

# Monthly Report

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July 2018

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## Disaster Assistance

### Overview

QRA has responsibility to administer Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) measures in Queensland, coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities.

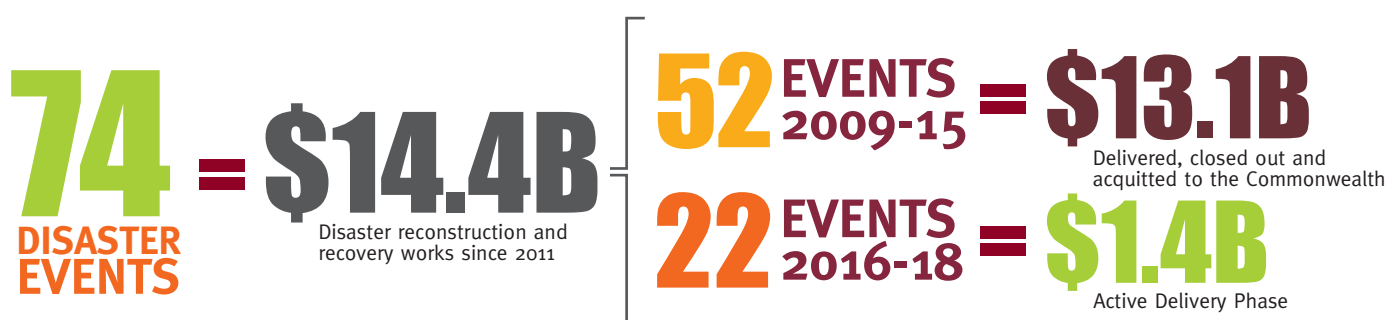
Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated \$14.4 billion of disaster reconstruction and recovery works for 74 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

The list of activated disaster events is found on [www.disaster.qld.gov.au](http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au).

Of the program, \$12.9 billion for 52 events from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 events are complete, having been delivered, closed out and acquitted to the Commonwealth in audited claims.

Works worth \$1.4 billion for the remaining 22 events from the 2016 to 2018 event periods are currently in the active delivery phase (**Delivery Program**).

### NDRRA Delivery Program status



### Natural Disaster Funding Reforms

On 8 June 2018, the Commonwealth released its finalised reforms to natural disaster funding arrangements, known as Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 (DRFA).

The main change under DRFA relative to the existing NDRRA model is that natural disaster recovery funding for the restoration of essential public assets will be based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs rather than reimbursement of actual costs incurred. DRFA also provides the potential for the state to retain any savings delivered in the state's restoration program for allocation to disaster mitigation and resilience projects.

DRFA will apply to any disaster events that occur from 1 November 2018, although the state will also continue to administer and submit claims under the existing NDRRA Determination for a two year period whilst the existing 2016, 2017 and 2018 Event disaster programs are finalised.

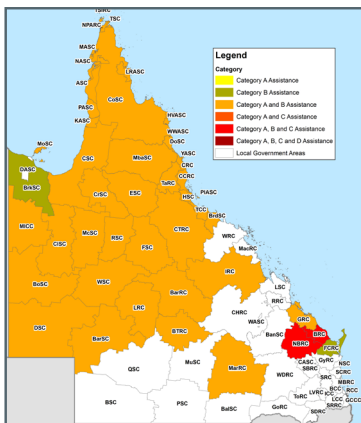
QRA is currently finalising its trialling of the new model and preparing for the transition to DRFA.

## Disaster Assistance

### Activations

# NO NDRRA activations new in June 2018

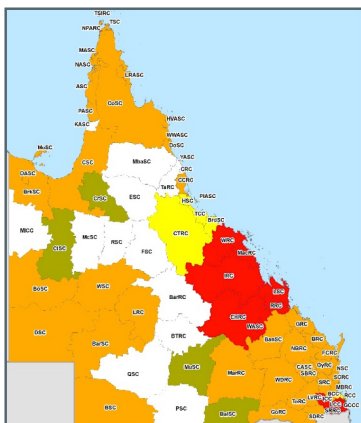
The figures below show the LGAs activated as at 30 April 2018 for NDRRA relief measures for the 2016 to 2018 event periods that are in the Delivery Program.



