

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

April 2016

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Major General Richard Wilson AO (Ret'd)
Chairman
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Dear Major General Wilson

It is with pleasure that I present the April 2016 Monthly Report – the 62nd report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority).

The Authority was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (the Act) following the unprecedented natural disasters that struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11. The role of the Authority has since been extended a number of times to cover historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland. In June 2015, the Authority's operations were made permanent, enabling it to continue the work of helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

The Authority is charged with managing and coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our State and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.

Since the last report, the Authority has submitted Queensland's audited claim for NDRRA financial assistance in relation to the 2014-15 financial year. The claim acquitted more than \$1.6 billion of eligible expenditure and, when accepted by the Commonwealth, will secure more than \$1 billion of funding for the State. The claim was finalised following the close-out of more than 800 submissions, including the final submissions to conclude the massive 2011, 2012 and 2013 disaster periods.

With the next milestone nearing for completion of eligible works for 2014 events, the Authority is working with delivery agents to ensure delivery of relevant works by 30 June 2016, as well as progress delivery of the 2015 event program and provide advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation for the more recent 2016 events. To date, 33 local government areas through Queensland have been activated during the 2016 disaster season. Since the March report, an additional nine local government authorities (LGA) have been activated for NDRRA relief measures for two new disaster events - *Far North and North West Queensland Tropical Low, 14-18 March 2016* and *Western Queensland Trough, 7-11 March 2016*.

The April report is also provided following completion of the Authority's February 2016 review of damage estimates. The review is undertaken on a regular basis and involved a complete review of the active NDRRA program of each LGA and state agency. The review included recognition of the first, preliminary estimates for the 2016 events as well as updated estimates for the 2014 and 2015 events which are currently in the delivery and acquittal phases. Following lodgement of the 2014-15 Claims, the review also reflects the final eligible costs for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 event works that were completed by June 2015.

Following completion of the February 2016 estimates review, the Authority's active program of works for the 24 events from the 2014, 2015 and 2016 disaster periods in the delivery phase has been revised to \$970 million. Of this, \$735 million has been approved. Additional submissions worth \$74 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information. \$456 million (47%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to the Authority at 29 February 2016 as in progress or delivered.

During March, the Authority also continued to participate in consultations with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions in relation to potential natural disaster funding reforms. The Commonwealth is investigating a model to provide natural disaster recovery funding to states and territories based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs.

The April report highlights Douglas Shire Council's completion of its first reconstruction program since its de-amalgamation and recognition of both DTMR and Somerset Regional Council for excellence and innovation in delivery of their respective reconstruction programs.

I commend the report to you and recommend its release to the Minister and the public pursuant to Section 41 of the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011*.

Yours sincerely



Brendan Moon
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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Section one:
Introduction



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority) was established on 21 February 2011 under the *Queensland Reconstruction Act 2011* (the Act) following the extensive series of natural disasters that impacted Queensland over the summer of 2010-11.

The Authority's mission is **to reconnect, rebuild and improve Queensland communities and its economy.**

The Authority is charged with managing and coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our State and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.

Initially established for a two-year period, the Authority was extended a number of times as its role expanded to cover historical and continuing disaster events. In June 2015, the Authority was made permanent enabling it to continue the critical work of helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

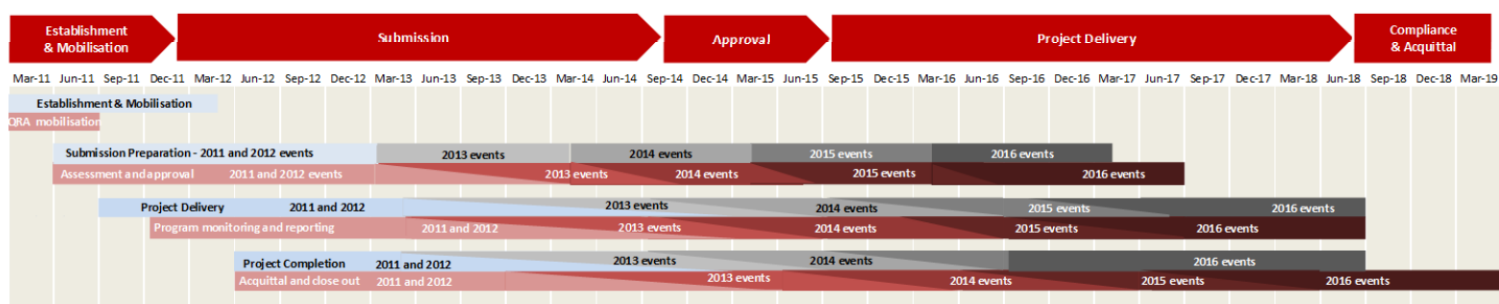
As part of its role, the Authority administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works, Restoration of Essential Public Assets, Category C and Category D assistance to State Departments and Agencies (SDA) and Local Government Authorities (LGA). Since its establishment in February 2011, the Authority has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 58 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

1.2 Timing

The Commonwealth NDRRA Determination imposes time limits for the delivery and acquittal of works.

The Determination provides for a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works and a further nine months after the end of the financial year in which the works were completed in order to acquit the works. NDRRA funding is formally acquitted through the annual submission of a financial statement to the Commonwealth comprising claims for financial assistance in respect of state NDRRA expenditure incurred on eligible disasters in the preceding financial year (Commonwealth Claim). Lodgement of Commonwealth Claims is required to secure reimbursement of the Commonwealth's share of eligible expenditure.

As the Authority is managing a series of events that occurred across a number of financial years, the Authority's program is spread across various stages in the delivery and acquittal phases.



Works for 24 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 event periods are currently in both the delivery and acquittal phases.

On 24 March 2016, the Authority submitted the audited claim for NDRRA financial assistance to acquit more than \$1.6 billion of eligible state expenditure arising on works completed by 20 June 2015 in relation to the 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 event programs of work.

With the next milestone nearing for completion of eligible works for 2014 events, the Authority is working with delivery agents to ensure delivery of relevant works by 30 June 2016, as well as progress delivery of the 2015 event program and provide advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation for the more recent 2016 events.

With the 2016 disaster season still underway, the Authority remains prepared to respond should additional disasters strike.

The Authority is also continuing to participate in consultations with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions in relation to potential natural disaster funding reforms. The Commonwealth is investigating a model to provide natural disaster recovery funding to states and territories based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs.

