

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

# Monthly Report

April 2017

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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](mailto: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 April 2017 Monthly Report – the 74th report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

QRA was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (the Act) following the unprecedented natural disasters that struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11.

The Authority is charged with helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters through managing and coordinating the Queensland Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities and being the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy, which is delivered through working collaboratively with other agencies and key stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

Since our last report, the State has once again faced a major natural disaster in the form of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie which crossed the coast in the Whitsundays as a Category 4 system on 28 March 2017 bringing damaging winds and rains across the region, before unleashing flooding rains as it descended as a tropical low through southern and south-east Queensland and into New South Wales over the following days. To date, 29 local government areas in Queensland have been activated for joint Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) assistance as a result of the event and the task of cleaning up and recovering has begun. The April report tracks the event and profiles its impact on affected regions, and reports on the State's recovery planning and response efforts to date.

The April report also provides an update on progress in other recovery, resilience and mitigation activities and a snapshot of progress in the state's recovery and reconstruction from other disaster events of recent years.

In March, the State finalised and lodged its annual claim to the Commonwealth for NDRRA assistance in relation to close to \$300 million of disaster reconstruction works completed in the year to 30 June 2016. The claim was submitted to the Commonwealth ahead of the due date on 23 March 2017. The claim will now be subject to the Commonwealth's assurance activities before it can be considered acquitted and before the Commonwealth reimburses the approximate \$125 million due to the State on the claim.

Following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, QRA is now managing a program of reconstruction works for 23 events from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 disaster periods that are in the delivery phase. With damage estimates starting to be prepared for this most recent event, works on the existing program are progressing. QRA has approved \$665 million of works for the earlier events and has additional submissions worth \$129 million on hand for assessment or awaiting additional information. In addition, \$405 million (58 per cent) of works in relation to the pre-Cyclone Debbie delivery program had been reported to QRA at 28 February 2017 as in progress or delivered. QRA has also commenced engagement with councils and other delivery agents to progress damage collections and identify impacts of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie on existing programs of work.

I commend the report to you and recommend its release to the Minister and the public pursuant to Section 41 of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Brendan Moon  
Chief Executive Officer  
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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**Section one:**  
**Introduction**



# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

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

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

QRA 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.

QRA is also the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. In this role QRA is working collaboratively with other agencies and key stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

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

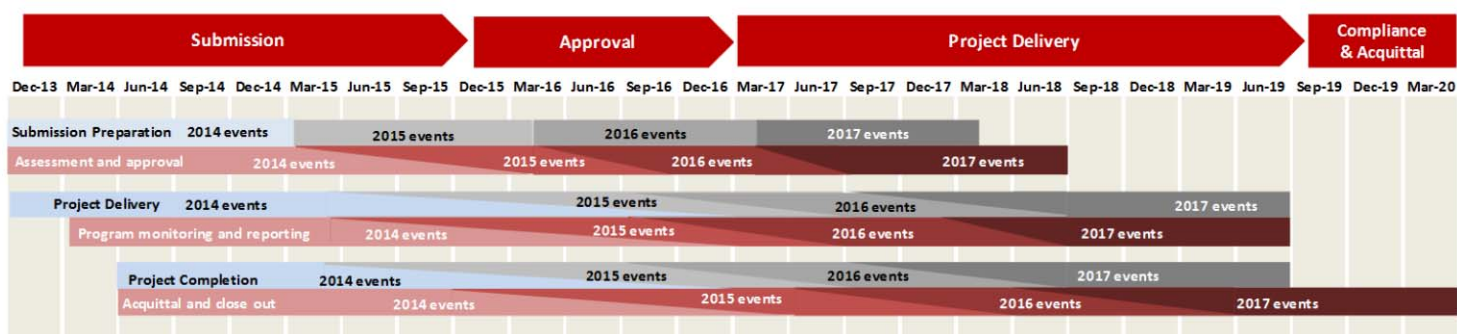
As part of its role, QRA administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works, Restoration of Essential Public Assets, Category C and Category D assistance to State Departments and Agencies (SDA) and Local Government Authorities (LGA). Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 64 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

## 1.2 Timing

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

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

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



Works for 32 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery and/or acquittal phases.

On 23 March 2017, QRA submitted the 2015-16 NDRRA Claim to the Commonwealth for works completed to 30 June 2016. The Commonwealth has advised that it will not acquit nor pay the reimbursement due on this claim until it has completed its own assurance activities over the claim. QRA is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to facilitate its assurance activities in order to progress the acquittal and reimbursement as soon as possible.

Subject to acceptance of the 2015-16 NDRRA Claim by the Commonwealth and other than a small number of projects that received extensions of time for drought-related impacts, QRA has now finalised the close out of all works up to and including the 2014 events.

QRA is currently working with delivery agents to progress delivery of the 2015 and 2016 event programs and provide advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation for the more recent 2017 events, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

