

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

January 2016

The bottom right corner of the cover features an abstract graphic design consisting of several overlapping, parallel lines that create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a stylized architectural or structural element.

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Contact for Enquiries:

All enquiries regarding this document should be directed to:

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

*Phone the call centre - **1800 110 841***

Mailing Address

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

PO Box 15428

City East Q 4002

Alternatively, contact the Queensland Reconstruction Authority by emailing info@qldra.org.au

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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 January 2016 Monthly Report – the 59th 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 January report provides an update on the progress of recovery.

Since the last report, the first widespread disaster event of the 2015-16 disaster season has occurred - *Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough – 20-31 December 2015*. To date, 18 local government areas through north-western Queensland have been activated for disaster relief for the event and the Authority is liaising with relevant councils to assist with advice and damage assessments. The Authority remains prepared to respond should additional disasters strike in the current 'disaster season'.

The Authority is also currently assisting delivery agents to progress the 2014 and 2015 events through the submission preparation and approval and delivery phases, and 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.

In relation to the \$833 million of works from the 2014 and 2015 events in the delivery phase, \$700 million has been approved, representing an increase of \$53 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$50 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information. \$393 million (47%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to the Authority at 30 November 2015 as in progress or delivered.

The January report also provides a review of the disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts during 2015 - the year saw the State impacted by nine events, including Tropical Cyclone Marcia; the passing of a key milestone marking completion of reconstruction and betterment works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other 2013 events, and submission of the largest claim in Australia's history for NDRRA funding to the Commonwealth. The January report also profiles the passing of a major milestone for Douglas Shire Council's first reconstruction program since it was de-amalgamated in 2014, and the recognition of DTMR's Transport Network Reconstruction Program for Excellence in Transport Policy, Planning and Implementation at the recent CILTA Awards.

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.

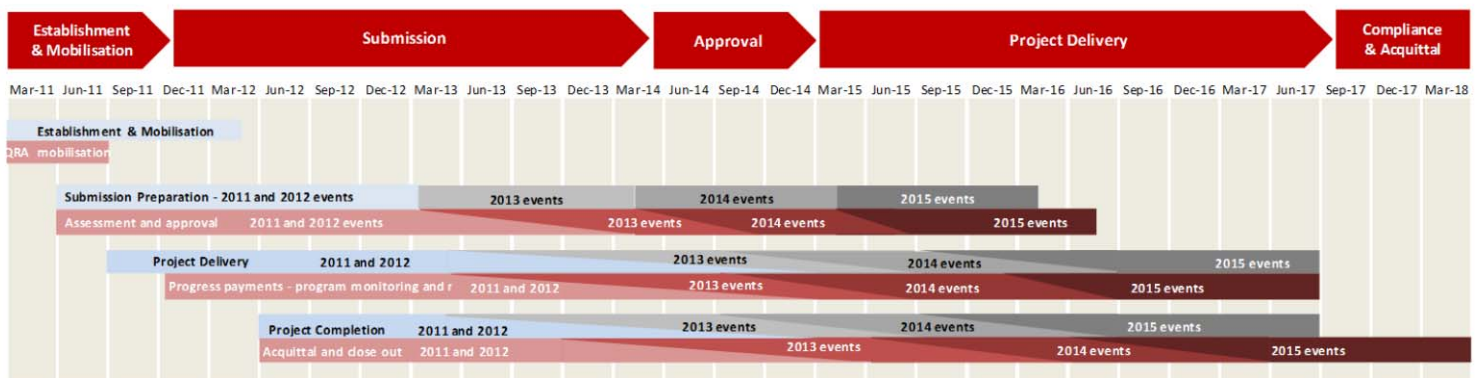
As part of its role, the Authority administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works Restoration of Essential Public Assets, 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 20 disasters from the 2014, 2015 and 2016 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 by 31 March 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.

With the recent activation of 2016 events, the Authority is also liaising with local government delivery agents providing NDRRA advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation. The Authority also remains prepared to respond should additional disasters strike in the current 'disaster season'.

