QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

December 2015

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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 December 2015 Monthly Report – the 58th 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 which 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.

The December report provides an update on the progress of recovery. The Authority is currently assisting delivery agents to progress the 2014 and 2015 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases. With drought conditions impacting much of the State, the Authority is also working with affected councils to address water shortage issues and, where required, prepare extension of time requests to the Commonwealth where water shortages are likely to impact their completion of 2014 events works by the deadline of 30 June 2016.

The Authority has also recently been actively engaged with councils and disaster management groups at local and district level in preparing for the 2015-16 disaster season. To date, the Authority has undertaken 12 disaster preparedness seminars with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Bureau of Meteorology.

In relation to the \$833 million of works from the 2014 and 2015 events in the delivery phase, \$647 million has been approved, representing an increase of \$35 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$100 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information. \$364 million (44%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to the Authority at 31 October 2015 as in progress or delivered.

The Authority is also finalising eligibility assessments to close out the 2013 events and other works completed by 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in March 2016.

Highlighting the challenges of drought conditions, the December report profiles how Carpentaria Shire Council has overcome water shortages from traditional supplies by drilling more than 600 metres below surface level to successfully access bore water. The report also profiles how Mornington Island's recent reconstruction program has provided multiple long-term benefits for the local Indigenous community and, as the State heads into the 2015-16 summer 'disaster season', the December report also reports on how the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) is ensuring the highest level of readiness for the coming severe weather season, with the rollout of its annual statewide preparedness program.

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.

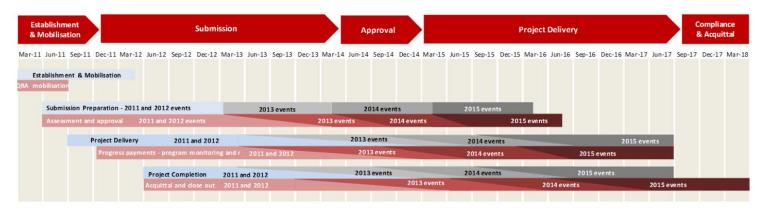
As part of its role, the Authority administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works Restoration of Essential Public Assets, Category C and Category D assistance to both State Departments and Agencies and Local Government Authorities. Since its establishment in February 2011, the Authority has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 54 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 a compilation of 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 18 disasters from the 2014 and 2015 event periods are currently in the delivery phase; and completed works from a further 12 events across the 2011 to 2013 event periods are in the acquittal phase.

The Authority is currently finalising the assessment of councils and State agencies' completion documentation through the close out phase for the program of works completed prior to 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2016. Relevant works include the balance of works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other events of 2013 which were due for completion prior to 30 June 2015.

The Authority is also assisting with progression of works in the delivery phase, that comprises works from the 2014 and 2015 events, through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases.

The Authority has also recently been actively engaged with councils and disaster management groups at local and district level in preparing for the 2015-16 disaster season.

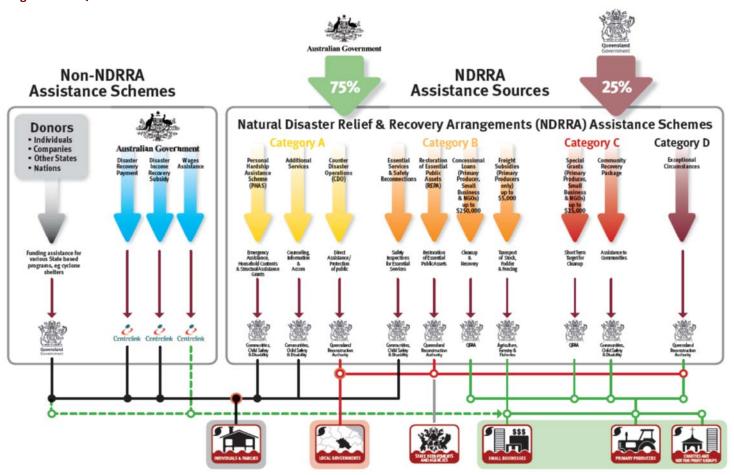
Section two: Disaster Assistance

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



Whilst elements of the assistance schemes are delivered by other State agencies, all of the 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:

- 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 54 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, works for 18 disasters from the 2014 and 2015 event periods are currently in the delivery phase¹ and completed works from a further 12 events across the 2011 to 2013 event periods are in the acquittal phase¹.

The maps opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2011 to 2015 event periods managed by the Authority².

Since the last report, there has been State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA) measures activated for *The Cape Cleveland Bushfires, 6 October 2015* event.