**Section two:**  
**Disaster Assistance**

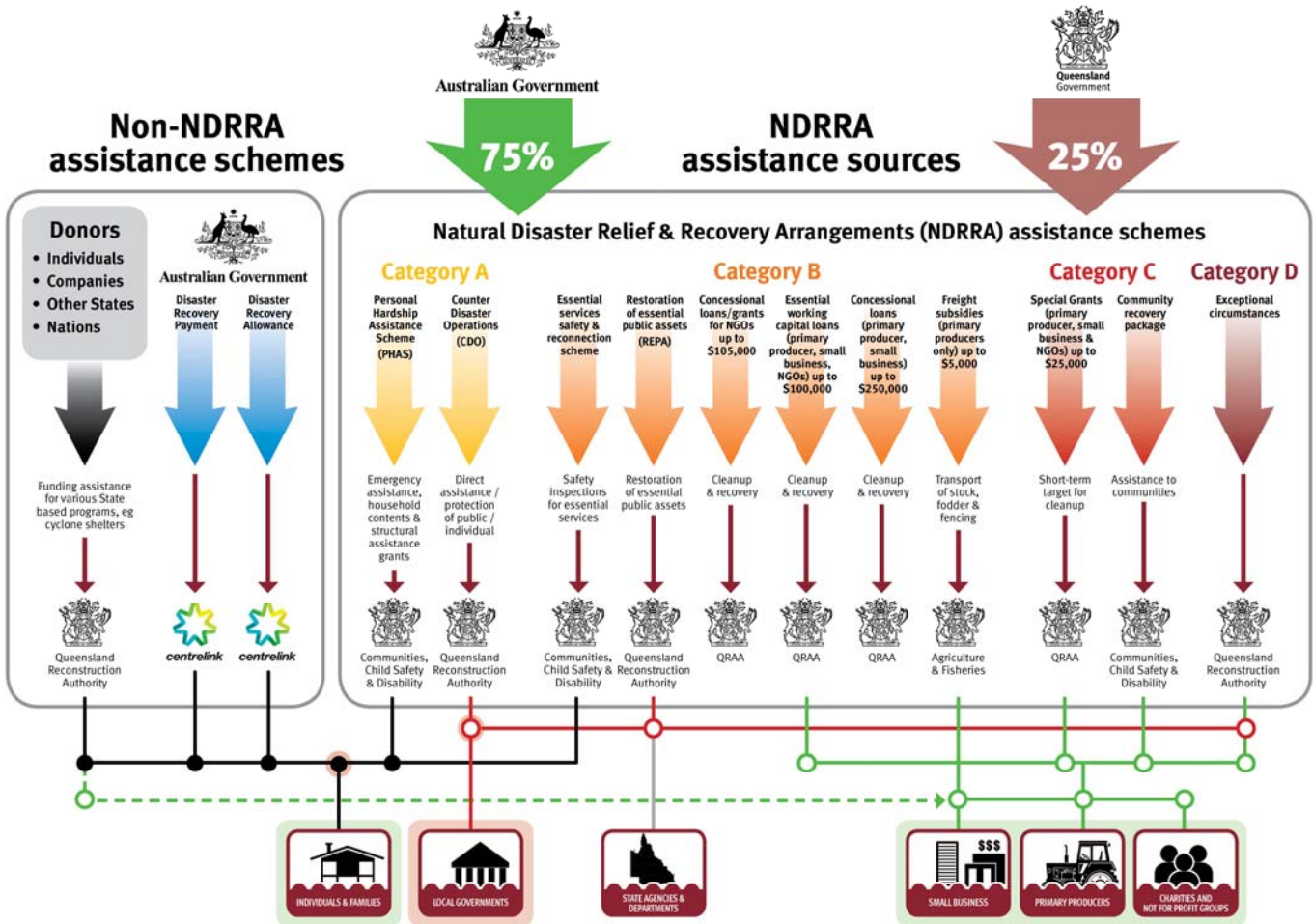


## 2.0 Disaster Assistance

### 2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework

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

Figure 2.1.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework



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

#### Disaster events managed by QRA

The list of the activated disaster events managed by QRA are set out in **Section 2.2** and can also be found on [www.disaster.qld.gov.au](http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au).

This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

- **2017 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA occurring in the financial year ending **30 June 2017**
- **2016 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA occurring in the financial year ending **30 June 2016**
- **2015 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2015**
- **2014 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2014**
- **2013 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA 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 QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2012**
- **2011 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA 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 QRA

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

Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 66 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, 34 events are complete, having been delivered, closed out and acquitted to the Commonwealth in audited claims.

Works for 23 events from the 2015 to 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery phase<sup>1</sup> and completed works from a further 9 events from the 2014 event period are also in the acquittal phase<sup>1</sup>.

During March, two additional events were activated with Cassowary Coast Regional Council activated for the *Gulf Tropical Low, 15-24 February 2017* event and 29 councils activated to date for *Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and associated rainfall and flooding, 28 March - 6 April 2017* event.

The figures opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2015 to 2017 event periods that are either still in delivery and/or acquittal phase.

A summary of previous events dating back to 2007 that have been managed through to acquittal by QRA is provided in Appendix B.

### 2017 events

*(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2019, with final acquittal due by March 2020)*

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and associated rainfall and flooding, 28 March - 6 April 2017
- Gulf Tropical Low, 15-24 February 2017
- Far North Queensland Low, 8-11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding, 13-20 September 2016
- Central Queensland Severe Weather, 15-20 July 2016

### 2016 events

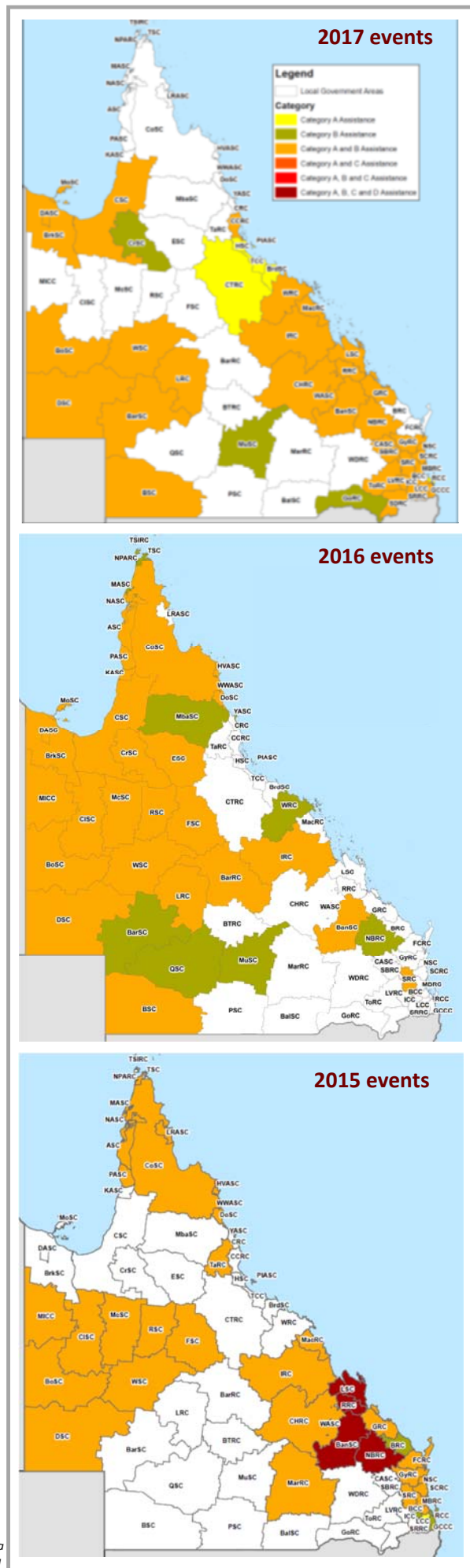
*(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2018, with final acquittal due by March 2019)*

- Central Western Queensland Flooding, 13-19 June 2016
- Far North Queensland Upper Level Trough, 21-23 May 2016
- South West Queensland Floods, 7-9 May 2016
- Far North and North West Queensland Tropical Low, 14-18 March 2016
- Western Queensland Trough, 7-11 March 2016
- Central Coast Surface Trough, 4-8 February 2016
- Central Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall & Flooding, 2-4 February 2016
- Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough – 20-31 December 2015
- Fernvale Severe Storm, 27 October 2015.