Section two:
Disaster Assistance

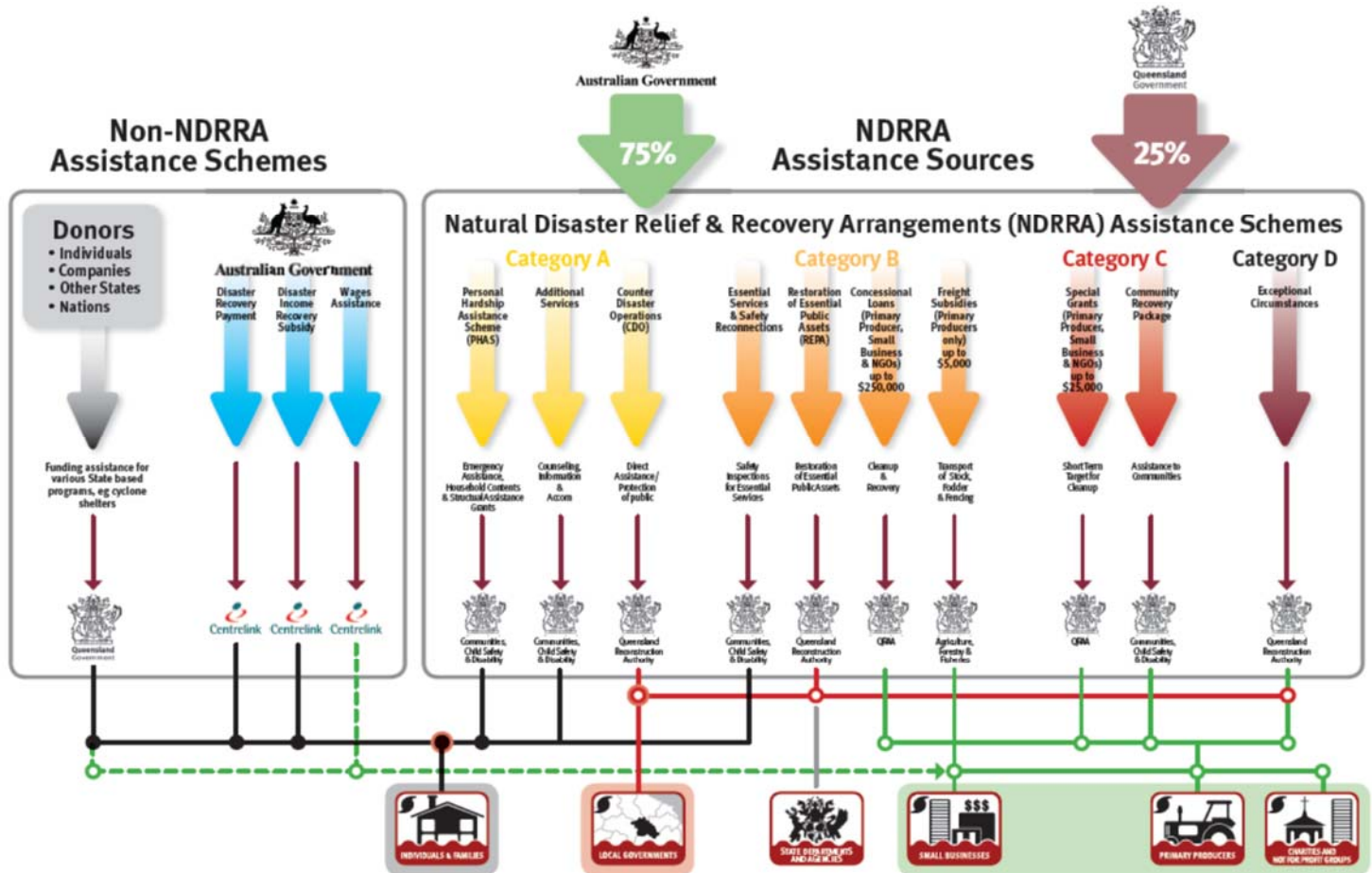


2.0 Disaster Assistance

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:

- **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 54 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, works for 20 disasters from the 2014 to 2016 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 2016 event periods managed by the Authority.

Since the last report, there has been relief measures activated for the *Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough – 20-31 December 2015* event.

2016 events

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

- 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)

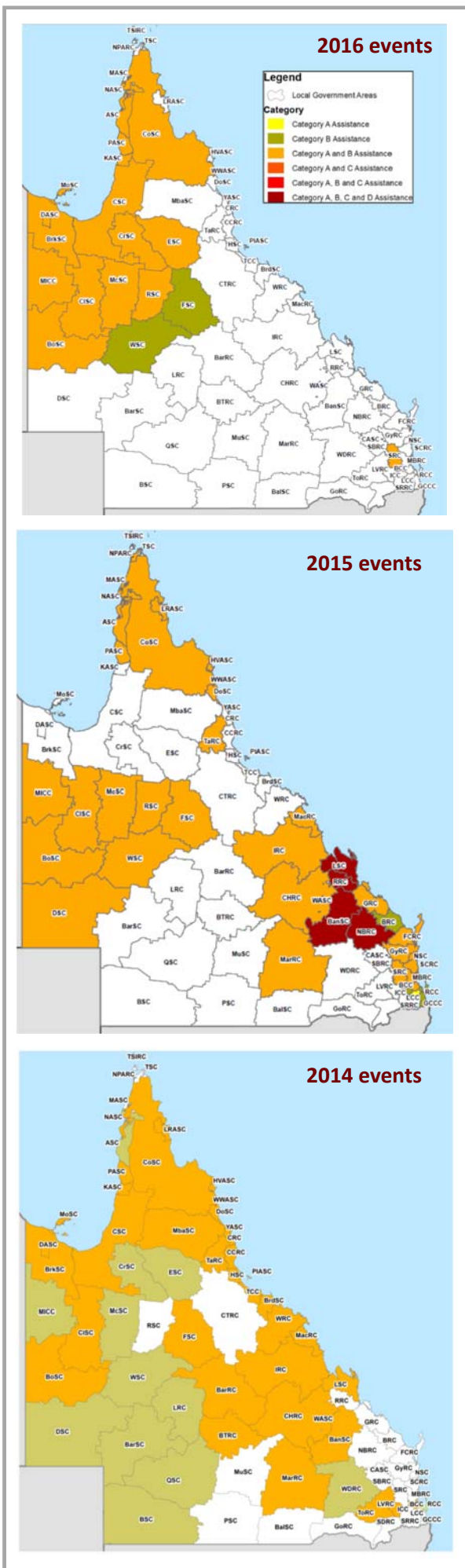
- Tropical Cyclone Ita & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 11-14 April 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Gillian - 10 to 11 March 2014
- Central Coast & Southern Queensland Trough, 26-30 March 2014
- Central & Western Queensland Flooding & Rainfall, 18-28 February 2014
- North East Queensland Monsoonal Rainfall & 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 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

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 eligible 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 *.

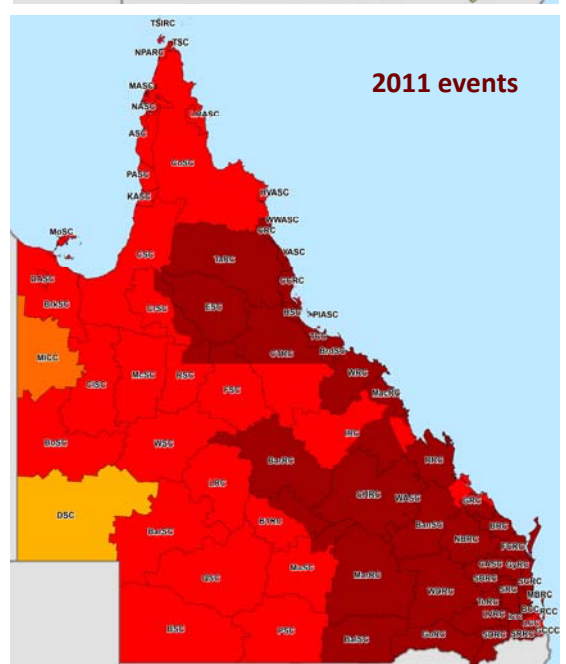
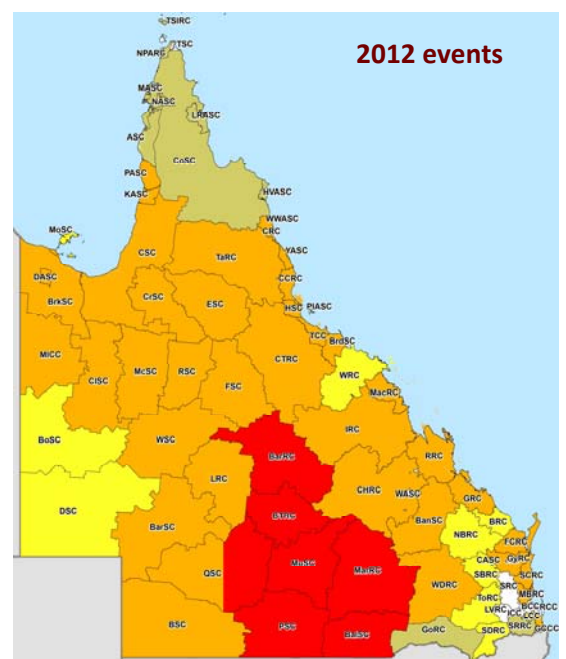
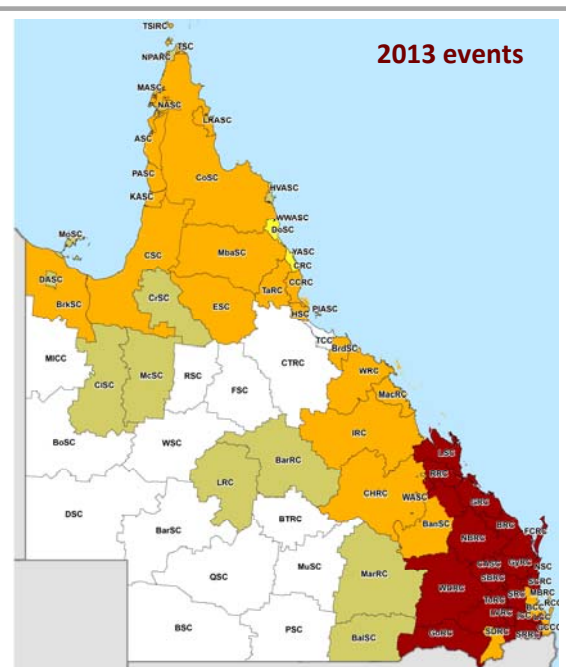
2007-2010 events managed by the Authority

