

Monthly Report

September 2018

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Information security

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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 \$14.5 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.

With an allowable time limit of two financial years to deliver reconstruction works, \$13.2 billion of works from 61 events across the 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 events have been delivered and works worth \$1.3 billion for the remaining 13 events from the 2017 and 2018 event periods are currently in the active delivery phase (**Delivery Program**).

Of the total program, \$13.0 billion of completed works have been closed out and acquitted in audited claims, with the remaining \$1.4 billion from the 2016, 2017 and 2018 events to be acquitted in annual claims through to 2021 following completion of works.



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.

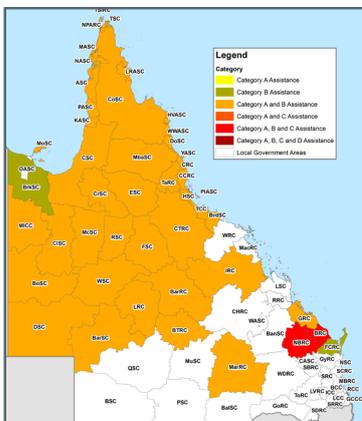
QRA is currently preparing for the transition to DRFA.

Disaster Assistance

Activations

NO NDRRA activations new in August 2018

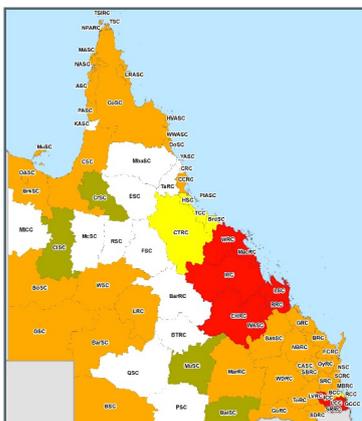
The information below shows the LGAs activated for NDRRA relief measures for the 2016 to 2018 event periods that are either still in delivery and/or acquittal phase



2018 Events – \$470 million NDRRA program

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

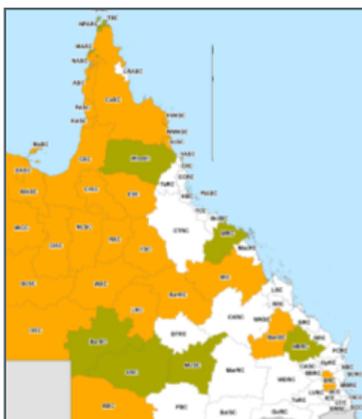
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora and Associated Flooding, 24-29 March 2018
- North Queensland Flooding, 6-10 March 2018
- North and North West Queensland Low and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 24 Feb – 8 Mar 2018
- Central Queensland Storm, 20 February 2018
- Cape York Queensland Trough, 26 January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



2017 Events – \$811 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 – \$229 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 \$1.3 billion of works for 13 events across the 2017 and 2018 Events. The status of the Delivery Program as at 30 June 2018 is summarised as follows:

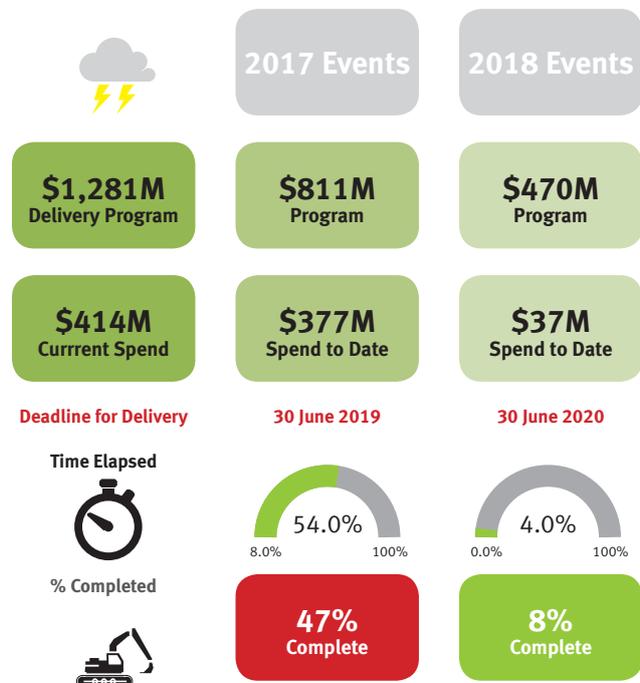


2017 Events

Across the 2017 disaster season, 62 councils were activated for NDRRA assistance from seven events, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$811 million.