Section two:
Disaster Assistance

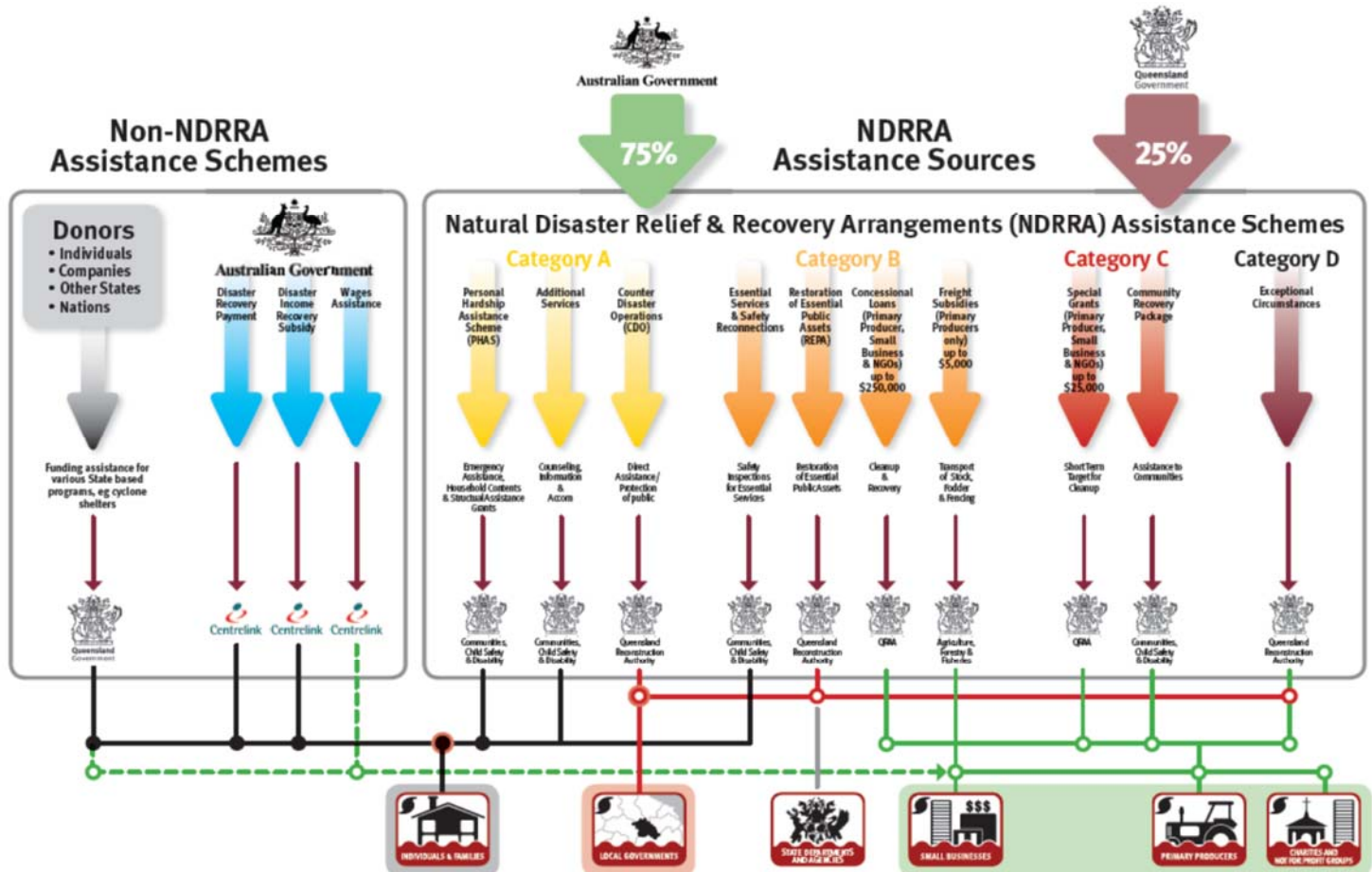


2.0 Disaster Assistance

2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework

The available Queensland Disaster Assistance schemes are separated between NDRRA (jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State governments) and Non-NDRRA funding schemes. The diagram below indicates the different elements of assistance available and how each element operates.

Figure 2.1.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework



Elements of the assistance schemes are delivered by State agencies, however all NDRRA assistance sources (and elements of the non-NDRRA assistance schemes) are administered by the Authority for historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland.

Disaster events managed by the Authority

The list of the activated disaster events managed by the Authority are set out in **Section 2.2** and can also be found on www.disaster.qld.gov.au.

This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

- **2016 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority occurring in the financial year ending **30 June 2016**
- **2015 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2015**
- **2014 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2014**
- **2013 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2013**, including Tropical Cyclone Oswald and associated rainfall and flooding (January 2013)
- **2012 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2012**
- **2011 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2011**, including Tropical Cyclone Yasi and Queensland flooding (December 2010 to February 2011).

2.2 Events and relief measures managed by the Authority

The Authority has responsibility to administer NDRRA relief measures for historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland.

Since its establishment in February 2011, the Authority has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 58 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, 34 events are complete, having been delivered, closed out and acquitted to the Commonwealth in audited claims.

Works for 24 disasters from the 2014 to 2016 event periods are currently in the delivery and acquittal phases¹.

The maps opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2011 to 2016 event periods managed by the Authority. Since the last report, the two most recent 2016 events have been activated for NDRRA relief measures.

2016 events

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2018, with final acquittal due by March 2019)

- Far North and North West Queensland Tropical Low, 14-18 March 2016
- Western Queensland Trough, 7-11 March 2016
- Central Coast Surface Trough, 4-8 February 2016
- Central Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall & Flooding, 2-4 February 2016
- Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough – 20-31 December 2015
- Fernvale Severe Storm, 27 October 2015.

2015 events

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2017, with final acquittal due by March 2018)

- South East Queensland Low, 30 April – 1 May 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Nathan and associated rainfall & flooding, 11-15 March 2015
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia and South East Queensland Trough - 19 to 22 February 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Lam, 15-18 February 2015
- North Queensland Severe Weather and Flooding - 8 to 15 February 2015
- Central Eastern Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding - 21 to 29 January 2015
- Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding - 5 to 18 January 2015
- Central Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding - 8 to 14 December 2014
- Brisbane Severe Thunderstorm - 27 December 2014.

2014 events

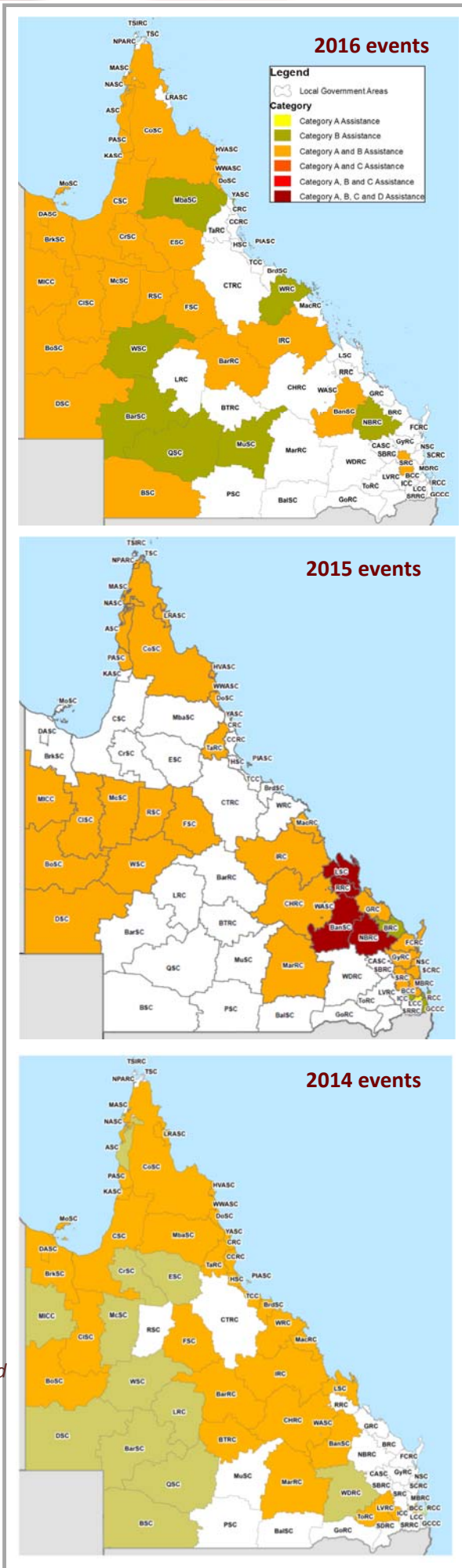
(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2016, with final acquittal due by March 2017)

- Tropical Cyclone Ita & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 11-14 April 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Gillian - 10 to 11 March 2014
- Central Coast & Southern Queensland Trough, 26-30 March 2014
- Central & Western Queensland Flooding & Rainfall, 18-28 February 2014
- North East Queensland Monsoonal Rainfall & Flooding - 7 to 9 February 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Fletcher, commencing 2 February 2014
- Far North Queensland Peninsula Flooding (27-31 January 2014)
- Tropical Cyclone Dylan, 31 January 2014
- North Stradbroke Island Fires, commencing 29 December 2013.

