

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:

Make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

OUR PURPOSE:

Enable recovery and build resilience to disaster events within our communities.

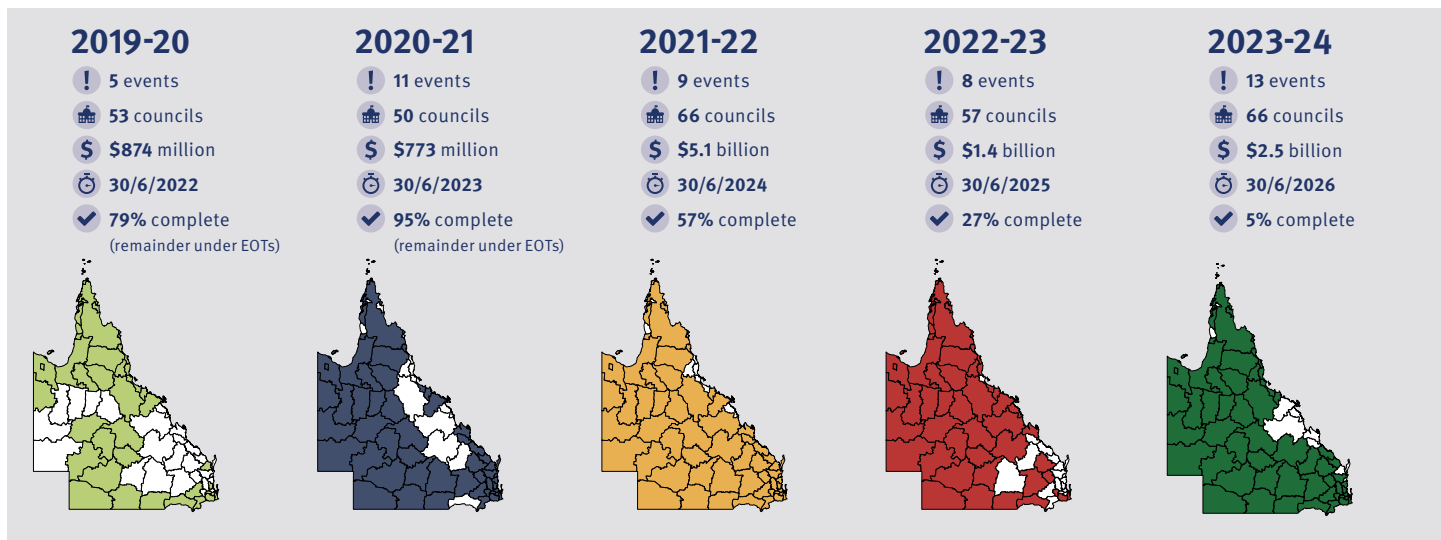
DISASTER ASSISTANCE

DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE GRANTS PROGRAM

QRA is currently administering a recovery and reconstruction program under the joint Commonwealth State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth **\$10.7 billion** arising from **46** events from the 2019-20 to 2023-24 disaster seasons in the delivery and/or acquittal phase.

CURRENT STATEWIDE PROGRAM

! 46 events **🏠** 76 councils with an active program **\$** \$10.7 billion



IN THE JUNE QUARTER

The **2019-20** event year program has completed delivery with the exception of DTMR’s Cunningham’s Gap reconstruction project which is progressing under an extension of time (EOT) to 30 June 2025. The project has experienced significant geotechnical complexities and has been subject to a redesign process.

The **2020-21** event year program has also completed delivery other than five reconstruction and resilience projects with EOTs to deliver through to 31 December 2024.

The **2021-22** event year program is the most significant currently being managed by QRA with a Program Value of **\$5.1 billion** across **66** council areas. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of \$308 million (complete), resilience programs of \$87 million, reconstruction program of \$2.7 billion being delivered through to 2025 and

extraordinary assistance packages worth \$2.1 billion that will be delivered through to June 2026.

The **2022-2023** program has a Program Value of **\$1.4 billion** across **57** Council areas. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of \$79 million (complete), reconstruction program of ~\$1.2 billion and extraordinary assistance packages of \$136 million that will be delivered through to September 2027.

The **2023-2024** event year program has a preliminary program estimate of approx. **\$2.5 billion** from **12** events. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of \$356 million, resilience programs of \$275 million, reconstruction program of ~\$1.7 billion and extraordinary assistance packages worth \$247 million that will be delivered through to 30 June 2026.

THE 2023-24 DISASTER SEASON

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Activations (DRFA)

- [Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 22 March – 20 April 2024](#)
- [Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 25 Jan – 26 Feb 2024](#)
- [North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 12 – 22 Jan 2024](#)
- [South West Queensland Flooding 6 – 23 Jan 2024](#)
- [South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall, 24 Dec 2023 – 3 Jan 2024](#)
- [Tropical Cyclone Jasper, 13 – 28 Dec 2023](#)
- [Brisbane and Ipswich Severe Storms, 15 – 16 Dec 2023](#)
- [Queensland Low Pressure Trough, 20 Nov – 1 Dec 2023](#)
- [The Pines and Condamine Farms Bushfire, 19 Nov – 1 Dec 2023](#)
- [Mount Isa Bushfire 23 Oct – 1 Nov 2023](#)
- [Southern Queensland Bushfires, 8 Sept – 7 Nov 2023](#)
- [Northern Queensland Bushfires, 18 Oct – 8 Dec 2023](#)
- [Nome and Julago Bushfire, 16 – 24 Sept 2023](#)

RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY

QRA’s Resilience and Recovery team coordinate the development and implementation of disaster resilience and recovery planning, policy, funding, and support in Queensland.

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.

The Queensland Recovery Plan is driving a collaborative approach across functions of recovery, all levels of government and the whole community to ensure recovery operations are appropriate to the scale of the disaster event.

PROGRESS OF RECOVERY FROM THE 2024 DISASTER SEASON

QRA officers assessed properties in Far North Queensland, north Queensland and the south-east during April and May 2024, conducting Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring (DARM) of homes and businesses still damaged following recent summer events.

This included properties impacted by the Southern Queensland Bushfires, ex-Tropical Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily, and the South Queensland Christmas storms, with more than 3,000 homes and businesses visited during the operation.

QRA officers collected information on property damage, progress of repairs, insurance matters, and residents’ ability to access financial and personal support where required.

The DARM results indicate that recovery is progressing. Of the properties still marked as damaged, 974 still have minor damage, 805 are moderately damaged, 483 are severely damaged, and 77 properties are totally destroyed. A total of 864 properties were found to no longer have damage.