To date, approximately 95 per cent of funding submissions for the 2017 events have been approved, and QRA is actively working with delivery agents to progress the reconstruction program through the delivery phase. Delivery agents have until 30 June 2019 to deliver eligible NDRRA works.

Weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting, all delivery agents have reported that they expect to complete works within the deadline, except for Whitsunday Regional Council's Shute Harbour project which has experienced delays due to geo-technical complexities. An extension of time request has been submitted to the Commonwealth for this project.



Note: % Spend will highlight green if tracking above time elapsed or red if tracking behind

2018 Events

Across the 2018 disaster season to date, 48 councils have been activated across six disaster events at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$470 million.

To date, approximately 20 per cent of funding submissions for the 2018 events have been submitted for approval, and QRA is assisting delivery agents to prepare submissions and progress into delivery for the remaining program.

Delivery agents have until 30 June 2020 to deliver eligible NDRRA works from the 2018 events.

Disaster Assistance

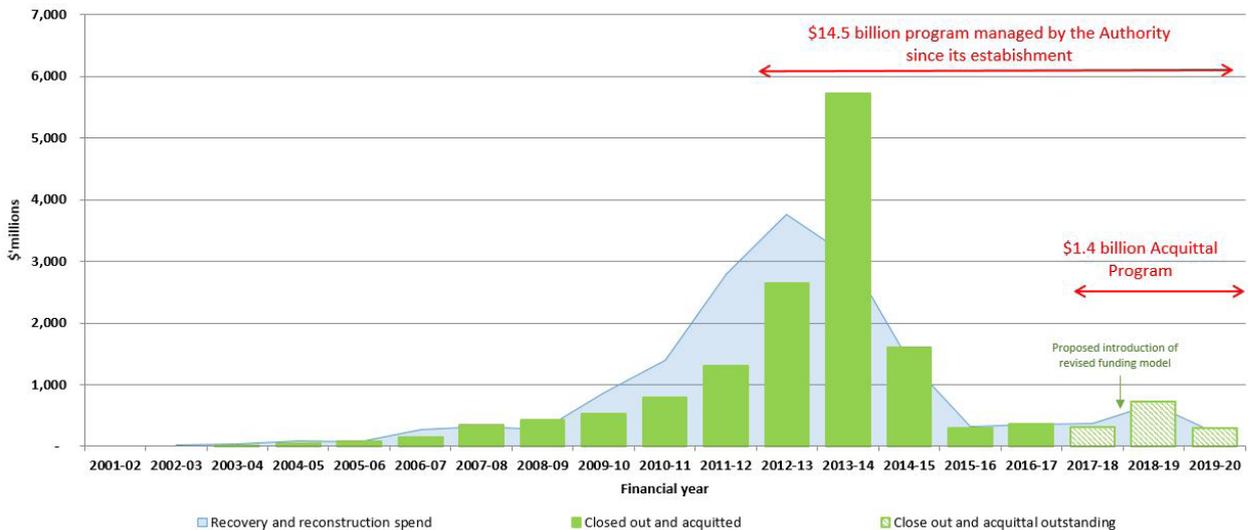
NDRRA Acquittal Program status



The **Acquittal Program** comprises \$1.4 billion works that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth, and is spread across the 13 events from the 2017 and 2018 Delivery Program, the works from the 2016 event period that were completed in the year up to the deadline for delivery on 30 June 2018 and a small number of projects from the 2015 event period that received extensions of time for delivery.

Queensland’s next Claim for NDRRA works completed in the 2017-18 financial year is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2019. The 2017-18 Claim is estimated to acquit approximately \$312 million of NDRRA expenditure. QRA is currently gathering and processing close out documentation for delivery agents for completed works due to be acquitted in the claim.

