

WHAT WE DO:

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Government’s program of recovery and reconstruction works within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice administration of public reconstruction and resilience funds. QRA is also the state’s lead agency responsible for disaster recovery and resilience policy, working collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

OUR VISION:
Make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

OUR PURPOSE:
Enable recovery and build resilience to disaster events within our communities.

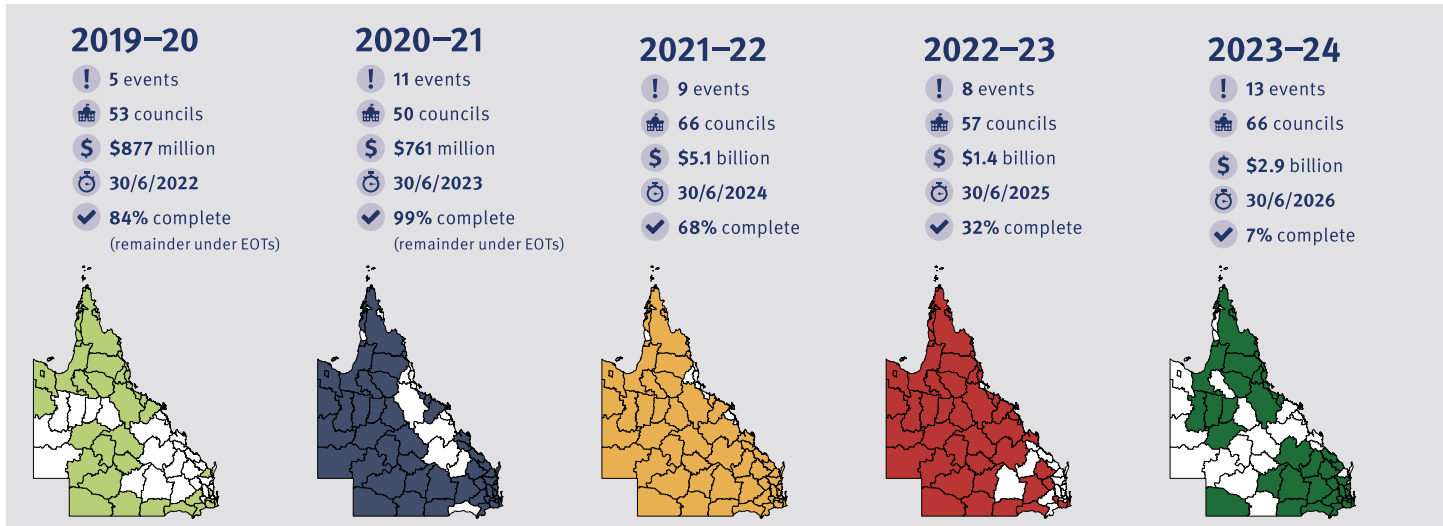
DISASTER ASSISTANCE

DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE GRANTS PROGRAM

QRA is currently administering a recovery and reconstruction program under the joint Commonwealth State DRFA worth \$11 billion arising from 46 events from the 2019–20 to 2023–24 disaster seasons in the delivery and/or acquittal phase.

CURRENT STATEWIDE PROGRAM

! 46 events **🏠** 76 councils with an active program **\$** \$11 billion



IN THE SEPTEMBER QUARTER

The **2019–20** event year program has completed delivery with the exception of DTMR’s Cunningham’s Gap reconstruction project which is progressing under an extension of time (**EOT**) to 30– June–2025. The project has experienced significant geotechnical complexities and has been subject to a redesign process.

The **2020–21** event year program has completed delivery other than five reconstruction and resilience projects with EOTs to deliver through to 30 June 2025.

The **2021–22** event year program is the most significant currently being managed by QRA with a Program Value of **\$5.1 billion** across **66** council areas. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of **\$308 million** (complete), resilience programs of **\$87 million**, reconstruction program of **\$2.7 billion** being delivered through to 2025 and extraordinary assistance packages worth **\$2.1 billion** that will be delivered through to June 2026.

The **2022–2023** program has a Program Value of **\$1.4 billion** across **57** Council areas. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of **\$78 million** (complete), a reconstruction program of approximately **\$1.2 billion** and extraordinary assistance packages of **\$136 million** that will be delivered through to September 2027.

The **2023–2024** event year program has a value of approximately **\$2.9 billion** from **13** events. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of **\$356 million**, resilience programs of **\$275 million**, a reconstruction program of approximately **\$1.7 billion** and extraordinary assistance packages worth **\$247 million** that will be delivered through to 30 June 2026.

THE 2023–24 DISASTER SEASON

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Activations (DRFA)

- [Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 22 March–20 April 2024](#)
- [Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 25 Jan–26 Feb 2024](#)
- [North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 12–22 Jan 2024](#)
- [South West Queensland Flooding 6–23 Jan 2024](#)
- [South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall, 24 Dec 2023–3 Jan 2024](#)
- [Tropical Cyclone Jasper, 13–28 Dec 2023](#)
- [Brisbane and Ipswich Severe Storms, 15–16 Dec 2023](#)
- [Queensland Low Pressure Trough, 20 Nov– 1 Dec 2023](#)
- [The Pines and Condamine Farms Bushfire, 19 Nov–1 Dec 2023](#)
- [Mount Isa Bushfire 23 Oct–1 Nov 2023](#)
- [Southern Queensland Bushfires, 8 Sep–7 Nov 2023](#)
- [Northern Queensland Bushfires, 18 Oct–8 Dec 2023](#)
- [Nome and Julago Bushfire, 16–24 Sep 2023](#)

INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION

Integration and Coordination Division is committed to proactive collaborative engagement with our key stakeholders and partners, and leverages knowledge and shared understanding to effectively influence the reduction of risks and mitigate the impacts arising from future disaster events.

2023–24 STATE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN

Though the 2023–24 disaster season has now passed, the impacts are still being felt across the state, and recovery work continues. The 2023–24 State Recovery and Resilience Plan (SRRP), released in August 2024, outlines priorities and the path ahead for disaster impacted communities.

The SRRP details what levels of government need to do now and in the future to best support recovery, from increasing local capability and improving psychosocial support access, to addressing resupply and insurance issues to raising overall community awareness to disasters. The plan captures lessons learnt from the 2023–24 disaster season to help planning for future disasters and what can be improved during response and recovery across all levels of government and the community.

The plan incorporates key contributions from councils on their locally developed recovery priorities, and the vision, impact assessment and action plans for the five Functional recovery and resilience groups, Built, Roads and Transport, Environment, Economic and Human & Social.