#### 2018 Events – \$373 million NDRRA program

*(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2020, with acquittal by March 2021)*

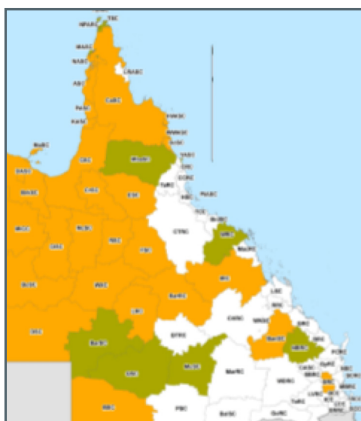
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora and Associated Flooding, 24-29 March 2018
- North Queensland Flooding, 6-10 March 2018
- North and North West Queensland Low and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 24 Feb – 8 Mar 2018
- Central Queensland Storm, 20 February 2018
- Cape York Queensland Trough, 26 January – 2 February 2018
- Central Coast Queensland Severe Weather, 16 – 19 October 2017



#### 2017 Events – \$822 million NDRRA program

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

- Far North Queensland Trough, 21-28 March 2017
- Far North Queensland Trough, 3-10 February 2017
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, associated rainfall & 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 – \$240 million NDRRA program

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

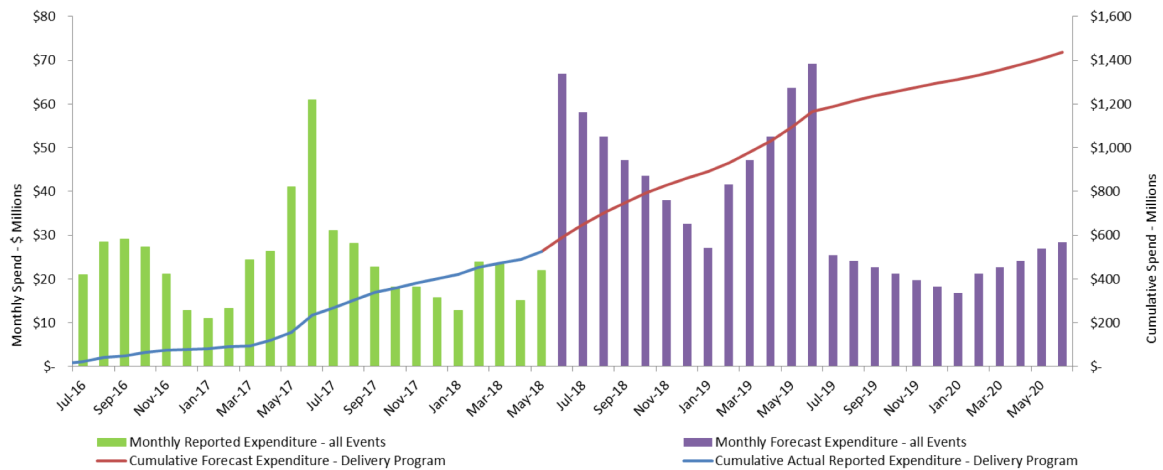
- Central Western Queensland Flooding, 13-19 June 2016
- Far North Queensland Upper Level Trough, 21-23 May 2016
- South West Queensland Floods, 7-9 May 2016
- Far North and North West Queensland Tropical Low, 14-18 March 2016
- Western Queensland Trough, 7-11 March 2016
- Central Coast Surface Trough, 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.

## Disaster Assistance

### NDDRA Delivery Program status

The **Delivery Program** comprises \$1.4 billion of works for 22 events across the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Events.

The graph below shows the actual reported and forecast monthly remaining expenditure for all NDDRA works since 1 July 2015, and estimated total costs remaining to complete the Delivery Program as at 31 May 2018.



The status of the Delivery Program by event year is as follows:

#### 2016 Events

35 councils were activated for NDDRA assistance across nine events in the 2016 event season, with works required to have been completed by 30 June 2018 in order to be eligible under NDDRA.

Formal reporting of completion will occur over coming months, however councils and state agencies have consistently indicated that works were completed on time.

#### 2017 Events

Across the 2017 disaster season, 62 councils were activated for NDDRA assistance from seven events.

QRA is currently finalising the remaining submission approvals and actively working with delivery agents to progress the reconstruction program through the delivery phase. Delivery agents have until 30 June 2019 to deliver eligible NDDRA works.

#### 2018 Events

Across the 2018 disaster season to date, 48 councils have been activated across six disaster events.

QRA is assisting with damage assessments and submission preparation in relation to the 2018 events, as required.