2016 events

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

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

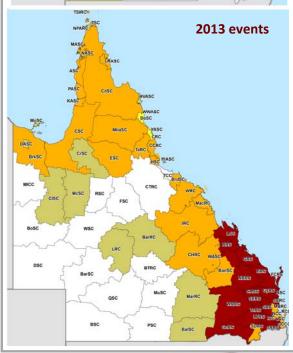
(Delivery of works complete, with final acquittal due by March 2016)

- 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. In addition, Somerset Regional Council has been activated for 2016 events.







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

2.2 Events managed by the Authority (cont.)

2012 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than suite of projects that received extensions of time for delivery to December 2014, with acquittal due by March 2016)

- 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

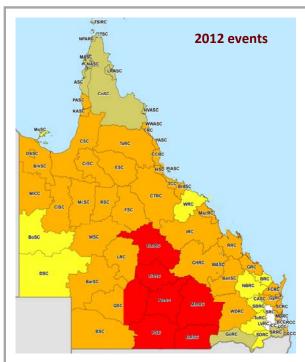
(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than two projects that received extensions of time for delivery to June 2015, with acquittal due by March 2016)

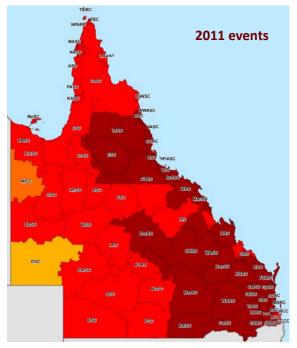
- South West Flooding, April 2011
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding Event, 28 February 2011
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on 2 February 2011
- Queensland Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Tasha and Anthony, December 2010 to February 2011 *.

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.





[#] 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, 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.

2013 events

- **Betterment fund \$80 million -** available for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than their pre-disaster standard. The status of the 2013 Events Betterment fund is set out in Section 3.6 of this report.
- Community Recovery Package (Category C) \$5 million Funding for community development officers in the hardest hit communities of Bundaberg and North Burnett, support for mental health services and a flexible fund that assists communities to implement engagement and development activities.
- Clean Up and Recovery program \$10 million Program to assist primary producers to clear debris and restore fencing in the worst affected areas; to maintain workers while income generating activities are reduced and to clear debris from watercourse that poses a hazard to downstream infrastructure and activities.
- **Industry Recovery Officers \$1.5 million -** Placement of Industry Recovery Officers to assist business and primary producers recover from flooding.
- Enhanced concessional loans and grants Loans of up to \$650,000 (with a grant component of up to \$50,000) are available to applicants that have suffered extreme damage such that the existing concessional loan and recovery grants under NDRRA category B and C are insufficient to support recovery.
- **Environmental Recovery program \$10 million* -** Program to fund existing programs to conduct flood specific clean up and soil conservation work following the 2013 flooding.
- **Rural Financial Counselling Services** \$1.5 million* Provision of financial planning advice for rural businesses and primary producers to assist in the recovery of local economies following the disaster.
- Other measures \$11.9 million to fund dredging works to restore Bundaberg Port to its pre-2013 flood clearance depths; and \$900,000 to assist Bundaberg Regional Council meet the cost of recovery works for community parks and gardens.

2011 events

- Queensland Local Council Package \$315 million Funding to help local councils repair utilities and infrastructure, and support their efforts in recovering from the floods and Cyclone Yasi. The package comprises two components: \$265 million to fast-track the repair of damaged infrastructure, including the Strengthening Grantham project, Brisbane ferry terminals and Riverwalk; and \$50 million to contribute to regional and remote councils employing people to perform clean-up and repair work.
- Cassowary Coast Support Package \$15 million Funding to restore vital council infrastructure and restore natural vegetation and beach damage in the Cassowary Coast region. Specifically, the Support Package provides for the repair of Dunk Island Jetty, the repair of Clump Point Jetty and the restoration of Cardwell beach foreshore and its natural vegetation.
- **Exceptional Disaster Assistance Scheme** Concessional interest loans of up to \$650,000, with grant component of up to \$50,000, to eligible businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations that suffered extreme damage.

In addition, the State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to an extended Day Labour Trial for the 2011 to 2013 and 2015 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.

^{*} Non-NDRRA measures funded 50% by the State and 50% by the Commonwealth; Commonwealth share is being delivered directly through existing Commonwealth programs.

Section three:

Program Status

3.0 Program Status

3.1 Recent developments

A key milestone in the State's reconstruction effort was reached on 30 June 2015 with the deadline passing for councils and state agencies to complete works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other events from 2012-13; and the remaining works from the 2011 and 2012 event periods that had received extensions of time. Councils and state agencies have indicated that all relevant works were completed on time other than three betterment projects impacted by weather. Since the last report, extension of time requests have been approved by the Commonwealth for these three projects.