This information has been shared with councils, relevant state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders to improve their understanding of the recovery needs and priorities of impacted Queenslanders and Queensland communities.

This was the first follow-up DARM operation carried out by QRA since initial damage assessments were conducted by QFES with support from QRA in the immediate aftermath of the disasters. QRA will revisit the properties again during the next DARM operation later this year.

2023-24 STATE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN

The 2023-24 State Recovery and Resilience Plan (SRRP) is near completion.

The plan was an evolution on previous State recovery plans by capturing all 13 events of the 2023-24 severe weather season in one document, equipping State departments and agencies to work in a more efficient manner on multiple recovery projects at once. With many impacted communities being remote, this enables Councils and State government to prioritise the use of scarce labour and equipment onto the local council’s greatest need, regardless of which disaster in the 2023-24 season it resulted from. Overall, this speeds up recovery of the community and strengthens integration within the Queensland disaster management system at the same time.



Senator Sheldon, QRA and NEMA visiting local Councils gathering information on their recovery priorities and needs.



Senator Sheldon, QRA and NEMA visiting local Councils gathering information on their recovery priorities and needs.

Consultation with local government throughout the development of the State plan has been facilitated by the Deputy State Recovery Coordinator and QRA staff.

Contributions from Councils were incorporated into the SRRP. Their locally developed recovery priorities were documented in the local recovery and resilience action plans and shared with QRA. These priorities influenced the development of recovery projects by QRA and other government departments under the five lines of recovery. Built, Roads and Transport, Environment, Economic and Human & Social functional recovery and resilience groups contributed their vision, assessment of impacts and action plans for recovery to the State plan. The SRRP was finalised in June and submitted to the Queensland Disaster Management Committee for approval.

DRFA Category C & D extraordinary assistance package – 2023-24 Events

QRA continues to work alongside councils, State Agencies and Non-Government Organisations to support recovery efforts across the impacted regions. Where significant impacts are experienced as a result of a disaster event, QRA works with state partners to develop extraordinary recovery and resilience packages to support short, medium and longer term recovery needs.

QRA activated immediate assistance under standard DRFA measures and close to \$250 million of Category C and D extraordinary assistance packages have been developed and approved to date to provide short and medium-term targeted assistance for relief, emerging recovery needs and resilience building activities.

QRA is continuing to work with NEMA, State Agencies and Functional Resilience and Recovery Groups to develop additional assistance packages tailored to meet the medium to longer term recovery needs to assist community recovery across those areas most severely impacted across Queensland.

Southern Queensland Fires	
\$18.106 million	
<p>Local Resilience and Recovery Grants \$1 million grant for Western Downs Regional Council to support relief, recovery and resilience activities with the community by the Queensland bushfires.</p>	<p>Exceptional Circumstance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers \$5 million in grants of up to \$75,000 to provide targeted assistance with clean up, restoration and recovery activities to eligible primary producers who have suffered direct damage.</p>
<p>Mental Health \$2.2 million to provide funding for mental health support services, focusing on uplifting already existing mental health support programs to support locally led long term recovery within the impacted areas.</p>	<p>Community Health and Wellbeing \$6.24 million to conduct community health and wellbeing activities through internal service delivery, grants programs and working closely with partner agencies to support the recovery of communities.</p>
<p>Agricultural Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers \$1.865 million to support primary producers for medium and longer-term recovery needs including the development of industry-specific on-farm business resilience plans and assist primary producers identify other services to support recovery.</p>	<p>Rural Landholder Recovery Grants \$1.5 million to assist rural landholders with the extraordinary clean up and reinstatement of rural landholder properties and to support targets uninsured, lower income (income tested) primary producers (“hobby farmers”) who are unable to access alternative primary producer or small business grants and require support for clean-up.</p>
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation \$0.3 million to monitor and review the extraordinary recovery package and assess its success in supporting disaster affected communities.</p>	
South Queensland Storms	
\$9.3 million	
<p>Local Resilience and Recovery Grants \$3 million in grants to support relief, recovery and resilience activities in areas impacted by the South Queensland Storms.</p>	<p>Sport and Recreational Community Facilities \$6.3 million to undertake rebuilding and repair to sport and recreation facilities impacted by the event. Assistance measures will include support for initial scoping of repair and rebuilding works, program administration support for clients; and delivery of the funding assistance within a robust grant program framework.</p>

Tropical Cyclone Jasper

\$51.9 million

Local Resilience and Recovery Grants

\$9 million in grants to support relief, recovery and resilience activities in areas impacted Tropical Cyclone Jasper.

Tourism Recovery

\$5 million to support severely impacted local government areas that rely heavily on tourism with immediate support to recover from the significant impacts of TC Jasper through targeted relief and recovery activities such as a visitor incentive initiative, immediate hardship assistance and business support to assist the tourism sector directly.

Tourism Recovery and Resilience Program

\$24.25 million program to undertake targeted relief and recovery activities such as exceptional financial assistance to isolated businesses that were inaccessible or a building resilience infrastructure grant for tourism operators and funding for a marketing, events and travel incentive.

Cyclone Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers

\$2.25 million to engage Cyclone Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers to support primary producers for medium and longer term recovery needs including the development of industry-specific on-farm business resilience plans and the provision of technical advice on Cyclone recovery.

Sport and Recreational Community Facilities

\$8.505 million to undertake rebuilding and repair to sport and recreation facilities impacted by the event. Assistance measures will include support for initial scoping of repair and rebuilding works, program administration support for clients; and delivery of the funding assistance within a robust grant program framework.

Rural Landholder Recovery Grants

\$3 million to assist with the extraordinary expenditure for the clean-up and reinstatement of eligible rural residential and lifestyle properties and help to alleviate the distress to residents and animals, repair damage and reduce hazards/risks to eligible properties not covered by insurance or eligible for other DRFA funding programs.

Tropical Cyclone Jasper and South Queensland Storms

Shared Packages: \$168.2 million

Extraordinary Recovery Grants for Primary Producers

\$25 million in grants shared between the TC Jasper, associated Rainfall and Flooding and the South Queensland Storms events to support targeted assistance with clean up, restoration and recovery activities to eligible primary producers who have suffered direct damage.

Extraordinary Recovery Grants for Small Businesses and not-for-profits

\$25 million in grants shared between the TC Jasper, associated Rainfall and Flooding and the South Queensland Storms events to support eligible small business and not for profit organisations that have suffered direct damage and provide targeted assistance with clean up, restoration and recovery activities to assist these businesses/organisations return to business operations.