## Disaster Assistance

### NDRRA Acquittal Program status

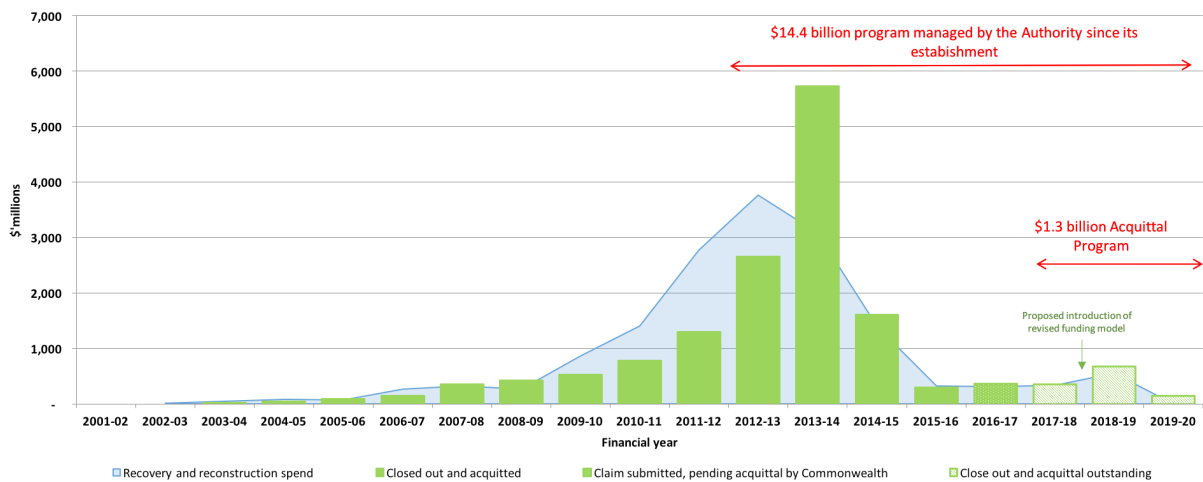


The **Acquittal Program** comprises \$1.3 billion of works that is yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth, across the 22 events from the 2016 to 2018 Events in the Delivery Program and a small number of projects from the 2015 event period that received extensions of time for delivery.

On 23 March 2018, QRA submitted the State’s annual NDRRA claim to the Commonwealth for works completed in the year to 30 June 2017. The claim was accompanied by an unqualified audit opinion and included final works from the 2015 events and components of the 2016 and 2017 event works completed by 30 June 2017.

The claim comprised \$370 million of State Expenditure and was accepted and acquitted by the Commonwealth without adjustment in early June 2018. The Commonwealth finalised the process through the payment of its \$173 million contribution due to the state on acquittal of the claim on 7 June 2018.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2016-17 financial years and preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2017-18 to 2019-20 in order to finalise the Acquittal Program.



## Disaster Assistance

### Additional Recovery Measures – Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie (2017)

A range of NDRRA and non-NDRRA relief measures have been activated to alleviate distress for communities, businesses, industries and the environment impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie.

### COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND NDRRA CATEGORY C \$14.9M

- Fund to support initiatives and projects over a two year period to restore social networks and build community resilience and capacity for the future in the Gold Coast, Isaac, Logan City, Mackay, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim and Whitsunday council areas.
- The Queensland Government Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and Queensland Health is delivering three support programs to individuals, and community mental health and community development programs, with detailed status reports provided on a quarterly basis.