[Drought conditions are increasingly affecting the delivery of the works through much of the State. The Authority is working with impacted councils to address water shortage issues and, where required, prepare extension of time requests to the Commonwealth where water shortages are likely to impact their completion of 2014 events works by the deadline of 30 June 2016.]

The Authority is finalising assessments to close out works completed by 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2016. The Authority is also assisting with progression of the program of works from the 2014 and 2015 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases.

3.2 Program status

The value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by the Authority since its establishment is estimated to be \$13.1 billion. Of this, \$12.3 billion of works from the 2010 to 2013 event periods has completed the delivery phase and \$10.8 billion of the program has completed the State's acquittal processes.

The Authority is currently managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$833 million for the 2014 Events and 2015 Events (the **Delivery Program**) and an **Acquittal Program** worth \$2.4 billion, comprising the remaining works from the 2011 Events, 2012 Events, 2013 Events, 2014 Events and 2015 Events not yet acquitted.

Delivery Program status

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

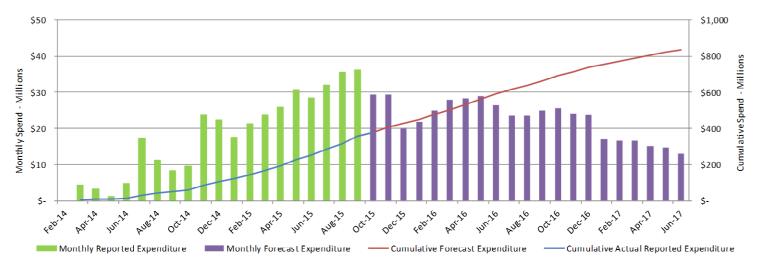
- A cumulative value of \$940 million in submissions have been received in relation to the Delivery Program, an increase of \$37 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$647 million has been approved, an increase of \$35 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$100 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$364 million of the Delivery Program has been reported to the Authority at 31 October 2015 as in progress or delivered.

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

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecasted monthly costs to completion at 31 October 2015 on a combined basis for the Delivery Program (2014 and 2015 Events).

Delivery Program (2014 and 2015 Events) progress





(Source: The Authority, 30 November 2015)

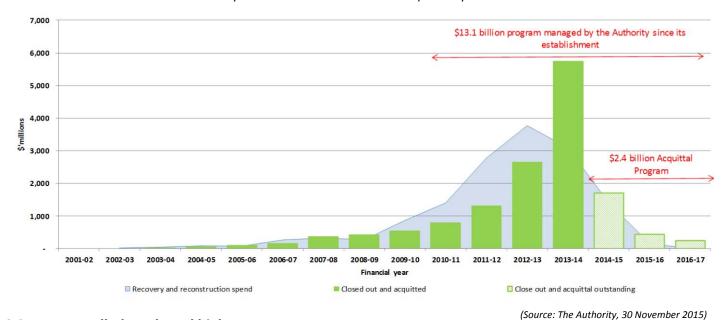
3.2 Program status (cont.)

Acquittal Program status

The 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim is provisionally estimated to require the close-out and acquittal of approximately \$1.7 billion of works completed up to 30 June 2015.

The close-out of the majority of remaining submissions for the 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim is nearing completion. With works completed up to 30 June 2015, delivery agents collated their final claims for submission to the Authority through to September 2015 and the Authority is now processing these claims through to December 2015. Following audit review, the audited 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim will be due for acquittal to the Commonwealth in March 2016.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for 2001-02 to 2013-14 and Commonwealth Claims preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2014-15 to 2016-17 in order to finalise acquittal of the \$2.4 billion remaining in the Acquittal Program. Beyond the 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim, the remaining \$0.7 billion of the Acquittal Program representing works completed after 30 June 2015 will be finalised in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 Commonwealth Claims to the Commonwealth by March 2017 and March 2018 respectively.



3.3 State-controlled roads and highways

DTMR set up its Transport Network Reconstruction Program (TNRP) to manage the recovery and reconstruction of Queensland's integrated transport system following the damage from natural disaster events in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. The transport system includes state-controlled roads, ports, navigation aids and the rail network. On completion of the final works in June 2015, DTMR's TNRP had spent more than \$6.4 billion on the recovery and reconstruction of 8,741km roads across the State arising from the disaster events of 2010 to 2013.

DTMR is managing the recovery and reconstruction works for the 2014 and 2015 event works that are currently in the delivery phase through its Program Delivery and Operations Branch.

