

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

March 2016

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the page, consisting of several overlapping, radiating lines in various shades of maroon and red, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Document details:

Security classification	Public
Date of review of security classification	March 2016
Authority	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Author	Chief Executive Officer
Document status	Final
Version	1.0

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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 March 2016 Monthly Report – the 61st report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority).

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

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

Since the last report, seven local government areas have been activated for NDRRA relief measures for two new disaster events - *Central Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding, 2-4 February 2016* and *Central Queensland Surface Trough, 4-8 February 2016*. To date, 31 local government areas through Queensland have been activated during the 2016 disaster season. The Authority is continuing to liaise with relevant councils to assist with advice and damage assessments and remains prepared to respond should additional disasters strike in the current 'season'.

The Authority is also assisting delivery agents to progress the 2014 and 2015 events through the delivery phase, and finalising eligibility assessments to close out the 2013 events and other works completed by 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim, due to the Commonwealth in March 2016.

In relation to the \$833 million of works from the 2014 and 2015 events in the delivery phase, \$718 million has been approved, representing an increase of \$6 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$69 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information. \$433 million (52%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to the Authority at 31 January 2016 as in progress or delivered.

During February, the Authority participated 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 March report highlights the one-year anniversary of Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia, which crossed the Queensland coast near Shoalwater Bay as a Category 5 system on Friday 20 February 2015 leaving a trail of destruction across 19 local government areas extending from Yeppoon to the Fraser Coast. One year on, the progress made towards rebuilding is evident in the towns and communities that were impacted. The March report also profiles the Mareeba Shire Council's innovative solution to provide value for money in the realignment of the Mount Lewis Road project and how reconstruction works in DTMR's 2015 events program are providing an avenue to upskill trainees in regional Queensland.

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

Yours sincerely



Brendan Moon
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Reconstruction Authority



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Section one:
Introduction



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

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

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

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

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

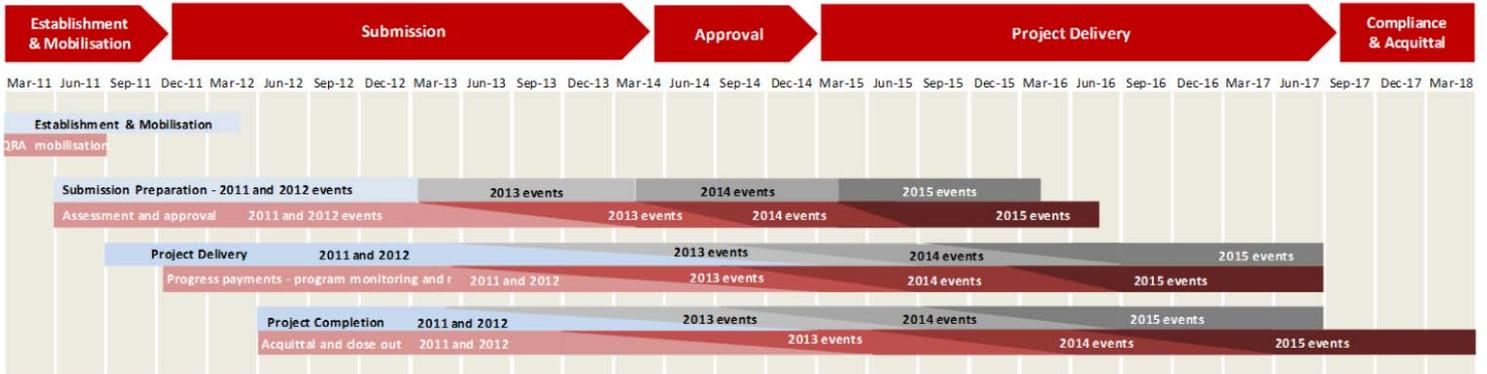
As part of its role, the Authority administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works, Restoration of Essential Public Assets, Category C and Category D assistance to State Departments and Agencies (SDA) and Local Government Authorities (LGA). Since its establishment in February 2011, the Authority has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 56 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

1.2 Timing

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

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

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



Works for 22 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 event periods are currently in the delivery phase; and completed works from a further 12 disaster events across the 2011 to 2013 event periods are in the acquittal phase.

The Authority recently completed the close out phase for the program of works completed prior to 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2016. Relevant works include the balance of works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other disaster events of 2013 that were due for completion prior to 30 June 2015.

The Authority is also currently assisting with progression of the 2014 and 2015 events works that are in the delivery phase.