### EXCEPTIONAL DISASTER MEASURES NDRRA CATEGORY D \$96.3M

Package	Purpose	Status
<b>Local Council Package (\$17.3 million)</b>	<p>Infrastructure projects to generate employment, boost the local economy and drive community resilience in key impact areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shute Harbour Marina (\$15.2 million)</b> – demolish and replace the existing jetty, rebuild the terminal building, repair an existing seawall, and replace ancillary infrastructure</li> <li>• <b>Airlie Beach repairs, Whitsundays (\$850k)</b> – for repairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whitsunday Regional Council are in the process of engaging a design consultant for <b>Shute Harbour</b>, anticipated to be awarded in August 2018. Demolition works on the Lloyd Roberts jetty and terminal building commenced in April 2018 and will be complete July 2018.</li> <li>• Detailed design is completed for the repair works on the <b>Airlie Beach foreshore</b> parklands, with tenders closed and currently being assessed by Council. Works are expected to be completed by the end of 2018.</li> </ul>
<b>Resilient Infrastructure (Betterment) (\$41.9 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To restore or replace essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard.</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>• \$1.9 million has been pre-approved by the Commonwealth to cover the betterment component on the Shute Harbour Marina seawall</li> <li>• Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received from eligible councils activated for Category B (REPA) seeking \$114 million, resulting in more than 100 submissions being received from 22 councils.</li> <li>• 83 projects have been approved worth \$41.9 million, fully allocating the Betterment funding across 22 councils.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Recovery Package (\$35 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, including the clean-up of beaches, recreational parks, rivers and waterways</li> <li>• \$35 million of the Environmental Recovery Package across five areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Coastal</li> <li>B. Environmental</li> <li>C. Riparian</li> <li>D. Mapping</li> <li>E. Water Courses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QRA &amp; the Department of Environment &amp; Science (DES) agreed on notional allocations between categories following a review of all EOIs.</li> <li><b>A &amp; B (Coastal, Environmental) – \$19.4 million</b></li> <li>• EOIs were received from 14 of 37 eligible Councils seeking \$31.5 million. Projects were shortlisted and Councils requested to submit detailed applications.</li> <li>• 42 submissions worth more than \$19.2 million has been approved to date across 15 Councils.</li> <li><b>C, D &amp; E (Riparian, Mapping, Water Courses) – \$15.6 million</b></li> <li>• Following receipt of EOIs from seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies, all funding has been allocated to eligible projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Recovery Package (\$2.1 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support recovery of industry and businesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Agriculture &amp; Fisheries has Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) in impacted areas across five primary industries including nursery, grazing and cropping, horticulture, sugarcane and dairy.</li> <li>• Rural financial counselling services are delivering support on the ground and IROs have been assisting primary producers with Category C Recovery Grant applications to QRIDA. Agronomic advice is being provided to farmers on a needs basis.</li> </ul>

## Disaster Assistance

### STATE PACKAGES \$62M

The state has committed to fund the full \$110 million of additional assistance measures that it would have funded under its original Category D proposal to the Commonwealth. Of this, the State will fund an additional \$62 million of recovery measures in addition to its \$48 million (50 percent) contribution to the \$96 million NDRRA Category D packages approved by the Commonwealth.

Key projects announced to date for State funding for additional recovery measures to repair damage and revitalise impacted regions following STC Debbie include:

- \$8.8 million will go towards revitalising the iconic tourism destinations of Mackay's Bluewater Trail and Queens Park
- \$5 million has been committed for repairs to the Whitsunday Regional Council Administration Building in Proserpine, which was badly damaged by STC Debbie and serves as the region's local disaster coordination centre.
- \$4.562 million is being provided to determine the best long-term solutions to help prevent erosion prior to sand replenishment at Midge Point and Lamberts Beach and the construction of new rock groynes on St Helens Beach in Mackay.
- \$2.65 million towards the revitalisation of the Airlie Beach Foreshore. Additional funding is being provided through the state's Building our Regions program (\$2.83 million) and Category D (\$850,000).
- \$500,000 for the restoration of Proserpine Entertainment Centre.



Lamberts Beach, Mackay



## Recovery and Resilience

**NDRP**  
**Resilient Queensland 2018-21**

**Recovery Capability Project**   **Burnett Catchment Resilience Strategy Pilot**   **Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies**   **North Stradbroke Island Bushfire Management Plan**   **Disaster Recovery Plans**   **Flood warning Gauge Network Program**   **Recovery Capability Development**   **Disaster Resilience Fund**

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

### Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

**\$14M**  
 FUNDING AVAILABLE  
**NDRP**

Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) supports community groups, government and non-government agencies, as well as Queensland based not-for-profits, to build disaster resilience across the state.

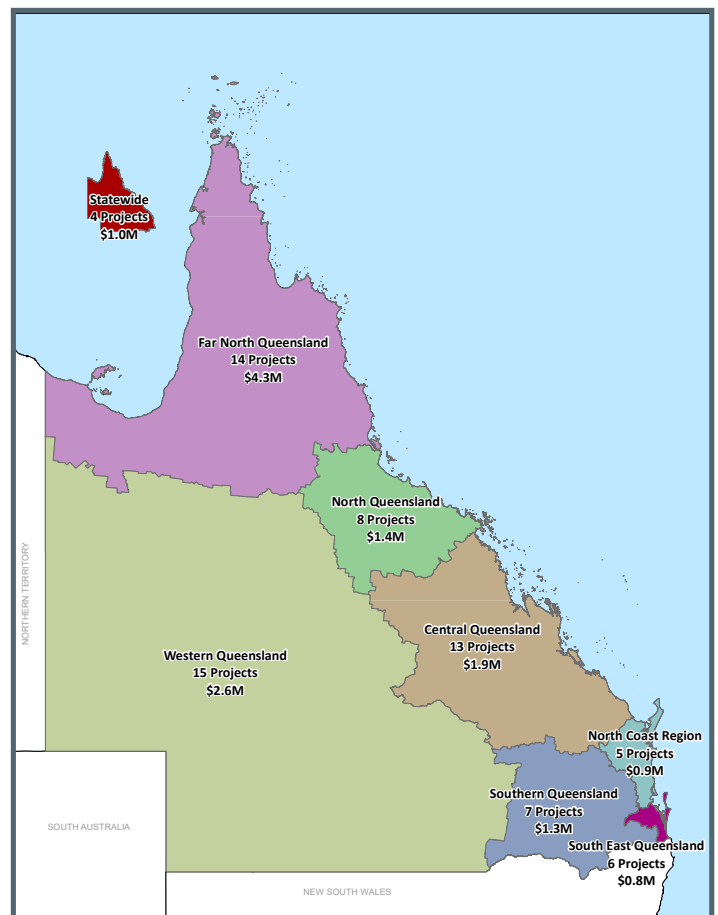
The 2017-18 Natural Disaster Resilience Program is administered by QRA and aligns with the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (NSDR), the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience and the recently released Resilient Queensland, which aims to make Queensland Australia's most disaster resilient state.