Current status

- Of the 214km of roads forecast to be reconstructed following damage from the 2014 events, 204km of works have been completed and the remaining 10km is under construction. Works on the Peninsula Developmental Road in the Cape York region are expected to be finished in late 2015 to complete DTMR's program of 2014 event works.
- A total of 5579km of Queensland's road network was closed or had limited access as a result of the 2015 events. Following
 completion of the initial recovery phase of works, DTMR has now commenced its reconstruction works.
- Of the 112km of roads that DTMR is forecast to reconstruct following 2015 disaster events, the first 5km of works has commenced construction. During October, construction started on two projects, including works on an embankment slip on the Kennedy Highway and pavement reconstruction on Gregory Downs-Camooweal Road.
- The majority of 2015 event works on State-controlled roads and highways are currently targeted by DTMR to be completed by 31 December 2016, six months before the funding deadline (weather permitting).

(Source: DTMR, 31 October 2015)

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

- 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:
 - Aroona Road (Central Highlands)
 - Boolburra Edungalba Road (Central Highlands)
 - Booyal Crossing Road (Bundaberg).
- 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.

2015 Event Betterment Fund

- Expressions of Interest (EOI) have been 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 125 projects have been received by the Authority to 30 November 2015. Of these, 8 submissions with a total project value of \$22.7 million, including \$7.3 million betterment funding, have been approved.
- Projects approved during November included:
 - Scenic Highway landslip works (Livingstone Shire Council)
 - Lovedays Road and Mahoon Creek Road (North Burnett Regional Council)
 - Pilbeam Drive, Glenmore Water Treatment Plant, Dean Street, Capricorn Street and Elphinstone Street (Rockhampton 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

The status of other Category C and D special funding packages approved in relation to Tropical Cyclone Marcia is summarised as follows:

Package	Purpose	Status
Clean-up and restora- tion of national parks, beaches and recreation- al assets (\$6 million)	 To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities 	 The Authority received EOIs from six applicants worth more than \$16 million The Authority is currently finalising the application received under this program, and notifying applications of the assessment outcome.
Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)	To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activi- ties from private properties and businesses	 The Authority sought EOIs from the four LGAs eligible for funding allocations (Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana and North Burnett) The Authority has approved and paid approximately \$740k to three councils under the program and is continuing to work with Councils to identify further amounts that may be eligible under the program.
Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)	 For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas 	 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, Agrorce and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland IROs commenced work in December, and are working directly with affected primary producers to better manage business risks associated with climate variability.
Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million Category C)	 To engage community development officers and personal support man- agers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected com- munities in Rockhampton, Living- stone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone LGAs. 	 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 been appointed to deliver Community Development and Personal Support & General Counselling programs across each of the five affected communities. Relationships Australia and Uniting Care Community have also been funded to provide Personal Support and General Counselling services.

(Source: The Authority, DCCSDS and DAF; 31 October 2015)

3.5 Program spotlights

Carpentaria Shire Council Success thanks to boring approach

Dorothea Mackellar's iconic poem 'My Country' describes a land "of drought and flooding rains", which is a description that mirrors the conditions Carpentaria Shire Council has to deal with on an all too regular basis.

Following damage as a result of flooding in 2014, Carpentaria Shire Council faced another challenge in 2015 as it was running out of water that was needed to help deliver restoration works for McAllister Mail Run Road as part of its 2014 restoration program.

Transporting water from distant water sources such as the Leichhardt River would have increased water costs due to the return trip time being in excess of four hours.

Faced with the challenge, Carpentaria proposed constructing a bore to drill for water from the Great Artesian Basin. Council provided a business case outlining the savings expected from the costs of constructing the water bore and drilling for water as opposed to the costs of sourcing and carting water from the Leichhardt River across the region.

The decision on the eligibility of this approach under the NDRRA rested with Emergency Management Australia (EMA).

EMA's assessment was "it is clear that the estimated costs to source water through the construction of two Artesian bores is more cost-effective than carting water from the nearest above ground sources." Carpentaria Shire Council Mayor Fred Pascoe said estimated water cartage costs were \$509,000 and complete bore construction costs were approximately \$350,000 creating an anticipated total saving of \$159,000 for the project.

"However, with extremely dry conditions there was a real chance that the works could not have been completed at all leaving the local community and other road users at a distinct disadvantage," Cr Pascoe said. "This is the first time Council drilled an Artesian bore for NDRRA works and we are pleased to say it has been a success.

"Contractors Daly Bro's Drilling starting drilling on 2 October and finished on 12 October after hitting water 615 metres below the surface. "We'd like to thank the Authority for advocating on Council's behalf to the Commonwealth and for delivering the approval in a timely manner. "I think this type of approach in looking outside the box is practical and innovative which allows remote Councils to provide value-for-money solutions for both Government and the community.