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 are 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
Local Council Package (\$17.3 million)	<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"> • Shute Harbour Marina (\$15.2 million) – demolish and replace the existing jetty, rebuild the terminal building, repair an existing seawall, and replace ancillary infrastructure • Airlie Beach repairs, Whitsundays (\$850k) – for repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitsunday Regional Council is in the process of engaging a design consultant for Shute Harbour, anticipated to be awarded in September 2018. Demolition works on the Lloyd Roberts Jetty and terminal building was completed July 2018. • Unforeseen geotechnical complexities and identification of coral bommies within the construction area has resulted in delays to project design, impacting the project completion date. QRA submitted an Extension of Time application to Emergency Management Australia on 31 July 2018, requesting a 12 months extension for delivery to 30 June 2020. • Detailed design is completed for the Airlie Beach foreshore parklands. The tender for the repair works has been awarded and works are expected to be undertaken from September 2018 to February 2019.
Resilient Infrastructure (Betterment) (\$41.9 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To restore or replace essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received from eligible councils activated for Category B (REPA) seeking \$114 million. • 83 projects have been approved worth \$41.9 million, fully allocating the Betterment funding across 22 councils. • Six projects have been completed and a further 24 have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2018.
Environmental Recovery Package (\$35 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, including the clean-up of beaches, recreational parks, rivers and waterways • \$35 million of the Environmental Recovery Package across five areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Coastal B. Environmental C. Riparian D. Mapping E. Water Courses 	<p>A & B (Coastal, Environmental) – \$19.4 million EOIs were received from 14 of 37 eligible Councils seeking \$31.5 million.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 submissions worth more than \$19.2 million has been approved to date across 15 Councils. • 26 projects have been completed and a further 10 projects have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2018. <p>C, D & E (Riparian, Mapping, Water Courses) – \$15.6 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following receipt of EOIs from seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies, all funding has been allocated to eligible projects. • This program of work is approximately 40% complete.
Economic Recovery Package (\$2.1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support recovery of industry and businesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture & Fisheries has Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) in impacted areas across five primary industries including nursery, grazing and cropping, horticulture, sugarcane and dairy. • 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.

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 following STC Debbie. 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.



Damage to Mackay's Bluewater Trail and Queens Park following STC Debbie

Recovery and Resilience

QRA is leading disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy in Queensland.

Resilience grant funding programs

Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

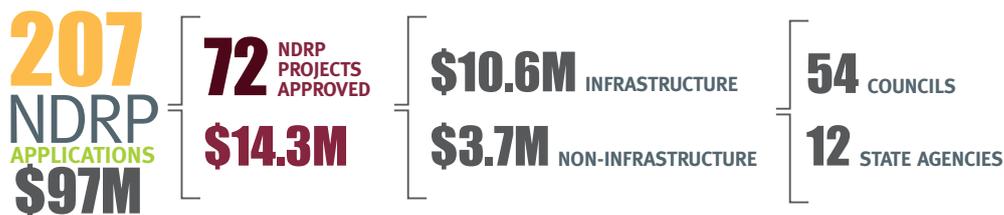
\$14.3M
FUNDING AVAILABLE
NDRP

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 NDRP is administered by QRA with total funding available of \$14.3 million, comprising \$12.0 million of new funding for 2017-18 and \$2.3 million of program savings from earlier funding rounds.

Applications were received for 207 projects seeking \$97 million NDRP funding in the 2017-18 funding round.

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



Disaster Resilience Fund

\$38M
OVER 4 YEARS

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

DRF

The fund will support local governments, state agencies and non-government 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.

QRA is currently preparing the framework for allocation of DRF funding and related program guidelines, for release in 2018-19.

Recovery and Resilience

Other Recovery and Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
Resilient Queensland 2018-2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience	Resilient Queensland 2018-21 was released on 31 May 2018 and represents the plan for implementing the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QRA has undertaken a stocktake and analysis of the last nine years of state and/or Commonwealth funded activities contributing to improved disaster resilience at the local level, for reporting to the new Queensland Resilience Coordination Committee (QRCC) to provide insight into future policy and project initiatives. The inaugural QRCC meeting will take place in September 2018.
Resilient Queensland pilot projects	<p>Pilot projects to facilitate delivery of improved flood resilience on a catchment scale, and to support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans.</p> <p>The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy was a pilot project in partnership with Bundaberg, Cherbourg, North Burnett and South Burnett councils.</p> <p>The purpose of the pilots are to test and evaluate the relevant methodologies for potential State-wide application.</p> <p>The pilot projects are now being developed across additional regions in close partnership with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. The delivery of final reports and communication packages (including website with an interactive map and case studies) has been provided for endorsement by the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils (WBBROC) (as steering committee for the project). Resilient Queensland pilot projects are now being developed in Central Western Queensland, the Mary and Fitzroy River regions. 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). Initial planning is well underway, with a focus on the Central West Queensland pilot to guide development and project management arrangements.
Recovery Capability Development	<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"> 1. Initial Engagement 2. Training and Exercise Package Development 3. Training and Exercise Delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 is now complete. Phase 2, Training and Exercise Package development is nearing completion. Recovery Planning, Recovery Governance and Community Participation in Recovery have been completed. The fourth training package Data Collection Impact Assessment will be finalised by the end of October. Packages are modified to suit the requirements of each local government. Phase 3 training has been delivered to Isaac, Somerset and South Burnett Regional Councils as well as the Longreach District Disaster Management Group. The Community Participation in Recovery module was delivered to the Longreach DDMG by Anne Leadbeater, who is recognised nationally for her extensive experience in community engagement at the local and State (Victoria) level in disaster recovery. The training session has received very positive feedback from attendees. A Train-the-Trainer module will also be offered to Emergency Management Coordinators (QFES) and other relevant Queensland State agencies involved in disaster recovery. Dates for remaining Phase 3 training for local governments in the first tranche of the project are being confirmed for September, October and November 2018
Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies	<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"> The Flood Study is complete and available to the public following its launch on 5 May 2017. The Flood Study supports the development of a draft SFMP, which is underway and scheduled for completion in the latter half of 2018. 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. Detailed Local Floodplain Management Plans (LFMPs) will commence in the latter half of 2018.