Recovery Project Managers

\$1 million shared package between the TC Jasper, associated Rainfall and Flooding and the South Queensland Storms events to engage project managers and other skilled workers to design, coordinate and manage extraordinary recovery efforts following Tropical Cyclone Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding, or the South Queensland Severe storms and rainfall.

Clean Up Program

\$20 million shared between the TC Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding and the South Queensland Storms events clean-up program to support Local Governments and State Agencies to undertake assessments and conduct extraordinary clean-up activities of rivers, waterways, beaches, national parks, communities and recreational assets including removal and disposal of disaster related debris.

Community Health and Wellbeing

\$22.935 million to conduct community health and wellbeing activities through internal service delivery, grants programs and working closely with partner agencies to support the recovery of communities.

Mental Health Program

\$9.564 million to provide individual and family therapeutic interventions across the continuum of care for people impacted by TC Jasper 2023 and the SQ storms 2023. Particular attention will be paid to vulnerable individuals displaced from their home, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Small Business Support

\$13.4 to provide support through small businesses through Exceptional Disaster Hardship Assistance Grants, a Small Business Support Network providing free, independent, one-on-one case management with a strong focus on mental health support and financial security and a Resilience Partnership Program which will focus will be on business resilience and disaster preparedness and will leverage the heightened awareness of business operators severely impacted, or concerned about their own preparedness if lesser impacted.

Environmental Recovery

\$51.3 million to undertake an investigations program to identify environmental impacts from the event, clean up flood debris along the coastlines and within environmentally sensitive areas inland, manage contamination concerns accordingly, rehabilitate riverine, wetland and riparian environments, provide the tools to support project identification and prioritisation, funding to Natural Resource Management bodies, Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers, State agencies and Local Councils to address weed and pest management issues and instilling stewardship practices for Queensland's environmental and cultural assets.

DRFA CATEGORY C & D EXTRAORDINARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE – 2021-22 EVENTS

Resilient Homes Fund

The Resilient Homes Fund aims to help Queenslanders whose homes were affected by flooding in the 2021-22 disaster season to make their homes more resilient to future flooding or buy them back to remove residents from harm’s way.

The Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works is delivering the Resilient Retrofit and House-raising component of the Resilient Homes Fund, whilst QRA is managing the Voluntary Home Buy-Back (VHBB) program together with local governments.

As at 28 June 2024, 876 valuation inspections have been undertaken across the 12 local government areas approved to take part in the scheme and 859 offers have been presented to homeowners with 685 having been accepted. To date, 637 contracts have settled, and 458 demolitions of properties have occurred across eight local government areas.

The VHBB program reached a significant milestone on 16 May 2024, with demolition commencing on a unit complex in Mill Street, Goodna. The complex was significantly impacted by flooding in February 2022, and was at high risk of future flooding. It was the first community title scheme to have achieved voluntary home buy-back as part of the Resilient Homes Fund. All 20 homeowners of the unit complex accepted offers under the VHBB program last year, with settlement reached in October 2023. Once demolished the land will be re-zoned to an appropriate, non-occupied use, such as green space, by Ipswich City Council.

QRA continues to also work collaboratively with Ipswich City Council and NEMA to help the Mi Hi Grove Body Corporate Committee address the complexities of voluntary home buy-back within a community title scheme. There remains a strong desire amongst homeowners within the unit complex to proceed with the VHBB program.

By end of June 2024, 40 of the 42 total homeowners have accepted their presented valuation offers. For the two homeowners that have not yet accepted, Ipswich City Council is now determining the most appropriate course of action to commence a compulsory acquisition process.

Property Level Flood Information Portal

Delivery of Property Level Flood Information Portal (“the Portal”) continues, with 33 councils having formally confirmed their participation in the QRA-led portals solution. QRA is working closely with QIT Plus and eligible councils to develop the portals solution through the Discovery phase of the project.

The Portals initiative has the principal aim of helping residents understand, be more informed and better prepared for future flooding events by giving them access to flood risk information specific to their property. Delivery of the Portals will enable any member of the public in an eligible local government area to enter their address into a locally hosted platform and obtain key information about flooding on their property and surrounding neighbourhood. Where data is limited, the system will still be implemented using existing datasets and allow for updates as new data becomes available.

The Council Grant Program has now concluded, with interested councils submitting applications for up to \$250,000 for the development of new, and enhancement of existing, local government portals. This was made available to Councils who did not wish to opt-in to the QRA-led portals solution. Applications opened on 14 December 2023 and closed on 31 March 2024. On closure, two applications were received, reviewed, and approved for two eligible councils, with total funding of \$324,900. These projects are scheduled for delivery by 30 June 2026.

Table 1: Grant Program – Council and Approved Value

Local Government	Project Type	Grant
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Enhancement of existing local government portals	\$238,800
Logan City Council	Enhancement of existing local government portals	\$86,100
Total		\$324,900*

**Approved Value includes program management, delivery and technical resourcing required.*

Flood Risk Management Program

The Prime Minister has recently approved an additional \$18 million funding to increase the total Flood Risk Management Program funding from \$31 million to \$49 million, with \$6 million allocated to Work Package 2, and \$12 million allocated to Work Package 3.

The Flood Risk Management Program provides funding to undertake key activities to support evidence-based response, mitigation and resilience strategies to manage river, creek and overland flood risk.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION MATERIAL (WP1)

Under Work Package 1, QRA has \$1.85 million in funding to design a targeted Get Ready campaign. The campaign is in its final stages of development and has been developed along with communication and engagement resources for councils and community groups to increase community engagement and awareness of flood risks and available flood warning information. Additional context of the project is provided in the Get Ready Queensland update below.

The Department of Communities has also received a \$150,000 grant for person-centred emergency planning, responsible donation management education program and business continuity for community organisations/service providers.

LIDAR CAPTURE (WP2)

Under Work Package 2 (WP2) of the Flood Risk Management Program, \$12 million funding is available for QRA to work with the Department of Resources and eligible local councils to capture required Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data and the creation of a floor level database.

LiDAR is currently being collected for over 73,000 square kilometres, which equates to an area larger than the size of Tasmania. Of this, over 65,652km² of LiDAR has been captured to date. Post-processing and quality assurance is progressing well with a total package completion of 86%. The final segment of Tranche 4 for LiDAR data acquisition is underway, with the exception of the Maranoa area, which is currently being scoped by the Department of Resources to secure a supplier. With the additional \$6 million in funding now allocated to WP2, this area will increase and is currently being scoped with the Department of Resources.