"It allows assets to be reinstated, returning services back to the local community faster and cheaper so that they can get on with focusing on their livelihood and other daily demands," he said.

The estimated total cost for restoration works on McAllister Mail Run Road is approximately \$1.2 million and is expected to the completed by early December 2015.





Drilling for bore water, Carpentaria, October 2015

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

Mornington Shire Council Reconstruction works provide morale boost

Mornington Shire Council's completion of its approximate \$13 million reconstruction program from 2013 and 2014 has provided multiple longer-term benefits for the Indigenous community. Like many Councils across the State, Mornington Island has been affected by natural disasters multiple times in recent years and it has faced some significant challenges to rebuild after those events.

Mornington Island was affected by natural disasters in 2010 and 2011 but due to a variety of factors including re-damage from subsequent events, no reconstruction program had been completed for a number of years.

When the remote Island was affected by Tropical Cyclone Oswald in 2013 and Tropical Cyclone Fletcher in 2014, the Authority offered its assistance to help Council get on with the job of rebuilding. With little to no civil construction and project management experience within Council, the Authority helped upskill workers in key project management tasks.

In both 2013 and 2014, the Authority assisted Council with their damage data collection to support their submissions. Further, the Authority supported contract documentation and awarding of tenders through Local Buy.

Koppen Construction, based in Cairns, was appointed managing contractor to deliver the 2013 and 2014 reconstruction programs. Mornington Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Frank Mills said the completed works have provided a major boost to morale around the Island.

"Key roads such as Birri Road, Balaleah Road and Sydney Island Road have now been restored providing greater access to outstations and sacred sites as well as increased access to telecommunication facilities to the mainland," Mr Mills said.

"That's great for the Island but the program hasn't been without some major challenges given that we are located in the Gulf of Carpentaria. For example, managing contractor Koppens barged all equipment from Cairns, around Cape York to Mornington Island rather than trucking it across Queensland. This approach delivered the best value for money solution and highlights the complexities involved in delivering a reconstruction program on a remote, Indigenous Island.

"I am pleased we were able to deliver the programs using a combination of Indigenous labour as well as contractors, and to realise some training for the local work force. A large number of local Indigenous workers are now better skilled and positioned to undertake maintenance, and to help work on future reconstruction programs. We have greatly improved our project management capacity.

"I am proud of all the Council workers who have worked on these projects and would also like to thank the Authority for its ongoing assistance and Koppens who did a good job of project managing our programs," said Mr Mills.

The 2013 program, which was delivered at an estimated cost of \$1.1 million, started in June 2014 and was finished in early 2015. Work on the 2014 program, which was delivered at an estimated cost of \$12 million, commenced in September 2014 and was finished by May 2015.



Keith Luckhurst from GBA with Authority Regional Liaison Officer John Tuxworth and local construction staff



Mornington Island road works



Construction equipment being barged to Mornington Island

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

DTMR DTMR gets ready with its annual preparedness program

DTMR is ensuring the highest level of readiness for the coming severe weather season, with the rollout of its annual statewide preparedness program.

Each year DTMR's Transport Network Security Unit (previously known as Emergency Management and Transport Security) stages a series of district education and awareness sessions to provide a shared understanding of emergency management roles and responsibilities, and a coordinated way to better manage disruptive events. This year the preparedness program has been rolled out in conjunction with sessions led by DTMR's NDRRA Events Program Unit to provide districts with guidance on the eligibility of NDRRA works and engineering criteria for planning, design and delivery of NDRRA works.

From October to November, 12 discussion-based sessions were conducted in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Warwick, Brisbane, Roma, Nerang, Maroochydore, Barcaldine, Cloncurry and Bundaberg, catering to the unique needs of each district. Approximately 300 attendees were expected to be involved, comprising district staff from across DTMR, disaster coordination agencies including QPS, QFES, the Authority and local government.

The focus of this year's program has been on issues identified from analysis of the 2014–15 sessions including changes within Queensland disaster management arrangements, fatigue management and locally identified issues. The program was developed through consultation with stakeholders involved in emergency management, prevention, preparation, response and recovery.





Above: Scenario discussions at the Rockhampton session

Left: Sharing information about the State Traffic Management Centre (Cairns session)

As part of information sharing, a panel – representing State Traffic Management Centre or 13 19 40, the district, local governments within the district boundaries, QPS, QFES and the Authority – provides a brief overview of disaster-related issues and any updates that need to be shared with the group. This is followed by a scenario desktop exercise to clarify, reinforce and assess knowledge and processes.