2013 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three projects that received extensions of time for delivery, with acquittal due by March 2017)

- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late October - December 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald and Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013
- Central & Southern Queensland Low, 25 February - 5 March 2013.



2.2 Events managed by the Authority (cont.)

2012 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- Queensland Bushfires, August to October 2011
- Localised Heavy Rainfall Northern Queensland, October 2011
- Southern Queensland Flooding, December to December 2011 #
- South East Queensland Heavy Rainfall and flooding, 23- 26 January 2012 #
- Western Queensland Tropical Low, January - February 2012 #
- Far Northern Queensland Tropical Low, 3-4 February 2012 #
- North Coast Queensland Storms and flooding and East Coast Hybrid Low, 24 February - 7 March 2012 #
- Northern & Far Northern Queensland Heavy Rainfall & flooding, 15 March 2012 #
- East Coast Low, 22 March 2012.

2011 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- South West Flooding, April 2011
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding Event, 28 February 2011
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on 2 February 2011
- Queensland Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Tasha and Anthony, December 2010 to February 2011 *.

2007-2010 events managed by the Authority

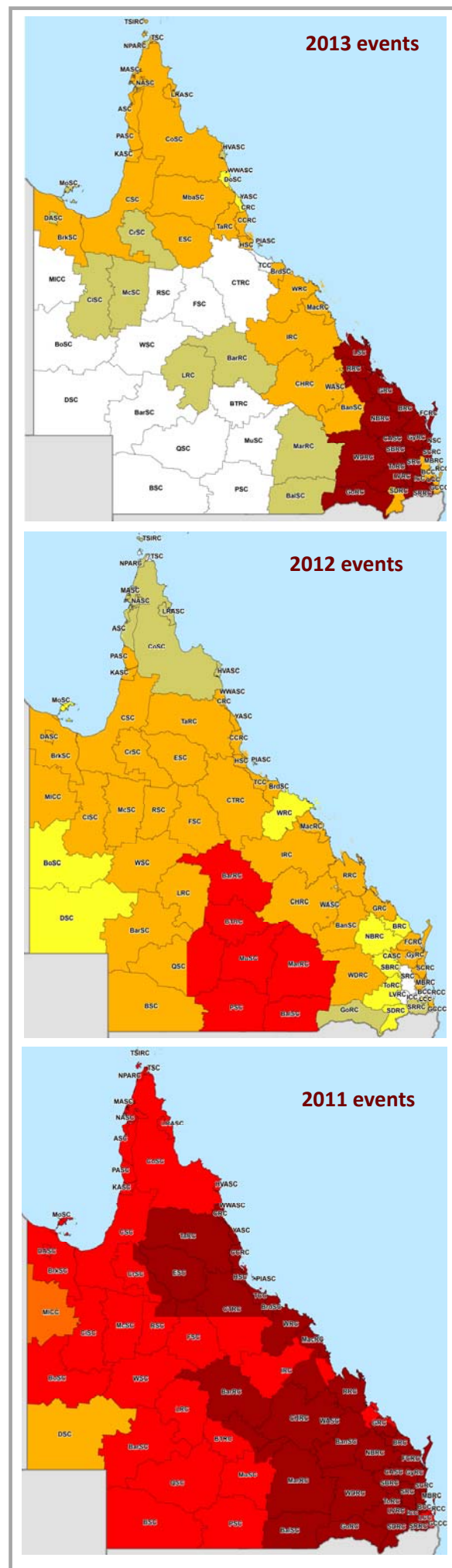
(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul, January to April 2010
- Northern, Central and South West Queensland Flooding, 22 December 2009 to 8 January 2010
- South West Flooding, 20 – 25 December 2009
- 2010 South East Queensland Flooding, 9-12 October 2010.
- Queensland Bushfires, September – October 2009
- South West Queensland Low and Associated Flooding, September 2010
- South East Queensland Low, May 2009
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding and Tropical Cyclone Charlotte and Ellie, January - February 2009
- Queensland storms and associated flooding, 16-22 December 2008
- South West Queensland flooding, June 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, February March 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, January 2008
- South East Queensland East Coast Low, 27 December 2007 - 7 January 2008
- Central Western Queensland storms and flooding, 22-30 December 2007
- South West Queensland storms and flooding, 23-30 December 2007
- South East and North Coast Queensland East Coast Low, August 2007.

1. The NDRRA Determination imposes a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works (delivery phase) and a further nine months after the end of the financial year in which the works were completed to acquit the works (acquittal phase). Acquittal occurs through lodgement of an annual claim to the Commonwealth and is required to secure reimbursement of the Commonwealth's share of eligible expenditure.

Event includes works that received extension of time for delivery to 31 December 2014. All other 2012 events have completed delivery and acquittal phases.

* Event includes works that received extension of time for delivery to 30 June 2015. All other 2011 events have completed delivery and acquittal phases.



2.3 Additional assistance measures

The State Government in conjunction with the Commonwealth have activated a range of jointly-funded Category C, Category D and other relief measures to alleviate distress due to the impact of the 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2011 events.

Measures relevant to the 2014, and 2015 events that are still in the delivery and acquittal phase are summarised as follows:

2015 events (Tropical Cyclone Marcia)

- **Betterment fund - \$20 million** - available for the restoration or replacement of non-State owned assets to a more disaster resilient standard than their pre-disaster standard. The intent of betterment is to increase the resilience of communities to natural disasters, while at the same time reducing future expenditure on asset restoration, reducing incidents, injuries and fatalities and improving asset utility during and after disaster events.
- **Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets - \$6 million** - funding to clean-up and repair damaged community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities.
- **Green waste clean-up - \$1 million** - assist LGAs in the most heavily impacted areas of Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana and North Burnett with the costs of extensive green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses.
- **Industry Recovery Officers - \$750,000** - Placement of Industry Recovery Officers to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas.
- **Community Recovery Package (Category C) - \$5.1 million** - Funding to engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in the local government areas of Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone.

2014 events

- **\$1.6 million** funding for the additional costs incurred by Cook Shire Council for disaster reconstruction work on the Peninsula Road Network.

Other active Category D measures

- The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to an extended **Day Labour** Trial for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 events which enables councils to deliver restoration works with their own workforce on condition that they provide evidence of savings in both time and cost
- Three projects funded under the **\$80 million Category D Betterment fund** in relation to **2013 Events** received extensions of time for delivery beyond 30 June 2015.

Section three:

Program Status



3.0 Program Status

3.1 Recent developments

On 24 March 2016, the Authority submitted Queensland’s audited claim for NDRRA financial assistance in relation to the 2014-15 financial year. The claim acquitted more than \$1.6 billion of eligible expenditure and, when accepted by the Commonwealth, will secure more than \$1 billion of funding for the State. The claim included the final submissions to conclude the massive 2011, 2012 and 2013 disaster periods.

With the next milestone nearing for completion of eligible works for 2014 events, the Authority is working with delivery agents to ensure delivery of relevant works by 30 June 2016, as well as progress delivery of the 2015 event and more recent 2016 event programs into and through the delivery phase. During March, an additional nine LGAs have been activated for NDRRA relief measures for two new disaster events.

Since the last report, the Authority has also completed its regular review of damage estimates. The review involved a complete review of the active NDRRA program of each LGA and state agency at 29 February 2016 as in progress or delivered. The review included recognition of the first, preliminary estimates for the 2016 events as well as updated estimates for the 2014 and 2015 events which are currently in the delivery and acquittal phases. Following lodgement of the 2014-15 Claims, the review also reflects the final eligible costs for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 event works that were completed by June 2015. Further details are provided below.