FLOOD STUDIES, RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS (WP3)

Under Work Package 3, now funded at \$34.25 million, \$26.05 million is available to 39 councils for projects and \$8.2 million is allocated to priority state projects.

QRA is planning to open a second round of grant applications for Councils. QRA has been working with the 39 eligible councils to understand their needs and offer support. QRA continues providing support to councils in the delivery of their approved flood risk management projects through the established Peer Review and Technical Advisory Panels, along with QRA flood team assistance where required.

SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING SYSTEM (WP3)

The Bureau of Meteorology has now delivered the Southeast Queensland Flood Forecast & Warning System Project Delivery Planning Phase. With the additional funding, \$4.2 million will be allocated for the delivery of the outcomes outlined in the Project Delivery Plan.

The primary focus of the early work relates to probabilistic rainfall modelling and engagement with councils across Southeast Queensland to identify elements from this work that can be transformed into warnings and output products and services.

Emergency Response Fund – Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Program (ERF FWIN)

The ERF FWIN program consists of \$7 million made available through the \$75 million Emergency Response Fund for Queensland Flood Warning Infrastructure across 23 councils impacted by the 2022 South East Queensland flooding event. All elements of Flood Warning Systems are eligible for funding under this program to improve Queensland's Flood Warning Infrastructure.

All 23 eligible Councils submitted applications for ERF FWIN funding for amounts of up to \$235,000 to enhance flood warning infrastructure assets, in addition to delivering rain and river gauges identified by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) through the National Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Program. Councils have been informed of their successful projects. Final deadline for project completion is 30 June 2025.

The Bureau of Meteorology – National Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Program

Since the May 2023 Federal Government budget allocation of \$236 million to remediate high priority flood warning infrastructure and address critical reliability risks, the BOM has made notable progress to upgrade and acquire identified local and state government-owned rain and river gauges into its flood warning asset base.

Queensland is prioritised in the national roll-out due to the Queensland Government's agreement with the Federal government for a 50% maintenance cost-share up to the value of \$5 million per year for 10 years. The Bureau has segmented Queensland into seven regions for the purpose of program delivery:

- Southeast Region
- Northwest Region
- South Region
- Southwest Region
- Far North
- Townsville to Mackay
- Rockhampton to Bundaberg

As of June 2024, workshops have been completed for five out of the seven regions, with the remaining two regions scheduled for July and August. These workshops aim to gather local insights about the value of flood warning infrastructure and verify the desktop assessments.

RESILIENCE

QRA is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for disaster recovery, managing flood risks and improving the disaster resilience of communities.

Resilience Funding Programs

Along with QRA's lead role in managing and coordinating Queensland's program of recovery and reconstruction funding within disaster-impacted communities, QRA also administers a range of disaster resilience funding programs on behalf of the State.

A number of resilience funding programs are currently in delivery, helping to strengthen the disaster resilience and preparedness of Queensland communities.

Program	Approved amount	Approved projects
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2019-20)	\$13.1M	68
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2020-21) and Managing Disaster Risk (2020-21)	\$19.1M	82
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2021-22) and Managing Disaster Risk	\$19.1M	53
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2022-23)	\$10.5M	24
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2023-24)	\$14.7M	25
North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program (2021-22)	\$10M	22
Recovery and Resilience Grants – Stream 1 (2020-21)	\$11.5M	59
National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (2020-21)	\$9.9M	3
National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (2021-22)	\$0.9M	2
\$75m Queensland Flood Recovery and Resilience Package (2021-22)	\$75M	7
Protecting our Communities Program (2022)	\$5.4M	6
Disaster Ready Fund 2023-24 – Round 1	\$84M	50
Disaster Ready Fund 2024-25 – Round 2	TBC	Under assessment by Commonwealth

QUEENSLAND RESILIENCE AND RISK REDUCTION FUND (QRRRF) 2023-24

On 30 June 2024, 25 successful projects were announced for the 2023-24 QRRRF receiving \$14.7 million in funding for infrastructure and non-infrastructure initiatives that make Queensland Communities more resilient through disaster risk reduction measures.

This includes 15 projects for councils, four for state agencies and six for not-for-profit organisations.

The QRRRF is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments under the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction. This was the fifth and final round of funding available under this Agreement.

Further information on the QRRRF 2023-24 is available on the QRA website: qra.qld.gov.au/QRRRF2023-24

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES (DISASTER RESILIENCE) PROGRAM

During 2022, the Australian Government committed funding to communities across Australia to increase their disaster resilience and preparedness for future disasters. The Protecting Our Communities (Disaster Resilience) Program (PoCP) has been developed to deliver important disaster resilience projects for communities that represent value for money and have been identified by communities to improve their disaster resilience and preparedness for further disasters.

The projects are being delivered in two tranches – Tranche 1 is being administered by the Commonwealth and Tranche 2 is being administered by QRA.

Tranche 2 projects include:

Applicant	Project Description	Cwth Funding
Cairns Regional Council	FNQ Coastal Erosion Works	\$750,000
Cook Shire Council	FNQ pedestrian access bridge	\$250,000
Gladstone Regional Council	Deepwater National Park Fire Trail	\$2,000,000
Ipswich Show Society	Ipswich Showgrounds Evacuation Centre upgrades	\$1,500,000
Richmond Shire Council	Coalbrook Road culvert crossing replacement	\$301,620
Rockhampton Regional Council	Gracemere Integrated Emergency Communications System	\$500,000

All Tranche 2 projects are in delivery.

Disaster Ready Fund (DRF)

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government’s flagship disaster risk reduction initiative which will fund a diverse set of projects in partnership with states and territories to deliver medium-term and long-term national outcomes, investing up to \$1 billion over the next five years.

Under Round 1 of the DRF (2023-24), 50 projects were approved in Queensland for more than \$84 million in Commonwealth funding to support disaster risk reduction initiatives, including 40 projects for councils, three for state agencies, five for non-government organisations and two for universities. QRA continues to work with successful applicants and the Commonwealth to finalise implementation plans for this funding round and establish project funding agreements.