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

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

Section two:
Disaster Assistance

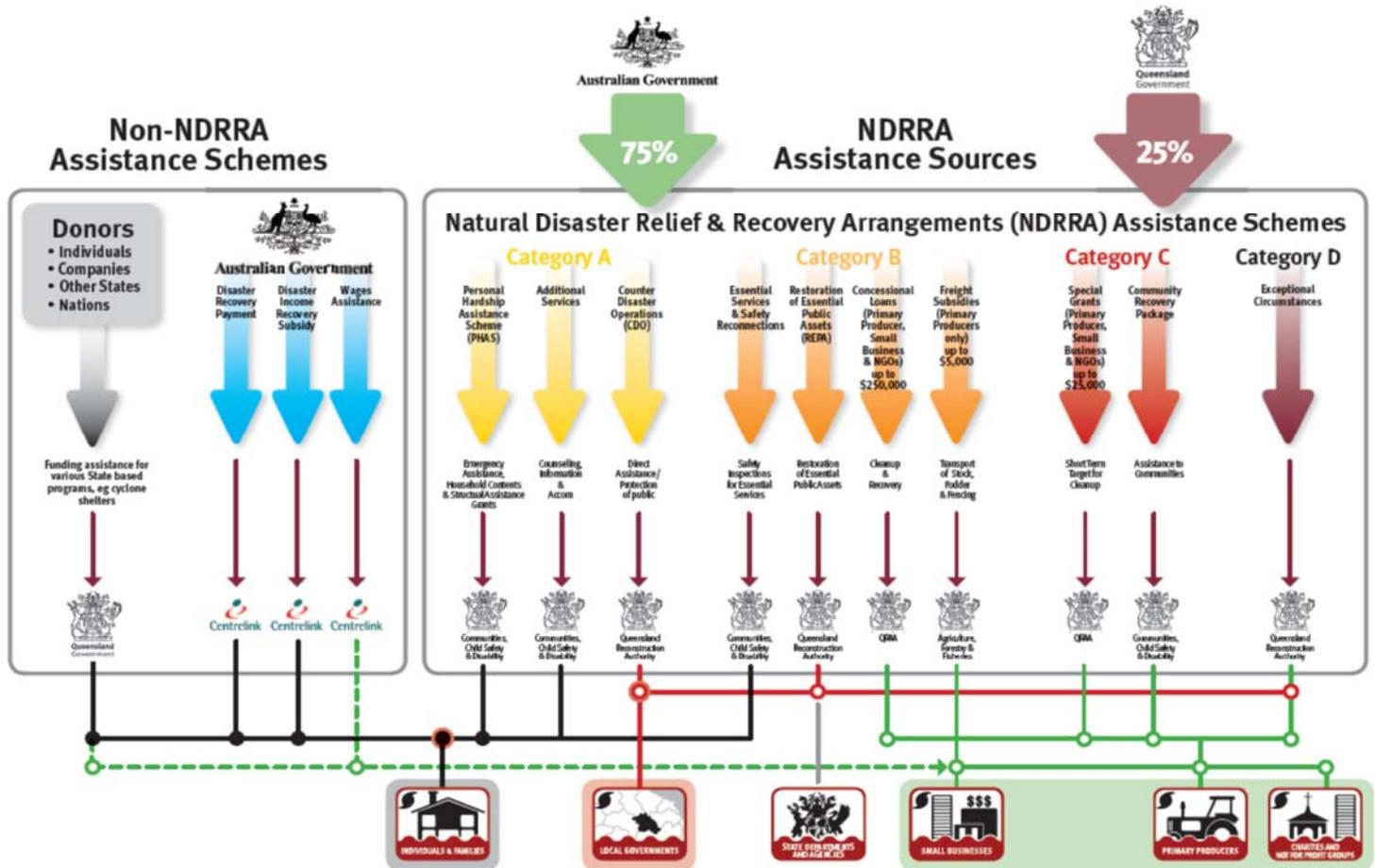


2.0 Disaster Assistance

2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework

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

Figure 2.1.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework



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

Disaster events managed by the Authority

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

This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

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

2.2 Events and relief measures managed by the Authority

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

Since its establishment in February 2011, the Authority has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 56 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, works for 22 disasters from the 2014 to 2016 event periods are currently in the delivery phase¹ and completed works from a further 12 events across the 2011 to 2013 event periods are in the acquittal phase¹.

The maps opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2011 to 2016 event periods managed by the Authority.

Since the last report, two events have been activated for NDRRA relief measures.

2016 events

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

- Central Coast Surface Trough, 4-8 February 2016
- Central Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall & Flooding, 2-4 February 2016
- Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough – 20-31 December 2015
- Fernvale Severe Storm, 27 October 2015.