(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. The Authority is currently finalising assessments to close out these and other 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. With the recent monsoon trough event in the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Authority is currently working with the 18 councils activated to date to provide advice and assist where needed with damage assessments. The Authority remains prepared to respond should disaster strike in the current 'disaster season'.

Although the recent monsoon event has brought much needed rain to some affected communities, drought conditions continue to affect 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.

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.

Program estimates for the two 2016 events that have occurred since the September 2015 review will be developed as part of the next regular estimates review process, which is due to commence in February 2016.

Delivery Program status

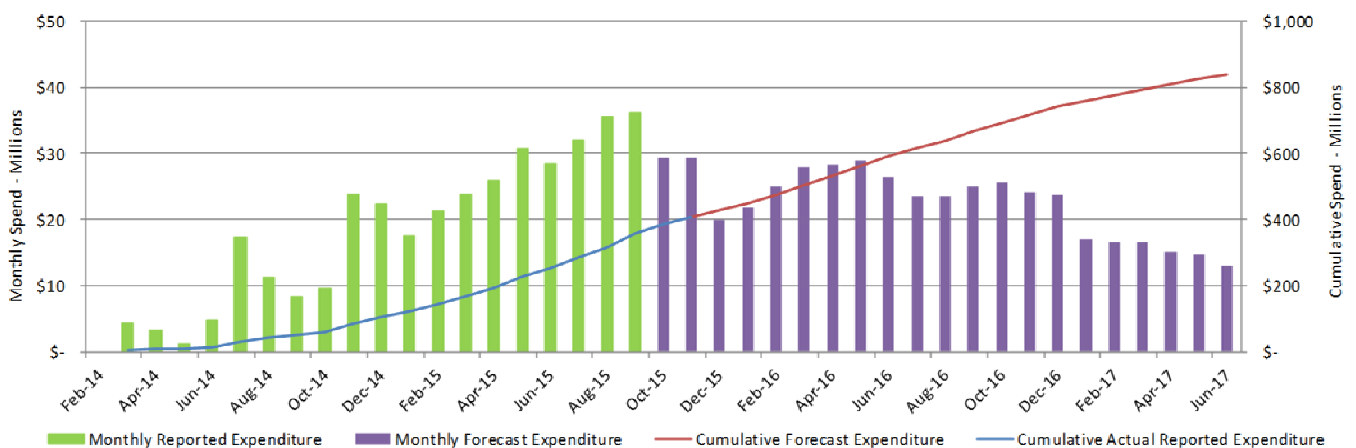
Since the last report, the Authority's program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$950 million in submissions have been received in relation to the Delivery Program, an increase of \$10 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$700 million has been approved, an increase of \$53 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$50 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$393 million of the Delivery Program has been reported to the Authority at 30 November 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 30 November 2015 on a combined basis for the Delivery Program (2014 and 2015 Events).

Delivery Program (2014 and 2015 Events) progress



(Source: The Authority, 31 December 2015)

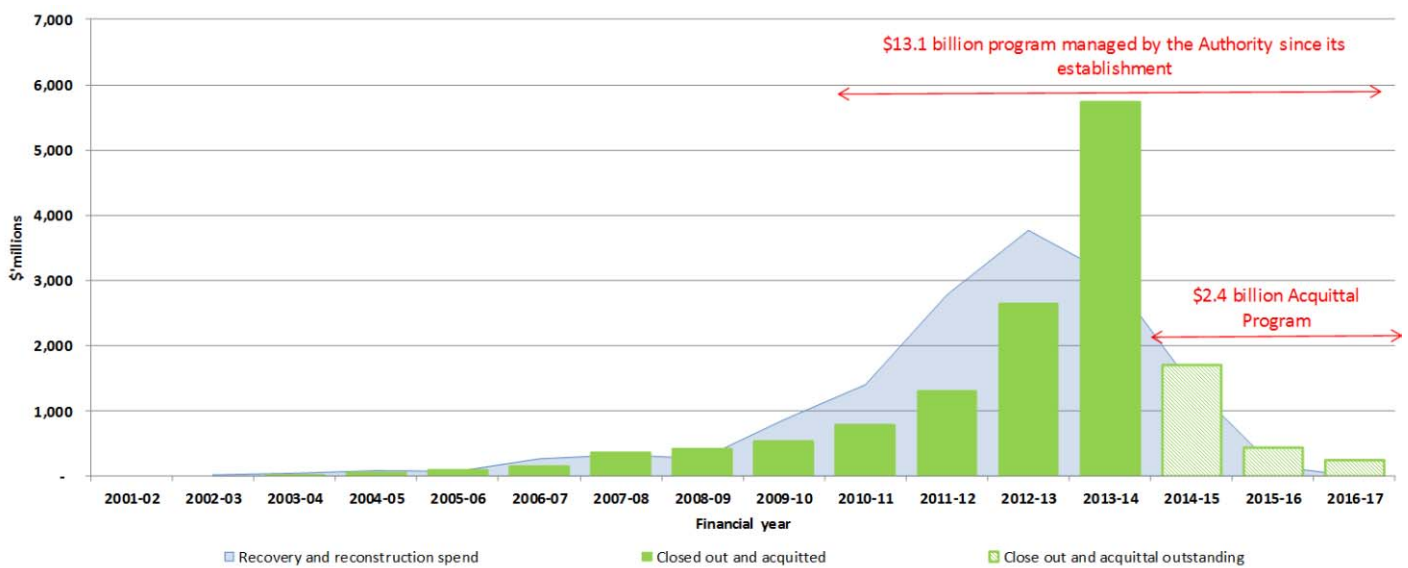
3.2 Program status (cont.)