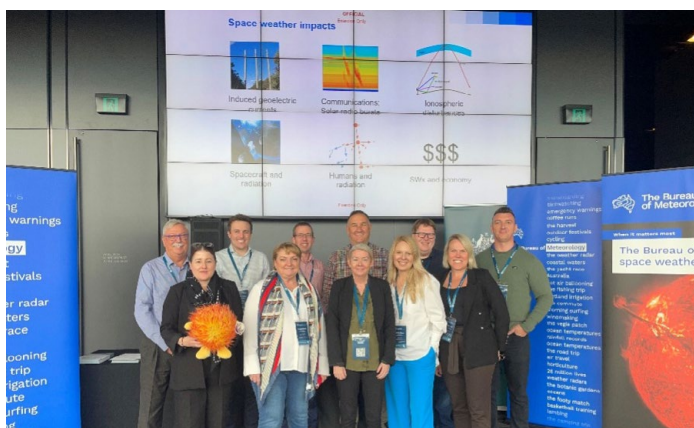
Applications for DRF Round Two (2024-25) closed on 20 March 2024 with 145 applications worth more than \$458 million received – seeking \$252 million in Commonwealth funding. A total of \$200 million is available for this round across Australia. QRA reviewed these projects for eligibility and suitability and submitted 134 suitable and highly suitable applications to NEMA for final decision-making. Successful applicants will be notified of the outcomes after July 2024.

QRA PARTICIPATING IN THOUGHT LEADERSHIP, RESEARCH AND DISASTER PREPARATION FORUMS

Alongside Queensland Police Service, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Inspector General of Emergency Management, QRA participated in Exercise Aurora in June 2024 – to test Australia’s capacity to respond and recover from a space weather event.

With the aim of testing responses and preparedness of Commonwealth and State agencies to an extreme space weather event, Exercise Aurora was delivered by NEMA, in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, Geoscience Australia, and the Australian Department of Home Affairs.

The event was a very useful exercise to test how Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements could be used to support the community during a space weather event.



QRA General Managers, Jimmy Scott and Janet England at the Space Weather exercise event in Adelaide.

DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES REFORM

The Queensland Government is undertaking a reform program to address the function and structure, culture, efficiency and funding and sustainability of our disaster and emergency services.

For QRA, the reforms mean expanded prevention, mitigation and preparedness responsibilities. To support these expanded responsibilities, QRA has received an uplift in capability and capacity. This will also allow QRA to continue to improve resilience across the state and deliver its mission of stronger, safer and more resilient Queensland communities. QRA’s existing roles and functions in resilience and recovery will also remain.

As part of the reforms, certain disaster management functions and activities were identified to transition from the (then) Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) to QRA on 30 June 2024.

From 1 July 2024, QRA will be responsible for leading the state-level hazard and risk function, including the design and delivery of a risk assessment tool that is locally appropriate, cost-effective and fit for purpose. QRA’s remit of responsibility will also include certain projects and activities within the community engagement and education and community awareness campaigns functions.

QRA worked with the Queensland Police Service Reform Implementation Taskforce (RIT) and the (then) QFES to finalise arrangements ahead of the transition of responsibilities.



QRA representatives at the Natural Hazards Research Forum.

During the quarter, QRA also attended the Natural Hazards research forum, providing QRA with an annual opportunity to learn from the sharpest minds in disaster resilience and risk reduction. This year’s conference in Adelaide had a particular focus on community resilience and strengthening our built environment. Within these discussions it was great to see a spotlight shone on the Resilient Homes Fund and how the Queensland and Australian Government initiative is ensuring our state is better prepared for future flooding. Engagement at forums like this ensures QRA’s policies and decision-making keep adapting to a changing climate.

General Manager for Integration and Coordination Jimmy Scott met with Vicki Woodburn, Australian Climate Service Group Executive to explore opportunities for QRA and Australian Climate Service to work together to prepare our communities for future disaster events.

QRA is also engaging with state government agencies to examine the ten year climate forecast and understand likely changes which will impact resilience and recovery. This way we can be better prepared, with a plan for the future.



General Manager for Integration and Coordination Jimmy Scott met with Vicki Woodburn, Australian Climate Service Group Executive.

QRA representatives attended the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) and Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) Lessons Management Forum in Adelaide from 28 May – 30 May 2024. The forum focused on the future of lessons management and ways to embed the practice to support a learning culture in emergency management organisations. Topics included using technology and artificial intelligence to enhance lessons management processes, building evaluation capability, and sharing lessons from emergency management organisations in the USA and Australia.

The team also attended the Australasia Wind and Engineering Society (AWES) conference in Townsville in June where ideas on resilience modelling were explored, including novel ideas of how building functionality contributes to community functionality and if measuring impacts on community resilience could be achieved during damage assessments.



QRA representatives at the 22nd annual Wind Engineering Society workshop in Adelaide.

QRA General Manager Jimmy Scott presented and took part in an Urban Development Institute of Australia Queensland panel with the Insurance Council of Australia and Energy Queensland, talking recent disaster response activities, QRA's current program of work, and our vision for the future when it comes to risk analysis, flood warnings and resilient home design.



STATE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE GROUP

QRA continues to support the strategic priorities of the State Recovery and Resilience Group.

QRA was pleased to see the inclusion of building resilience as a specific objective of the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) from 2025. This allows future updates of the National Construction Code to consider requirements that new homes are built to be more resilient extreme weather events.

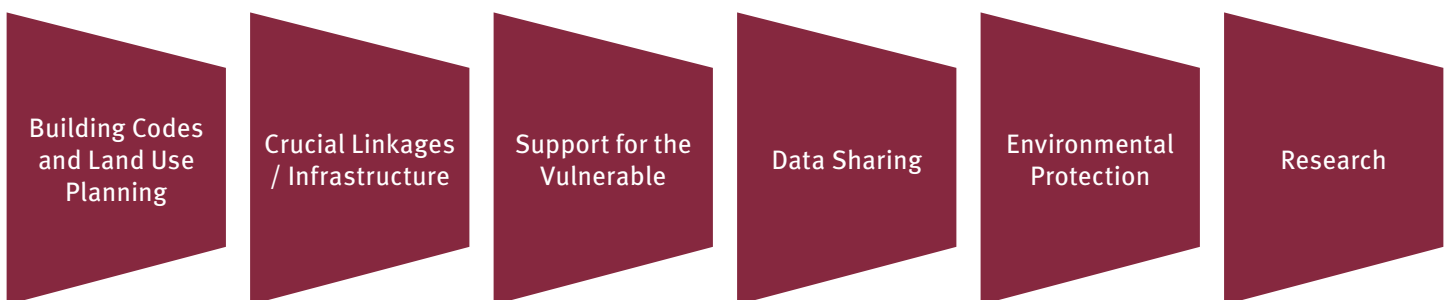


Image: SRRG Strategic Priorities

GET READY QUEENSLAND (GRQ)

GRQ is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The program integrates 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.

2024 Get Ready Queensland Campaign week and Ambassador JT are getting ready



Get Ready Queensland ambassador, Jonathan Thurston, will take centre stage once again at this year's Get Ready Week launch, both in person and starring in a new campaign across television, social media, and digital posters. The campaign focuses on creating a severe weather household emergency plan and will promote a new online tool to help Queenslanders prepare for the upcoming severe weather season.