2015 events

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

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

2014 events

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

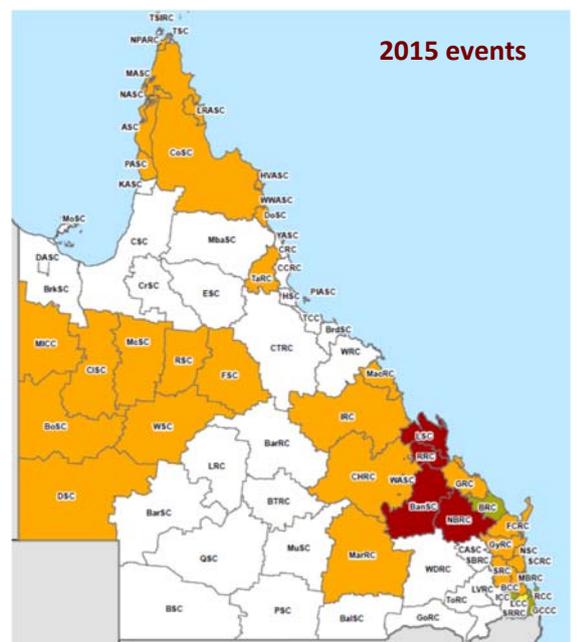
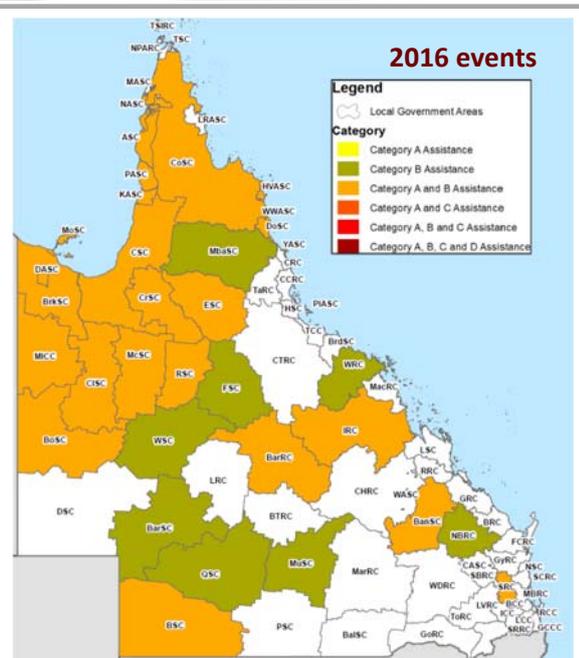
- Tropical Cyclone Ita & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 11-14 April 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Gillian - 10 to 11 March 2014
- Central Coast & Southern Queensland Trough, 26-30 March 2014
- Central & Western Queensland Flooding & Rainfall, 18-28 February 2014
- North East Queensland Monsoonal Rainfall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

2013 events

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

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

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



2.2 Events managed by the Authority (cont.)

2012 events

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

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

2011 events

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

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

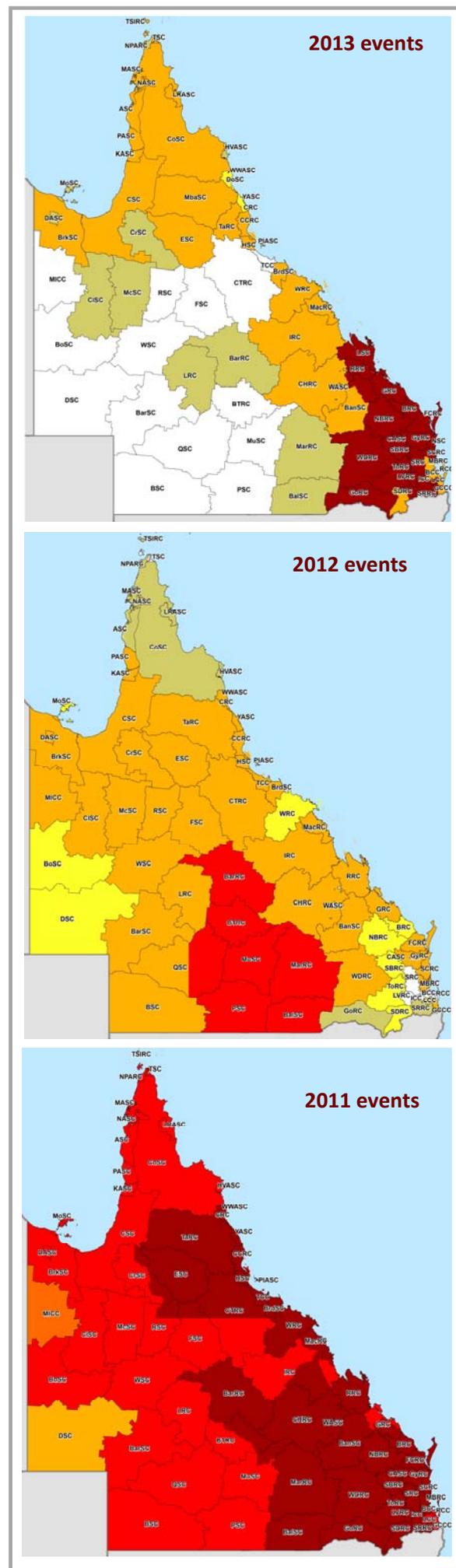
2007-2010 events managed by the Authority

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

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

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

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



2.3 Additional assistance measures

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

2015 events (Tropical Cyclone Marcia)

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

2014 events

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

2013 events

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

2011 events

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

In addition, the State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to an extended Day Labour Trial for the 2011 to 2013 and 2015 events, which enables councils to deliver restoration works with their own workforce on condition that they provide evidence of savings in both time and cost.