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 has now processed the majority of claims. 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.



(Source: The Authority, 31 December 2015)

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 early 2016 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. In addition to works already underway on the Kennedy Highway and Gregory Downs-Camooweal Road, construction started on four projects during November on the Diamantina Developmental Road and Burke Developmental Road in North West District.
- 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, 30 November 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	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) 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 127 projects have been received by the Authority to 31 December 2015. Of these, 18 submissions with a total project value of \$25.8 million, including \$9.7 million betterment funding, have been approved. Projects approved during December included improvements to 10 roads for North Burnett Regional Council, including Humphery Binjour Road, Mt Debatable Road, Glenleigh Road, A Creek Road (Grosvenor Bridge approach), Coonambula Road, Bon Accord Wetheron Road, Black Horse Creek, Redvale Road, Dooloo Tops Road and Hawkwood Road. 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 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 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)	<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 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.
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 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)	<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 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 December 2015)

3.5 Program spotlights

2015 in review Another year of responding to major disaster

Queensland faced another challenging year in 2015 responding to natural disasters such as cyclones, storms, floods and bushfires, while also trying to progress the recovery from disasters from previous years.

Across 2015, the State sustained more than \$460 million damage from nine separate disaster events. In addition, the Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoonal Trough also hit north-west Queensland in late December 2015 with the number of councils affected and extent of damage still being determined.

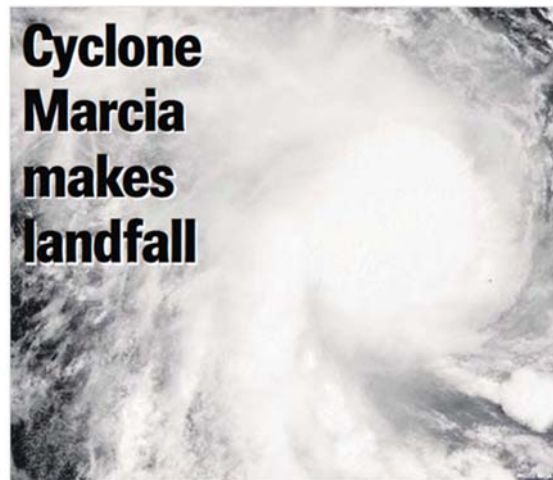
The most devastating natural disaster of 2015 was on 20 February when Category 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia crossed the Queensland coast. It hit Shoalwater Bay, 90km north of Yeppoon, at around 8am on the Friday morning. Over the course of the day, the cyclone moved southward, gradually weakening as it passed over land near Yeppoon, Rockhampton, Biloela and Monto. The system dumped heavy rainfalls across the Wide Bay and Burnett and Southeast Coast districts before it moved off the Coast. Yeppoon, Rockhampton, Biloela and surrounding areas bore the brunt of the Cyclone with wind gusts recorded up to 156 km/h in Yeppoon. A total of 19 councils were activated for disaster assistance as a result of the Tropical Cyclone Marcia event.

Including Tropical Cyclone Marcia, a total of 41 local governments across the state were activated for assistance over the course of the year and the Authority was on the frontline in response to these events, along with a range of local and state agencies, to assist councils with their recovery efforts.

The Authority, with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), undertook 14,741 damage assessments (including 9,842 rapid damage assessments and 4,899 DARMsys™ assessments) in 2015 in regions impacted by natural disasters including Livingstone, Rockhampton, Banana, North Burnett, Gladstone, Somerset and Western Downs council areas.

For all events, the Authority has been available to assist councils to undertake infrastructure damage assessments to gather damage data to help streamline applications for reconstruction funding.

The Authority also assisted in securing joint State and Federal NDRRA Category D funding of \$27.75 million to assist in the recovery following Tropical Cyclone Marcia, including an additional \$20 million Betterment Fund to assist councils impacted by Cyclone Marcia to restore or replace damaged essential public assets to a more disaster-resilient standard, \$6 million for the clean-up and restoration of recreational assets such as Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton, \$1 million to assist local councils with the costs of the extensive green waste clean-up and \$750,000 for Industry Recovery Officers to provide recovery support to primary producers in the worst affected areas.



Right: Media coverage of Tropical Cyclone Marcia in Gladstone Observer, 20 February 2015 (top); and damage following the event (below)

3.5 Program spotlights

2015 in review Recovery program progresses



Asphalting works underway on Kin Kin Road in January 2015
- one of the last 2013 event works completed by DTMR



QUT Gardens Point ferry terminal opened on 14 April 2015



Betterment works complete and in use on Upper Ulam Road
(Rockhampton Regional Council), May 2015



The Authority reached a significant milestone in March 2015, when it submitted Queensland's audited claim for NDRRA financial assistance to the Commonwealth for the 2013-14 financial year. The claim acquitted more than \$5.7 billion of expenditure principally relating to 2011 and 2012 event works finished that year and was the largest in Australia's history.

The year also saw the deadline pass on 30 June 2015 for delivery of eligible works related to the 2013 events that had a total estimated value of \$1.5 billion. All relevant works were completed on time, excluding three betterment projects impacted by weather for which extension of time requests have since been approved by the Commonwealth.

2015 also saw the completion of some projects that dated back to the 2011 floods that had been granted extensions of time. Brisbane City Council's NDRRA Category D funded ferry terminals replacement project was completed by June resulting in seven new upgraded ferry terminals opened throughout the city. Toowoomba Regional Council also completed its flood mitigation works around the CBD that included \$20 million of NDRRA Category D funding. Some of the key projects delivered with the NDRRA funding include new detention basins at Ballin Drive Park and Garnet Lehman Park and East Creek channel works to increase capacity.

During the year, DTMR marked completion of the final works delivered by its Transport Network Reconstruction Program (TNRP), which was set up to manage the recovery and reconstruction of Queensland's integrated transport system following the disaster events of 2010 to 2013. On completion, the TNRP had spent more than \$6.4 billion on the recovery and reconstruction of 8,741 kilometres of roads across the State.