Get Ready Queensland Week will include a programme of events in partnership with some of last year's most severely weather-impacted councils, starting in Cairns and Brisbane and continuing across Queensland. The statewide advertising campaign will run for a total of six weeks.

If It's Flooded Forget It Update

GRQ's recent "If it's flooded, forget it" campaign achieved remarkable results. Post campaign evaluation highlighted that audiences responded strongly to the new campaign approach, with clear support for the more graphic, and hard-hitting style. 91% of respondents said more ads like it need to be made in the future, and 84% said it had an impact on them. The campaign successfully reached Queenslanders, with 78% reporting that they heard it during recent severe weather events.

Evaluation also reflected notable and significant positive shifts across longitudinal behavioural and attitudinal measures that were tracked across previous campaigns.

- 5% reduction year on year in audiences agreeing that they could decide on the spot whether to drive through floodwater (58% to 53%). This is an incredibly positive outcome, as this measure had been steadily increasing year on year since 2021.
- 9% reduction of people who said they would still drive through floodwater in certain situations, such as still water, but not flowing water.
- 7% decrease in people saying that they might drive through floodwater if other cars were driving through in front of them
- 8% decrease in people who said they would drive through floodwater if they thought it was safe to do so (36% from 44%)
- 8% decrease in people saying that they would drive through floodwater on a familiar road (26% from 34%).

Building on the success of the campaign, GRQ has developed a suite of new digital and radio resources which will run alongside the existing campaign, launching in November. A series of videos featuring subject matter experts discussing roads, drivers, swift water rescue and floodwater, aim to dispel myths around the key factors that lead to road related flood water fatalities, providing actions drivers can take to stay safe. In addition, two new IFFI radio ads have

been recorded to provide Queenslanders with practical and directive safety messaging throughout the severe weather season.

The campaign contributes to the long term strategic goal of contributing to a reduction in the instances of vehicle related floodwater entry by equipping drivers with the information they need to make safe choices.

How prepared are Queenslanders?

The statewide survey on preparedness for, and experience of, natural disasters ran throughout June. The survey is held every two years and asked over 1500 Queensland residents a series of questions designed to measure their level of preparedness and identify any areas that could be improved. The research covers five different regional segmentations: Coastal communities, First Nation communities, Remote/Rural communities, Resources communities, and South East Queensland communities. The results of the survey will be used to inform the GRQ program and campaign moving forward.

Documenting the lived experience of the 2022 floods

Tales from the Flood a series of four stories, funded by DRFA under Work Package 1 of the Flood Risk Management Program linked to key flooding misconceptions, and desired actions and behaviours to build disaster resilience are shortly to be released. The videos sought people from the communities impacted to recount stories from the 2022 floods and focus on the importance of preparedness, making an emergency plan, and building resilience in flood affected communities.

The development of several local flood communications resources including a Local Flood Content Framework: a best practice guide for social media, and local flood content templates are in their final stages. Engagement and feedback with local councils is ongoing. This has included a local communications survey, a social media gap analysis and face to face engagement meetings with councils across Queensland.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

BUY-BACK THROWS LIFELINE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Life for Keith Roxburgh and his partner Darcy looks very different today from what it did two years ago.

Their former home in Visentin Road, Morayfield was inundated by flooding early 2022, with water reaching a height of 1.6 metres.

Keith, who was alone when the water started to rise, managed to evacuate just in time.

Water was lapping his ankles as he began the task of relocating eight show dogs to a neighbour’s shed on higher ground.

By the time the last dog was safely out of harm’s way, water had risen to his chest. He escaped with just his phone and the clothes he was wearing.

“We couldn’t get back (to the home) for about a week,” Keith said.

“There was a lifetime of memories that were totally destroyed. Things you can never get back.”

Keith said their insurance covered costs for temporary accommodation so the couple had opted for a caravan to be put onsite while they began the daunting task of a rebuild, which they estimated would take around two years.

But after applying for the Voluntary Home Buy-Back program, part of the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund, their plans took a different turn.

“I think the [buy-back] offer was more than reasonable. The whole thing was too good to be true,” Keith said.

“There was no hesitation for us to accept their offer because it was true to value. And we know that because we had got a valuation on the place prior to the floods, and the offer that came through was valued the same.”

It came as no surprise to Keith that the land upon which his former home had stood was flooded again in January this year.

The couple’s block was one of three bought back under the VHBB program that flooded again in 2024. Had the homes not been demolished or removed, they would have again been inundated and the families living in them would have had to endure another massive clean-up operation.

“The fact the government stepped in, as they did, was probably a lifesaver for us. Because if we had built back we’d be in the same position again as nobody in their right mind would want to buy the house.”

And now, having moved onto a mountain, 500 metres above sea level, the couple are filled with gratitude.

“We often just say to each other that we’re so grateful and lucky we were chosen and accepted as part of the program,” he said.

“There would be no way we would be able to be in the position we are without that support and without the Voluntary Home Buy-Back program.”

The Voluntary Home Buy-Back program was developed in response to the southern Queensland floods of 2021-22. Under the Resilient Homes Fund, buy-back was identified for homes most severely impacted and at greatest risk of future flooding.

As of 8 July 2024, 685 flood-impacted homeowners have now accepted a voluntary home buy-back. Of these, 639 homeowners have settled contracts under the program.

The \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Aftermath of the floods, Keith Roxburgh’s Morayfield home was severely damaged.



Mr Roxburgh’s prize-winning show dogs managed to escape the rising floodwaters.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

QRRRF – FUNDING RESILIENCE AND REDUCING RISK

Queenslanders will be more prepared for future floods, fires, cyclones and storms, with 25 projects across the State sharing in nearly \$15 million through the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF).

The fifth round of the QRRRF is backing a range of projects that will help build greater disaster resilience and reduce the risk of natural disasters events.

Over the past five years, the QRRRF has committed more than \$76 million to 252 resilience building initiatives in urban and remote areas of Queensland.

The QRRRF is funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments as part of its five-year National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction, which started in 2019-20.

In this final round, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority received more than 150 project applications valued at more than \$90 million seeking funding from the \$14.67 million available.

This proves the appetite for Queensland communities to increase their resilience to natural disasters and mitigate and manage the risks associated with future hazard events.

These grants are informed by local priorities, to address risks that local organisations have identified and create solutions to help them better prepare.