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

Section three:

Program Status



3.0 Program Status

3.1 Recent developments

A key milestone in the State’s reconstruction effort was reached on 30 June 2015 with the deadline passing for councils and state agencies to complete works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other 2013 events; and the remaining works from the 2011 and 2012 event periods that had received extensions of time. The Authority has now completed the close-out of these and other works completed by 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2016.

The Authority is also assisting with progression of the program of works from the 2014 and 2015 events through delivery and is currently working with the 31 councils activated to date for the 2016 events to provide advice and assistance where needed, including damage assessments and submission preparation.

The Authority is currently undertaking its regular estimates review process, which involves a complete review of the NDRRA program of each LGA and State agency in the delivery phase. The current estimates review process will include development of preliminary estimates for the 2016 events.

3.2 Program status

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

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

Program estimates for the four 2016 events that have occurred since the September 2015 review will be developed as part of the Authority’s regular estimates review process, which is currently underway.

Delivery Program status

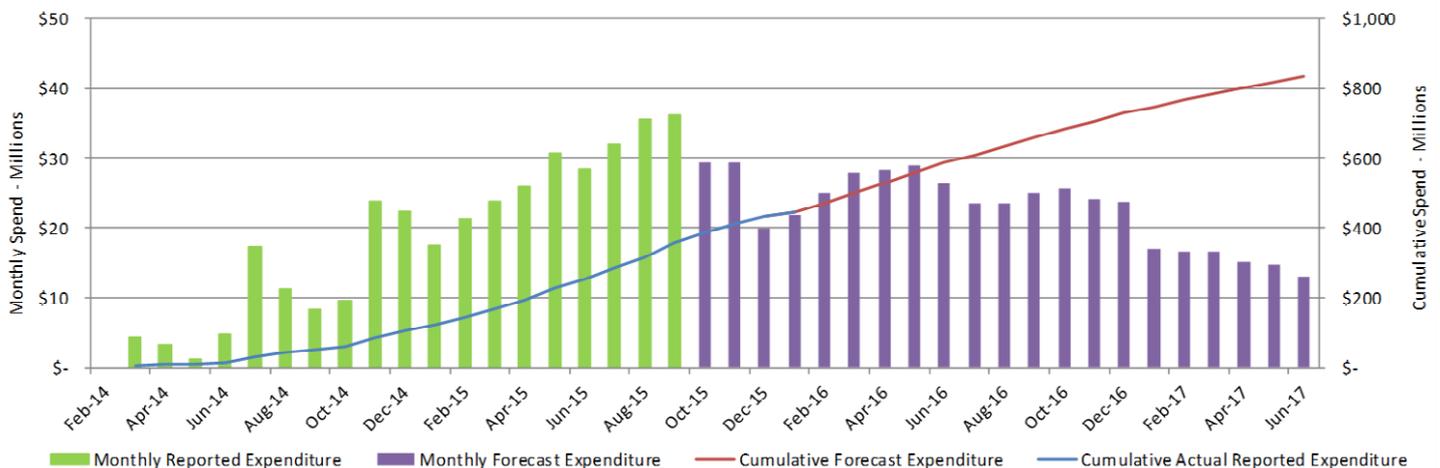
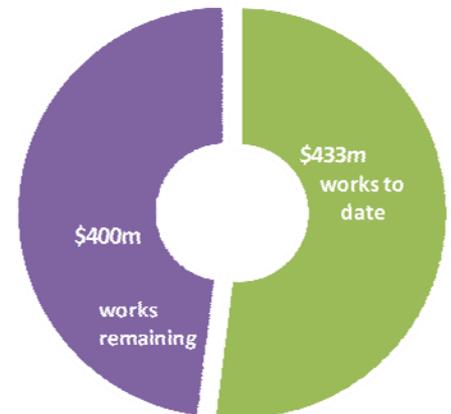
Since the last report, the Authority’s program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$1.0 billion in submissions have been received in relation to the Delivery Program, an increase of \$14 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$718 million has been approved, an increase of \$6 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$69 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$433 million of the Delivery Program has been reported to the Authority at 31 January 2016 as in progress or delivered.

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

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecasted monthly costs to completion at 31 January 2016 on a combined basis for the Delivery Program (2014 and 2015 Events).

Delivery Program (2014 and 2015 Events) progress



(Source: The Authority, 29 February 2016)