The delivery of the \$80 million Betterment program that was established after Tropical Cyclone Oswald in 2013 to build stronger and more disaster resilient infrastructure was also completed in 2015. Across the life of the program, 230 projects with a total project cost of more than \$170 million were delivered across 35 local government areas. The benefits of the Betterment program were proven in 2015 when many projects withstood the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Marcia and other disaster events. In December, the Authority was Highly Commended at the Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards 2015 for delivering betterment in Queensland.

By the end of 2015, the Authority had facilitated approvals for almost half of the 2015 \$20 million Betterment program that was established to assist councils damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia to build back better. The first projects approved were for three of the council areas that were worst affected by Tropical Cyclone Marcia - Livingstone Regional Council secured \$2 million to upgrade the Scenic Highway at Statue Bay; Rockhampton Regional Council was approved for \$5 million to rebuild five projects to a stronger and more disaster resilient standard, including Pilbeam Drive at Mount Archer and the Glenmore Water Treatment plant; and North Burnett Regional Council secured \$2.8 million for 12 projects to improve transport routes in the region.

2015 was also a landmark year with the Authority being made permanent, enabling it to continue the work of helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

Local workers carrying out NDRRA works on Back Beach Road, Yarrabah, August 2015

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

Douglas Shire Council Reconstruction works pass major milestone

Douglas Shire Council recently completed its road rehabilitation program north of the Daintree River, signifying a major milestone for Council's first reconstruction program since it was de-amalgamated from Cairns Regional Council on 1 January 2014.

Douglas Shire Council Mayor Julia Leu said contractor Robinsons Civil Group (RCG) completed the \$7 million contract to repair damage sustained in early 2014.

"The successful delivery of the contract will make a huge difference in the Shire and will leave a positive legacy that will benefit communities in the north of the Shire for a very long time to come," Cr Leu said. "Robinsons Civil Group impressed Council with their approach to safety, traffic management and quality of workmanship in a remote and sometimes taxing environment. To give an example of the challenges we faced in delivering a reconstruction program, the Daintree Ferry was used to carry approximately 4500 truckloads of gravel for road works between 1 July 2015 and the end of October 2015."

"There's also been a significant boost to the local economy with around \$4 million spent with local businesses," she said.

Council also identified opportunities to complete non-NDRRA work while plant and equipment were in the region. The Mayor said Council sealed 1.5 kilometres of Rykers Road and undertook some silt reduction work in Turpentine Road to reduce run off into Coopers Creek.

"We were able to complete this at significantly reduced costs due to plant and equipment being on the ground for disaster recovery work," Cr Leu said.



Left to Right: Bill Robinson, Robinson Civil Group, Douglas Shire Council Mayor Julia Leu and Council's General Manager Operations, Paul Hoye.

Tourism is the lynchpin of the economy for the Douglas region. With an 80 per cent economic reliance on tourism, Douglas Shire ranks as the most tourism-dependent region in Australia.

"We needed to balance the need for Council to deliver a significant capital works program in a World Heritage Listed area which offered value for money, whilst maintaining a functioning road network and reducing the impact on road users.

RCG Managing Director Bill Robinson said they loved working in the Douglas Shire.

"The people in the community were great and the people we worked with at Council were fantastic," Mr Robison said. In fact, Bill and his wife Kelene fell so much in love with the area that they bought two properties at Cow Bay, including the Cow Bay Hotel.

Douglas Shire Council split its reconstruction program into two sections, one for north of the Daintree and one for south of the Daintree. The work to repair damage north of the Daintree was completed in November 2015 and Council anticipates the remaining work for south of the Daintree will be completed in early 2016.

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

DTMR TNRP wins at 2015 CILTA Awards

DTMR's Transport Network Reconstruction Program (TNRP) team has taken out another industry accolade, winning the 2015 Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Australia (CILTA) award for Excellence in Transport Policy, Planning and Implementation.

DTMR set up its TNRP to manage the recovery and reconstruction of Queensland's integrated transport system arising from the damage from the series of significant natural disaster events between 2010 and 2013. The transport system includes state-controlled roads, ports, navigation aids and the rail network.

The CILTA Awards is an annual event celebrating the accomplishments of some of the finest passenger, freight and defence transport and logistics companies in the world. The 2015 awards ceremony took place in Brisbane in November, with about 200 logistics and transport professionals attending.

The Transport Policy, Planning and Implementation Award recognised the TNRP's innovative methods in planning and development, along with its outstanding implementation and overall outcomes.

TNRP was also a finalist in the Excellence in Government Innovation category of the awards.

General Manager (Program Delivery and Operations) Miles Vass said the CILTA awards highlighted the TNRP's scope as the largest reconstruction program in Queensland's history.

"With all districts affected by natural disasters, it was a significant achievement to coordinate program delivery partners across federal, state and local government agencies, and industry," Mr Vass said.

"Application of best practice program management processes ensured the program achieved all objectives and was completed within funding deadlines and budget, met or exceeded stakeholder expectations, and left a positive legacy of lessons learned upon completion.

"Most importantly, the TNRP reinstated priority connections for the benefit of the whole community."

On completion of 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.



Transport Network Reconstruction Program team members accepting the CILTA awards

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 181 media items in December 2015 (99 print – 55%, 36 TV – 20%, 25 radio – 38%), which reached a cumulative audience of 4.3 million people, with the focus this month being on ongoing recovery efforts from recent natural disasters and projects approved under the 2015 Betterment Fund.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from natural disaster events, including articles in the Atherton Tablelander, Bowen Independent, Bundaberg Guardian, Cairns Post, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Telegraph Biloela, , City North News, The Courier-Mail, Daily Mercury, Dalby Herald, Fassifern Guardian, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Herbert River Express, Isis Town and Country, Kilcoy Sentinel, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Townsville Bulletin, and the Whitsunday Times; TV coverage on the ABC, WIN, and Seven networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4CA Cairns, 4GR Toowoomba, 4RO Rockhampton, and SEA FM Rockhampton.

Making news in December 2015 was the announcement of the first round of projects to be approved under the 2015 Betterment Fund to rebuild assets damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia to a more disaster-resilient standard. These projects include the Scenic Highway at Statue Bay in Livingstone Shire Council and Pilbeam Drive in Rockhampton Regional Council and received coverage on WIN and Seven Rockhampton as well as articles in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Central and North Burnett Times and The Capricorn Coast Mirror.

Also making news in December was the re-opening of Rockhampton's Kershaw Gardens and the announcement of a further \$3 million in NDRRA Category D funding for the popular family destination. This saw coverage on Seven Rockhampton, ABC Radio, and in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin.