Total funding available for the 2017-18 NDRP funding round was \$14.3 million, comprising \$12.0 million of new funding for 2017-18 and \$2.3 million of program savings from earlier funding rounds.

Following initial close of the application period on 27 April 2018, QRA received 207 applications for \$97 million NDRP funding.

The full \$14.3 million available funding was allocated in June 2018 to 72 approved projects from 54 councils and 12 organisations and agencies.

The projects approved in the 2017-18 NDRP funding round demonstrate a commitment to and investment in local communities building resilience. Successful projects included the employment of resilience officers, improvement of flood warning gauge networks, infrastructure lightning and storm protection, development of emergency helicopter landing zones, and purchase of emergency recovery equipment.



2017-18 NDRP approvals by region

**207** NDRP APPLICATIONS  
**\$97M**

**72** NDRP PROJECTS APPROVED  
**\$14.3M**

**\$10.6M** INFRASTRUCTURE  
**\$3.7M** NON-INFRASTRUCTURE

**54** COUNCILS  
**12** STATE AGENCIES

## Recovery and Resilience

### Disaster Resilience Fund

The Queensland Government announced a new \$38 million Disaster Resilience Fund in the 2018-19 Budget to strengthen the state's resilience to future disasters.

The fund will support local governments, state agencies and nongovernment organisations in delivering disaster mitigation projects and initiatives that build resilience throughout the state over the next four years in parallel with disaster reconstruction works.

The Disaster Resilience Fund aligns with the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, which identifies a need for the state to invest in resilience and mitigation projects that:

- address the state's assessed natural disaster risks and the potential impacts of climate change
- align with locally led risk, vulnerability and capability assessments; and consider local and district priorities
- support communities to build resilience to future natural disaster events through education and awareness programs, and
- protect existing essential public infrastructure from future natural disaster events.

The Disaster Resilience Fund will be administered by the QRA.

### Resilient Queensland 2018-2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

Following the 31 May 2018 release of Resilient Queensland 2018-21, actions being finalised this month include:

#### Resilience in Queensland – Stocktake and analysis

QRA has undertaken a statewide stocktake of the last nine years of state and/or Commonwealth funded activities contributing to improved disaster resilience at the local level. This investment in resilience and the outcomes achieved are being analysed with initial observations to be reported to the new Queensland Resilience Coordination Committee to provide insight into future policy and project initiatives for QRA and other government agencies.

The stocktake analysis covers 12 disaster resilience related programs including the: Community Resilience Fund; Natural Disaster Resilience Program; Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program; Get Ready Queensland; Works for Queensland; and the Queensland Betterment Fund. Activities and investment have been categorised by resilience type (i.e. infrastructure upgrade, mitigation controls, community awareness programs, hazard modelling, risk assessments), line of resilience (i.e. built, human and social, environmental, economic, or roads and transport), how the activities directly or indirectly relate to resilience, and resilience spend by region.

#### Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy

The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy was released on 31 May 2018 at the Floodplain Management Australia (FMA) national conference. It is a key initial Resilient Queensland deliverable in partnership with Bundaberg Regional Council, Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, North Burnett Regional Council and South Burnett Regional Council. The next step is delivery of associated reports and communication packages. These are being finalised in consultation with participating councils and agencies. Deliverable products by 31 July will include the: Technical Evidence Report; video of the panel session at the FMA conference including Burnett Catchment stakeholder feedback; animated video explaining the catchment; website with an interactive map and case studies, and the project evaluation report.