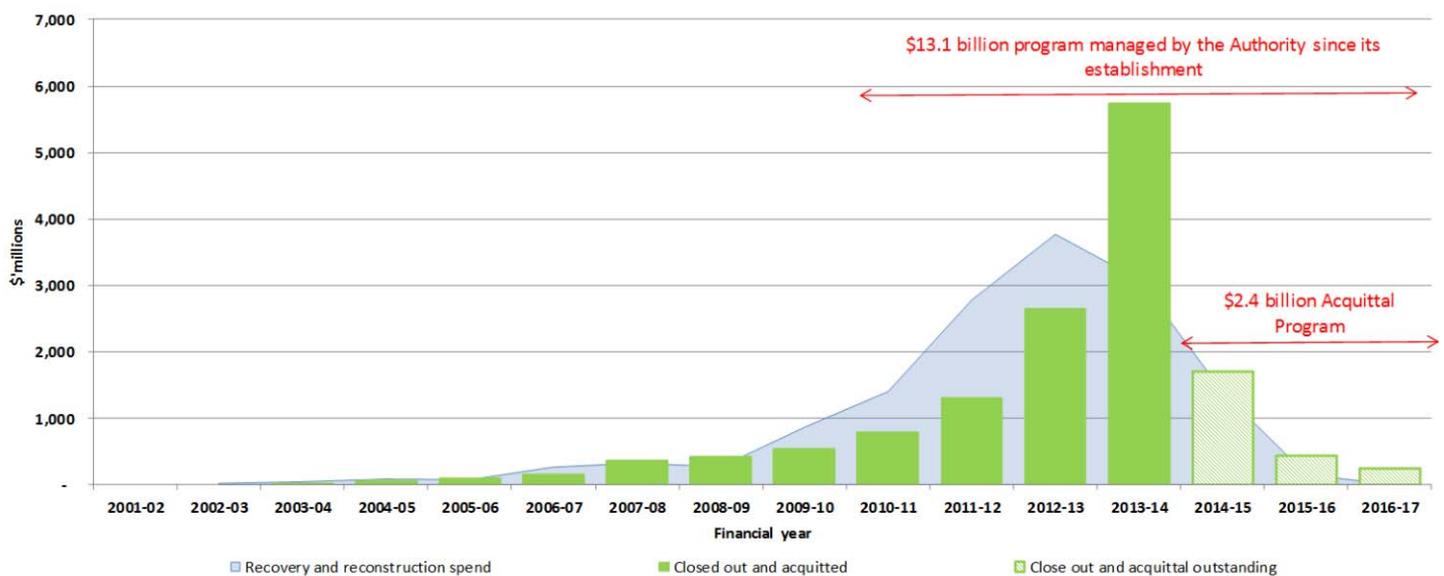
3.2 Program status (cont.)

Acquittal Program status

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

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

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



(Source: The Authority, 29 February 2016)

3.3 State-controlled roads and highways

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

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

Current status

- Reconstruction on all 102 recovery and reconstruction projects in the 2014 events program was completed in December 2015, six months ahead of the funding deadline. Works included 214km of road construction, repairs to 52 structures including bridges and culverts, and 56 locations requiring earthworks and batter repairs.
- Of the 112km of roads that DTMR is forecast to reconstruct following 2015 events, 10km of works have been completed and a further 32km is under construction on active works contracts. The remaining road reconstruction projects are in design and procurement. During January, construction started on seven projects, including works on the Leichardt Highway (Westwood-Taroom) and Blackwater-Rolleston Road in DTMR's Fitzroy district.
- The majority of 2015 event works on State-controlled roads and highways are currently targeted by DTMR to be completed by 31 December 2016, six months before the funding deadline (weather permitting).
- DTMR districts are currently commencing the assessment of damage to the state road network from the 2016 events and will undertake emergent works where required. A total of 3810km of Queensland's state road network was closed or had limited access as a result of the *Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough (20 December 2015—3 January 2016)* event.

(Source: DTMR, 31 January 2016)

3.4 Additional assistance measures

2013 and 2015 Event Betterment Funds

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

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

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

2013 Event Betterment Fund	2015 Event Betterment Fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2013 Event Betterment Fund was allocated to 232 approved projects across 35 LGAs to improve the resilience of infrastructure to natural disasters following the 2013 events. Betterment projects include improved bridges, floodways, culverts, levees, water treatment plants and numerous roads across Queensland. All works were completed by the deadline of 30 June 2015 other than three betterment projects, which received extensions of time due to excessive rainfall and other factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aroona Road (Central Highlands) Boolburra Edungalba Road (Central Highlands) Booyal Crossing Road (Bundaberg) (since completed). On completion, the total cost of all 2013 Event betterment projects is estimated to be \$150 million, of which \$76 million will have been funded from the 2013 Event Betterment fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received for 190 projects across eight LGAs eligible for 2015 Event Betterment funding. The proposed projects principally comprise works to increase the resilience of damaged roads, culverts and floodways. Projects are being progressively prioritised to allocate the available pool of funding. Submissions for 127 projects have been received by the Authority to 29 February 2016. Of these, 33 submissions with a total project value of \$32 million, including \$14 million betterment funding, have been approved. Projects approved during February included York Street and Frenchville Road (Rockhampton Regional Council); and improvements to five roads for Somerset Regional Council, including Mount Kilcoy Road, Rasmussen Road, Sandy Creek Road, School Road and Winya Road. Delivery of 2015 betterment works will be required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements.