3.2 Program status

Following the February 2016 NDRRA estimates review, the value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by the Authority since its establishment is estimated to be \$13.3 billion. Of this, \$12.3 billion of works from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012 and 2013 Events have been finalised (delivered and acquitted) with the remaining works for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 event years in the delivery and acquittal phases.

The Authority is actively managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$970 million for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 Events, which are due for completion by 30 June 2016, 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018 respectively (**Delivery Program**). Of this, \$813 million is yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth (**Acquittal Program**).

Delivery Program status

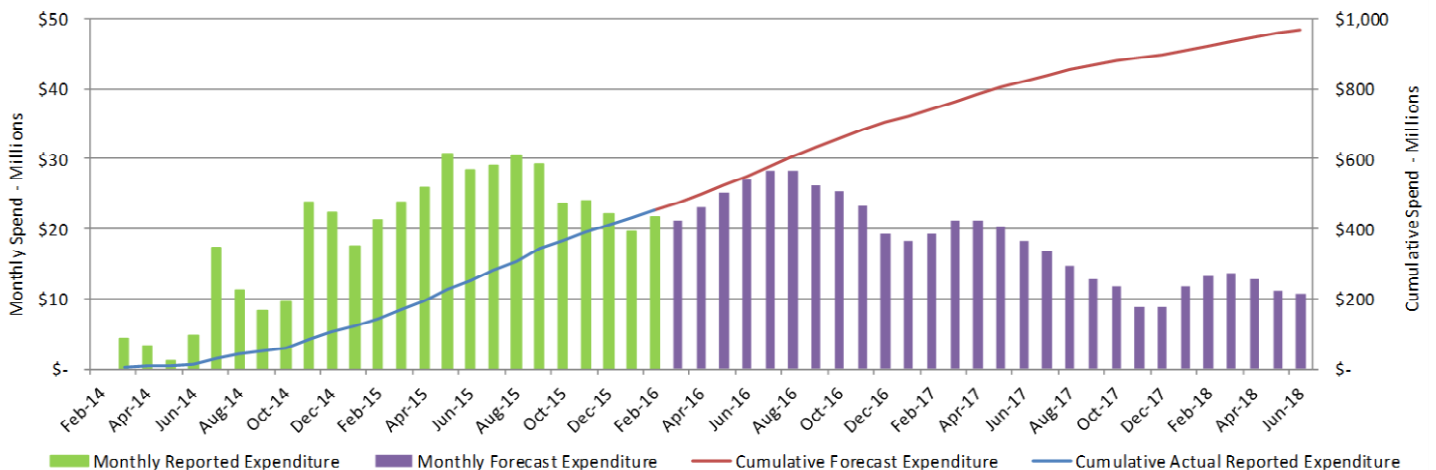
Since the last report, the Authority’s program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$1.0 billion in submissions have been received in relation to the Delivery Program, an increase of \$25 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$735 million has been approved, an increase of \$17 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$74 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$456 million (47%) of the Delivery Program has been reported to the Authority at 29 February 2016 as in progress or delivered.

The 2014, 2015 and 2016 Event works are due for completion by 30 June 2016, 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018 respectively.

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecasted monthly costs to completion at 29 February 2016 on a combined basis for the Delivery Program (2014, 2015 and 2016 Events).

Delivery Program (2014 to 2016 Events) progress



(Source: The Authority, 29 February 2016)

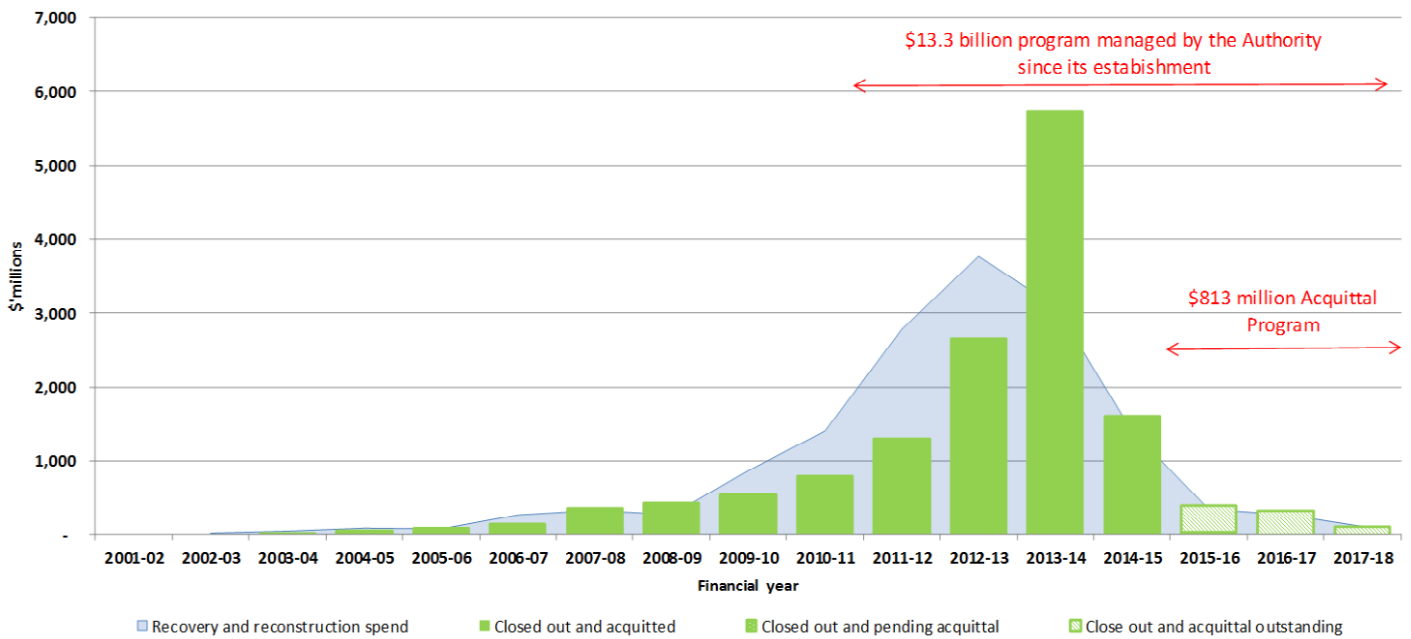
3.2 Program status (cont.)

Acquittal Program status

The 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim was submitted to the Commonwealth on 24 March 2016. The claim acquitted \$1.6 billion of works completed in the year ended 30 June 2015. On acceptance by the Commonwealth, the claim will secure approximately \$1.1 billion of funding to the State.

The next Claim is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2017 to acquit works completed up to 30 June 2016. On receipt of claim documentation from delivery agents, the Authority will progressively close-out submissions for the Claim through to December 2016 prior to audit review in early 2017. The Claim will include final works from the 2014 events and those components of the 2015 and 2016 works that were completed by June 2016.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2014-15 financial years and Commonwealth Claims preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2015-16 to 2017-18 in order to finalise acquittal of the \$813 million remaining in the Acquittal Program.



(Source: The Authority, 31 March 2016)

3.3 State-controlled roads and highways

DTMR is managing the recovery and reconstruction works of Queensland's integrated transport system for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 event works currently in the delivery phase through its Program Delivery and Operations Branch.

The transport system includes state-controlled roads, ports, navigation aids and the rail network.