QRRRF projects – co-funded by councils, not-for-profits and Queensland Government departments – support a range of disaster mitigation initiatives, disaster preparedness assets, technology innovations and resilient infrastructure right across Queensland.

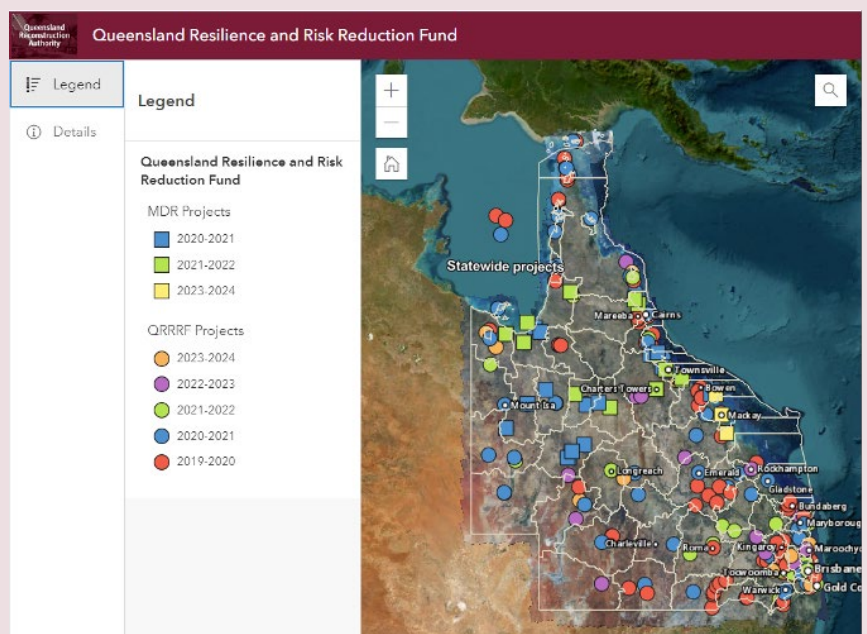
The latest QRRRF round is funding \$14.67 million into initiatives from flood mapping, early warning systems and road upgrades to mobile energy and communication hubs to ensure communities are better prepared to respond and recover.

Queensland is more susceptible to natural disasters than anywhere else in Australia, but these resilience projects will make a big difference around the State.

It’s clear that the more we do to prepare for disasters beforehand, the better off communities will be when we inevitably see more natural disasters and severe weather in the future.

Projects include:

- \$1 million for Central Queensland University to design green mobile energy hubs to enhance electricity network resilience during natural disasters.
- \$529,530 and \$206,427 for Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council and Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council, respectively, to deliver community power and communications resilience during natural disasters.
- Almost \$998,000 supporting Resilient Building Council’s technical retrofit advice to 50 Brisbane households on building back better after the 2022 floods.
- \$2 million to assist Noosa Shire Council to build hydraulic and embankment protection at Sunshine Beach.
- Nearly \$2 million to help Reef Catchments Mackay and the Whitsundays protect the Great Barrier Reef from erosion with riparian, vegetation and wetland fencing.
- More than \$276,000 toward refining the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service’s Clinical Heatwave Risk Reduction Tool for vulnerable patients.
- Almost \$860,000 for QUT’s interactive Bushfire Disaster Risk Assessment and Reduction for Buildings software in bushland urban areas susceptible to potential ember attack.
- More than \$306,000 to support disaster risk reduction for Indigenous Elders and seniors.
- \$650,000 for disaster resilience training tailored to First Nations councils and tourism operators.
- \$500,000 for a five-year review and update of the Brisbane River Floodplain Management Plan
- Nearly \$183,000 to start a Cloncurry flood study.
- Almost \$152,000 on mapping and mitigating overland flow risk at Moore in the Somerset Region and;
- More than \$548,000 for the University of Queensland to develop and install a network of hail monitoring stations.



A map of QRRRF projects 2019-2024, available at qra.qld.gov.au/qrrrf

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

MORE EMERGENCY REPAIR WORKS CARRIED OUT ON KURANDA RANGE ROAD

Due to the prolonged wet weather in Far North Queensland, further emergency repairs were required on a section of the Kennedy Highway (Cairns – Mareeba) – known locally as Kuranda Range Road – where major landslips occurred following Tropical Cyclone Jasper in December 2023.

Inspections showed slips at the damaged section near the Henry Ross lookout were exacerbated by subsequent monsoonal rainfall during early 2024. If further landslips occurred, there was a risk that the trafficable roadway would become undermined and therefore require closure of the road.

The emergency works involved soil nailing and shotcreting. The works have stabilised the slope to prevent further damage to the slope and ensure safety for road users.

Due to the nature of the works, they had to be carried out under full road closures. To minimise the impacts on road users, the works were carried out at night between 9pm and 4am.

Providing emergency access through the works site was challenging; machinery and equipment had to be moved off the road, leading to 45 to 60 minutes loss of effective work time on site. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) worked closely with Queensland Ambulance Service in Far North Queensland and the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service to make alternative arrangements and provide essential access where required.

Due to specialist supply issues and wet weather, the works progressed slower than expected. After 37 nights of full road closures, the works were completed on 3 May 2024.

TMR is continuing to prioritise design, relevant approvals and preparation of suitable construction methodologies for the long-term recovery works. The emergency works have also been designed to assist in the constructability of the long-term works.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Kuranda Range Road – landslip site (February 2024).



Kuranda Range Road – landslip site (March 2024).

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

BOOYAL–DALLARNIL ROAD BUILT BACK BETTER TO WITHSTAND SEVERE WEATHER

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has completed works to rehabilitate and build back better an extensively flood-damaged section of Booyal–Dallarnil Road, north of Grills Road at Dallarnil.

The road was impacted by heavy rainfall from two major disaster events in 2022, with 387mm recorded in a single day on 8 January 2022 at the nearby Old Range Alert as a result of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth and a further 463mm on 25 February 2022 during the South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event.

Damage along Booyal–Dallarnil Road included severe scouring around culverts and floodways, pavement damage and batter slips. Immediately after both events, TMR undertook emergency works to reopen the road.

Following detailed design and procurement, reconstruction works commenced in November 2023 and were completed in April 2024.

In addition to repairs, concrete margins on the road shoulders and rock protection around culvert outlets were installed to make the road more resilient to scouring from future flooding events. The pavement was strengthened with foamed bitumen to protect against saturation and guardrail has been installed at the site for safety.