DISASTER RECOVERY COORDINATION (DRC)

Integration and Coordination continue to lead QRA's disaster management capability, with the function changing name to Disaster Recovery Coordination (DRC) to reflect QRA's role in recovery coordination across Queensland.

QRA is currently undertaking preparedness activities for the DRC ahead of the 2023–24 higher risk weather season. Activities include reviewing lessons identified in 2023–24, updating the operations guide and building staff capability through training and scenario exercises.

The readiness of the DRC to respond will continue over the coming months as we enter the higher risk weather season.

The new DRC will streamline approaches to centralise information, reporting and briefings, while still delivering to our community, local government and our Minister in the recovery space.

QRA PARTICIPATING IN THOUGHT LEADERSHIP, RESEARCH AND DISASTER PREPARATION FORUMS

QRA has continued to have an active role in thought leadership across Australia and internationally, with the General Manager of Integration and Coordination, Jimmy Scott, presenting at Building Nations 2024 conference in Auckland New Zealand. Delivered by Infrastructure New Zealand, Building Nations 2024 is an annual opportunity for the infrastructure sector to come together and identify opportunities. Jimmy participated in a panel discussion titled Towards a Consistent Adaptation and Retreat Framework.



Jimmy Scott, General Manager Integration & Coordination presenting at Building Nations 2024

RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY

QRA’s Resilience and Recovery team coordinate the development and implementation of disaster resilience and recovery planning, policy, funding, and support in Queensland.

RECOVERY

QRA works extensively on recovery planning with communities impacted by major disaster events, increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support for local recovery governance.

The Queensland Recovery Plan is driving a collaborative approach across functions of recovery, all levels of government and the whole community to ensure recovery operations are appropriate to the scale of the disaster event.

2024–25 DISASTER SEASON

The 2024–25 disaster season has commenced with an event in Diamantina Shire Council and North Burnett Regional Council, both of which were activated for DRFA relief measures.

Event	Impacted LGA	DRFA Relief Measure
North Burnett Rainfall and Flooding 12–14 August 2024	North Burnett Regional Council	REPA (17/09/2024)
Diamantina Rainfall and Flooding 1–7 July 2024	Diamantina Shire Council	REPA (23/08/2024)



PROGRESS OF RECOVERY FROM THE 2024 DISASTER SEASON

QRA officers assessed properties in Far North Queensland, north Queensland and the south-east Queensland during August and September 2024, conducting Reconstruction Monitoring (RM) of homes and businesses damaged following recent summer disaster events. Over 2,200 properties were targeted across eleven local government areas.

RM was conducted on properties impacted by ex-Tropical Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily, and the South Queensland Christmas storms. QRA officers collected information on property damage, progress of repairs, insurance matters, and residents’ ability to access financial and personal support where required. Referrals were made to Community Recovery in circumstances where residents required additional support.

While data for the number of homes and businesses visited during the operation and status of recovery is still being finalised, early results indicate that recovery is progressing well. Final RM results will be reported in the next Quarterly Report.

This information will be shared with councils, relevant state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders to improve their understanding of the recovery needs and priorities of impacted Queenslanders and Queensland communities.

This was the second follow-up RM operation carried out by QRA since initial damage assessments were conducted by the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) with support from QRA in the immediate aftermath of the disasters. QRA will revisit the properties again during the next RM operation to be held in April-May 2025.

DRFA CATEGORY C & D EXTRAORDINARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE – 2023–24 EVENTS

QRA continues to work alongside councils, State Agencies and Non-Government Organisations to support recovery efforts across the impacted regions. Where significant impacts are experienced as a result of a disaster event, QRA works with state partners to develop extraordinary recovery and resilience packages to support short, medium and longer term recovery needs.

QRA activated immediate assistance under standard DRFA measures and close to \$250 million of Category C and D extraordinary assistance packages have been developed and approved to date to provide short and medium-term targeted assistance for relief, emerging recovery needs and resilience building activities.

QRA is continuing to work with NEMA, State Agencies and Functional Resilience and Recovery Groups to develop additional assistance packages tailored to meet the longer-term recovery needs to assist community recovery across those areas most severely impacted in Queensland.

A summary of the approved packages is listed in the table below.

Southern Queensland Fires \$18.106 million	
<p>Local Resilience and Recovery Grants \$1 million grant for Western Downs Regional Council to support relief, recovery and resilience activities with the community by the Queensland bushfires.</p>	<p>Exceptional Circumstance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers \$5 million in grants of up to \$75,000 to provide targeted assistance with clean up, restoration and recovery activities to eligible primary producers who have suffered direct damage.</p>
<p>Mental Health \$2.2 million to provide funding for mental health support services, focusing on uplifting already existing mental health support programs to support locally led long term recovery within the impacted areas.</p>	<p>Community Health and Wellbeing \$6.24 million to conduct community health and wellbeing activities through internal service delivery, grants programs and working closely with partner agencies to support the recovery of communities.</p>
<p>Agricultural Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers \$1.865 million to support primary producers for medium and longer-term recovery needs including the development of industry-specific on-farm business resilience plans and assist primary producers identify other services to support recovery.</p>	<p>Rural Landholder Recovery Grants \$1.5 million to assist rural landholders with the extraordinary clean up and reinstatement of rural landholder properties and to support targets uninsured, lower income (income tested) primary producers (“hobby farmers”) who are unable to access alternative primary producer or small business grants and require support for clean-up.</p>
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation \$0.3 million to monitor and review the extraordinary recovery package and assess its success in supporting disaster affected communities.</p>	