### 2015 events

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

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



1. The NDRRA Determination imposes a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works (delivery phase) and a further nine months to acquit completed works (acquittal phase) through lodgement of an annual claim to the Commonwealth. Following extension of time approvals, a number of projects from the 2013 and 2014 event period are still in delivery and acquittal phases.

**Section three:**

# **Program Status**



## 3.0 Program Status

### 3.1 NDRRA program status

QRA is currently assisting councils and delivery agents with the response and initial recovery activities following the impacts of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the associated rainfall and flooding with 29 councils activated for NDRRA assistance to date.

QRA is assisting, as required, with the damage assessments from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in order to progress the reconstruction program into delivery as soon as possible. QRA is also monitoring and assisting delivery agents with progressing their remaining programs of work from the 2015 and 2016 events through delivery.

On 23 March 2017, QRA submitted the 2015-16 NDRRA Claim to the Commonwealth for works completed to 30 June 2016. The claim will result in an estimated \$125 million reimbursement to the State when accepted and acquitted by the Commonwealth. QRA is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to facilitate its assurance activities in order to progress the acquittal and reimbursement as soon as possible.

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

The value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by QRA since its establishment (and prior to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie) is estimated to be \$13.3 billion. Of this, \$12.3 billion of works from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012 and 2013 events have been finalised (delivered and acquitted) with the remaining works for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event years in the active delivery and/or acquittal phases.

#### Active program

QRA is managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$702 million for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events<sup>1</sup> (**Delivery Program**) and an **Acquittal Program** worth \$868 million, comprising the remaining works from the 2013 to 2017 Events<sup>1</sup> that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth.

The damage estimates for Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie will be incorporated into the Delivery and Acquittal Programs when available.

#### Delivery Program status

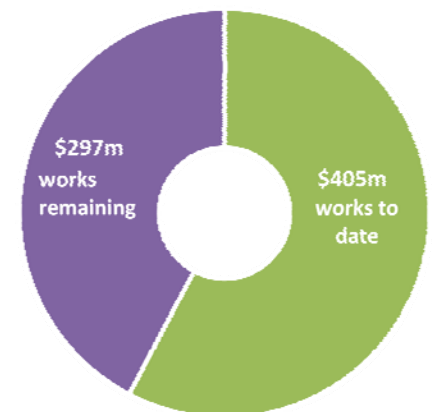
Since the last report, QRA's Delivery Program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$1.0 billion in submissions have been received, an increase of \$82 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$665 million has been approved, an increase of \$25 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$129 million are with QRA and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$405 million (58 per cent<sup>1</sup>) of the Delivery Program has been reported to QRA at 28 February 2017 as in progress or delivered.

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecast monthly costs to completion at 28 February 2017 on a combined basis for the 2015 and 2016 Events.

The 2015 and 2016 Event works are due for completion by 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018 respectively. The 2017 Events will have to 30 June 2019 to complete reconstruction works.

#### Delivery Program (2015 to 2017 Events) progress<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> reflect 2017 Events that occurred up to 30 September only. Impacts of subsequent 2017 Events, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie will be incorporated into the Delivery and Acquittal Programs when available.

(Source: The Authority, 31 March 2017)

### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

#### Acquittal Program status

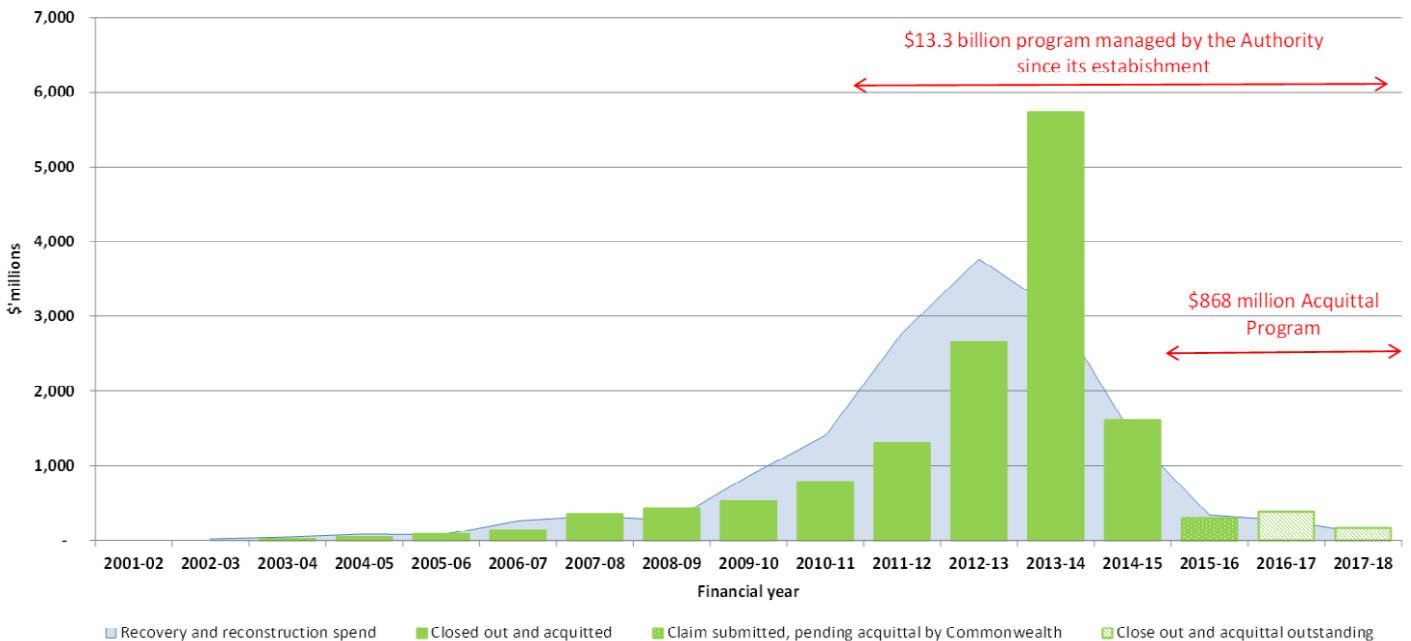
The 2015-16 Commonwealth Claim, representing the State's NDRRA claim for works completed in the year to 30 June 2016, was submitted to the Commonwealth ahead of deadline on 23 March 2017. The claim includes final works from the 2014 events and components of 2015 and 2016 works completed by 30 June 2016.