The concrete margins and rock protection are funded through the 2021–22 Betterment Program being delivered by state and local government agencies in Queensland, to increase resilience of essential public infrastructure damaged during multiple significant rain events throughout 2021–22. The extraordinary disaster assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Where possible, TMR seeks complementary funding from other sources including the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) to make infrastructure more resilient to future disaster events and improve our ability to recover from natural disasters. Complementary funding from TMR’s maintenance program has been used to complete the foamed bitumen stabilisation works and guardrail.

A damaged steel culvert on Booyal–Dallarnil Road at Cabbage Tree Creek will also be replaced with a larger, stronger concrete structure later this year.

Reconstruction works in Wide Bay Burnett District are being undertaken progressively and include fixing unstable slopes above roads, replacing damaged road surfaces, repairing damaged road shoulders and replacing damaged culverts.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the DRFA.



Booyal–Dallarnil Road – batter slip caused by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth (January 2022)



Booyal–Dallarnil Road – culvert damage caused by South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (February 2022)



Booyal–Dallarnil Road – pavement damage caused by South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (February 2022)



Booyal–Dallarnil Road – completed works at Stoney Creek prior to line marking (April 2024)

Booyal–Dallarnil Road – completed works at Stoney Creek (April 2024)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

EXTENDED WESTERN QUEENSLAND FLOODING FOLLOWS TROPICAL CYCLONE KIRRILY

Widespread long-term flooding following Tropical Cyclone Kirrily damaged state roads across western Queensland, including key freight routes for regional and remote communities.

Tropical Cyclone Kirrily developed in the Coral Sea on 24 January 2024, peaking as a Category 3 system, then making landfall the following day as a Category 2 cyclone near Balgal Beach, north of Townsville. The cyclone caused minimal state road damage around the Townsville area, with damage and loss of power to signalised intersections and pedestrian crossings restored by 29 January 2024.

Downgraded to a tropical low, it moved slowly westwards, then in late January 2024 turned north towards the Gulf of Carpentaria then south, delivering sustained heavy rainfall to large areas of western Queensland during February 2024. Initial damage was reported on key freight routes including the Flinders Highway near Julia Creek, the Landsborough Highway at Kynuna and McKinlay between Winton and Cloncurry, Kennedy Developmental Road between Winton and Boulia, and Wills Developmental Road between Julia Creek and Burketown. Some damage is likely to have been exacerbated by the Mount Isa rail line being closed due to damage for approximately one month.

The low merged into an existing trough over south-eastern Australia, feeding severe thunderstorms in south east Queensland. On the morning of 30 January 2024, there was flash flooding in some areas, with 300 millimetres recorded in three hours at Samford and 168mm at Caboolture. Swiftwater rescues were carried out in Moreton Bay, Somerset, Lockyer Valley and Darling Downs. Heavy rainfall caused extensive pavement damage and scouring around culverts at a Transport and Main Roads project site on Caboolture–Beachmere Road in Caboolture, closing the road for five weeks while repairs were undertaken.

Ongoing flooding in the Georgina and Diamantina catchments as water slowly flowed downstream in the Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre Basin left some roads inundated until late March 2024. Damage to Kennedy and Diamantina Developmental Roads and other roads throughout Central West District includes scouring around creek crossings and floodways, pavement failures, and rutting and loss of gravel on unsealed roads.

Damage assessments and emergency works are underway across the western Queensland state road network.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



*Severe Tropical Cyclone Kirrily track map
(Source: Bureau of Meteorology)*



Landsborough Highway (Kynuna–Cloncurry) – concrete batter damage at Wild Duck Creek



Landsborough Highway (Kynuna–Cloncurry) – seal delamination at floodway

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

EXTENDED WESTERN QUEENSLAND FLOODING FOLLOWS TROPICAL CYCLONE KIRRIILY



Wills Developmental Road – pavement damage due to long-term inundation



Kennedy Developmental Road (Winton–Boulia) – culvert damage



Flinders Highway – emergency works to repair pavement damage



Kennedy Developmental Road (Winton–Boulia) – pavement damage



Diamantina Developmental Road (Windorah–Bedourie) – severe rutting



Kennedy Developmental Road (Winton–Boulia) – emergency works

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

TOOWOOMBA–CECIL PLAINS ROAD REPAIRS NEARING COMPLETION

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is managing the twin challenges of black soil subgrades and minimising impacts on an endangered lizard while undertaking recovery works on Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road in the Darling Downs.

Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road is a key transport route running west from the outskirts of Toowoomba city to the rural town of Cecil Plains about 80 kilometres away and is located on the Condamine Floodplain. Sections of the road were damaged by heavy rainfall in late 2021, with subsequent severe weather events in 2022 compounding damage to the road surface and drainage along the road.

Where required, emergency works were undertaken to maintain access following each event. Reconstruction works to repair and reseal the road surface, repair culverts and clean drains commenced in March 2023 and were completed in November 2023.

In some sections of the road, the black soil subgrade – which is ideal for local crop growing including cotton production, but unsuitable for roads as it can expand and contract significantly in wet and dry weather – did not pass a proof rolling test and therefore needed to be removed and replaced.

A priority culvert site just east of Jondaryan–Evanslea Road, known locally as the Evanslea Floodway, was identified for resilience works as part of the 2021–22 Betterment Program. These betterment works will include full-scale pavement rehabilitation and provision of table drains to direct the water away from the road, with work expected to commence in late May 2024 and be completed in July 2024, weather permitting.

The site forms part of the known habitat of the endangered Condamine earless dragon (*Tympanocryptis condaminensis*), a tiny lizard up to 10 centimetres long that lives in natural grasslands on the Condamine Floodplain, including along road reserves and adjoining cropping areas. This species was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered by university students in 2001. Sightings have been confirmed near the culvert site.

In 2023, TMR was successful in obtaining an approved Animal Breeding Places Assessment and Impact Management Plan from the Department of Environment and Science for the flood repair works on Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road. TMR is implementing a number of management strategies including slashing the road reserve to increase the ability to spot individual lizards which temporarily reduces suitable habitat, timing construction to minimise the impact on pregnant female dragons, and having a process in place if individuals are found during construction.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road – pavement damage near Condamine River from Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (December 2021)



Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road – emergency works near Condamine River (early March 2022)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

EXTENDED WESTERN QUEENSLAND FLOODING FOLLOWS TROPICAL CYCLONE KIRRILY



Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road – flooding from South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event (late March 2022)



Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road – completed reconstruction works (November 2023)



Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road – pavement delamination from Southern Queensland Flooding event (May 2022)



Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road – black soil subgrade at Evanslea Floodway



Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road – reconstruction works (October 2023)



Condamine earless dragon (Credit: James Sparshott)