Current status

- Reconstruction on all 102 recovery and reconstruction projects in the 2014 events program was completed in December 2015, six months ahead of the funding deadline. Works included 214km of road construction, repairs to 52 structures including bridges and culverts, and 56 locations requiring earthworks and batter repairs.
- Of the 112km of roads that DTMR is forecast to reconstruct following 2015 events, 22km of works have been completed and a further 69km is under construction on active works contracts. The remaining road reconstruction projects are in design and procurement. During February, construction started on eight projects, including works on the Kennedy Highway in Far North District and Baralaba-Rannes Road in Fitzroy District.
- DTMR is currently targeting to complete the majority of 2015 event works on State-controlled roads and highways by 31 December 2016, six months before the funding deadline (weather permitting).
- DTMR districts are currently commencing the assessment of damage to the state road network from the 2016 events and will undertake emergent works where required. Close to 5000km of Queensland's state road network has been closed or had limited access as a result of the 2016 disaster events to date.

(Source: DTMR, 29 February 2016)

3.4 Additional assistance measures

2013 and 2015 Event Betterment Funds

The \$80 million 2013 Event Betterment fund and \$20 million 2015 Event Betterment fund are Category D relief measures available to those LGAs declared for NDRRA assistance as a result of the 2013 cyclone and flood events and for Tropical Cyclone Marcia respectively. Betterment funding is available for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster.

Where a damaged asset is approved for betterment, the normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard is funded under Category B NDRRA and the incremental cost to 'better' the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard is funded by a capped allocation from the relevant Betterment fund and Council contributions.

Betterment funding is allocated on the basis of the estimated cost of the approved projects. Should the betterment component of a project be delivered for a cost below the capped allocation, then the savings will be returned to the Betterment fund for allocation to other eligible projects, where possible. The current status of the 2013 and 2015 Event Betterment Funds is summarised as follows:

| 2013 Event Betterment Fund | 2015 Event Betterment Fund |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2013 Event Betterment Fund was allocated to 232 approved projects across 35 LGAs to improve the resilience of infrastructure to natural disasters following the 2013 events. Betterment projects include improved bridges, floodways, culverts, levees, water treatment plants and numerous roads across Queensland. All works were completed by the deadline of 30 June 2015 other than three betterment projects, which received extensions of time due to excessive rainfall and other factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aroona Road (Central Highlands) Boolburra Edungalba Road (Central Highlands) Booyal Crossing Road (Bundaberg) (since completed). On completion, the total cost of all 2013 Event betterment projects is estimated to be \$150 million, of which \$76 million will have been funded from the 2013 Event Betterment fund. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received for 190 projects across eight LGAs eligible for 2015 Event Betterment funding. The proposed projects principally comprise works to increase the resilience of damaged roads, culverts and floodways. Projects are being progressively prioritised to allocate the available pool of funding. Submissions for 127 projects have been received by the Authority to 31 March 2016. Of these, 34 submissions with a total project value of \$32.8 million, including \$15.2 million betterment funding, have been approved. One project was approved during March 2016—Emerys Bridge Road (Fraser Coast Regional Council). Delivery of 2015 betterment works will be required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements. |

Other 2015 Event special funding packages

| Package | Purpose | Status |
|--|---|---|
| Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (\$6 million) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Authority received EOIs from seven applicants for more than \$16 million Nine submissions worth \$6 million have been approved across the seven applicants fully allocating the program funding. |
| Green waste clean-up (\$1 million) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Authority received EOIs for more than \$1.7 million from three of the four LGAs eligible for funding allocation applicants Five submissions worth \$1 million have since been approved across the three applicants, fully allocating the program funding. |
| Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) appointed the Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF) to manage the IRO program, with IRO officers located with Growcom, Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation, Ag-Force and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland IROs are working directly with affected primary producers to better manage business risks associated with climate variability. |
| Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million Category C) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone LGAs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) Livingstone, Gladstone, North Burnett and Banana councils and Rockhampton Uniting Care Community have commenced delivery of Community Development and Personal Support & General Counselling programs across each of the five affected communities. Relationships Australia and Uniting Care Community are delivering Personal Support and General Counselling services, undertaken stakeholder and community engagement. |

(Source: The Authority, DCCSDS and DAF; 31 March 2016)

3.5 Program spotlights

Douglas Shire Council

Completion of first reconstruction program since de-amalgamation

Douglas Shire Council managed a number of challenges as it completed its first reconstruction program since it was de-amalgamated from Cairns Regional Council on 1 January 2014.

Not only was the 2014 reconstruction program Council's first, it also doubled as the largest capital works program since de-amalgamation comprising a program of works with an estimated value of more than \$22 million, .

Council also needed to strike the right balance between managing the reconstruction program and protecting the tourism industry throughout the region.

Council Mayor Julie Leu said tourism was the lynchpin of the economy for the region. "This region is promoted nationally and internationally as where the *Rainforest Meets the Reef*. Mossman Gorge, the Daintree Rainforest and Cape Tribulation are the *Rainforest* in this slogan hence Council's desire to minimise impacts to the visitor experience," Ms Leu said.

"This needed to be balanced with the need to demonstrate we were capable of delivering a relatively significant capital works program – not just in managing the construction elements, but in offering value for money, record keeping and acquitting the funds, whilst maintaining a functioning road network and reducing the impact on road users. We estimate that for over two-thirds of the NDRRA program, work methods or the timing of the works were amended to reduce the impact on the visitor experiences."

Cr Leu said Council engaged heavily with key stakeholders on the delivery of the program. "The NDRRA Project Engineer and NDRRA Traffic Officer regularly met with transport providers, Downunder Tours, Billy Tea Safaris, Tourism Port Douglas Daintree, Daintree Marketing Cooperative and also the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation.



Landslip stabilisation work completed on Upper Daintree Road, adjacent to the Daintree River.



During repairs to Noah's Creek Bridge, temporary scaffolding was erected to protect the World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest.

"With each of these meetings, we provided an overview of works, a list of roads being affected and ran through what measures Council had already taken to minimise impacts and the proposed means of communication throughout the program," Cr Leu said. "We sought feedback and made adjustments where relevant. We also compiled a database of 129 people, covering tourism, residents, industry, government agencies and emailed regular updates to keep people apprised of changed traffic conditions."

Cr Leu said visitor movements had to be considered for reconstruction works in areas such as the Mossman Gorge, Daintree Village, Whyanbeel Valley and the communities north of the Daintree River including Cow Bay, Diwan and Cape Tribulation.

"The latter presented one of the greatest challenges because of the quantity of trucks required to haul gravel for the Bloomfield Track repairs. There is only one way to get the gravel in and that's via the ferry. Contractors looked at hauling the gravel at night but the cost was considerably higher because of double handling material (quarry could only operate between 6am and 6pm), penalty rates and a surcharge in operating the ferry out of hours."

"The balance between ensuring Council was managing the contract to achieve value for money and protecting the tourism industry – the shire's most significant industry - wasn't easy. To alleviate impacts, contractors dropped the number of trucks during both school holiday periods. The tourism industry would have liked fewer trucks but the contractor had to ensure sufficient gravel was available for work to continue efficiently."

"Council saw the 2014 NDRRA program as our Council's chance to get some important runs on the board. Douglas Shire Council wants its aptitude to be judged on outcomes, not inferred by its small size," she said.

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

Somerset Regional Council

Recognised for collaboration in delivery of NDRRA program

Somerset Regional Council's engineering and works team, together with engineering consultants GHD, received top honours in the collaboration award category of the Consult Australia Awards for Excellence dinner recently for flood reconstruction works across the region.

The award specifically recognises the combined effort of Council and GHD towards delivering the NDRRA Somerset Regional Council Flood Recovery Assistance Program.

Somerset Regional Council Mayor Graeme Lehmann congratulated the team effort by Council engineers and its consultants in receiving the award. "This national award celebrates excellence and outstanding achievements by Consult Australia's member firms and Council is very proud to be recognised for its efforts over the years," Mr Lehmann said.