The claim, accompanied by an unqualified audit opinion, comprised \$292 million of State Expenditure and will result in an estimated \$125 million reimbursement when accepted and acquitted by the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth has advised that it will not pay amounts due on this and future claims until it has completed its own assurance activities over the claim. The Commonwealth has commenced its assurance review of the 2015-16 Claim but has not committed to any timeframe for undertaking the assurance activities.

QRA is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to progress the review in order to expedite the acquittal of, and payment due on the claim.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2015-16 financial years and Commonwealth Claims preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2016-17 to 2017-18 in order to finalise acquittal of the \$868 million remaining in the Acquittal Program.



Gulf Developmental Road (Georgetown–Mt Garnet) – damage from Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough (December 2015–January 2016) (left); and following completion of restoration by TMR (right)

(Source: QRA, 31 March 2017)



### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

#### Additional NDRRA 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 Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015:

Package	Purpose	Status
<b>2015 Events Betterment Fund (\$20 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster.</li> <li>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 Betterment fund and Council contributions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received for 190 projects across eight LGAs eligible for funding. The proposals principally comprised works to increase the resilience of damaged roads, culverts and floodways.</li> <li>To 31 March 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63 submissions with a total project value of over \$40 million, including \$20 million in Betterment funding have been approved</li> <li>46 projects with a total project value of \$18.6 million, including \$11 million Betterment funding have been reported as complete.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Key 2015 Event Betterment projects completed to date include 17 projects for NBRC, 12 projects for Somerset Regional Council and 8 projects for Rockhampton Regional Council, including Pilbeam Drive.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Delivery of 2015 betterment works is required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements, unless any requested Extensions of Time are approved by the Commonwealth prior.</li> </ul>
<b>Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (\$6 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRA received EOIs from seven applicants for more than \$16 million</li> <li>Nine submissions worth \$6 million have been approved across the seven applicants, fully allocating the program funding.</li> <li>Key projects allocated funding include the clean-up and restoration of Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton which was severely damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia.</li> <li>Delivery of works is anticipated by 30 June 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRA received EOIs for more than \$1.7 million from three of the four LGAs eligible for funding allocation.</li> <li>Five submissions worth \$1 million have since been approved, delivered and closed out across the three applicants, fully allocating the program funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IRO program was managed by the Queensland Farmers Federation on behalf of Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)</li> <li>IRO officers are located with Growcom, Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation, AgForce and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland</li> <li>IROs have now completed delivery of a range of support activities delivered including workshops, field visits, soil testing and feed sample analysis work.</li> </ul>
<b>Category C Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS)</li> <li>Livingstone, Gladstone, North Burnett and Banana councils and Rockhampton Uniting Care Community are delivering Community Development and Personal Support &amp; General Counselling programs across each of the five affected communities.</li> <li>Relationships Australia and Uniting Care Community are delivering Personal Support and General Counselling services.</li> <li>The final payment has been made on this program, which exhausts the Category C Community Recovery Package.</li> </ul>

(Source: QRA, DCCSDS and DAF; 31 March 2017)

#### Other active Category D measures

- The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to continue the **Day Labour** extension for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 events, which enables councils to deliver restoration works with their own workforce on condition that they provide evidence of savings in both time and cost.

### 3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities

QRA is leading disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. A summary of recent progress is set out below:

Activity	Purpose	Status
<b>Interim Queensland Recovery Plan</b>	The Interim Queensland Recovery Plan applies to Queensland Government agencies, and informs local governments, government-owned corporations, statutory bodies representing the state, non-government organisations and other disaster recovery stakeholders of the procedures and processes employed by the state during recovery operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan was approved by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee in March 2017 and released on the Queensland Disaster Management website.</li> <li>The plan will be reviewed to incorporate learnings following its implementation during the 2016-17 severe weather season, with the longer term Queensland Recovery Plan to be finalised by mid-2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) Guide</b>	The DRC Guide provides information and guidance on the roles, responsibilities, training and induction requirements, management arrangements and operational issues relating to DRCs in Queensland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A guide for the role of the DRC has been made available online via the QRA and Queensland Disaster Management websites.</li> <li>QRA will maintain the DRC Register commensurate with the role of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRPPC).</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Policy Framework for Riverine Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience</b>	The policy framework is a key recommendation from the Disaster Management Reviews conducted in 2015 and will support a state-wide best practice approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft policy framework will be submitted to the Queensland Disaster Management Committee for endorsement in the coming months.</li> </ul>
<b>Disaster Management Reviews</b>	<p>In 2015, a series of reviews were conducted into disaster management operations following Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia.</p> <p>An Interdepartmental Committee was established to review 160 recommendations from these reviews, including KPMG's operational review of QRA. The QRA review identified 14 recommendations relating to operational and policy-related matters, including the need for clarity in the disaster management framework on the roles and responsibilities of the QRA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at 1 April 2017, 11 of the 14 recommendations have been completed. The three remaining recommendations are progressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical leadership in Commonwealth funding negotiations</li> <li>Greater role in prioritisation of disaster recovery funding</li> <li>The QRA assume stewardship for a central repository for the collection and storage of whole-of-government disaster management data.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Floodplain management</b>	QRA is developing the Queensland Flood Risk Management Implementation and Capacity Building Program to support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work has commenced and options for the development and delivery of this program are being developed in conjunction with the Queensland Flood Resilience Coordination Committee, which includes LGAQ.</li> </ul>
<b>Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies</b>	The Queensland Government and local councils are working together on a long-term plan to manage the impact of future floods and enhance community safety and resilience in the Brisbane River floodplain. The project includes development of a Flood Study followed by a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan that will guide a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Flood Study is in the final stages of completion.</li> <li>The Flood Study will support the development of a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan, which is scheduled for completion in December 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Flood warning</b>	QRA continues to support Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to engage with LGAs to review the adequacy and appropriateness of the flood warning networks that provide data to the BoM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In February, QRA commenced preparations with the BoM to undertake an audit of the Queensland Flood Warning Network asset register and identify infrastructure where the ownership and responsibility of the asset is not clearly identified. The audit is expected to commence in May 2017 and will take approximately three months to complete.</li> <li>Draft Flood Gauge Network Investment Plans have been developed for 37 priority LGAs in 2016 and 2017. The QRA is working with these councils and the BoM to finalise the draft plans over coming months.</li> <li>Initial plans are now being developed to prioritise the remaining LGAs considered as having a medium to low threat flood hazard. This work is expected to be completed in 2017 and will support LGAs in prioritising new and upgraded flood gauge infrastructure.</li> </ul>



### 3.3 Program spotlights

Tuesday 28 March

## Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie crossed the coast as a Category 4 system

Airports closed throughout North Queensland: Mackay, Proserpine, Townsville and Hamilton Island.