#### Support for pilot projects

Resilient Queensland pilot projects are now being developed in Central Western Queensland, the Mary and Fitzroy River regions. Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funds have been approved for Resilient Queensland pilot work including funding Regional Resilience Coordinators for both the Burnett and the Central West Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD). This pilot work is being developed and delivered in close partnership with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Initial planning is well underway, with a focus on the Central West Queensland pilot to guide the development and project management arrangements.

[www.qldreconstruction.org.au/resilientqueensland](http://www.qldreconstruction.org.au/resilientqueensland)

## Recovery and Resilience

### Other Recovery and Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
<b>Recovery Capability Development</b>	<p>Recovery from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and IGEM's 2017 Disaster Management Plan Assessment Report highlighted the varying levels of recovery capability across local governments.</p> <p>The Recovery Capability Development Project aims to address gaps in recovery capability through a series of training workshops and exercises.</p> <p>The project is being developed and delivered collaboratively with state government and local recovery partners in 3 stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initial Engagement</li> <li>2. Training and Exercise Package Development</li> <li>3. Training and Exercise Delivery</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 1 of the project has been completed for all identified councils, with the exception of Gympie Regional Council which has requested a delay to commencement.</li> <li>• The Townsville District Disaster Management Group (Burdekin, Charters Towers, Hinchinbrook, Palm Island, Richmond and Townsville) attended the Inspector-General Emergency Management's Townsville District Capability Strategy Workshop on 31 May 2018. QRA conducted training and exercising on recovery planning and community participation in recovery.</li> <li>• Phase 2, Training and Exercise Package development has commenced and focuses on the key recovery capability themes identified by the local governments, namely planning, governance, data collection and impact assessments, and locally/community led approaches to recovery. Two of four training guides have been drafted, with the remaining in progress.</li> <li>• Dates for Phase 3 training for local governments in the first tranche of the project have started to be confirmed across August, September and November 2018.</li> </ul>
<b>Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy (pilot project)</b>	<p>The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy is a pilot project to facilitate delivery of improved flood resilience on a catchment scale, and will support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans. The purpose of the pilot is to test and evaluate the relevant methodologies for potential State-wide application.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project has the support of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils (WBBROC), who act as the Steering Committee for the project. Formal endorsement of the project was provided by the committee on 1 March 2018.</li> <li>• Several risk identification and resilience workshops with local councils and a range of other stakeholders were successfully held in Bundaberg and Biggenden between October 2017 and February 2018.</li> <li>• Endorsement of the Strategy was received at the May 2018 WBBROC meeting.</li> <li>• The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy was officially released at the Floodplain Management Australia conference on 31 May 2018, followed by a panel session with QRA and council representatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies</b>	<p>The Queensland Government, through QRA and partner agencies, and local councils (Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley) 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.</p> <p>The project includes development of a Flood Study followed by a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP) that will guide a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Flood Study is complete and available to the public following its launch on 5 May 2017.</li> <li>• The Flood Study supports the development of a draft SFMP, which is underway and scheduled for completion in the latter half of 2018.</li> <li>• A range of regional scale opportunities are being investigated as part of the SFMP including structural mitigation options, disaster management, land use planning, community awareness and resilience, building controls and integrated catchment management.</li> <li>• Detailed Local Floodplain Management Plans (LFMPs) will commence following the completion of the SFMP.</li> </ul>