"This award specifically recognises the collaborative approach by Council and GHD in completing restoration work of more than \$150 million to essential public assets following the 2011 and 2013 flood events in Somerset.



Somerset Regional Council and GHD technical staff with the award

"The scale of the events and the need to restore vital road links, including bridges to reconnect isolated communities, was an immediate priority and this award recognises the combined effort of Council and GHD in achieving these types of priorities during the flood events."

Cr Lehmann said the award recognised Council's management of the flood disaster and implementation of providing value for money projects locally and using Council's existing resources and staff, wherever possible, to undertake repair works.

"I congratulate the Council team and GHD on their excellent teamwork and forward thinking, which has resulted in Council receiving this award," he said.



Above: The Ted Skinner Crossing Esk Crows Nest Road pictured before reconstruction and after completed project works

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

DTMR

Toowoomba Range reconstruction project wins industry recognition

One of the most complex projects in DTMR's Transport Network Reconstruction Program has been recognised by industry for its innovative approach.

Subcontractor Boral won the Outstanding Project of the Year Award for the Toowoomba Range Realignment Project in the 2015 Australian Asphalt Pavement Association (AAPA) National Awards. Boral worked with contractor Seymour Whyte Constructions to deliver the project for DTMR.

Following the 2011 floods, the Toowoomba Range was closed to traffic for three days while rocks and other debris were cleared away.

Slopes above the existing down lanes required significant repairs, which would have disrupted traffic over a long period.

Instead of purely repairing damage, a decision was made to build a new 1.2-kilometre section, enabling the team to minimise traffic disruptions during construction.

The new alignment also eliminated tight curves on the old section, which had added to the risk of heavy vehicles rolling over.

This safety issue was addressed by building the new section on a straighter alignment with emergency ramps for heavy vehicles on the left and right sides.

The team overcame significant obstacles to successfully deliver the project, including steep incline and embankments, night work due to significant traffic volumes and low temperatures, which impacted asphalt mixes and laying procedures.

The project was funded through eligible NDRRA funding and additional complementary funding contributed by DTMR.

The Toowoomba Range is a key travel and freight route that carries 23,000 vehicles each day, of which 21 per cent are heavy vehicles.



Completed works on Toowoomba Range – eastbound section



Toowoomba Range – during project works

Section four: Communications



4.0 Communications

The Authority is focused on building stakeholder confidence in the reconstruction by ensuring consistent and regular communication of public information.

4.1 Communicating progress

Media analysis

There has been a total of 141 media items in March 2016 (83 print – 59%, 20 TV – 14%, 102 radio – 27%), which reached a cumulative audience of 2.4 million people, focussing on the announcement of new Betterment projects for communities rebuilding, following Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

There were also media mentions for regions recovering from other natural disaster events, including articles in The Atherton Tablelander, The Australian, Australian Financial Review, Burdekin Advocate, Cairns Post, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, The Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Warwick Daily News, Fassifern Guardian, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone Observer, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, Innisfail Advocate, Kilcoy Sentinel, Longreach Leader, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, North Queensland Register, Oakey Champion, Queensland Times, Central Queensland Rural Weekly, Southern Free Times, The Somerset, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin, Townsville Sun, Tully Times and the Cairns Weekend Post; TV coverage on the ABC, WIN, Seven and Nine networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4CA Cairns, 4RO Rockhampton, Hot Tomato Gold Coast and SEA FM Rockhampton.

Joint State and Commonwealth announcements of projects approved under the NDRRA Category D 2015 Betterment Fund for Somerset and Livingstone Shire Councils received coverage in the Kilcoy Sentinel; The Somerset and the Capricorn Coast Mirror; and radio coverage on SEA FM Rockhampton and ABC Capricornia.

Engagement

On 30 March 2016, **Queensland Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad** and **Authority Acting Chief Executive Officer Brendan Moon** visited Rockhampton Regional Council and Livingstone Shire Council as part of the Working Queensland Cabinet Committee Meeting, where work has started on the Yeppoon Foreshore redevelopment.

Communications

The Authority keeps its stakeholders and the community informed and ensures access to the latest information regarding the reconstruction effort through its website, phone hotline and management of correspondence.

The Authority's website is regularly updated, including information about progress on Betterment projects and current recovery efforts. There has been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 31 March 2016, total website visits amounted to 491,573 – a 0.5 per cent increase since last month. *(See Figure 5.1.1)*

In March, the Authority received an additional 27 calls to its dedicated hotline and managed 346 pieces of written correspondence. *(See Figure 5.1.2)*

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

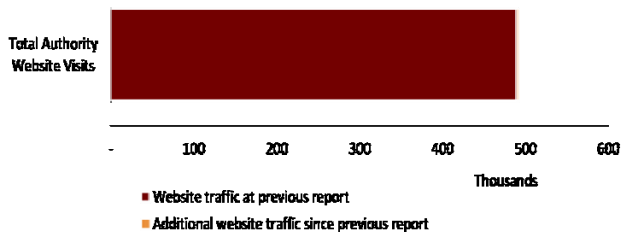
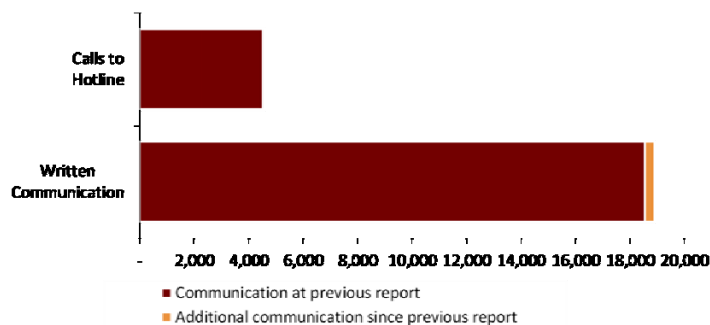


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



Source: the Authority at 31 March 2016

Trad visits to turn car park sod

\$10 million dollar project will provide around 320 parking spaces for CBD

DEPUTY Premier and Minister for Infrastructure Jackie Trad joined Livingstone Shire Mayor Bill Ludwig for the official sod turning of the \$10 million first stage of the Yeppoon multi-level car park today.

Ms Trad said the 320 space car park, on the corner of Queen and Barry Streets, would play a pivotal role in paving the way for the next major stages of the Yeppoon Foreshore and Town Centre revitalisation and support up to 150 jobs during construction.

"A little more than a year ago, I witnessed first-hand the devastation caused by

Tropical Cyclone Marcia across the Queensland coast," Ms Trad said.

"At that time, the Queensland Government established a \$40 million Special Assistance Package to assist the community recovery in both Yeppoon and Rockhampton, of which \$25 million over two years has been allocated to the Yeppoon Foreshore and Town Centre revitalisation project.

"This \$25 million will help deliver the multi-level car park, road realignment of Appleton Drive, Barry Street and Queen Street, a water park precinct which will include a pool, kiosk, and landscaping, as well as a wall to protect the foreshore and timber boardwalk.

"I am delighted to be back in Yeppoon to see work on the car park now under way," Ms Trad said.

"I look forward to seeing the full benefits of this redevelopment become a reality for residents, visitors and the wider community."

Mayor Bill Ludwig said the car park was a key infrastructure project that would play a pivotal role in paving the way for the next major stages of the Yeppoon Foreshore and Town Centre Master Plan.

"Fully fitted out, the approximately \$10 million dollar project will also incorporate arcade and laneway connectivity to both the foreshore and the town centre," Cr Ludwig said.

"This first stage will also feature a new state-of-the-art car wash and additional retail options while future stages will deliver another 260 car parks and two levels of potential future conference facilities.

"I must commend both the State and Federal Governments who have contributed 56% and 22% respectively to partner with Livingstone Council to deliver the project.

"It's partnerships like this that will grow our region's economy and generate long-term jobs and private sector investment.