Ports closed at Abbot Point, Mackay and Townsville.



Several Whitsunday Islands closed and evacuated.





### Thursday 30 March:

Cyclone Debbie becomes a Tropical Low and tracks toward the South-East.

Communities from Gympie to the Gold Coast are deluged with up to 400mm of rain and 100kph winds. Homes, creeks and roads become swamped as schools were closed and businesses urged to send staff home.

Major flooding across the valuable agricultural region of the Scenic Rim as well as in the semi-urban centres of Logan and the Gold Coast Hinterland.



The Albert and Logan Rivers reach heights not seen since the 1974 Floods, with 14.76 metres for the Logan River at Beaudesert and 13.55 meters for the Albert River at Wolfdene.



Power supply was cut to approximately 235,000 customers in total, with major outages in Proserpine, Mackay, Bowen and the Sunshine Coast.



More than 1,000 schools and 900 early childhood education and care services were closed



The National Farmers Federation has cited industry groups estimating damage to crops of up to \$1 billion.



Impacts across a wide range of economic, tourism and primary production industries.







At each stage of the unfolding and evolving disaster, Queensland Reconstruction Authority staff worked closely with frontline services such as Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Australian Defence Force, as well as local councils, local and district disaster management groups, providing information on funding support available under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

**Thursday 6 April:**  
The flood peaks at 8.9 metres in Rockhampton. Hundreds of low-lying properties and businesses still experience inundation.



Almost 2,500 properties damaged

To date: 29 local government areas have been activated for NDRRA assistance. Measures range from counter disaster operations, the restoration of essential public assets, as well as personal hardship assistance for communities in Rockhampton, Isaac, the Gold Coast, Livingstone, Mackay, Whitsunday, Gold Coast, Logan, and the Scenic Rim.

In addition, impacted primary producers in Central Highlands, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Isaac, Livingstone, Logan, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim, Rockhampton, Mackay and the Whitsundays are able to access subsidised working capital and concessional loans, as well as freight subsidies to transport fodder and send livestock and produce to market.

GIVIT has received more than \$120,000 in cash donations





# Queensland Reconstruction Authority leading recovery efforts across the state

Brigadier Chris Field appointed State Recovery Coordinator, supported in the north by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Chief Superintendent Kevin Walsh and in the south by Queensland Police Service Superintendent Charysse Pond



Supporting agencies and local government authorities with extraordinary assistance applications under NDRRA

Working with the five functional recovery groups – human and social; economic; environment; building; and roads and transport – on key tasks and activities.

State Recovery Plan is being developed with assistance from the Australian Defence Force



Over 40,000 personal hardship assistance grants paid, assisting almost 90,000 people

Working with local government authorities to develop Local Recovery Plans





### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### TMR Check.Plan.Go with QLDTraffic

Queenslanders now have access to enhanced traffic and travel information – including on road closures due to natural disaster events like Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie – with the launch of the new QLD*Traffic* website, mobile application and regional Twitter handles.

Transport and Main Roads conducted customer research asking everyday Queensland road users about their travel habits and what information would help them get where they needed more easily.

The result? Check.Plan.Go with QLD*Traffic*.

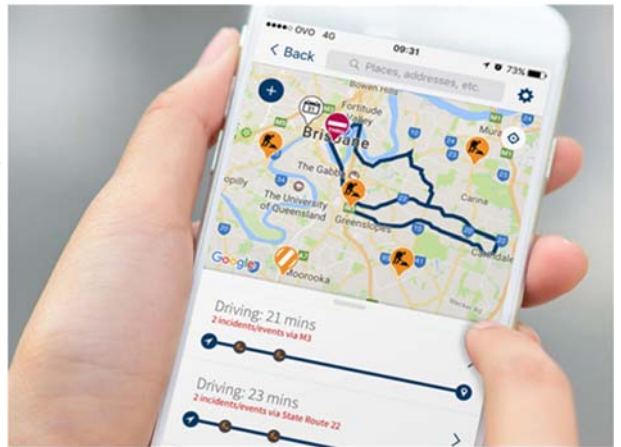
The new QLD*Traffic* website enables users to:

- filter traffic information more easily by simply selecting an event type such as flooding, roadworks or hazard
- view the latest images from available traffic camera feeds using images of the road network
- view alerts and warning messages about incidents impacting a particular road, area or region.

The QLD*Traffic* mobile app was developed in response to continuing growth in smartphone access to the QLD*Traffic* website and its predecessor, 131940.qld.gov.au.

App users can save their favourite route and receive notifications for relevant traffic events, see how long it will take to drive from A to B, view and select alternative routes and view traffic camera feeds to see what's happening on the roads.

The initiative also included introducing a new back-end system to improve data accuracy, provide a more intuitive, efficient interface for operators and enable operators to lend a hand to other districts during critical events such as natural disasters.



#### TMR Progress update - Burnett River Bridge replacement



Works to replace the Burnett River Bridge between Monto and Eidsvold are continuing, with laying of the deck units completed in February.

The bridge, previously located on Monto–Mount Perry Road about 6km south-east of the Burnett Highway, was washed away by floodwaters associated with Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February 2015.

Eligible works will be funded under the NDRRA with additional complementary state funding allocated to ensure value for the community by improving flood immunity.

To improve safety for motorists, the road and new bridge have also been realigned to reduce the curvature of the bridge approaches and improve visibility for motorists.

Construction activities at the project site commenced in September 2016. A temporary river crossing was constructed to maintain access across the Burnett River until the bridge is opened to traffic.

Following completion of the bridge sub-structures, the precast concrete deck units have been installed in February and works are continuing on the road approaches.

The Burnett River Bridge replacement is scheduled for completion in the first half of 2017, within the NDRRA funding timeframe.

*Burnett River Bridge – installation of bridge decking*



## **Section four: Communications**



## 4.0 Communications

QRA 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 1,449 media items in March 2017 (511 print – 35%, 373 TV – 26%, 498 radio – 34%, 67 online – 4%), which reached a cumulative audience of approximately 91.9 million people.