Recovery and Resilience

Other Recovery and Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
Flood Warning Gauge Network Program	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"> QRA is reviewing the status of the Network Investment Plans with councils with regards to implementation of recommendations. QRA is working with the 16 LGAs who received NDRP funding for related projects (\$2.8m) and the Bureau of Meteorology to deliver optimum catchment based solutions for improving the flood warning gauge network.
North Stradbroke Island Bushfire Management Plan	<p>QRA and Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) are partnering to deliver Township Bushfire Management Plans for Point Lookout (Mooloomba), Amity (Pulan Pulan) and Dunwich (Goompj).</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"> All three plans scheduled for completion September 2018. Community information sessions have occurred in the communities of the three townships. A short video has been produced in conjunction with QYAC to promote the concept of the bushfire management plans on North Stradbroke Island. Engagement with state government departments for implementation and handover is underway.
Operation Queensland Recovery Plan and reporting (2017 Recovery Plan)	<p>The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery following STC Debbie.</p> <p>The plan focuses on empowering local governments, supported by state agencies, to deliver local solutions to ensure communities lead their own recovery and build resilience for future events. The Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans for the eight most severely impacted council areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2017 Operation Queensland Recovery Plan was tabled in Queensland Parliament and publicly released on 9 May 2017. QRA is continuing to work closely with the Mackay and Whitsunday councils, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Queensland Health, and recovery partners to assist these entities address the recovery issues facing impacted residents after STC Debbie. Local agencies are currently tracking and assisting residents of 51 properties in various stages of recovery.
Queensland 2018 Severe Storm, Cyclone and Flood Event Recovery Plan (2018 Recovery Plan)	The 2018 Recovery Plan provides the framework for locally-led approach to recovery following the series of disaster events that impacted 48 LGAs in 2018. The plan will help close the gap between local/community based recovery capability and recovery needs, and harness the capability and knowledge of government agencies and recovery partners, as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2018 Recovery Plan has been developed in consultation with recovery partners at the local, district and state levels. The plan includes Local Recovery 'Plans on a Page', as approved by Hinchinbrook Shire Council and the Cassowary Coast Regional Council. The 2018 Recovery Plan works in conjunction with the existing 2017 Recovery Plan, where relevant.
Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework	The Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR) outlines the State's strategic priorities for disaster resilience and the critical stakeholder at a local level. As part of the QSDR, KPMG has been engaged to co-design a Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework (QDRMIF), aligned with the concurrent development of the National Risk Reduction Framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature and document review and best practice research is 80% completed. QDRMIF workshops are scheduled for the 13 September with a number of participants attending from across the public sector to progress the framework design.
Review of NDRRA- Support to Individuals and Families	The review will assess the efficacy of government financial support arrangements for the relief of individuals and families who have been impacted by eligible disasters. It may provide options for revisions to current arrangements to improve efficacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data analysis and literature review underway. Review expected to complete late 2018.

Program spotlights

Regional collaboration delivers efficiencies of scale

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) is empowering five local governments in south-west Queensland with \$970,000 in Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funding for new flood gauge assets as part of the delivery of Flood Warning Gauge Network Investment Plans.

Together, the local government areas of Balonne, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie and Bulloo identified 26 priority locations for new and upgraded flood gauge assets that would be the most beneficial and cost effective for their communities.

In 2016, each of the councils worked with QRA and Bureau of Meteorology to develop Flood Warning Gauge Network Investment Plans to identify asset requirements to provide the best possible early flood warning for their communities.

The five local governments have since come together to arrange a joint procurement process for the new flood gauge assets that will deliver better value for money for their communities.