"Council has also put a

strong focus on ensuring this project is creating local jobs for local people with around 150 jobs generated in the construction phase alone."



HUGE PROJECT: Deputy Premier Jackie Trad is in Yeppoon today for the official sod turning of the \$10 million first stage of the Yeppoon multi-level car park.

PHOTO: MIKE RICHARDS GLA01026ROAD

Wellington welcomes falls re-opening

MEMBER for Nicklin Peter Wellington MP said he welcomed the recent re-opening in relation to the Mapleton Falls Lookout and a section of the walking track at Kondalilla Falls National Park.

Mr Wellington said that his community had been patiently awaiting the re-opening of these significant tourist attractions since 2015.

"I was pleased to hear that the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing had reopened the Kondalilla Falls Circuit," he said.

"In earlier advice to me, the Minister had indicated that there was a delay due to the significant safety risk to visitors.

Nambour Weekly, 10 March

Somerset builds back better after Marcia

Minister for Justice Michael Keenan and Queensland Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad this week announced \$900,000 for vital infrastructure projects in Somerset under the joint Commonwealth-Queensland Betterment Fund.

Minister Keenan said the \$20 million Betterment Fund was established in response to Tropical Cyclone Marcia and is provided under Category D of the

jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

"The Somerset Regional Council has secured almost \$900,000 in Betterment funding to upgrade the Monsildale Bridge from timber to concrete, and improve Mt Kilcoy, Rasmussen, Sandy Creek, School and Winya Roads," Mr Keenan said.

"This funding will ensure Council has the resources it needs to rebuild the Monsildale Bridge and local road network to a stronger and more resilient standard and help the local community withstand the impacts of any future disasters.

"It will also ensure residents who rely on these local roads have improved access to their properties, schools, shops, supplies and emergency services during and after major rainfall and flood events."

Minister Trad said the Monsildale Bridge, allocated \$700,000 of the funding, was a vital piece of infrastructure for the community.

"The Monsildale Bridge provides the most direct access for residents

to vital community services in Monsildale and Kilcoy, and is the only heavy-vehicle link between the Monsildale beef area and the beef markets," Ms Trad said.

"The Monsildale area produces more than 3,600 head of cattle every year, injecting approximately \$4.5 million annually into the local economy.

"These cattle need to be transported, so it's vital the Monsildale Bridge remains functional, even in the event of severe weather."

"The bridge suffered extensive damage during Tropical Cyclone Marcia, including the seal being stripped from the approaches, scouring and the timber abutments being washed away."

Somerset Regional Council Mayor Graeme Lehmann said Council was pleased to be receiving Betterment funding to make the region more resilient to flooding.

"Unfortunately due to the geographical nature of our region we are prone to flooding and have been tested many times in recent

years," Cr Lehmann said.

"Being able to upgrade our infrastructure to a stronger and more disaster resilient standard is a major bonus for us as a Council and should allow the community to get back to normal sooner after flooding events."

Kilcoy Sentinel, 3 March

Capricorn Coast Mirror, 30 March

Mayor shares plan for upcoming term

THE overwhelming vote was both a resounding mandate for the council moving forward and, importantly, an affirmation for the admirable job the council has done in establishing an independent shire and positioning the community to realise our amazing potential, says Mayor Bill Ludwig.

"De-amalgamation both restored Livingstone's independence and has allowed us to once again play a pivotal role in facilitating growth and investment in our region," Cr Ludwig said.

"From major projects like the Yeppoon Foreshore and Emu Park Centenary of Anzac to more effective and efficient council service delivery, Livingstone is moving ahead in leaps.

"Our region's opportunities vastly outweigh the challenges we face in overcoming the current economic downturn, however it will take a united regional approach to grow and diversify the region's economy."

Cr Ludwig said securing state and federal support for projects like Rookwood Weir to grow the agricultural and industry base, as well as establishing a fully functioning international airport as part of an integrated tourism and export network were key to any regional strategy.

"Livingstone has been one of the most effective local governments when it comes to securing critical state and federal infrastructure funding," he said.

"Equally important has been our ability to work effectively in partnership with the private sector to facilitate investment, value-add and capitalise on that state and federal support.

"To realise a vision and the full potential of our region will require a collaborative effort across council boundaries, and the putting aside of party political self-interest.

"This will be the collective responsibility of both our elected representatives and the entire community, who must hold us to account if we fail in our duty to work together constructively for the collective good.

"My continuing commitment will be to provide the focus and direction needed to keep our positive momentum going," Cr Ludwig said.



Mayor Bill Ludwig. PHOTO: CHRIS ROK180915CAMEDIA

PRIORITY PROJECTS

- Yeppoon Foreshore Revitalisation (stages four and five)
- Emu Park Centenary of Anzac and Commemorative Boardwalk (stages two and three)
- Yeppoon multi-level car park
- Barmaryee and Emu Park multi-sports complexes
- Statue Bay Scenic Hwy reconstruction and upgrade
- Panorama Dr
- Shire-wide upgrading of parklands and playgrounds, including Byfield, Glenlee and Olive Estate
- Rural road networks and black-spot upgrades
- Improved recreational fishing facilities
- Improved high-speed internet
- Truck infrastructure
- Advancing GKI and Iwasaki developments

Capricorn Coast Mirror, 30 March

Neumann welcomes funding to improve Somerset flood resilience

Member for Blair, Shayne Neumann has welcomed funding of \$900,000 to improve the reliance of vital Somerset Region infrastructure to natural disasters.

Funding has been made available under the joint Commonwealth-Queensland Betterment Fund to upgrade the Monsildale Bridge from timber to concrete and to improve Mt Kilcoy, Rasmussen, Sandy Creek, School and Winya Roads. The Commonwealth-Queensland Better Fund was established after Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015.

"We saw large parts of the Somerset Region devastated by flooding in 2011 and 2013 and the Kilcoy area flooded again in 2015 by Tropical Cyclone Marcia," Mr Neumann said.

"The Monsildale Bridge suffered significant damage during that 2015 flooding and I am pleased this funding will strengthen the bridge's resilience to natural disasters in the future.

"This funding will improve the safety of local people and emergency service workers during major flooding events and will help the community recover more quickly once flood waters fall.

"I welcome this investment in the Blair electorate."

Kilcoy Sentinel, 3 March

Key projects give economic boost

WITH several major projects underway on the Capricorn Coast, Livingstone Shire Council said local businesses would reap the benefits with tourist and visitor numbers set to increase.

Livingstone Shire Council Mayor Bill Ludwig said council's strategies to rebuild the shire and the local economy was coming to fruition.

"Between JM Kelly's fantastic work on the Keppel Kraken, Griffin Builders winning the multi-million tender to construct Yeppoon's multi-level carpark and the dozens of local contractors currently working on both the Barmaryee Multisport Precinct and Stage 2 of the Emu Park Centenary of Anzac project, council is helping create local jobs," Cr Ludwig said.

Deputy Mayor and Chairman of Capricorn Enterprise Cr Graham Scott said council's major projects would not only benefit our local trades through the construction phase, they would also, when complete, generate

the long-term jobs and economic boost the Capricorn Coast and our shire needs.

"This is just the beginning, with even more major projects on the horizon such as the Scenic Highway reconstruction and Yeppoon and Emu Park foreshore developments," Cr Scott said.

Sam Milfull from Yeppoon-based ASM Builders is just one of the many local companies benefiting from council's investment in economic development.

"We've been working on the Barmaryee Multisport Precinct since January building the new multipurpose amenities block with both our staff and sub-contractors on the job," Mr Milfull said.

"As the project continues to ramp up, the level of local engagement will only increase.

