland leads the nation in building resilience in its communities through its betterment programs, which allow damaged infrastructure such as roads and bridges to be built back better, and \$150 million has been allocated to continue this great work.

A range of economic and environmental initiatives, including \$28 million towards flood risk management, round out this extensive and comprehensive extraordinary assistance package.

**This \$720.6 million package will be available in the 37 local governments areas activated for DRFA assistance from the South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 22 February – 5 April 2022; Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth, 29 December – 10 January 2022; and Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 10 November – 3 December 2021.**



*Image: Summerholm Road, Lockyer Valley.*

**It brings the total of extraordinary assistance packages, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments under the DRFA for the 2021–22 disaster season, the longest in QRA’s history, to more than \$2 billion – the largest in QRA’s history.**

**BLACK MOUNTAIN ROAD LANDSLIP**

Sunshine Coast Council is facing a steep climb when it comes to the rehabilitation of Black Mountain Road in Cooroy following the Southeast Queensland flooding which ripped through the state in February.

It’s the main road connecting the Black Mountain community to places like schools and supermarkets.

Council has advised locals can gain access to the northern side of the slip via Federal, a detour of around 30 kilometres on gravel roads. It is anticipated the detour will remain in place for months.

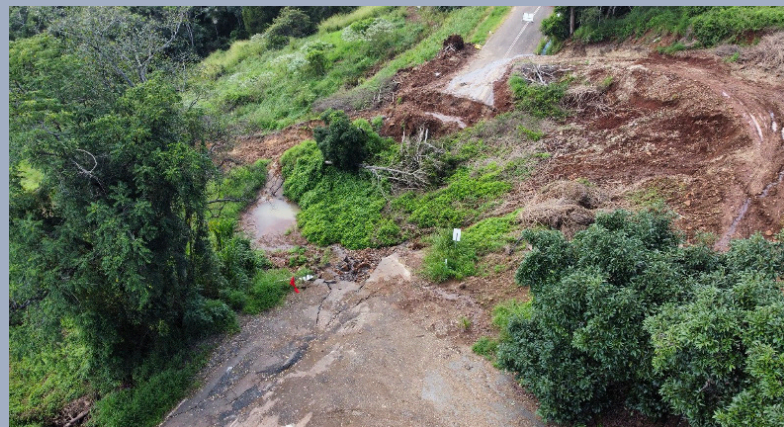
Emergency works have been performed on the Andersons Road section of the detour to provide additional resilience for the community.

Council engaged a local company to perform a Geotech investigation into the landslip site and provide a two-phase design solution.

The first phase will consist of providing a temporary access solution across the landslip, while phase two will place an emphasis on a permanent solution.

The area continues to remain unstable and slide down the hill, as the ground remains saturated and there is a natural spring which flows through the site.

The original road section included a concrete causeway which would regularly overtop with 20 millimetres of rain in the catchment.



*Image: Black Mountain Road damage following February rain and flooding event in 2022.*



*Image: Black Mountain Rd in disarray following February rain and flooding event in 2022.*



**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**LARGEST RESILIENCE PROGRAM IN NATION’S HISTORY OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

Queenslanders whose homes were damaged by floods this summer can now register their interest for a \$741 million Resilient Residential Recovery Program, which could see damaged homes raised, repaired and retrofitted, or voluntarily bought back to bolster the state’s future flood resilience.

Homeowners across 37 local government areas whose homes were damaged by floods this 2021–22 disaster season, including in the February 2022 South East Queensland floods, flooding associated with Ex Tropical-Cyclone Seth, and flooding in Central, Southern and Western Queensland in late 2021, may be eligible for the program.

The Resilient Residential Recovery package is the largest resilience program of its kind to ever be delivered in Australia and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) is working hard to ensure it benefits as many flood-affected Queensland homeowners as possible, prioritising our most vulnerable and at-risk property owners.

Initial assessments following the South East Queensland floods revealed there were nearly 7,000 homes with some degree of damage and more than 3,600 of these were uninhabitable.

The Queensland Government is asking flood-affected Queenslanders within the 37 eligible local government areas who are interested in a voluntary buy-back, house raising or retrofitting following flooding in 2021–22, to come forward and register their details.

Every homeowner will have individual circumstances that need to be assessed, including the extent of their damage and risk to future flooding. We know homeowners will also have different priorities when it comes to their own long-term plans and flood resilience.

Together with information and flood modelling from local councils, and damage impact assessment data from the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, this register of interest will help QRA understand how many properties require assistance, the scope of assistance requested, and also inform detailed rollout plans.

This is a nation-leading program, which has the potential to truly change people’s lives by improving their resilience to future flooding or removing them from harm’s way altogether.

The Queensland Government has worked closely with the Commonwealth, insurers and representatives from the building industry to help inform the program and ensure it rolls out as quickly as possible.

The Department of Energy and Public Works will lead the delivery of the retrofitting and house raising component of the Resilient Residential Recovery program, while the Queensland Reconstruction Authority will manage any voluntary buy-backs together with local government.

A registration of interest form is available on the Department of Energy and Public Works website ([www.epw.qld.gov.au](http://www.epw.qld.gov.au)). Interested homeowners can now register their details to be considered as part of the program.

The Resilient Residential Recovery program is being delivered through the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



*Images (from above clockwise): Flooded homes in Gympie, Marborough and Ipswich may be eligible for the \$741 m Resilient Residential Recovery Program.*