DTMR's preparedness program has seen increased participation over recent years, both internally and externally, and builds on input from previous sessions, the events of 2010–13, and associated debriefs and learnings. The NDRRA design and eligibility sessions provide districts with key information to enable improved delivery of recovery and reconstruction works.

Rollout of the combined program means DTMR is better positioned to prepare for and rapidly respond to the unexpected, be it a natural or man-made event.

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 186 media items in November 2015 (92 print -50%, 22 TV -12%, 72 radio -38%), which reached a cumulative audience of 3.9 million people, with the focus this month being on ongoing recovery efforts from recent natural disasters.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from natural disaster events, including articles in the Australian Financial Review, Barcoo Independent, Beaudesert Times, Bowen Independent, Burdekin Advocate, Cairns Post, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Chinchilla News and Murilla Advertiser, City North News, The Courier-Mail, Fassifern Guardian, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gladstone Observer, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, Longreach Leader, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette, Queensland Country Life, The Sunday Mail, Tablelands Advertiser, and the Townsville Bulletin; TV coverage on the ABC, Channel 10, Nine, WIN, and Seven networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 2SM Sydney, 4 WK Toowoomba, 4TO Townsville, 4BC Brisbane, 4KZ Innisfail, 4RO Rockhampton, and River FM Ipswich.

Making news in late November were the severe storms to hit the Southern Downs and Ipswich, and the clean-up efforts in the aftermath. This received coverage on Channels 7 and 9, 4BC Brisbane, Sky News Sydney, 2SM Sydney and ABC regional radio.

Engagement activities

On 19 November 2015, **Authority Acting Chief Executive Officer Brendan Moon** attended the Chief Executive Officers of Western Shires (COWS) annual conference where he met with the CEOs of Barcaldine Regional Council, Barcoo Shire Council, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Boulia Shire Council, Bullo Shire Council, Diamantina Shire Council, Isaac Regional Council, Longreach Shire Council, Murweh Shire Council, Paroo Shire Council, Quilpie Shire Council, and Winton Shire Council, and gave a presentation on natural disaster funding reforms and an NDRRA update.

The Authority has been actively engaged with councils and disaster management groups at local and district level in preparing for the 2015-16 disaster season. To date, the Authority has undertaken 12 disaster preparedness seminars with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Bureau of Meteorology at Townsville, Cairns, Charleville, Dalby, Brisbane, Beenleigh, Rockhampton, Mackay, Longreach, North Coast Region (Hervey Bay) and North Coast Region (Maroochydore).

Communications

There are a number of methods available to the public to communicate with the Authority.

The Authority's website provides information to the public and continues to be enhanced with ongoing updates, including the information about 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 30 November 2015, total website visits amounted to 482,175 – a 1 percent increase since last month (See Figure 5.1.1)

In November, the Authority received an additional 39 calls to its dedicated phone line and 159 additional pieces of written correspondence were received. (See Figure 5.1.2)

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

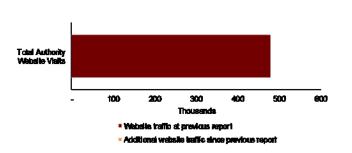
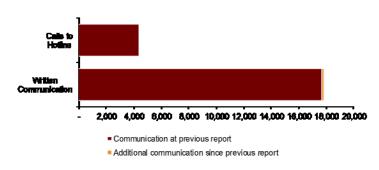


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



(Source: the Authority at 30 November 2015)

4.2 Media reports

FINGERS CROSSED: Livingstone waits on announcement of government funding

Long road ahead for fix

Upgrade on way for

Scenic Hwy

Madeline McDonald

LIVINGSTONE Shire Council have their fingers and toes crossed for an and toes crossed for an announcement by the State and Federal government to be made this week in relation to the funding of the

Scenic Hwy upgrade. On Tuesday night 75 people attended a meet On Tuesnay mgns 15
people attended a meeting
at Yeppoon Town Hall to
discuss the different options
for the highway that had
been submitted by council.
Mayor Bill Ludwig said be
expected the announcement
to be made later this week.
"We're unaware of which

"We're unaware of which option they are going to fund but we're pretty confident we'll know sooner rather than later," Cr

rather than later, "Cr Ludwig said.
"We had a great turnout on Tuesday night and the main issue that was raised was how long the construction phase was going to take which we will

be able to indicate once a design is chosen.
"One of the criteria will be for the successful tenderer to estimate how much it will cost them to do the work and how quickly they can do it with minimum disruption to the local community.
"The total cost is around \$18 million so this is a project that we couldn't do without the support of the

project that we couldn't do without the support of the Federal Government. There will be inconvenience but on a positive note we'l have a long-term fix."