South Queensland Storms \$9.3 million	
<p>Local Resilience and Recovery Grants</p> <p>\$3 million in grants to support relief, recovery and resilience activities in areas impacted by the South Queensland Storms.</p>	<p>Sport and Recreational Community Facilities</p> <p>\$6.3 million to undertake rebuilding and repair to sport and recreation facilities impacted by the event. Assistance measures will include support for initial scoping of repair and rebuilding works, program administration support for clients, and delivery of the funding assistance within a robust grant program framework.</p>
Tropical Cyclone Jasper \$51.9 million	
<p>Local Resilience and Recovery Grants</p> <p>\$9 million in grants to support relief, recovery and resilience activities in areas impacted Tropical Cyclone Jasper.</p>	<p>Tourism Recovery</p> <p>\$5 million to support severely impacted local government areas that rely heavily on tourism with immediate support to recover from the significant impacts of TC Jasper through targeted relief and recovery activities such as a visitor incentive initiative, immediate hardship assistance and business support to assist the tourism sector directly.</p>
<p>Tourism Recovery and Resilience Program</p> <p>\$24.25 million program to undertake targeted relief and recovery activities such as exceptional financial assistance to isolated businesses that were inaccessible or a building resilience infrastructure grant for tourism operators and funding for a marketing, events and travel incentive.</p>	<p>Cyclone Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers</p> <p>\$2.25 million to engage Cyclone Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers to support primary producers for medium and longerterm recovery needs including the development of industry-specific on-farm business resilience plans and the provision of technical advice on Cyclone recovery.</p>
<p>Sport and Recreational Community Facilities</p> <p>\$8.505 million to undertake rebuilding and repair to sport and recreation facilities impacted by the event. Assistance measures will include support for initial scoping of repair and rebuilding works, program administration support for clients; and delivery of the funding assistance within a robust grant program framework.</p>	<p>Rural Landholder Recovery Grants</p> <p>\$3 million to assist with the extraordinary expenditure for the clean-up and reinstatement of eligible rural residential and lifestyle properties and help to alleviate the distress to residents and animals, repair damage and reduce hazards/risks to eligible properties not covered by insurance or eligible for other DRFA funding programs.</p>
Tropical Cyclone Jasper and South Queensland Storms Shared Packages: \$168.2 million	
<p>Extraordinary Recovery Grants for Primary Producers</p> <p>\$25 million in grants shared between the TC Jasper, associated Rainfall and Flooding and the South Queensland Storms events to support targeted assistance with clean up, restoration and recovery activities to eligible primary producers who have suffered direct damage.</p>	<p>Extraordinary Recovery Grants for Small Businesses and not-for-profits</p> <p>\$25 million in grants shared between the TC Jasper, associated Rainfall and Flooding and the South Queensland Storms events to support eligible small business and not for profit organisations that have suffered direct damage and provide targeted assistance with clean up, restoration and recovery activities to assist these businesses/organisations return to business operations.</p>
<p>Recovery Project Managers</p> <p>\$1 million shared package between the TC Jasper, associated Rainfall and Flooding and the South Queensland Storms events to engage project managers and other skilled workers to design, coordinate and manage extraordinary recovery efforts.</p>	<p>Clean Up Program</p> <p>\$20 million shared between the TC Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding and the South Queensland Storms events clean-up program to support Local Governments and State Agencies to undertake assessments and conduct extraordinary clean-up activities of rivers, waterways, beaches, national parks, communities and recreational assets including removal and disposal of disaster related debris.</p>

<p>Community Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>\$22.935 million to conduct community health and wellbeing activities through internal service delivery, grants programs and working closely with partner agencies to support the recovery of communities.</p>	<p>Mental Health Program</p> <p>\$9.564 million to provide individual and family therapeutic interventions across the continuum of care for people impacted by TC Jasper 2023 and the SQ storms 2023. Particular attention will be paid to vulnerable individuals displaced from their home, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</p>
<p>Small Business Support</p> <p>\$13.4 million to provide support through small businesses through Exceptional Disaster Hardship Assistance Grants, a Small Business Support Network providing free, independent, one-on-one case management with a strong focus on mental health support and financial security and a Resilience Partnership Program which will focus on business resilience and disaster preparedness and leverage the heightened awareness of business operators severely impacted, or concerned about their own preparedness.</p>	<p>Environmental Recovery</p> <p>\$51.3 million to undertake an investigations program to identify environmental impacts from the event, clean up flood debris along the coastlines and within environmentally sensitive areas inland, manage contamination concerns accordingly, rehabilitate riverine, wetland and riparian environments, provide the tools to support project identification and prioritisation, funding to Natural Resource Management bodies, Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers, state agencies and Local councils to address weed and pest management issues and instilling stewardship practices for Queensland’s environmental and cultural assets.</p>

DRFA CATEGORY C & D EXTRAORDINARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE–2021–22 EVENTS



Resilient Homes Fund

The Resilient Homes Fund aims to help Queenslanders whose homes were affected by flooding in the 2021–22 disaster season to make their homes more resilient to future flooding or buy them back to remove residents from harm’s way.

The Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works is delivering the Resilient Retrofit and House-raising component of the Resilient Homes Fund, whilst QRA is managing the Voluntary Home Buyback (VHBB) program together with local governments.

As at 23 September 2024, 876 valuation inspections have been undertaken across the 12 local government areas approved to take part in the scheme and 859 offers have been presented to homeowners with 685 accepted. To date, 684 contracts have settled, and 539 properties demolished across ten local government areas.

QRA continues to work collaboratively with Ipswich City Council and NEMA to help the Mi Hi Grove Body Corporate Committee address the complexities of voluntary home buy-back, and compulsory acquisition, within a community title scheme. By the end of September 2024, 40 of the 42 total homeowners have settled acquisition of their properties by Ipswich City Council. For the two homeowners that have not yet accepted, Ipswich City Council is now progressing with the compulsory acquisition process.

Property Level Flood Information Portal

Delivery of the Property Level Flood Information Portal (“the Portal”) continues, with 33 councils having formally confirmed their participation in the QRA-led portals solution. QRA is working closely with QIT Plus and eligible councils to develop the portals solution through the Discovery phase of the project.

QRA hosted an information session for Councils on 1 August 2024, focusing on current development progress, how Councils' feedback has influenced this development, and the next steps for further usability testing. Key themes from the discussion included terminology improvements and ongoing efforts to simplify the platform.

The Portals initiative has the principal aim of helping residents understand, be more informed and better prepared for future flooding events by giving them access to flood risk information specific to their property. Delivery of the Portals will enable any member of the public in an eligible local government area to enter their address into a locally hosted platform and obtain key information about flooding on their property and surrounding neighbourhood. Where data is limited, the system will still be implemented using existing datasets and allow for updates as new data becomes available.

DRFA CATEGORY C AND D MONITORING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

QRA Evaluation Strategy 2024–27

Over the past few months, QRA has been developing an evaluation strategy to inform its approach, resourcing and capabilities for the monitoring and evaluation of current and future disaster events. The QRA Evaluation Strategy 2024–27 has been developed to create a shared understanding of what monitoring and evaluation looks like for QRA and is intended to support organisational growth and stakeholder buy-in.

High-level principles from this strategy will inform QRA’s evaluation system, which includes the development of key documents and tools to support evaluation activities. The strategy is designed to support monitoring and evaluation activities for DRFA Category C and D packages only.

Event-specific/season portfolios that are in scope for evaluation between now and 2028 include:

2021–22	Southern Queensland Floods
2022–23	Northern and Central Monsoon and Flooding
2023–24	Southern Queensland Bushfires
2023–24	TC Jasper and Severe Storms

Evaluation plans for each package outline which appropriateness, efficiency and/or effectiveness questions can be answered based on evidence collected over the life of the package. Final evaluation reports will be delivered to NEMA and published on the Australian Institute Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub in December 2024.