Other 2015 Event special funding packages

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

Package	Purpose	Status
Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (\$6 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Authority received EOIs from seven applicants for more than \$16 million To date, nine submissions worth \$4.6 million have been approved across the seven applicants. The Authority is currently finalising the allocation of the remaining funding available under the package.
Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Authority sought EOIs from the four LGAs eligible for funding allocations (Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana and North Burnett) The Authority has approved and paid approximately \$740k to three councils under the program, and is currently assessing an additional application.
Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) appointed the Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF) to manage the IRO program, with IRO officers located with Growcom, Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation, Ag-Force and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland IROs are working directly with affected primary producers to better manage business risks associated with climate variability.
Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million Category C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone LGAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) Livingstone, Gladstone, North Burnett and Banana councils and Rockhampton Uniting Care Community have commenced delivery of Community Development and Personal Support & General Counselling programs across each of the five affected communities. Relationships Australia and Uniting Care Community are delivering Personal Support and General Counselling services, undertaken stakeholder and community engagement.

(Source: The Authority, DCCSDS and DAF; 29 February 2016)

3.5 Program spotlights

12 month anniversary of Tropical Cyclone Marcia

Communities continue to rebuild

Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia crossed the coast near Shoalwater Bay, just north of Yeppoon as a Category 5 system at 8am on Friday 20 February 2015. Wind gusts of up to 285 kilometres per hour left a trail of destruction across surrounding communities from as far north as Yeppoon and as far south as the Fraser Coast.

Homes, local business and farmlands bore the brunt of the furious winds and flooding with many people receiving damage to their properties. Roads and vital public infrastructure were also hit hard.

The Abbott Point, Mackay, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Port Alma and Hay Point ports were all closed, bringing shipping and associated industry to a standstill. More than 100 schools were closed. Four passenger lines and two freight lines on the State rail network were closed, and other services such as the Rockhampton Tilt Train and The Inlander were disrupted. Thousands of people across the region were left without power for more than a week.

Following Tropical Cyclone Marcia, 19 local government authorities were activated for NDRRA relief measures.

Recognising the impact of the disaster, \$32 million of NDRRA Category C and D special funding packages were approved, including allocation of a further \$20 million for betterment projects, \$5 million community recovery package and \$7 million for green waste clean-up and to restore recreational assets such as parks, beaches and national parks.

One year on, the progress made towards rebuilding is evident in the towns and communities that were impacted. Schools, ports and railways have reopened and many of the houses have been repaired. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority's most recent audit identified more than 1700 of the almost 2000 houses damaged in Cyclone Marcia have now been repaired.

Councils are also getting on with the reconstruction effort of repairing roads, bridges, floodways and other infrastructure damaged.

Twelve months after the event, 33 Betterment projects with a total project cost of \$32 million including a Betterment fund contribution of more than \$14 million have been approved to build stronger, more disaster resilient infrastructure across Rockhampton, Livingstone, North Burnett, Gladstone, Somerset and Fraser Coast local government areas.

Rockhampton Regional Council and North Burnett Regional Council were the first to commence betterment works on Pilbeam Drive and Lovedays Road respectively.

Rockhampton Regional Council and Livingstone Shire Council hosted community events to mark the anniversary of Tropical Cyclone Marcia and reflected on the recovery efforts. Livingstone Shire Council Mayor Bill Ludwig said one year on the extraordinary community spirit remained as strong as it was when the Livingstone community faced those toughest of times.

"It is important to recognise and acknowledge the exceptional support our region has received from the State and Federal governments and, in particular, through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority," he said.

Right: Damage to Rockhampton's Pilbeam Drive, where betterment works have recently commenced (top) and Scenic Highway (bottom) following Cyclone Marcia



Newly completed works (top) following damage (bottom) from Cyclone Marcia at Kershaw Gardens, Rockhampton



3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

Mareeba Shire Council Innovative solution provides value for money for the Mount Lewis Road

Mareeba Shire Council's Mount Lewis Road is nestled deep in the heart of Far North Queensland's lush tropical rainforest and is situated in the Mount Lewis National Park.

The road is used by nature enthusiasts and tourists visiting the National Park, which is a bird-watching hotspot, particularly known for species such as the golden bowerbird and the blue-faced parrot finch.

The National Park's tranquillity was disrupted on 11 April 2014 when Tropical Cyclone Ita struck the east coast of Queensland, generating heavy rainfall and flooding in the region.

The ensuing flooding caused significant damage to Mount Lewis Road, which was undermined due to a landslip. Mareeba Shire Council was approved for Restoration of Essential Public Assets (REPA) funding to repair the road.

Initial estimates to repair the road were proving to be costly and would force the road to be closed for several months. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority and Mareeba Shire Council worked together to identify a solution that provided value for money and maintained road access.

Mareeba Shire Council Mayor Tom Gilmore said council engineers applied some innovative thinking to identify an appropriate treatment.

The solution devised was to move the road, rather than repair the existing one," Cr Gilmore said.

"The repair of the existing road would have required extensive bank stabilisation work, which is a costly option. The value for money option resulted in the realignment of the road away from the slip, which proved to be a much more cost effective solution."