## Recovery and Resilience

### Other Recovery and Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
<b>Flood Warning Gauge Network Program</b>	QRA continues to assist the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) to ensure the best available information is available for providing flood warnings and forecasts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 44 Flood Warning Gauge Network Investment Plans were issued in 2016-17 with 62 local councils identified in a state-wide review as requiring more detailed review of flood warning infrastructure.</li> <li>The Brisbane catchment audit was completed and issued in November 2017</li> <li>The Queensland (rest of state) gauge audit report has been received from the Bureau.</li> <li>QRA is reviewing the status of the Network Investment Plans with councils with regards to implementation of recommendations.</li> <li>QRA has ongoing engagement with the Bureau on a number of items including their Transition Plans to withdraw from funding gauge maintenance.</li> </ul>
<b>North Stradbroke Island Bushfire Management Plan</b>	<p>The QRA and Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) are partnering to deliver Township Bushfire Management Plans for Point Lookout (Mooloomba), Amity (Pulan Pulan) and Dunwich (Goomp).</p> <p>QRA is undertaking this project in partnership with QYAC with support from the Department of Environment and Science.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All three plans are scheduled for completion in early-mid 2018.</li> <li>Community information sessions took place in March 2018 to the communities of the three townships.</li> <li>A short video has been produced in conjunction with QYAC to promote the concept of the bushfire management plans on North Stradbroke Island. This is on QRA and QYAC's websites and has been shared at the community information sessions.</li> <li>Engagement with state government departments for implementation and handover is underway.</li> </ul>
<b>Operation Queensland Recovery Plan and reporting (2017 Recovery Plan)</b>	<p>The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery following STC Debbie in 2017.</p> <p>The plan focuses on empowering local governments, supported by state agencies, to deliver local solutions to ensure communities are able to lead their own recovery and build resilience for future events.</p> <p>The Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans for the eight most severely impacted local government areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2017 Recovery Plan was tabled in Queensland Parliament and publicly released on 9 May 2017.</li> <li>QRA is engaging closely with the Mackay and Whitsunday councils, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, and local organisations to develop a master list of impacted properties in the area not yet recovered. QRA is assisting the local agencies to address the issues facing the impacted residents to continue their recovery from STC Debbie.</li> </ul>
<b>Queensland 2018 Severe Storm, Cyclone and Flood Event Recovery Plan (2018 Recovery Plan)</b>	<p>The 2018 Recovery Plan provides the framework for locally-led approach to recovery following the series of disaster events that have impacted 48 LGAs since mid-January 2018.</p> <p>The 2018 Recovery Plan will help close the gap between local/community based recovery capability and community recovery needs, harnessing the capability of government agencies and the knowledge of recovery partners, as required.</p> <p>The plan focuses on supporting impacted communities, through their local governments and provides the framework for recovery coordination across the impacted areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2018 Recovery Plan has been developed in consultation with recovery partners at the local, district and state levels to frame, define and develop and understanding of recovery needs in the state's disaster impacted regions.</li> <li>The plan includes Local Recovery 'Plans on a Page', as approved by Hinchinbrook Shire Council and the Cassowary Coast Regional Council</li> <li>The 2018 Recovery Plan work in conjunction with the existing 2017 Recovery Plan, where relevant.</li> <li>The plan will be publicly released on the QRA website following approval.</li> </ul>

## Program spotlights

### Queensland readies for Disaster Funding Reform

The Australian Government is reforming the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), in response to reports from the Productivity Commission and the Australian National Audit Office in 2015.

The new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) have been finalised and will apply to natural disasters occurring after 1 November 2018, with existing NDRRA Determinations continuing to apply to any disaster programs prior to that date.

The Australian Government's DRFA provides for:

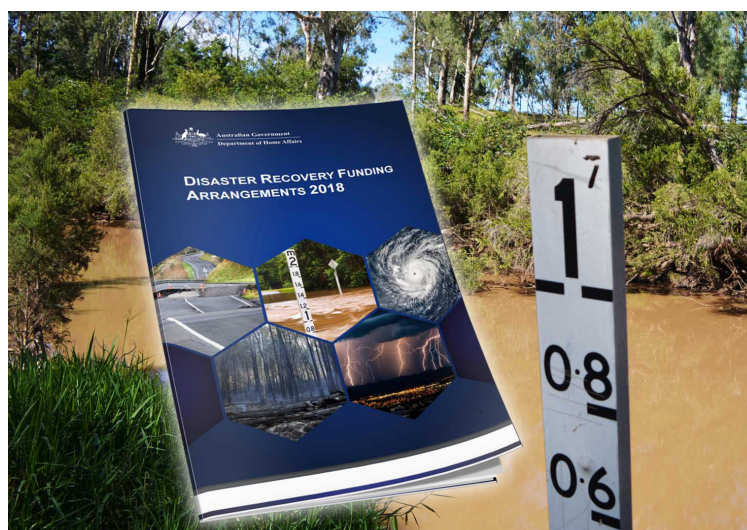
- shifting to an estimates based reimbursement model for the restoration of essential public assets
- maintaining a reimbursement model for eligible community relief and recovery expenditure
- states retaining some efficiencies in the reconstruction program to fund resilience and mitigation activities.

It is intended that the reforms also allow for improved autonomy for states and territories in how they deliver works and the ability for local governments to use their own labour, plant and equipment.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has been an active participant in reform negotiations with the Australian Government and other states and territories since 2015. With Queensland's extensive experience in managing disasters, many of the processes to be rolled out under DRFA are already in place in Queensland, so the state is well placed to manage implementation of the DRFA.