Monitoring activities

The Monitoring and Evaluation team has been working with the Program Delivery Office, Initiations and Portfolio to strengthen the qualitative data QRA collects from delivery agents on a monthly basis. This work is intended to improve what we know about packages during the delivery phase, to support more informed decision-making around implementation improvements and future package design.

Hazard and Risk Unit

Since 01 July 2024, QRA now leads the state-level hazard and risk function, which transitioned from the QFD (formally QFES). As a result, QRA is continuing the enhancement of its internal Hazard and Risk Unit capability, combining their well-established Flood Risk Management and Geographic Information System (GIS) teams, with further business and resource planning underway, to ensure an ability to mature and deliver this new state function.

This new responsibility includes:

- responsibility for **Queensland’s disaster risk management approach**. A refined disaster risk assessment process, suitable for pilot testing with local disaster management practitioners—including delivery of an updated Guideline and tool, will be available in the coming months.

- coordinating and implementing **policies related to potential disaster risk assessments** across Queensland.
- maintaining **disaster risk management reporting and assessment functions**, such as the State Disaster Risk Report and other State-level risk assessments.
- supporting state and local stakeholders to develop and implement disaster risk assessments**, emphasis will be on supporting local disaster management stakeholders in disaster risk management planning by providing fit-for-purpose risk products that are already tailored to their local needs, minimising additional resourcing effort at the local scale.
- coordinating state-level relationships and collaborations for specific hazards or products**, including with other state agencies

Engagement and input from disaster management stakeholders, remains a priority in finalising this new approach, with engagement planned over the coming months. If you would like to know more Hazard.Risk@qra.qld.gov.au.

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Following the recent approval of an additional \$18 million in funding, the Flood Risk Management Program is currently processing the second round of applications available to 39 eligible councils. Councils impacted by the 2021–22 floods will now be sharing \$26.05 million to improve flood resilience through flood studies, risk assessments and special projects. 37 councils have already received funding for 128 projects (comprising of 123 individual projects and five regional projects) through the joint Commonwealth-State DRFA to undertake key activities to manage their river, creek and overland flood risks.

This new funding raises the total allocation for the program from \$31 million to \$49 million, with \$6 million allocated to Work Package 2, and \$12 million allocated to Work Package 3. The Flood Risk Management Program provides funding to undertake key activities to support evidence-based response, mitigation and resilience strategies to manage river, creek and overland flood risk.

Community engagement and education material (WP1)

Under Work Package 1, QRA has \$2.2 million in funding to design a targeted Get Ready campaign. The campaign is in its final stages of development and has been developed along with communication and engagement resources for councils and community groups to increase community engagement and awareness of flood risks and available flood warning information. Additional context of the project is provided in the Get Ready Queensland update below.

The Department of Communities has also received a \$150,000 grant for person-centred emergency planning, responsible donation management education program and business continuity for community organisations/service providers.

LiDAR Capture (WP2)

Under Work Package 2 (WP2) of the Flood Risk Management Program, \$12.4 million funding is available for QRA to work with the Department of Resources and eligible local councils to capture required Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data and the creation of a floor level database.

To date over 73,000 square kilometres of LiDAR has been collected and distributed to eligible councils under the program. The final project in Tranche 4 is now underway with the Department of Resources in the process of securing a supplier to undertake LiDAR collection for targeted areas across Maranoa. With the additional \$6 million in funding now allocated to WP2, the total area for LiDAR capture will increase and is currently being scoped with input from eligible Councils and the Department of Resources.

Flood studies, risk assessment and management strategies and intelligence systems (WP3)

Under Work Package 3, now funded at \$34.25 million, \$26.05 million is available to 39 councils for projects and \$8.2 million is allocated to priority state projects.

QRA recently opened the second round of grant applications for Councils, which closed on 13 August 2024. Currently, applications are being assessed for eligibility and feasibility. Outcomes are expected to be announced shortly. QRA continues providing support to councils in the delivery of their approved flood risk management projects through the established Peer Review and Technical Advisory Panels, along with QRA flood team assistance where required.

South East Queensland Flood Forecasting and Warning System (WP3)

The Bureau of Meteorology has now delivered the Southeast Queensland Flood Forecast & Warning System Project Delivery Plan. The delivery plan outlines next steps for system delivery across South East Queensland over the next 10 years. The first pilot identified is to develop a production ready forecasting and warning system for the Brisbane River Catchment. The additional \$4.2 million in funding has been allocated for the delivery of the Brisbane River Flood Forecasting and Warning System.

The Bureau of Meteorology has advised they can extend components of the pilot delivery to include the remaining South East Queensland councils to ensure co-designed products have broader stakeholder input and commence development of other components to facilitate future system development. The remaining eight Councils have put in applications in round two of Council grant applications to continue their involvement in the South East Flood Forecasting and Warning System development.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND - FLOOD WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK PROGRAM (ERF FWIN)

The ERF FWIN program consists of \$7 million made available through the \$75 million Emergency Response Fund to improve Queensland's Flood Warning Infrastructure across 23 councils impacted by the 2022 South East Queensland flooding event. All elements of Flood Warning Systems are eligible for funding under this program.

All 23 eligible Councils submitted applications for ERF FWIN funding for amounts of up to \$235,000 to enhance their flood warning infrastructure assets. Nine Councils have received additional funding to deliver rain and river gauges identified by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) through the National Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Program. Those gauges will become BOM assets once commissioned.

The majority of the 23 councils have commenced procurement with a small number projected to complete their installations before Christmas 2024. Final deadline for project completion is 30 June 2025.

THE BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY - NATIONAL FLOOD WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK PROGRAM

Since the May 2023 Australian Government budget allocation of \$236 million to remediate high priority flood warning infrastructure and address critical reliability risks, the BOM has made notable progress to upgrade and acquire identified local and state government-owned rain and river gauges into its flood warning asset base.

Queensland is prioritised in the national roll-out due to the Queensland Government's agreement with the Australian Government for a 50% maintenance cost-share up to the value of \$5 million per year for 10 years. The Bureau has segmented Queensland into seven regions for the purpose of program delivery:

- Southeast Region
- Northwest Region
- South Region
- Southwest Region
- Far North
- Townsville to Mackay
- Rockhampton to Bundaberg

As of September 2024, workshops have been completed for all seven regions. These workshops aim to gather local insights about the value of flood warning infrastructure and verify the desktop assessments.

Approximately 1000 assets have been identified for acquisition and remediation across Queensland over a five-year timeframe as part of the program. Approximately 200 assets are planned for acquisition in 2024/2025.

RESILIENCE

QRA is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for disaster recovery, managing flood risks and improving the disaster resilience of communities.