Engagement

In December, the Authority received a High Commendation in the Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards, for successfully delivering the 2013 Betterment program in Queensland.

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 31 December 2015, total website visits amounted to 484,459 – a 0.5 percent increase since last month. *(See Figure 5.1.1)*

In December, the Authority received an additional 28 calls to its dedicated hotline and 153 additional pieces of written correspondence were received. *(See Figure 5.1.2)*

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

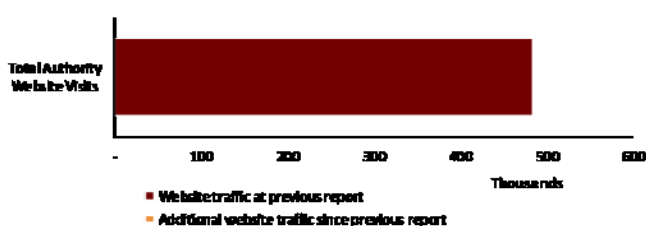
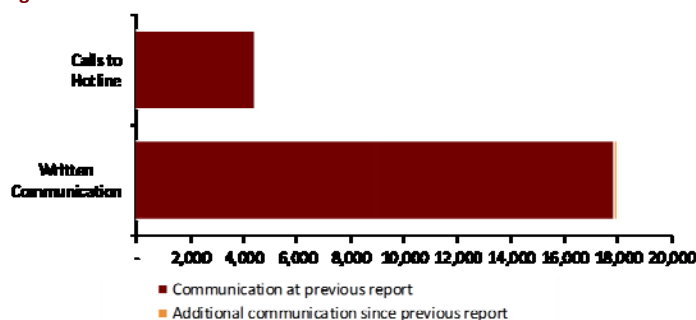


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



(Source: the Authority at 31 December 2015)

4.2 Media reports



WORKS: Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry, Deputy Mayor Graham Scott, Mayor Bill Ludwig and Keppel MP Brittany Lauga at the Statue Bay site. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

More cyclone funding

MONTHS of engineering design and negotiations with state and federal governments have paid off, with the announcement of additional Category D funding to restore and upgrade Statue Bay.

Statue Bay was impacted when Cyclone Marcia smashed the Capricorn Coast, resulting in landslips and wild seas undermining the Scenic Hwy.

Mayor Bill Ludwig said with Friday's funding announcement, the council had hit the ground running so work could start as soon as possible in the new year.

"The pre-Christmas announcement has allowed council to immediately award the detailed design contract to the preferred tenderer, which will give us a great head start," he said.

"This additional \$2 million will take the total contribution from the state and federal governments to approximately \$11.7 million, ensuring we can achieve the best long-term solution.

"Council has also appreciated everyone's patience through the exhaustive process to ensure the engineering team get the long-term solution absolutely right.

"The scope of works will include major cliff stabilisation, sea wall reconstruction and strengthening, plus road widening to provide for a new pedestrian/cycle way."

Capricorn Coast Mirror, 16 December

Funding boost for Burnett

THE North Burnett has been granted \$2.6 million in funding from the State Government's bettermnt funding program.

North Burnett Regional Council chief executive officer Mark Pitt said the funding was a welcome addition.

"It's an exceptional boost and very welcome," Mr Pitt said.

"The betterment funding allows us to not only replace damaged assets but to increase its resilience for future events."

Federal Member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd welcomed the announcement of new funding, which will be spread across 10 projects across the North Burnett.

"This funding commitment will help to make roads in the electorate more resilient," Mr O'Dowd said.

"By installing such infrastructure as upgrades to flood ways and approaches and drainage infrastructure."

The North Burnett Council has already worked on these funds. "Mr Pitt said.

"With Christmas coming things will be winding down but we will be looking at getting into this work as soon as possible in the New Year."

Some of the roads in the region highlighted for work are Black Horse Creek Rd and Mt Debatable Rd among others.

Minister for Justice Michael Keenan announced the funding with Queensland Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure Jackie Trad.

"This will help ensure residents and businesses that rely on these roads have improved access to their properties," Mr Keenan said.

"As well as schools, shops, supplies and emergency services during and after major rainfall and flood events."

For more information on the joint Commonwealth-Queensland Infrastructure Betterment Fund visit qldreconstruction.org.au/ndrra.



BETTER: Ken O'Dowd welcomes fund boost.

Central and North Burnett Times, 17 December

Rocky's big backyard re-opens

Madeleine McDonald mcdonald@rockhamptonbulletin.com.au

HEROIC A Stranquin can remember spending her days as a kid at Rockhampton's Kershaw Gardens.

Yesterday she took her children back to her favourite childhood place for the Kershaw Gardens Family Fun Day and the reopening of the gardens since its destruction following Cyclone Marcia.

Roberts said it was good to see the gardens open to the public again.

"I used to come here as a kid and it's really good to be able to bring the kids here now," she said.

"It's such a great family place and to have it open in time for the Christmas holidays is really good so I'm sure lots of people will bring their kids here over the break."

"There's quite a lot of things happening around town for the kids these holidays which is always good.

"So far we've been to the Christmas lights fair, the new water park in Yepoon and we went to the Carols by Candlelight on the weekend. We're also looking to go to the fireworks display on New Year's Eve and also the PNC carnival."

"We don't really have anything planned, just looking forward to spending time with the kids and relaxing with the family, which I think is the most important thing around this time of year."

Rockhampton Regional Mayor Margaret Strelow

couldn't agree more after re-opening the site just a few days before Christmas for families.

"This has been a mammoth mission since Cyclone Marcia's destruction of Kershaw Gardens as I'm very proud of everyone's efforts to re-open the northern and central areas for our community to enjoy during the holiday period," Cr Strelow said.

"It's wonderful to see the grass greening up on the gardens, the garden beds coming back to life and the pathways restored and accessible once again. We just wanted to celebrate about 60% of the gardens being open."

"This is what this facility always about, this is very much a family site and will be the kind of park that we're best and admired in other cities."

"There's quite a lot of things happening around town for the kids these holidays which is always good.

"So far we've been to the Christmas lights fair, the new water park in Yepoon and we went to the Carols by Candlelight on the weekend. We're also looking to go to the fireworks display on New Year's Eve and also the PNC carnival."

"We don't really have anything planned, just looking forward to spending time with the kids and relaxing with the family, which I think is the most important thing around this time of year."

Rockhampton Regional Mayor Margaret Strelow



KERSHAW FUN: Macky Thomasson, Henry Houghton and Ryan Stratton. PHOTO: ROCKHAMPTONBULLETIN



Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, 22 December

Daintree disaster repairs complete

NICK DALTON

ROBINSON Civil Group has completed \$7 million National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements road upgrades north of the Daintree River.