Cr Ludwig said the Statue Bay area had received a lot of damage as a result of Czydone Marcia and that it would be a work in progress.

progress.
"The issue is there's been

"The issue is there's been a lot of damage but the major issue for us is that it's only just the seawall was also for require a lot of work to get that done," Cr. Ludwig said.
"People were very pleased that council has been proactive in looking for a long-term solution and

outcome. Residents of the area have asked if we could put some traffic devices in place to limit the speed in that area and they have requested the need for an additional bus stop.

"Bottom line is it's now a matter of waiting for the government to give us the final sign-off."



Morning Bulletin, 26 November

Chinchilla cleans up debris

Street had their industrial strength vacuum cleaners making almost light work of the debris, water and broken tiles that covered the shop's carpeting. Owner Francis Purves,

who had taken over the store with her husband from her mother-and-father-in-law

mother-and-father-in-law, said not much could be done about the entire wall of flat screen televisions which had been soaked with water. "I don't really want to think about what the damage cost is at this

damage cost is at this stage," she laughed.
"I've never seen a storm like that in all my life."
Similarly, fore Hour Photo, Go Vita Health Pool Store, Toy world, Chinchilla Dental Practice were amon the businesses being deaned and repaired by either staff or professional deaners in the morning.

That same morning RACQ announced via soci media that they had so far received 74 insurance claims from the storm, wit most of that number being

cars damaged by the hail.
The Queensland Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services,
Jo-Ann Miller said there

Businesses count cost of

storm event By ALANA CALVERT

DARK clouds may have still

DARK clouds may have still been looming ominously over Chinchilla the day after the powerful storm cell took the region in its grip, but the town had set to work cleaning up and repairing the extensive damage. Many alop windows had signs up armouncing temporary closure from flooding, but of that number most were reopened by lunchtime after a thorough clean.

clean. The steak at the Club Hotel may have just come second in the whoke country down in Barossa Valley, but thanks to the large hole torn in their kitchen's ceiling, no steaks or any meals, in fact, could be served.

served. Manager Sonia Hanock said they the Club had fared said they the Club had fared better than their other pub over the road, the Commercial though, which was still a couple of feet deep in water, rendering the exact time of its reopening uncertain.

Brisbane Valley storm

after the storm thanks to volunteers from Chinchilla, Miles, Oakey, Toowoomba, Tara and Jandowae. "Ten Rapid Damage Assessment crews from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and

Queensland Reconstruction Authority (are) also on the ground," Ms Miller

ground," Ms Miller announced at 11.25am on the Thursday. During the afternoon of the same day, Ms Miller again said 30 premises had minor damage, two moderate damage and one

THE State and Federal Governments have announced a joint funding effort for the storm

recovery in the Brisbane Valley. Federal Member for Blair Shayne Neumann said Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) are in place to help communities recover and that he'd offered Somerset Regional Council his full support.

Funding confirmed for

Member for Ips wich West Jim Madden also welcomed the news, saying the funding would go a long way to ensuring the quick restoration of essential public

infrastructure.
Tve made several visits to Fernyale since last Tuesday and assisted with the clean up over the weekend, and I'm only too aware of just how big an effect the storm has had on residents," Mr Madden

Chinchilla News & Murilla Advertiser, 5 Novem-

Queensland Times. 4 November

FERNVALE TO RECOVER WITH JOINT FEDERAL & STATE FUNDING

Federal Member for Blair Shayne Neumann and State Member for Ipswich West Jim Madden have welcomed the decision by the Queensland State Government and Australian Government to activate disaster support for Fernvale following the storm on 27

for Fernvale following the storm on 27 October 2015. Federal Member for Blair Shayen Neumann said Nozeal Disaster Belef and Recovery Arrangements NDSRA) are in place to help communities recover after these types of storms and the offered Somenset Regional Council and the Mayor my full support as

recovers, set Regional Council will be eligible to apply ding for counter-disaster operations and ion of essential public assets damaged in the

Jassitzed with in-only too aware of just how big an emess in-ited on residents, was upon to see how many people were willing was great to see how many people were willing use their time and resources to help out those need, and it's fantastic that the State and Federal mass, have done their bit today to support

Residents invited to roadworks meeting

AN in-depth presentation on the proposed works needed to repair and reopen the Scenic Hwy at Statue Bay will be held in Veppon on Monday for interested residents. Livingstone Shire Council is inviting the community to the information session to find out more about the project.