The QRA has been involved in the following key activities during the final quarter of 2022.

Resilience Funding Programs

Along with QRA's lead role in managing and coordinating Queensland's program of recovery and reconstruction funding within disaster-impacted communities, QRA also administers a range of disaster resilience funding programs on behalf of the State.

A number of resilience funding programs are currently in delivery, helping to strengthen the disaster resilience and preparedness of Queensland communities.

Program	Approved amount	Approved projects
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2019–20)	\$13.1M	68
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2020–21) and Managing Disaster Risk (2020–21)	\$19.1M	82
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2021–22) and Managing Disaster Risk	\$19.1M	53
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2022–23)	\$10.5M	24
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2023–24)	\$16.4M	29
North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program (2021–22)	\$10M	22
Recovery and Resilience Grants – Stream 1 (2020–21)	\$11.5M	59
National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (2020–21)	\$9.9M	3
National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (2021–22)	\$0.9M	2
\$75m Queensland Flood Recovery and Resilience Package (2021–22)	\$75M	7
Protecting our Communities Program (2022)	\$5.3M	6
Disaster Ready Fund 2023–24 – Round 1	\$84M	50
Disaster Ready Fund 2024–25 – Round 2	\$30.8M	29
North Queensland Resilience Program	TBC	under assessment

QUEENSLAND RESILIENCE AND RISK REDUCTION FUND (QRRRF) 2023–24

On 30 June 2024, 29 successful projects were announced for the 2023–24 QRRRF receiving \$16.4 million in funding for infrastructure and non-infrastructure initiatives that make Queensland Communities more resilient through disaster risk reduction measures.

This includes 17 projects for councils, five for state agencies and seven for not-for-profit organisations.

The QRRRF is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments under the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction. This was the fifth and final round of funding available under this Agreement.

Further information on the QRRRF 2023–24 is available on the QRA website: www.qra.qld.gov.au/QRRRF2023-24

Disaster Ready Fund (DRF)

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government's flagship disaster risk reduction initiative which will fund a diverse set of projects in partnership with states and territories to deliver medium-term and long-term national outcomes, investing up to \$1 billion over the next five years.

Under Round 1 of the DRF (2023–24), 50 projects were approved in Queensland for more than \$84 million in Commonwealth funding to support disaster risk reduction initiatives, including 40 projects for councils, three for state agencies, five for non-government organisations and two for universities.

Under Round 2 of the DRF (2024–25), 29 projects were approved in Queensland for more than \$30 million in Commonwealth funding to support disaster risk reduction initiatives, including 14 projects for councils, two for state agencies, seven for non-government organisations and two for universities. QRA will now work with NEMA to establish a funding agreement and then work with successful applicants to finalise implementation plans.

DRFA EFFICIENCIES

The DRFA Efficiencies Program is funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through efficiencies realised during the delivery of the state’s DRFA reconstruction program.

The DRFA Efficiencies program is designed to fund strategic disaster mitigation and risk reduction activities that will create stronger, safer and more resilient Queensland Communities. QRA runs an annual efficiencies program round in accordance with the DRFA High Level Disaster Mitigation Principles, which states that mitigation activities should:

- complement existing state mitigation programs or contribute to new initiatives
- address the state’s assessed natural hazard risks
- focus on reducing the requirement for future funding
- align with the priorities under the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

DRFA Efficiencies Program 2023–24 (Round One)

\$192 million was approved through previous Queensland Budgets for the allocation of efficiencies realised in the 2018–19 reconstruction program. This included two \$20 million Betterment programs over the past two Queensland Budgets.

[Please see the QRA webpage for a list of projects.](#)

DRFA Efficiencies Program 2024-25 (Round Two)

The 2024-25 Queensland Budget approved \$100 million over three years from the DRFA Efficiencies to support three high priority disaster resilience and mitigation projects:

Program	Allocation	Lead Agency	Project Intent and Outcomes
Shaping SEQ Resilience Policy Maturity Framework	\$3.111 million	Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (DHLGPPW)	Integrate natural hazard risk management and climate adaptation processes at the regional scale to provide a consistent regionwide understanding of climate and disaster risk for land use planning, and the resilience or adaptation interventions required over time for the existing and future built environment.
Research Framework	\$1.5 million	QRA/QPS/ IGEM	Establish a QDMA research capability through a partnership between QRA, Queensland Police Service and IGEM to identify and deliver on research priorities.
Supporting Crucial Access Links and Upgrades to Rural and Remote Access Points	\$95.389 million	QRA	Deliver several high priority projects identified by councils through local resilience action plans and regional resilience strategies that target improvements to strengthening and maintaining crucial linkages and access routes during and after disaster events.

STATE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE GROUP

QRA continues to support the strategic priorities of the State Recovery and Resilience Group (SRRG).

The State Recovery and Resilience Group was created in 2023 to focus on the recovery and resilience of Queensland communities. The SRRG implements decisions of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) to achieve recovery and resilience in Queensland and provides strategic advice relating to recovery and resilience.

On 26 August 2024, SRRG members held their first meeting with the group noting the terms of reference and workplans for both the SRRG and Functional Recovery and Resilience Groups over the next 12 months.

Workplan activities reflect the SRRG’s strategic resilience priorities to meet future challenges in disaster management.

The six strategic resilience priorities include building codes and land use planning, environmental protection, crucial linkages/infrastructure, supporting the vulnerable, data sharing and research.

Members also discussed the outcomes of the 2023-24 season debrief, including opportunities to improve communication, coordination and reporting and pre-season preparedness activities planned for the FRRGs ahead of the next higher risk weather season.



SRRG Strategic Priorities

QRA PARTICIPATING IN THOUGHT LEADERSHIP, RESEARCH AND DISASTER PREPARATION FORUMS



QRA Representatives at the AFAC24 Conference

During September QRA representatives attended the Australian Fire and Emergency Services Conference 2024 (AFAC24). The conference featured the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2024 (ADRC) and the Institution of Fire Engineers National Conference as concurrent streams, bringing together a variety of disaster management practitioners from a range of sectors to share knowledge and build connections for a disaster resilient Australia.

The underlying theme of the ADRC 2024 was “Maintaining momentum: driving systematic change to create a more resilient future”, featuring over 100 presenters on a number of topics showcasing emerging research and practice in the sector.



QRA Representatives at the 2024 DEMC Conference

QRA representatives also attended the 2024 Disaster and Emergency Management Conference (DEMC) on the Gold Coast, allowing QRA to learn from and network with some of Australia and New Zealand’s most dedicated sector leaders, professionals and service providers. The theme of this year’s conference was Leading in times of crises: Empowering change and recovery through learning, innovation and adaption.