There was extensive media coverage for regions impacted by Tropical Cyclone Debbie as well as from previous natural disaster events, including articles in The Age, Australian Financial Review, Bowen Independent, Cairns Post, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Queensland News, Central Telegraph, Chinchilla News and Murilla Advertiser, The Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Warwick Daily News, Dalby Herald, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone Observer, Gold Coast Bulletin, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, High Country Herald, Innisfail Advocate, Kilcoy Sentinel, Maryborough Herald, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Noosa News, North Queensland Register, North West Star, Charters Towers Northern Miner, Queensland Country Life, Queensland Times, Rural Weekly, South Burnett Times, Stanthorpe Border Post, Sunshine Coast Daily, Surat Basin News, Sydney Morning Herald, Tablelands Advertiser, The Australian, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin, Western Star, Whitsunday Guardian, and the Whitsunday Times; Internet coverage at ABC Online, blackwaterherald.com.au, couriermail.com.au, cairnspost.com.au, dailymercury.com.au, frasercoastchronicle.com.au, gladstoneobserver.com.au, gympietimes.com.au, themorningbulletin.com.au, news-mail.com.au, queenslandtimes.com.au, sunshinecoastdaily.com.au, theaustralian.com.au, toowoombachronicle.com.au, townesvillbulletin.com.au and warwickdailynews.com.au; TV coverage on ABC News 24, Sky News, Channels Seven, Nine, WIN and Ten networks throughout the State as well as nationally; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, ABC Radio National, Sunshine FM, 2DAY FM Sydney, 97.3 Brisbane, 4BC Brisbane, 4BU Bundaberg, Gold FM Gold Coast, hit FM (Cairns, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Gold Coast), Hot FM (Maroochydore, Sunshine Coast) MIX FM Sunshine Coast, NOVA Brisbane, River FM Ipswich, SEA FM Sunshine Coast, 4TO Townsville, 4WK Toowoomba, Triple M (Brisbane, Sydney, Darling Downs, Mackay, and Zinc FM Sunshine Coast.

Making news in March 2017 was the devastating impact of Tropical Cyclone Debbie, which caused major damage across Queensland. There was extensive ongoing coverage across all media as the cyclone first impacted communities in the Whitsundays before heading south causing major flooding from Rockhampton to the New South Wales border and beyond.

#### Engagement Activities

On 28 March 2017, **Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk** appointed former QRA Chief of Operations and Planning, **Brigadier Christopher Field AM CSC**, as the state’s Disaster Recovery Coordinator for Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Brigadier Field’s planning team, comprising QRA, Australian Defence Force and Queensland Fire and Emergency Service members, is ensuring there is a comprehensive, community focussed and local government-led recovery, supported and coordinated via a whole-of-government approach.

On 31 March 2017, **Deputy Premier Jackie Trad** joined Brigadier Field in North Queensland to inspect damage inflicted on the region by Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

#### Communications

QRA keeps its stakeholders and the community informed and ensures access to the latest information through QRA’s website, phone hotline and management of correspondence.

QRA’s website is regularly updated, including information about progress on current recovery efforts. There has been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 31 March 2017, total website visits amounted to 518,506. (See Figure 5.1.1) In February, QRA received an additional 143 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 268 pieces of written correspondence (See Figure 5.1.2)

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

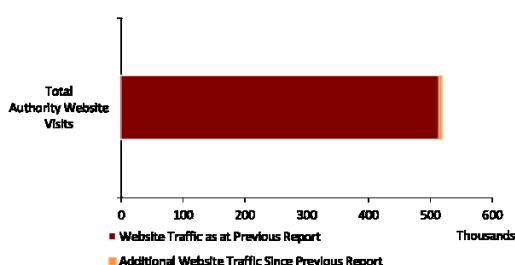
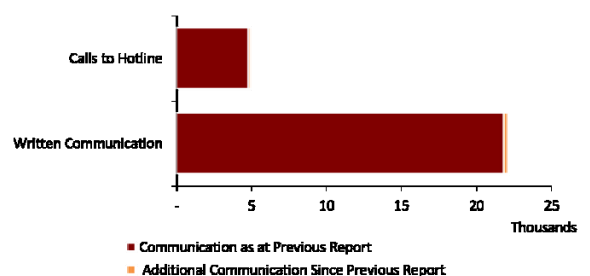


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



Source: QRA at 31 March 2017





THE FEDERAL RESPONSE

Australian Defence Force joint taskforce set up, largely comprising personnel from Townsville-based 3rd Brigade...

Government to work with banks and insurers to ensure claims are treated properly. Mobile government assistance bus and call centre...

Brigadier Field to lead defence taskforce in recovery effort

KIERAN ROONEY THE Australian Defence Force is at the ready to assist cyclone-hit communities...

"It is what the ADF does a lot of training on. We're confident we'll be able to bring North Queensland back to a state where the communities are thriving again."

"We have people flown and deployed in Rockhampton, Mackay, Bowen and Charlton Towers and we have other people on standby."

"A few days ago we thought 'Townsville was going to be under threat and we'll move to where we need to be.'"

"That's the great thing about our capabilities. In parliament, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said Brigadier Field was the right man to lead the recovery."

"I note that following the floods of 2011 he was chief of operations and planning for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority."

"Our emergency services are the best in the world and they are ready to respond as soon as... Debbie passes."

"There are around 1000 people deployed or on standby to assist and we thank them for their courage and commitment, their selfless service."

"Mr Turnbull said the Federal Government had a role to play in minimising the impact to families caught when claims are made by household and businesses in relation to this cyclone," he said.

"We are also working with the insurance and banking sectors to ensure all factors are taken into consideration when claims are made by household and businesses in relation to this cyclone," he said.

29 March - Townsville Bulletin

Evacuations as deluge swamps state

30 March - The Australian

FLOODS

SEAN PINNELL

The weather system that hit the Whitsunday Coast as Cyclone Debbie's low-damping heavy rain across Queensland's most populated areas...

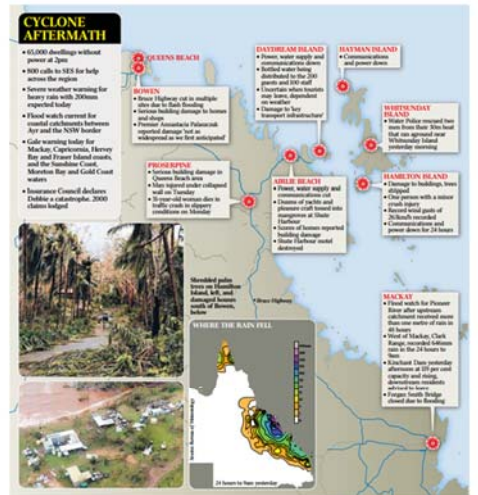
Bandaberg residents were urged to stock up on supplies in anticipation of more flooding and the occupants of several cars had to be rescued after becoming trapped in high water.