It is QRA's objective to ensure that all Queensland councils and communities have the confidence to continue to recover quickly after a disaster. In delivering on this objective, QRA has kept councils and state agencies up to date with the funding reforms, including undertaking reviews of the capacity of each of the state's 77 councils to comply with the new Australian Government requirements and providing advice through newsletters and face-to-face consultation as to how councils can best prepare for the implementation of the reforms.

Recognising that the first efficiencies from the DRFA arrangements are not expected to be available for investment in resilience and mitigation until after completion of the first DRFA reconstruction program in 2021-22, the Queensland Government has also committed \$38 million towards a new Disaster Resilience Fund to be invested in building communities' resilience to natural disasters over four years from 2018-19. The state has called on the Australian Government to match its funding commitment.



*The new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements will apply from 1 November 2018*

## Program spotlights

### QRA Innovates at CQ Disaster Hack 2018

Staff from Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) blitzed the recent CQ Disaster Hack 2018 event in Rockhampton, bringing innovative solutions to streamline disaster management in Queensland.

An initiative of the Innovation in Government agenda delivered by the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, the CQ Disaster Hack 2018 was a ‘hackathon’ sprint-like event produced by multi-agency hub OneGov Central Queensland.

A hackathon brings together people with different skillsets to collaborate on a complex problem.

Over three days, Director of Assessments Tina Girvan, Director of Resilience Cameron Barwick, Regional Liaison Officer Tom Hart and Manager of Resilience Analytics Adam Moss joined approximately 40 other participants from across government and the private sector, ranging from small start-ups to multinational companies in the hackathon.

Split into seven teams to develop a concept for an innovative and collaborative solution for disaster management over a 54 hour period, teams were tasked with building a viable business solution to issues commonly raised during disaster management operations, such as discrepancies in timeliness and accuracy of disaster responses, staff being tasked multiple times to the same incident, and community vulnerability.

The concepts were then pitched to a panel of expert judges.

In addition to exposing participants to innovative ways of thinking and working, the hackathon sought to address the issues through a collaboration of ideas and expertise to benefit Queensland communities impacted by natural disasters both economically and socially.

Adam Moss and his team took the top prize with their iRecover App, designed to meet the challenge of ‘how do we best provide structure to an unstructured community response?’

Designed to be fully integrated with existing frameworks and information platforms used across local governments within disaster management, the iRecover solution utilises crowdsourcing technology to bring communities together.

The judges also recognised ‘Hack to the Future’ by Tina and Cameron’s team as an idea that could be merged with iRecover to offer an optimal solution for the community.

Adam said it was an absolute privilege to be a part of this event (and especially to be part of the winning team).

“The iRecover solution was designed and developed by an amazing group of people, Paul Tudman and Heather Taylor from DAF, Laurie Rainbird from Livingstone Shire Council, Amit Chawath from Melbourne and myself,” he said.

“Our solution was developed for the community which, during a disaster event, is actually the first responder! Well done team.”



The winning team: clockwise from top; QRA’s Adam Moss, Paul Tudman (team leader) and Heather Taylor from DAF, Laurie Rainbird from Livingstone Shire Council, and Amit Chawath from Melbourne.



Cameron Barwick and Tina Girvan with their Hack to the Future teammates



RLO Tom Hart (top left) and the Hacktopia team.

## Program spotlights

### Gladstone-Monto Road restoration complete

Reconstruction works on Gladstone–Monto Road in central Queensland were completed in May 2018 by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, allowing the road to reopen to two lanes.

Significant rainfall associated with Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March 2017 resulted in five landslips along the road, which was reduced to one-lane operation during reconstruction. Access restrictions for heavy vehicles required a detour of approximately six hours, impacting local agriculture, cattle and logging operations.

In total, \$1.1 million of reconstruction works were delivered on the Dawes Range section of Gladstone–Monto Road.

To rebuild this section, crews first had to excavate and remove the landslip material, before placing stabilising rock and reconstructing the road from the ground up. More than 1800 tonnes of material were brought in to reinstate the Dawes Range and road drainage has been addressed to reduce the risk of a landslip recurring in future rain events.

Transport and Main Roads was able to draw on the knowledge and experience gained in rebuilding a section of the Burnett Highway on Mount Morgan Range following Severe

Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February 2015 to deliver the reconstruction works on Gladstone–Monto Road in less than 12 months, minimising the economic impact to the Boyne Valley community.

Eligible reconstruction works will be jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.



1



2



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1. Gladstone–Monto Road – landslip at Dawes Range (April 2017)
2. Gladstone–Monto Road – landslip reconstruction (February 2018)
3. Gladstone–Monto Road – completed landslip reconstruction (May 2018)