The event provided QRA with access to the latest research, projects, programs and strategies to help meet recovery needs. Of particular interest was resilience building and mitigation opportunities for at risk communities across all hazard types.



QRA Representatives at the QPS DDC XO Conference

QRA General Manager, Integration and Coordination Jimmy Scott and Director Hazard and Risk, Cheryl-Lee Fitzgerald presented at the Queensland Police Service District Disaster Coordinators (DDC) Executive Officers (XO) conference in September. The presentation was an overview of QRA activities to support Queensland communities ahead of the higher risk weather season. They covered a range of topics, with a focus on ensuring integration between response and recovery, including uplift to the hazard and risk capability.



ANU Disaster Solution Symposium and Roundtable

During August, Rebecca Morris, Director Policy and Program Design participated in the 2024 Australian National University (ANU) Disaster Solution Symposium and Roundtable in Canberra. The event examined strategies for building resilience, prevention and recovery and the role of communities, government and private sector. The forum also explored potential areas of research and innovation in disaster finance.



Greg Scroope addressing the QCoast2100 Knowledge and Information Sharing Forum

Also during August, Deputy State Recovery Coordinator, Mike Wassing and QRA’s Flood Risk Management Technical Lead Greg Scroope attended and presented at the QCoast2100 Knowledge and Information Sharing Forum in Townsville. The forum focused on strategic risk mitigation and resilience activities aimed at creating stronger, safer and more resilient communities.

Mike Wassing spoke to the forum on recent disaster events and provided a snapshot of key themes, the road ahead and QRA’s new roles and responsibilities. Greg Scroope addressed the forum on QRA’s approach to strategic risk mitigation.

GET READY QUEENSLAND (GRQ)

GRQ is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The program integrates a state-wide research driven awareness campaign led by QRA, alongside a grass roots grants program providing \$2M across Queensland’s 77 councils and the Weipa Town Authority to deliver locally-led disaster preparedness initiatives.



CELEBRATING RESILIENCE

RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARDS – QUEENSLAND CHAPTER EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

The 2024 Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards were held on Thursday 19 September, showcasing inspiring individuals and organisations who support natural disaster resilience across Queensland.

The Hon Nikki Boyd Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services and QRA CEO Jake Ellwood presented the awards, which were delivered in partnership with the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience to celebrate projects making a difference in our communities.

Thanks to QRA’s partnership with Suncorp, the event was held at their dramatic rooftop venue in Brisbane and proceedings were led by Local Government Association of Queensland’s Tim Cox, who performed the role of MC.

The Queensland Chapter of the awards received a wide range of entries this year and the judging panel was impressed with the quality of submissions, noting it was remarkable to realise the dedication and commitment demonstrated to strengthening our state.

The event acknowledged project recipients in the categories of Government, Local Government, Community, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Business and culminated in the announcement of the Resilient Australia Photography Award.

The Queensland state winners have been shortlisted for the national Resilient Australia Awards which will be held at a ceremony in Canberra in November.

FUNDING TO CREATE RESOURCES TARGETED AT CALD COMMUNITIES

QRA is currently working on a \$2 million project focused on creating in language resources targeted at culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. The “Accessible and Inclusive Community Education Resources for Natural Hazards” project is funded under the Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) package from Australia’s National Emergency Management (NEMA).

The objective of the grant is to build Australian communities’ disaster resilience by improving accessibility and inclusivity of key disaster information, including types of extreme weather, their impacts, and ways to mitigate risks at a household and community level. The resources will include a series of natural hazard information videos, factsheets and Easy Read content created for people with low literacy.

These resources are being developed for use across Australia and will focus on seven natural hazards: bushfires, floods, cyclones, storms, heatwaves, earthquakes and tsunamis. Using evidence-based data to determine communities most in need, the videos and factsheets will be translated into up to eight CALD languages.

GET READY QUEENSLAND WEEK

Get Ready Queensland Week happens annually in October, coinciding with the Bureau of Meteorology’s severe weather update.

This year Get Ready Queensland Week will run from 8 to 13 October 2024 and is a great opportunity for all Queenslanders to prepare for extreme weather.

Get Ready Queensland week will launch at Corinda State High School, Brisbane and the Esplanade, Cairns, followed by a series of regional activities in the south-east, Far North, and out west.

This year’s regional activities will include the launch of the Livestock Severe Weather Emergency Plan to help producers build resilience and prepare for severe weather. The plan was founded out of conversations with Boulia Shire Council in early 2023 following the devastating floods which occurred both in 2023 and 2019, leading to significant loss of livestock across central and western Queensland.

Additionally, GRQ and RSPCA Queensland are working together this Get Ready Queensland Week, with resources to help animal owners better protect their pets.

Rugby league legend Johnathan Thurston is the program ambassador for Get Ready Queensland, a role he has held since 2019.

JT helps Queenslanders understand how they can prepare for extreme weather, and in 2024 he is fronting GRQ’s new campaign which is spreading the message, ‘Weather doesn’t plan, but you can’.

The campaign is the next evolution of the QRA task stacking, behaviour-change approach and is underpinned by research. We know that people being prepared makes them more resilient to our ever-changing climate and we know that making a plan is a key way to be prepared.

This year the campaign will be running 8 October to 16 November across various media platforms – including TVCs, radio, digital and out of home.

The campaign urges Queenslanders to Make your emergency plan today and provides a QR Code linking a simple online tool, the Severe Weather Household Emergency Plan. The plan makes it quick and easy to plan for an emergency by write down what to do, who to contact and how to evacuate.

QRA has added some bonus checklists and useful tips to the plan making it a practical downloadable PDF which can be saved, printed and shared with family or friends.

WEATHER DOESN'T PLAN BUT YOU CAN

Anyone, anywhere in Queensland can be impacted by severe weather. By making a plan now, you can help keep your home, loved ones, and community safer. It's easy to do and it won't take you long.

Households that plan together stay safer together
Make sure you get the household involved. So everyone knows what to do if the weather turns bad. You might even want to include your neighbours or friends.

Start making your plan, enter your postcode.

Postcode or suburb

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IF ITS FLOODED FORGET IT UPDATE

The successful “It its flooded, forget it” campaign is focussed on equipping drivers with the information they need to make safe choices and will be re-run from 18 November 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The campaign performance in 2023/24 was exceptional with more than 32 million impressions, 125,000 web visits and industry recognition via the “Campaign Brief -The Work Hotlist”.