Flooding has delayed relief efforts and frustrated electricity and communications crews working to restore services not only in the Whitsunday Coast but areas to the south and west.

The Bureau of Meteorology has warned of widespread rainfall of 100mm-200mm today. Similar falls were recorded in just an hour during Cyclone Debbie.

Despite dam filling fast, the lack of electricity has left communities with limited drinking water and looting severe problems.

"It has come across the coast in southern Queensland and is going to come all the way down to the southeast—a huge system—as I don't even know to let in the authorities. If you do not need to be on the roads, do not be on the roads."



Crews set for rescue, recovery and repair

SEAN PINNELL

Residents, businesses and farmers are preparing for the rebuilding effort that will come once Cyclone Debbie passes...

South-east Queensland would have the heaviest rainfall tonight and early tomorrow. Brisbane City Council yesterday made available sandbags at the site as a precaution...

"We are still expecting very heavy rainfall, and we have issued a tropical low at Mackay yesterday as we tracked south-west before it was expected to veer back east."

"We are still expecting very heavy rainfall, and we have issued a tropical low at Mackay yesterday as we tracked south-west before it was expected to veer back east."

Disaster assistance for communities hit by Cyclone Debbie

TROPICAL cyclone Debbie unleashed a series of destruction across far north Queensland on Tuesday with the towns of Bowen and Proserpine among the worst hit.



In Mackay's Northern Beaches shade sails were destroyed, with chains left flying in the strong winds.

Trees were uprooted, roofs were torn off buildings and loose sheets of metal became missiles as Debbie made landfall.

The state government announced disaster assistance for eight local government areas including Burdekin, Charlton Towers, Isaac, Hinchinbrook, Mackay, Palm Island, Townsville and Whitsunday.

The assistance is being provided through the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

Meanwhile, the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority has advised that DAF will seek input from all industries before providing QRAA with a final damaged bill for the agricultural sector.

DAF media declined to comment yesterday morning given assessments had not yet started.

30 March - Queensland Country Life

We copped it sweet

Mayor says region eligible for assistance

DALE LAY

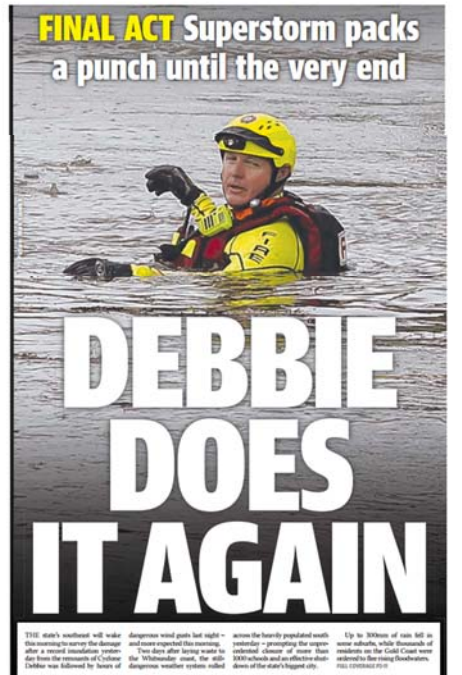
THE region did not dodge a bullet, according to Mayor Matt Burnett, but it could have been much worse. More than 100mm of rain was dumped in Gladstone...

Individuals, businesses and primary producers are eligible for help. The council was expecting the severe weather to hit yesterday, so Cr Burnett said they were prepared.

Cr Burnett said he did not remember whether systems like this have happened for about 30 years. "I don't remember anything like this since very early high school time," he said.

The State Emergency Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services received many calls for assistance during the storm, most of them for assistance to help communities recover from the effects of natural disasters.

31 March - Gladstone Observer



FINAL ACT Superstorm packs a punch until the very end

THE state's southeast will wake this morning to survey the damage after a second inundation system has hit Queensland's coastal areas...

31 March - The Courier-Mail

Repairs due soon for flood damage

LONG-AWAITED road repairs to a vital road needed since Fitzgerald Esplanade have been approved.

He said storm-related works had been undertaken over the past few months right across the region and this project, which was a major one, had been planned for after the wet season to avoid further damage from rain and flooding during the rebuild process.

Repairs will include removal of stormwater pipes for the 60m section and removal of the road that was excavated and closed after flood damage.

39 March - Innisfail Advocate

28 March - The Australian

3 council areas get disaster relief due to Cyclone Debbie



Disaster assistance for eight local government areas impacted by Cyclone Debbie has been announced.

Disaster assistance for eight local government areas impacted by Cyclone Debbie has been announced.

Minister for Justice Michael Keenan and Queensland Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Mark Ryan today announced disaster assistance in response to Tropical Cyclone Debbie that has affected eight local government areas today.

The assistance is being provided through the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

Minister Keenan said like all Australians, my thoughts today are with the people of far North Queensland who have braved themselves for the onslaught of Cyclone Debbie.

"Our number one concern remains the safety of those in the cyclone's path. I urge people to continue to exercise extreme caution, avoid risks and stay off the road. If it's flooded, forget it," Mr Keenan said.

28 March - Gladstone Observer online

Cash help available

FUNDING has been made available for cyclone victims through jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

"Immediate assistance will be made available for individuals and families facing personal hardship and distress, so that those people can cover emergency needs such as food, clothing, accommodation and essential repairs."

The assistance available will be in the vicinity of \$150 to \$180 dollars for individuals and \$750 to \$900 for families. This is not income tested, but it is for those who are not able to provide for their recovery from their own resources.

Further information on disaster support available can be obtained by visiting www.disasterassist.gov.au

31 March - Bowen Independent

FLOOD RESTORATION UPDATE

Over the next fortnight, flood restoration works will be concentrated in the following locations:

- Eidsvold Area - Old Rawbelle Rd, Galloways Lane, Jones Rd
Gayndah Area - Sunday Creek Rd, Bania Rd, Pinchburg Rd
Monto Area - Monal Rd, Telesburg Rd

- Mundubbera Area - Zpp's Rd, CD Jenkinson Rd, Green Tree Lane East, Tilgys Rd, Bundooma Rd, Briggs Rd NO 1, Old Eidsvold Rd
Wetheron Benyenda Rd, Gayndah 'under construction'.



Council acknowledges the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding is a joint Commonwealth and State Government program.