The contract to repair roads damaged in flood and cyclone events early last year was jointly funded by the federal and state governments and managed by the Douglas Shire Council.

Mayor Julia Leo said that successful delivery of the contract would make a huge difference in the shire and would leave a positive legacy that would benefit communities in the north of the shire for a very long time to come.

"Robinsons Civil Group impressed council with their approach to safety, traffic management and quality of workmanship in a remote and sometimes taxing environment," she said.

"There's also been a significant boost to the local economy with about \$4 million spent with local businesses."

Cr Leo said the council also completed non-related work while plant and equipment were in the region.

She said 15km of Rykers Rd was repaired and some silt reduction work was undertaken in Turpentine Rd to reduce run-off into Coopers Creek.

"We were able to complete this at significantly reduced costs due to plant and equipment being on the ground for disaster recovery work," Cr Leo said.

Cairns Post, 23 December

Final touches for latest Yerra Road upgrade

AFTER almost six years of continuous roadworks set up along Yerra Rd west of Maryborough, the \$1.7 million upgrade is drawing to a close.

The works began on Yerra Rd in 2010 when the Fraser Coast Regional Council spent \$822,000 on a project to replace the aging timber bridge over 18 Mile Creek with concrete.

The council went on to spend another \$400,000 on resurfacing the road with the new bridge.

In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the road was damaged by floods.

In March this year, a \$60,000 contract to rebuild 500 metres of Yerra Rd and 70 metres of Pilgera Rd at the intersection of the two roads was completed.

The council received \$50,492.91 from the State Government Betterment Fund and \$127,000 from the State and Federal Governments under the Restoration of Essential Public Assets Fund to support this project.

Work on a \$172,502.39 project on the northern side of Pilgera Rd to repair 600 metres of Yerra Rd is now drawing to a close.

"Repairing the road is an ongoing process," Infrastructure and Planning Portfolio Councillor Trevor McDonald said.

"Council has about 1,500 km of sealed road in its network and we've allocated \$46 million to build new and repair roads in the current budget."

Fraser Coast Chronicle, 22 December

\$3m boost for Kershaw

THE clean-up and restoration of cyclone-damaged Kershaw Gardens received a \$3 million boost yesterday after the announcement of funding under the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

The money was in a \$27m bundle of cyclone repair funding made possible under the special Category D component of the NDARRA.

Minister for Justice Michael Keenan and Queensland Deputy Premier Jackie Trad announced the funding to assist the Livingstone and Rockhampton communities under the joint Commonwealth-Queensland Betterment Fund.

Tropical Cyclone Marcia caused extensive damage to Kershaw Gardens when it ripped through the region in February.

"It is estimated approximately 200 trees were uprooted which left the old landfill gardens were built on exposed, causing environmental hazards and a danger to public health," Ms Trad said.

"The Rockhampton Regional Council has already spent more than \$1 million on vegetation clearing and landfill testing of the gardens."

"This additional \$3m will allow council to complete the remaining remediation work."

Mr Keenan said the \$20m Betterment Fund was established under Category D in response to Cyclone Marcia.

He said Livingstone Regional Council secured \$2m and the \$4.9m to upgrade cyclone damaged assets, such as the Scenic Hwy and Pilbeam Dr, to a stronger and more disaster resilient standard.

Rockhampton Regional Mayor Margaret Strelow said the \$4.9m would provide a major boost to the council's reconstruction program, including \$2m to upgrade Pilbeam Dr after significant landslips.

Livingstone Mayor Bill Ludwig said the funding would improve access and use, and help provide a permanent solution for the Scenic Hwy, which has been hit by six natural disasters since 2008.

Floodway doing well

WORK at the Boyal Crossing that was completed in August is exceeding expectations in providing a more efficient floodway crossing.

Bandabulla Regional Council roads and drainage spokesperson Tony Ricciardi said the causeway had been designed to cope with regular environmental releases into the Burnett River from Paradise Dam of 2000 megalitres.

"The crossing is coping well above expectations and was only just overlapping when subjected to a release of some 4000 megalitres of water flowing down the Burnett," he said.

"The \$1.1 million upgrade included the installation of five barrels of new large box culverts, which were designed to improve flow capacity and assist in addressing the flooding problems that were frequently encountered.

"The crossing surface was upgraded in addition to installing fish passage structures and reinforced concrete aprons."

Cr Ricciardi said while the work would not make the crossing immune from future flooding, it would allow water to be dispersed more quickly and the effects of minor flooding negated.

"This project was recognised as a priority under the Burnett River Floodplain Action Plan and identified by the Community Reference Group," he said.

"It was jointly funded by the Federal and State Governments through the NDARRA program and

additional Betterment funding as well as contributions from council and SunWater."



The crossing is coping well above expectations.

Isis Town and Country, 17 December

Team rewarded for flood restoration work in Somerset

SOMERSET Regional Council has received an excellence award recognising their efforts in flood reconstruction work across the region.

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 held earlier this month.

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

Somer 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," Cr 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.

"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 monetary projects locally and utilising Council's existing resources and staff, wherever possible, to undertake repair work.

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



Somerset Regional Council operations manager Tony Jacobs, Somerset Mayor Graeme Lehmann, Somerset Regional Council works manager Andrew Johnson, GHD client relationship manager Ken Fox, GHD project manager Michael Mathew and GHD civil engineer Paul Henderson.

Kilcoy Sentinel, 24 December

North Burnett recovery going ahead

FEDERAL Member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd has welcomed last week's Commonwealth, State joint announcement that \$2.6 million has been granted for vital infrastructure projects in Flynn in response to Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

Minister for Justice Michael Keenan announced the funding with Queensland Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad under the joint Commonwealth-Queensland \$27.5 million Category D Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

North Burnett Regional

Council secured \$2.6 million in funding to upgrade damaged assets to a more disaster resilient standard.

Tropical Cyclone Marcia caused significant damage to essential public assets in Flynn, including vital transport routes such as A Creek Rd at Coombulla where the Grosvener Bridge crosses," Mr O'Dowd said.

"This funding commitment will help to make roads in the electorate more resilient by installing such infrastructure as upgrades to floodways and approaches and drainage infrastructure. Mr Keenan said the \$2.6 million in funding for Flynn would be spread across 10 projects

within the North Burnett area, including Black Horse Creek Rd, A Creek Rd (Grosvener Bridge), Coombulla Rd, Humphrey Binjour Rd, Bon Accord Wetheron Rd, Glenleigh Rd, Mt Debatable Rd, Lovedays Rd, Malbon Creek Rd and Rockvale Rd.