find out more about the project. The road was one of the hardest hit when Cyclone Marcia landed in Central Queensland in February, Heavy rain caused major landslides and wild seas compromised the seawall and undermined the road from below forcing the closure of the northbound lane and an estimated repair bill of around \$18 million.

million.
Mayor Bill Ludwig said
Monday's presentation
would be an opportunity for
the community to be briefed

by council's Infrastructure Department on how the repairs will be staged and progressed once they have the final sign-off from the state and federal government to proceed. "Required works will include major cliff

include major cliff stabilisation, sea wall reconstruction and strengthening, as well as widening of the road to provide both a safety buffer and pedestrain cycle way to make it safer for all users." Cr Ludwig said.
"The community at Statue Bay and other affected areas have been incredibly patient throughout this old whole process and council take to thank each and every resident for their understanding of the need to ensure we can fix this problem area once and for all.

The Somerset, Toogoolawah, 4 November

Morning Bulletin, 21 November

"There is no doubt this has been one of council's most complex and costly engineering challenges following the cyclone." Fortunately council has had great support from the Queensland Government in assisting us to identify the long-term engineering solutions, and hopefully a substantive component of the required funding." The community meeting will be held this Monday.

The community meeting will be held this Monday. November 23 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Yeppoon Town Hall in Normanby St.



TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION: Scenic Hwy hit hard by Marcia Repair on way for Statue Bay

WHEN Cyclone Marcia struck the region earlier this year she left a trail of destruction behind, including the structure of the Scenic Hwy at Statue

It was one of the hardest hit infrastructure casualties with major landslips and wild seas undermining the road from below.

But it's time for the \$18 million repair job to begin after months of painstaking geotechnical evaluation, engineering design work engineering design work and negotiations with the State and Federal governments who appear likely to deliver a huge outcome for Livingstone Shire Council and the community at Statue Bay.

Mayor Bill Ludwig ended the cor commended the community for their patience and appreciation of the need to get a long-term solution that will hopefully fix the problem area once and for



A large excavator works to clear loose rock and earth from the cliff adjacent to the Scenic Hwy near Statue Bay after Cyclone Marcia.

all.
"It's been an exhaustive process but discussion this week has indicated that council is likely to get State council's likely to get State
and Federal government
funding sign-off by the end
of next week which will pave
the way for the major works
program to at last get
underway," Cr Ludwig said.
"This has been without

doubt council's most complex and costly post-cyclone engineering challenge. The planned scope of works will include major cliff stabilisation, sea wall reconstruction and wall reconstruction and strengthening, and widening of the road to provide both a safety buffer and a pedestrian/cyde way. "It is vRal that we get it absolutely right once and for all, both from a safety perspective and to protect

the properties at risk of coming down in future storm events. The support council has had from the Queensland Governr Queensland Government through Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the Department of Transport and Main Roads has been brilliant.

"There will be an "There will be an information night at the Yeppoon Town Hall in about a fortnight to inform residents and stakeholder groups of timeframes and likely staging to undertake the massive ich."

Morning Bulletin, 7 November

CASH SPLASH: Council's stimulus package aimed at boosting jobs and economic confidence Plan to get CQ spending again

It is among \$18 million in apital works projects

extend the existing infrastructure concession for businesses outside the CED for another year. "The measures that we amounced today are

of the Policide witness of addition to commod's current footpath works.

C Strelow said contractors should be provided by the Contractors of the Hamilton in proceeds be ought forward will go to tender in The build of this swork reless on approval of distance redef friending from higher levels of government. The build of this swork region and rural part of the Contractors of the Contractors

Shire to hold Cyclone Marcia anniversary FEBRUARY 20, 2015, is a FEBRUARY 20, 2015, is a date that will stick in the minds of Central Queenslanders for a very long time following Cyclone Marcia's destruction earlier

this year. But next February, one

But next February, one year on, the focus of that date will be a celebration of a milestone that is now a part of the region's history. Livingstone Shire Council have planned a TC Marcia anniversary event to celebrate the strength of the resilience they have shown

post-TC Marcia

post-TC Marcia.
According to the council report, the table of councillors have taken into consideration that many members of the community are still impacted by the effects of Marcia and that effects of Marcia and that any decisions that are made regarding the anniversary would consider the feelings of such residents. At the Livingstone council meeting yesterday, the

motion was carried for the motion was carried for the event to run on Saturday, February 20, starting with a combined church service at either Appleton Park or a selected church in the shire



TC MARCIA: A house in Yeppoon after Cyclone Marcia

followed by a thank-you breakfast for all of the emergency services and volunteers

A community concert and a fireworks display will feature. A family movie will show at 7.30pm that day.

Morning Bulletin, 25 November

Morning Bulletin, 11 November

Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