Since seeing the 23/24 campaign:

- Eight out of ten (82%) drivers agreed they are less likely to drive through flooded roads.
- 86% said they are now more aware of the limitations and safety risks of their vehicle in floodwater.
- Two thirds (66%) of people discussed the issue of driving at times of severe weather, with family and friends.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

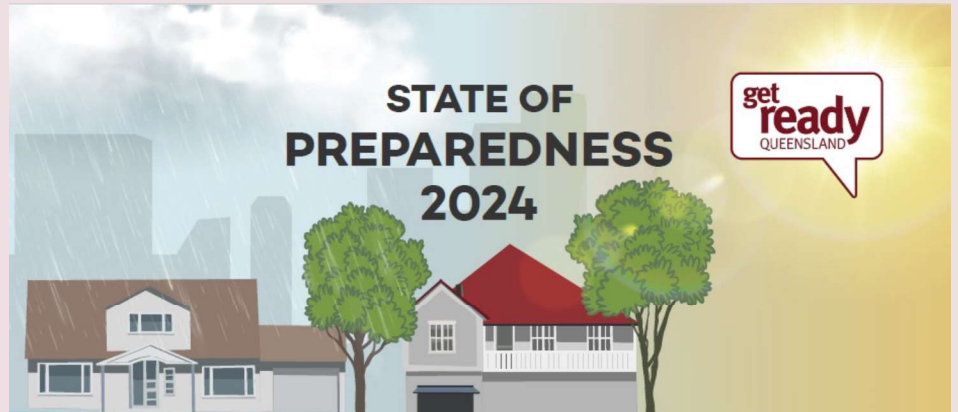
QUEENSLAND STATE OF PREPAREDNESS 2024

Undertaken every two years, the Queensland State of Preparedness research (formerly Statewide Preparedness Research) offers a snapshot of what Queenslanders are doing to get prepared, how extreme weather is impacting their lives, and what might be stopping them from getting started. GRQ’s market research partner MCR undertook 1535 interviews across five key regions – SEQ, Coastal, Remote/Regional, Resources and First Nations, providing regional comparisons of how different areas of the state are tracking, embedded with local councils to support recovery efforts.

QRA is also working with the ADF to coordinate efforts out of the Far North Queensland Recovery Cell based in Cairns.

QRA’s current recovery priorities are cleaning up and removing debris, and helping those affected with the support they need, whether that’s financial or personal.

While the task ahead remains a mammoth one, we won’t stop until access is returned to roads, communities are cleared, and Queenslanders are safe.

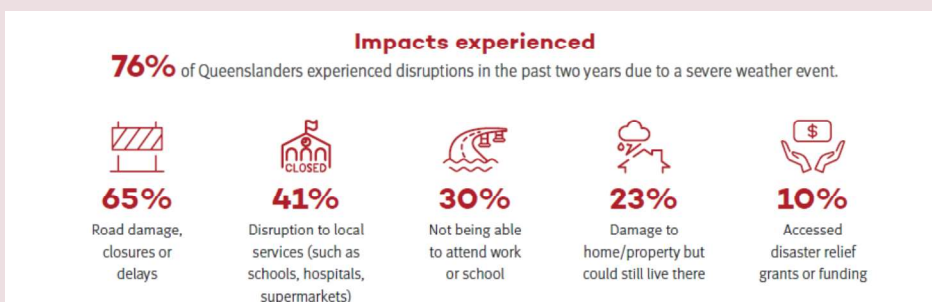


The Queensland State of Preparedness research is a critical pillar of Get Ready Queensland’s behaviour change program, informing development of insights-based initiatives. Additional questions drove richer insights in 2024, delving deeper into existing longitudinal measures, and informing future practice. For example, while 59% of Queenslanders have an emergency plan, research revealed that only 19% have written it down. A formalised plan stands up when the heat is on, which is why Get Ready Queensland is launching a campaign and new online tool in October encouraging people to document their emergency plans.

76% of Queenslanders experienced disruptions to their lifestyle or routine in the past two years due to a severe weather event. Past experience is a key reason people prepare for future events, however a new insight from this year’s research quantified this further. People who experienced just two disruptions as a result of severe weather (from road closures all the way up to evacuations) correlated with a significant increase in disaster preparedness behaviours.

Building habit is a central aim of Get Ready Queensland’s behaviour change approach, and it’s encouraging to see a significant increase in the number of Queenslanders agreeing they prepare out of ‘habit,’ (up 58% since 2022). Queensland State of Preparedness research is a valuable tool to support and amplify the Get Ready Queensland message and continue to build disaster preparedness and resilience as a social norm.

People are more likely to Get Ready if they believe that others in their community are preparing to. A suite of resources unpacking regional insights have been developed to support Queensland LGAs in their ongoing work to deliver localised resilience and preparedness initiatives.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

\$114 MILLION IN EFFICIENCIES PUMPED BACK INTO INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES AND RESILIENCE

The QRA is redirecting nearly \$114 million into the protection of critical community infrastructure across the state, ongoing recovery in Far North Queensland (FNQ) and towards research into disaster resilience.

These investments are being made using efficiencies realised under the joint Commonwealth-state DRFA.

The reinvestment includes a \$95.4 million program to safeguard crucial linkages and access routes for rural and remote communities, aiding connectivity and emergency response during disasters.

QRA will support councils to repair and upgrade airstrips, boat ramps and seaports in communities regularly isolated by extreme weather events.

The high-priority infrastructure projects have been identified by councils through their Regional Resilience Strategies and Local Resilience Action Plans.

An additional \$3.1 million will fund efforts to advance climate change and natural hazard resilience in the Queensland planning framework using pilot projects and implementation actions identified in the Queensland Government’s ShapingSEQ 2023 strategy.

A further \$1.5 million will initiate a whole-of-government agreement between the Queensland Government and Natural Hazards Research Australia (NHRA) and will

provide additional funding to deliver bespoke disaster research projects.

A separate \$14 million package will provide extra recovery and resilience support in northern Queensland after the floods, cyclones and bushfires the region experienced over the past 12 months.

The package includes \$7.73 million Far North Queensland Flood Risk Management Package which will harness the latest data for critical flood studies of the Bloomfield River catchment to build the clearest picture possible of disaster risk.

Remote parts of the Bloomfield River catchment including Wujal Wujal, Ayton and Degarra, will be the focus of the studies to help communities prepare for future extreme weather after unprecedented inundation over summer.

The funding also includes \$6.27 million Northern Queensland Bushfires Package which will invest in mental health support, community health and wellbeing, agricultural industry recovery and resilience officers, and recovery grants for rural landholders impacted in late 2023.



QRA CEO visit to Torres Strait Islands Regional Council (August 2024)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

TWO NEW LOCAL DISASTER COORDINATION CENTRES OPEN IN TIME FOR SUMMER SEASON

Gympie Regional Council and Noosa Council have opened new state-of-the-art Local Disaster Coordination Centres (LDCC) in recent weeks.