The gauges will be delivered in the 2018-19 financial year and once installed, the councils will discuss opportunities for shared management and maintenance solutions for the region's flood gauge assets, ensuring the infrastructure is working effectively to protect communities.

The local governments are now looking at other ways to support one another to improve flood warnings throughout their region.



QRA Regional Liaison Officers Greg Scroope and Daniel Piat with members of the South-West Regional Economic Development Group in St George, August 2018

Future work being considered includes surveying water crossings to analyse how river gauge heights relate to the water levels at these crossings, which will in turn help the local governments better communicate the impacts of floods in their local communities.

The councils will continue to work together identifying further efficiencies that can be achieved as part of the regional approach to managing the flood warning gauge network, including a review and update of current flood classifications.

The 2017-18 NDRP is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments.

Program spotlights

Longreach District Recovery Capability Development Workshop

QRA delivered Recovery Capability Development training to members of the Longreach District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) in partnership with the Leadbeater Group last month.

Anne Leadbeater developed and presented the training focused on one of the four Recovery Capabilities, Community Participation in disaster recovery, to highlight the value of engaging with and using community members as resources when planning recovery activities.

Representatives from local governments including the Mayors and CEOs from Longreach Regional Council, Barcoo Shire Council, Barcaldine Shire Council and Winton Shire Council attended the training.

Staff from a number of state agencies including the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors; Department of Housing and Public Works; Queensland Health; Queensland Police Service; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; and Queensland Ambulance Service also attended the session.

The diversity in attendance demonstrated the requirement for an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach for effective disaster recovery.

The training addressed basic recovery principles, community profiling, community-led recovery and participation, recovery politics and intentions. The session also incorporated a number of practical activities to identify community stakeholders and develop scenarios to facilitate community participation on recovery activities specific to their communities.

A key message from the module was, “An engaged, active and informed community will recover to their ‘new ordinary’ in a constructive and empowered manner”.

QRA has delivered training sessions to four local governments since June 2018, all of which have been positively received by the attendees.



Ms Leadbeater presenting on Principles of Recovery

Program spotlights

Overcoming challenges on Gold Coast hinterland restoration projects

How do you get 240 tonnes of road restoration equipment over two timber bridges, each with a 42-tonne load limit?

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) was faced with this challenge when planning major restoration works for Gold Coast hinterland roads most extensively damaged by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March 2017 – how to transport essential plant to work sites that was well in excess of the standard semi-trailer loads usually carried on these roads.

The Nerang–Murwillumbah Road restoration project required two piling rigs weighing 90 tonnes each load and a 30-tonne excavator (60-tonne load) transported to site. However, there are only two routes into and out of the site available – either from the south through New South Wales or from the north past Nerang – and both posed major issues for transporting excess mass loads.

The southern route contained dimension-restricted corridors, including height and turning path restrictions. The northern route contained two timber bridges at Cave Creek and Nixons Creek, with load restrictions limited to standard semi-trailers (42 tonnes).

With no available solution to overcome the dimension constraints on the southern route, a solution had to be found to enable the piling rigs to safely cross the two timber bridges from the north. Options considered included side-tracking the bridges, lifting the rigs over the bridges (using a double crane set-up), bridge spanning/load-spreading options and bridge propping.

Bridge propping provided the most efficient, time-effective, environmentally sensitive and value-for-money approach. RoadTek, the sole provider of timber bridge maintenance in South Coast Region, was contracted to carry out the work due to the specialised nature of the works and extensive experience required.

To reinforce the bridge, a rock foundation was first installed in the creek bed to ensure a firm founding level, then props were installed on two steel plates on the levelled ground halfway between the piers on each bridge span. In addition, repairs were made to the existing timber props on Cave Creek Bridge to take the load. Once bridge-propping measures and safety inspections were completed, the loads safely travelled across the bridges at 10km/hr and were successfully delivered to site.



Plant transported successfully following bridge propping measures

Program spotlights

Overcoming challenges on Gold Coast hinterland restoration projects (Cont.)

The Beechmont Road restoration project also faced the challenge of transporting plant with excess mass load via a route with a steep climb and tight bends. A very different solution was devised, which involved dis-assembling a 69-tonne hydraulic rotary rig before it was transported to site, to reduce the overall mass of the machine. This process reduced the weight to 39 tonnes, which meant a standard semi-trailer could be used to transport the rig to site.

Both solutions, arrived at through collaboration and ingenuity, show TMR's determination to get the Gold Coast hinterland roads back in business.



Part of the dis-assembled rig being unloaded at the Beechmont Road site



Rig being re-assembled at the Beechmont Road site