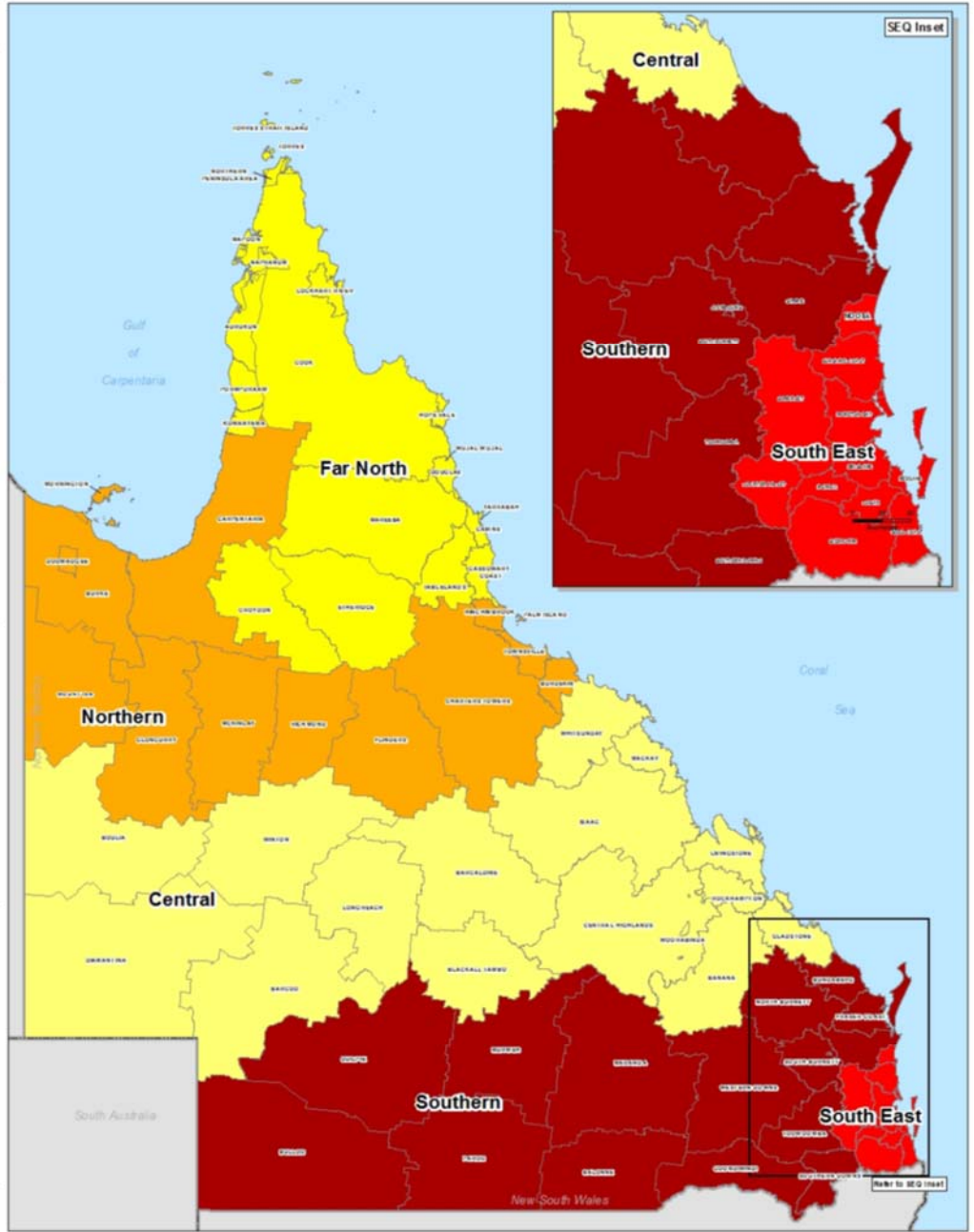
"I'm very appreciative council made the decision to award the project to a local building contractor, which in turn helps create opportunities for local contractors and suppliers."

Capricorn Coast Mirror, 2 March

Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

| Region | Local Government Areas (LGA's) | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Far North Queensland (FNQ) | ASC | Aurukun Shire Council | |
| | CRG | Cairns Regional Council | |
| | CCRC | Cassowary Coast Regional Council | |
| | CoSC | Cook Shire Council | |
| | CfSC | Croydon Shire Council | |
| | DSC | Douglas Shire Council | |
| | ESC | Etheridge Shire Council | |
| | HVASC | Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| | KASC | Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| | LRASC | Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| | MASC | Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| | MbaSC | Mareeba Shire Council | |
| | NASC | Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| | NPARC | Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council | |
| | PASC | Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| | TRC | Tablelands Regional Council | |
| | TSC | Torres Shire Council | |
| | TSIRC | Torres Strait Island Regional Council | |
| | WWASC | Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| | YASC | Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| North Queensland (NQ) | BrdSC | Burdekin Shire Council | |
| | BrkSC | Burke Shire Council | |
| | CSC | Carpentaria Shire Council | |
| | CTRC | Charters Towers Regional Council | |
| | CISC | Cloncurry Shire Council | |
| | DASC | Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| | FSC | Flinders Shire Council | |
| | HSC | Hinchinbrook Shire Council | |
| | McSC | McKinlay Shire Council | |
| | MoSC | Mornington Shire Council | |
| | MICC | Mount Isa City Council | |
| | PIASC | Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| | RSC | Richmond Shire Council | |
| | TCC | Townsville City Council | |
| | Central Queensland (CQ) | BanSC | Banana Shire Council |
| | | BarRC | Barcaldine Regional Council |
| BarSC | | Barcoo Shire Council | |
| BTRC | | Blackall-Tambo Regional Council | |
| BOSC | | Boulia Shire Council | |
| CHRC | | Central Highlands Regional Council | |
| DSC | | Diamantina Shire Council | |
| GSC | | Gladstone Regional Council | |
| IRC | | Isaac Regional Council | |
| LSC | | Livingstone Shire Council | |
| LRC | | Longreach Regional Council | |
| MacRC | | Mackay Regional Council | |
| RRC | | Rockhampton Regional Council | |
| WRC | | Whitsunday Regional Council | |
| WSC | | Winton Shire Council | |
| WASC | | Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| Southern Queensland (SQ) | | BaSC | Balonne Shire Council |
| | | BSC | Bulloo Shire Council |
| | BRC | Bundaberg Regional Council | |
| | CASC | Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council | |
| | FCRC | Fraser Coast Regional Council | |
| | GoRC | Goondiwindi Regional Council | |
| | GRC | Gympie Regional Council | |
| | MarRC | Maranoa Regional Council | |
| | MuSC | Murweh Shire Council | |
| | NBRC | North Burnett Regional Council | |
| | PSC | Paroo Shire Council | |
| | QSC | Quilpie Shire Council | |
| | SBRC | South Burnett Regional Council | |
| | SDRC | Southern Downs Regional Council | |
| ToRC | Toowoomba Regional Council | | |
| WDR | Western Downs Regional Council | | |
| South East Queensland (SEQ) | BCC | Brisbane City Council | |
| | GCCC | Gold Coast City Council | |
| | ICC | Ipswich City Council | |
| | LVRC | Lockyer Valley Regional Council | |
| | LCC | Logan City Council | |
| | MBRC | Moreton Bay Regional Council | |
| | NSC | Noosa Shire Council | |
| | RCC | Redland City Council | |
| | SRRC | Scenic Rim Regional Council | |
| | SRC | Somerset Regional Council | |
| SCRC | Sunshine Coast Regional Council | | |



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Queensland Reconstruction Authority

**Local Government Areas
and QldRA Reporting Regions**

Scale at A4: 1:6,700,000

Legend

- Far North Queensland
- North Queensland
- Central Queensland
- Southern Queensland
- South East Queensland
- Local Government Areas

As at 5/02/2014