The 2023–24 disaster season underlined the immense value designated LDCCs have when severe weather strikes.

They allow for streamlined and coordinated responses to minimise the impacts on communities and accelerate the transition to recovery.

The new LDCCs will provide these risk reduction and mitigation capabilities for the Gympie and Noosa regions, allowing both councils to coordinate and respond to disasters more effectively.

Both Councils now have permanent and dedicated disaster response facilities and also utilised existing assets as part of their LDCC development.

Gympie LDCC is housed in Gympie’s refurbished heritage-listed Old Bank Building (OBB) and was assisted by \$500,000 from the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF), administered by QRA.

Key features of the upgraded OBB include cutting-edge technology in the operations room, new breakout focus rooms, and a media room for timely updates to the community and news outlets.

The centre also boasts improved accessibility, infrastructure enhancements and soundproofing, ensuring that staff in the operations room can remain focused during critical moments.

Noosa’s LDCC is situated at the council depot in Noosaville and was constructed from relocated and repurposed modular buildings.

Council used a \$380,000 Local Recovery and Resilience Grant (LRRG), funded under the jointly funded 2021–22 Rainfall and Flooding DRFA exceptional circumstances package, to create the facility.

The refurbished space ensures LDCC members have a dedicated hub to coordinate and respond in times of emergency and conduct training and disaster scenario preparations.

Whether it’s floods, cyclones or bushfires, we know resilient communities are stronger and will recover faster from disasters.

These facilities provide assurance that, when the time comes, Gympie and Noosa Councils stand ready and better equipped to support the community.



Celebrating the opening of the Gympie LDCC opening



QRA Representatives supporting the Noosa LDCC opening

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SUSTAINABILITY A FOCUS OF CHRISTMAS STORM CLEAN-UP

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has been proactive in reusing and repurposing in the clean-up after destructive storms hit South East Queensland in late December 2023 and early January 2024.

The storms brought down hundreds of trees, damaged roads and scattered thousands of tonnes of debris, requiring a monumental storm clean-up effort across the region.

Following similar success repurposing large eucalyptus trees that needed to be removed for another local project — TMR’s upgrade to the Beaudesert–Nerang Road/Yalkuri Road intersection — TMR reached out to local not-for-profit Habitec in the early stages of recovery.

Habitec specialises in a range of habitat enhancement solutions. According to their website, there are over 300 Australian native animal species that rely on hollows for shelter and rearing their young.



Fauna movement infrastructure made from fallen trees

A partnership was implemented and fostered to coordinate and supply enough suitable timber for 14 habitat logs, 25 nesting boxes (approximately 20 metres of timber) and 50 poles for fauna movement infrastructure such as koala escape poles.

A total of 28 large root balls were also repurposed, with 14 used to stabilise a particularly eroded bank edge on Cedar Creek, as well as adding additional habitat value for the area which is frequented by the iconic platypus.

More than 50 culverts have been cleared and 15,000 tonnes of debris removed from roads and the road corridor – the equivalent of six Olympic-sized swimming pools. TMR has recycled 7750 tonnes of vegetation debris into mulch and provided this to a local landscaping supplier Marlyn Compost, as well as to local government areas to distribute to their constituents.

Another 2500 tonnes were donated to biomass-fired power stations in Condong and Broadwater in northern NSW through the company Cape Byron Power.

As well as providing community and native fauna benefits, repurposing and reusing the storm debris contributed to reduced disposal costs.



Mulching storm debris (January 2024)

Since the storms, more than 2500 sites have been cleaned or repaired to date. One major site at Tamborine Creek bridge requires remediation work, which is expected to commence in September 2024, weather and site conditions permitting.

Further repairs will be required at about 250 minor sites and 20 major sites and will commence in early 2025. Works will include slope stabilisation and repairs to damaged drainage structures and significant scour sites.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the DRFA.

Geotechnical investigations and repairs are ongoing, with the section from Ellis Beach to Port Douglas expected to reopen on 20 January 2024.

Other key road links around Cairns, including the Kuranda Range Road, Gillies Range Road, Mossman–Mount Molloy Road, Mulligan Highway and Shiptons Flat Road, were reopened under restricted access by late December 2023.

Inspections and emergency works, including removing road hazards and repairing pavement, are ongoing across the region to make damaged roads safe until full reconstruction can be completed.

Damage assessments will continue over the coming months and a significant program of reconstruction works will be required.

Assistance will be provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State DRFA.



Tree root balls used in Cedar Creek stabilisation works

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

REPAIRS WHERE RAINFOREST MEETS REEF

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has completed critical temporary stabilisation works at major TC Jasper landslip sites on the Captain Cook Highway, enabling the road to remain open while long-term repairs are planned.

Flanked either side by World Heritage rainforest and a steep coastline that looks towards the Great Barrier Reef, the Captain Cook Highway is considered one of Australia’s most scenic drives, and an important route for tourism and the local economy.

Repairing the major landslip sites on Captain Cook Highway between Turtle Cove, Wangetti and Rex Lookout presented challenges unique to Far North Queensland.

TMR consulted with Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) for approvals prior to commencing the critical works. Utmost care needed to be taken in keeping the crew’s environmental footprint between the rainforest above the work site and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park below the work site.



Captain Cook Highway – landslip site (March 2024)

This meant taking measures to mitigate the potential for concrete run-off into the marine park below. On multiple occasions, work methodologies were changed to prevent any grout run-off and the installation of a fibrecrete binding layer was used to reduce sediment run-off from site.

Works included more than 800 linear metres of soil nails, some of which were embedded 12 metres into the hillside, and over 200 tonnes of concrete protection to stabilise the downslope and prevent further damage.

Efforts were also made to ensure road was safe for continued traffic along this vital tourism and industry route. To minimise the impact to road users, works were completed at night from 9pm to 4am, with planned road openings for road users. This provided safe travel for people travelling to and from Port Douglas over the school holidays.

Additionally, works were able to take place around major events that required access between Cairns and Port Douglas, such as the annual Cairns Ironman and Port Douglas Carnival events which are of huge economic importance given the thousands of visitors they bring to the region.

Given the favourable weather conditions, works were completed ahead of schedule on 26 July 2024.

TMR is in the process of finalising design and engaging suitably qualified contractors that can complete the long-term and complex, geotechnical works needed along the Captain Cook Highway to restore it to its pre-cyclone function.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the DRFA.



Captain Cook Highway – damaged guardrail (April 2024)



Critical slope stabilisation works (May 2024)



Completed critical slope stabilisation works (July 2024)