"The Mount Lewis Road has been repaired and is open for use by those wanting to see the abundant natural beauty of the Mount Lewis National Park."

The Mount Lewis Road repair work commenced in October 2015 and was completed in December 2015. The Mount Lewis Road project is part of Mareeba Shire Council's 2014 reconstruction program that is estimated at approximately \$7 million.

Council estimated all restoration work related to the 2014 program will be completed by the end of May 2016.



The golden bowerbird which can be seen in the Mount Lewis National Park



The landslip that damaged the original Mount Lewis Road



The realigned Mount Lewis road.

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

DTMR

Reconstruction works provide trainee development opportunity

Reconstruction works in DTMR's 2015 events program are providing an avenue to upskill trainees in regional Queensland, including in the state's far north.

An example of this is on Topaz Road, a rural community access road near Malanda on the Atherton Tablelands, west of Cairns. This road is a key link for rural industries including Nerada Tea and dairy farms.

The road was damaged in four locations following the North Queensland Severe Weather and Flooding Event between 8 and 15 February 2015.

A RoadTek construction crew – including two local temporary Indigenous construction ganger trainees and a permanent employee formerly from Papua New Guinea – was engaged to undertake the rehabilitation works. The crew's supervisors saw a chance to use the works as a development opportunity for these team members.

Each of the three trainees was asked to take on the responsibility of organising works on individual slip sites. This included developing system requirements such as proposed traffic guidance schemes, site safety and environmental risk assessments, as well as site coordination of construction works.

The trainees were given the opportunity to manage the plant and equipment processes being used to reconstruct the damaged batters, implement safety and environmental control measures, monitor quality performance and measure progress.

Under the supervisors' direction, the trainees have successfully completed the works, furthering their knowledge and experience, which will assist the temporary employees to seek permanent employment.



Above: Construction crew members Viliwa Shreeve, Joel Maka and Will Filewood



Above: Reconstruction works in progress on Topaz Road

Section four: Communications



4.0 Communications

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

4.1 Communicating progress

Media analysis

There has been a total of 306 media items in February 2016 (164 print – 54%, 40 TV – 13%, 102 radio – 33%), which reached a cumulative audience of 5.8 million people, with the focus this month being on the announcement of new betterment projects, the first anniversary of Tropical Cyclone Marcia, and the fifth anniversary of Tropical Cyclone Yasi.

There were media mentions for these topics as well as for regions recovering from other natural disaster events, including articles in The Atherton Tablelander, Australian Financial Review, Balonne Beacon, Bowen Independent, Cairns Post, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Queensland News, Central Telegraph Biloela, Community Advocate Gladstone, Cooktown Local News, The Courier-Mail, Daily Mercury, Dalby Herald, Fassifern Guardian, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gladstone Observer, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, Innisfail Advocate, Kilcoy Sentinel, Mareeba Express, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Noosa News, North Queensland Register, Northern Miner, Oakey Champion, Queensland Country Life, Queensland Times, Satellite Brisbane, Southern Free Times, The Somerset, Tamborine Times, Townsville Bulletin, Tully Times and the Whitsunday Times; TV coverage on the ABC, WIN, Seven and Nine networks; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 2GB Sydney, 4BC Brisbane, 4CA Cairns, 4GR Toowoomba, 4RO Rockhampton, River FM Ipswich and SEA FM Rockhampton and Cairns.

Making news in February 2016 were the joint State and Commonwealth announcements of projects approved under the NDRRA Category D 2015 Betterment Fund. These projects in Gladstone, Rockhampton, Fraser Coast and Livingstone received coverage in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Gladstone Observer, Gympie Times and the Capricorn Coast Mirror, and TV and radio coverage on Channels Seven Rockhampton and WIN Wide Bay, and on ABC Capricornia.

Also making news in February was the first anniversary of Tropical Cyclone Marcia and the fifth anniversary of Tropical Cyclone Yasi. These events saw widespread commemorative coverage in the Cairns Post, Herbert River Express, Tully Times, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Gladstone Observer, Fraser Coast Chronicle and the Capricorn Coast Mirror.

Engagement

On 1 February 2016, **Queensland Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad** attended Community Cabinet in Gladstone where she announced \$3.3 million in betterment funding for Gladstone Regional Council in a joint statement with **Federal Minister for Justice the Hon Michael Keenan MP**.