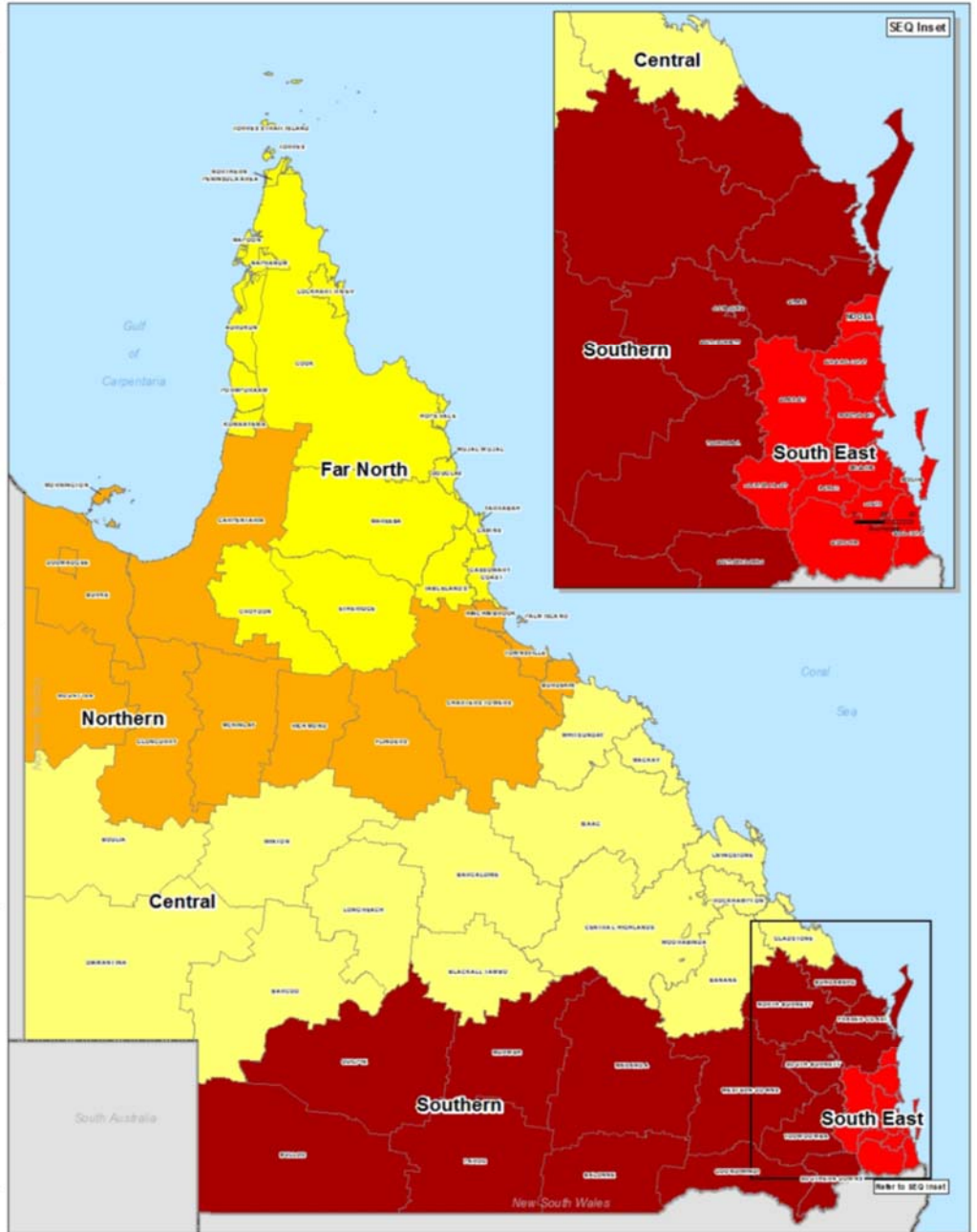
9 March - Central and North Burnett Times

# Appendices



# Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

Region	Local Government Areas (LGAs)	
<b>Far North Queensland (FNQ)</b>	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	
<b>North Queensland (NQ)</b>	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
	<b>Central Queensland (CQ)</b>	BanSC
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	
<b>Southern Queensland (SQ)</b>	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	
<b>South East Queensland (SEQ)</b>	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,  
Water and Environmental Protection for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information provided on this map. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information provided on this map.

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

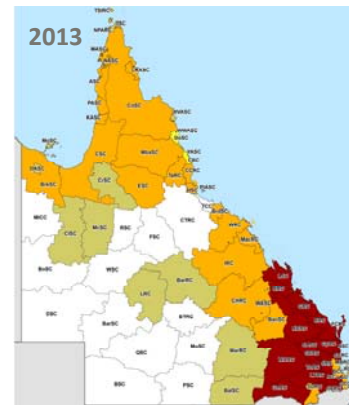
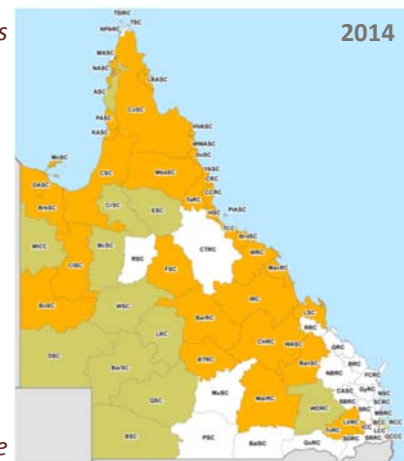


## Appendix B: NDRRA activations managed by QRA - 2007 to 2014 Events

### 2014 events

*Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three LGA programs that received extensions of time for delivery)*

- 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 Mar 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 Jan 2014)
- Tropical Cyclone Dylan, 31 January 2014
- North Stradbroke Island Fires, commencing 29 Dec 2013



### 2013 events

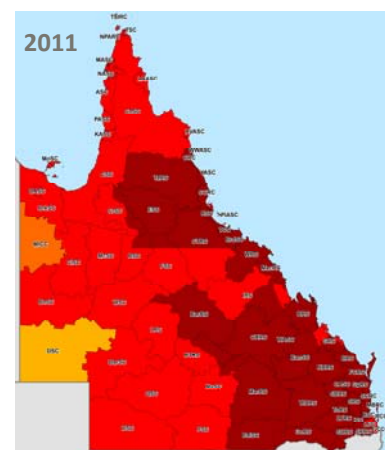
*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three projects that received extensions of time for delivery)*

- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late Oct - Dec 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013<sup>#</sup>
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013
- Central & Southern Queensland Low, 25 Feb - 5 Mar 2013.

### 2012 events

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)*

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



### 2011 events

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)*

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

### 2007-2010 events managed by QRA

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)*

- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul, Jan to Apr 2010
- Northern, Central & 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 November 2007
- South East and North Coast Queensland East Coast Low, August 2007.