"This will help ensure residents and businesses that rely on these roads have improved access to their properties, schools, shops, supplies and emergency services during and after major rainfall and flood events."

Central and North Burnett Times, 17 December

Seamark Road bridge open two weeks early

THE Seamark Rd bridge is ready for use two weeks ahead of schedule, returning a lifeline to some 30 farmers and residents in the area.

The bridge was severely damaged in the February floods and the Queensland Government helped to fast-track funding to get it rebuilt as quickly as possible.

Tablelands Regional Mayor Rosa Lee Long welcomed the co-operation of Federal and State governments.

"They had expedited funding Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDARRA) to start vital restoration works on the Seamark Rd bridge."

"Under the NDARRA, the Commonwealth Government provides up to 75 per cent of eligible funding."

Tablelands Regional Council funded the guard rails to improve safety on the bridge.

Federal Minister for Justice

Michael Keenan and Queensland Deputy Premier Jackie Trad made a joint announcement on October 1 that TRC had started restoration works on the bridge.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad said it was essential Seamark Bridge was repaired as it provided the only access for farmers and residents on the west side of the bridge.

"Seamark Rd is a no-through road, so there are up to 30 property owners located on the west side of the bridge who have no alternative route."

"The bridge was badly damaged in the flood with the sheer velocity of floodwaters causing structural cracking on the concrete piers supporting the bridge, as well as erosion of the bitumen surface."

Councillor Lee Long said restoring the 16m long, two-lane one-way bridge was a vital project for the local community.

"Following the floods in February this year, the bridge was closed for safety reasons until we could install a temporary structure," Cr Lee Long said.

"The residents have been unable to repair their properties following the floods as concrete trucks, gravel trucks and construction equipment are unable to use the bridge."

"Farmers were heavily impacted as the trucks they need to transport goods far exceeded the 10 tonne limit."

"The new bridge construction was expected to be completed by January 7, 2016."

Cr Lee Long said it was an early Christmas present for Seamark Rd residents. The bridge is open to vehicle traffic and its capacity is 44 tonnes.

Only minor scour protection works were to be completed.



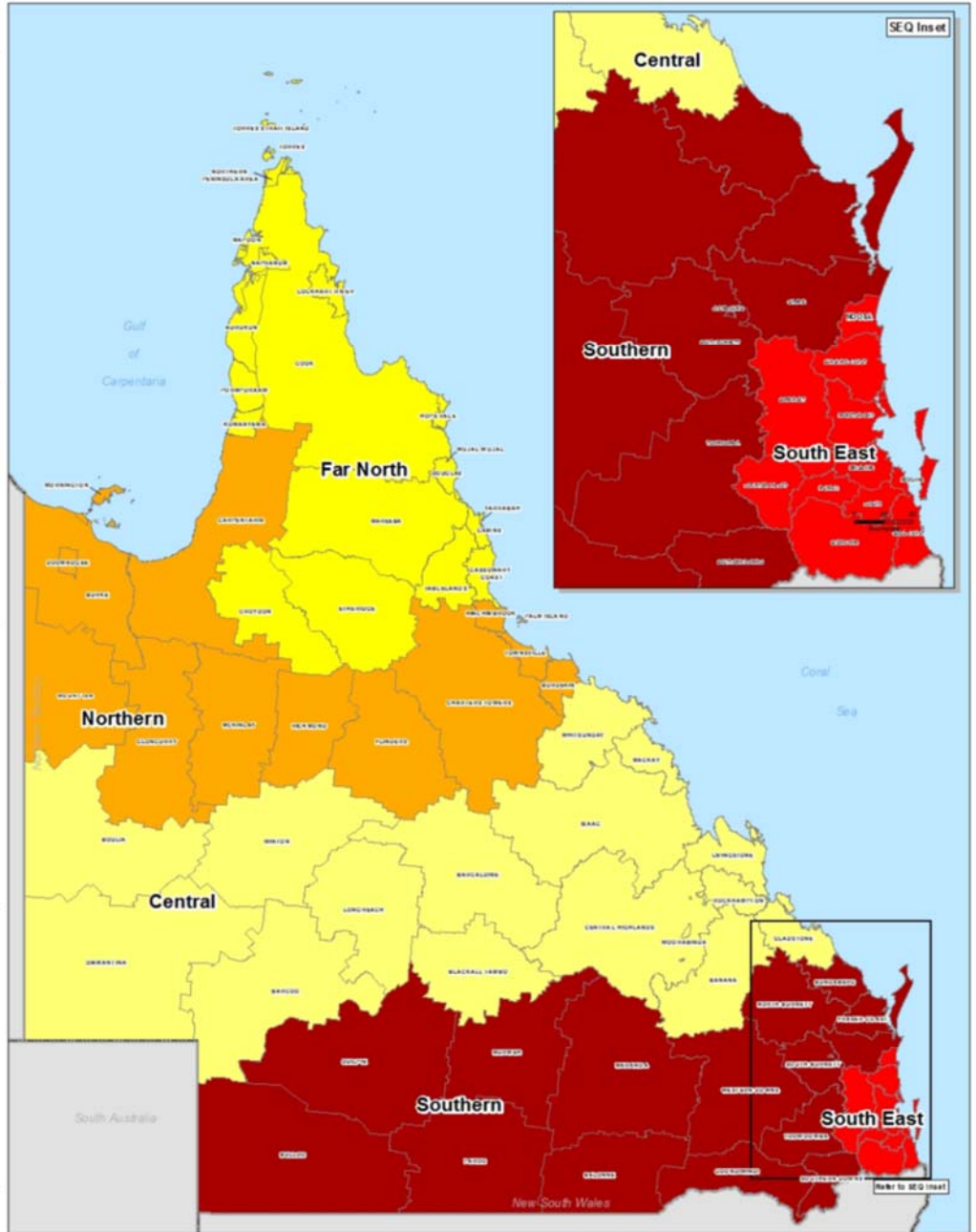
On site at the newly rebuilt Seamark Rd Bridge near Malbon on Friday night, from left: Project Manager KRM Architects; Deputy Mayor and local councillor Scott Packer; Mayor Rosa Lee Long; acting general manager of Tablelands Regional Council's Infrastructure Works Acting General Manager and project supervisor, Mike James; and project engineer, John Stanger.

Atherton Tablelander, 22 December

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	
	CrSC	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	Morrington 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		



Disclaimer:
This map has been prepared by the Dept of Queensland, Energy,
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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



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