Communications

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

The Authority's website provides information to the public and continues to be enhanced with ongoing updates, including the information about Betterment projects and current recovery efforts. There has been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 29 February 2016, total website visits amounted to 489,276 – a 0.5 per cent increase since last month. (See Figure 5.1.1)

In February, the Authority received an additional 44 calls to its dedicated hotline and 168 additional pieces of written correspondence were received. (See Figure 5.1.2)

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

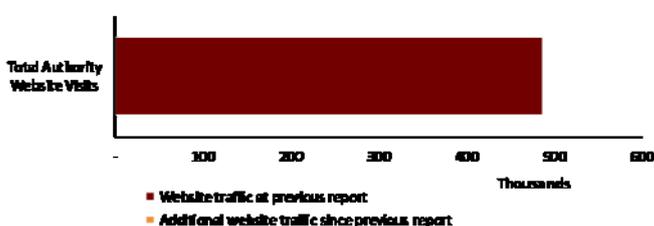
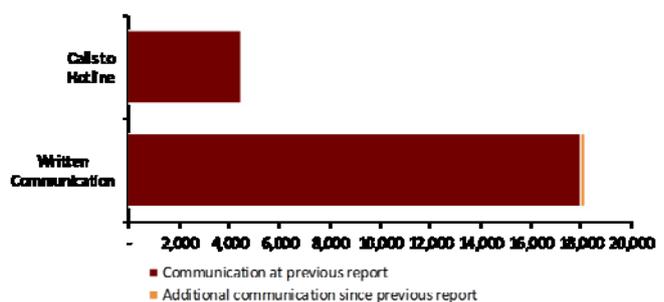


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications

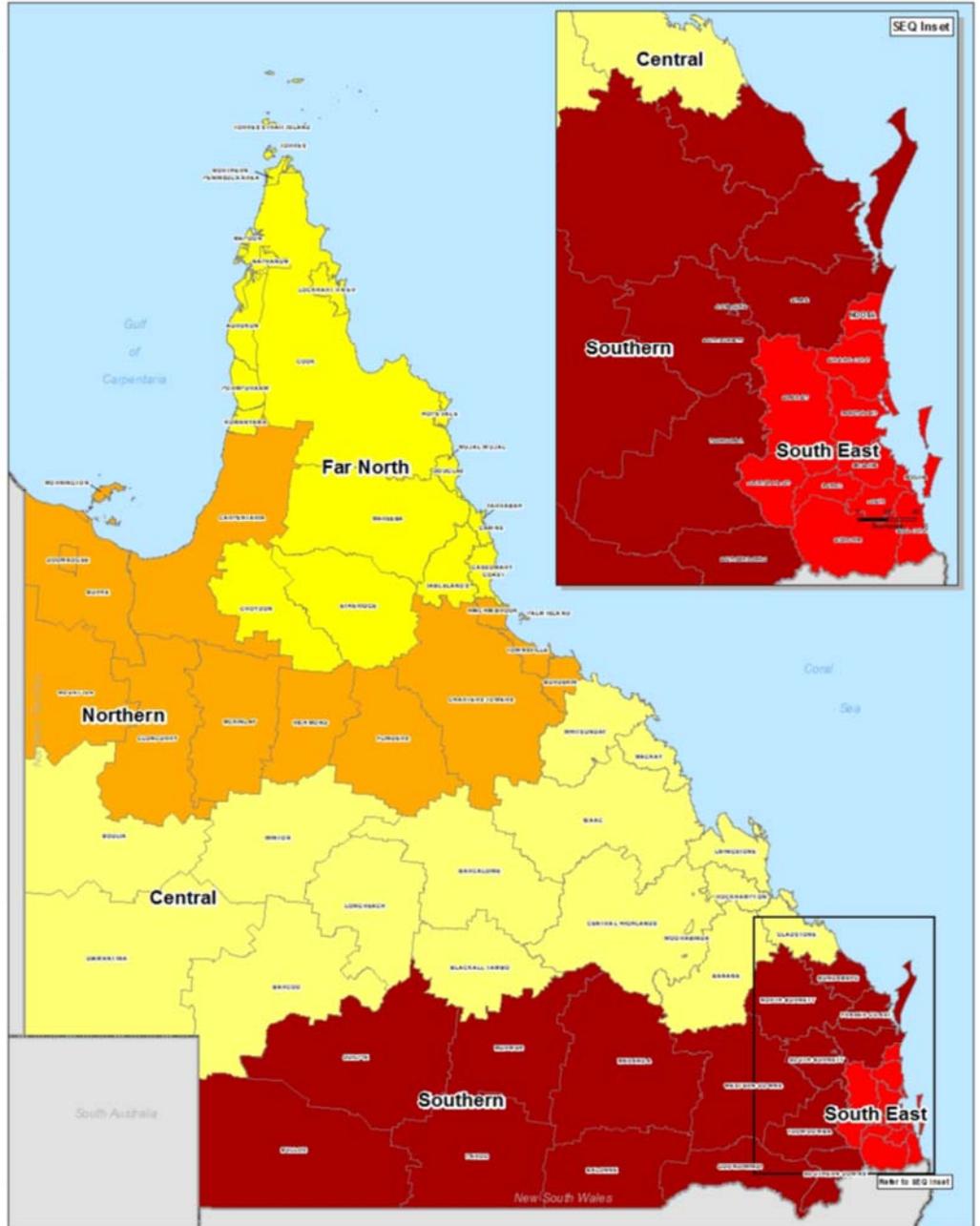


(Source: the Authority at 29 February 2016)

Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

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



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Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Local Government Areas and QldRA Reporting Regions

Scale at A4: 1:6,700,000

Legend

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

As at 5/02/2014

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