

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

August 2017

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

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Major General Richard Wilson AO (Ret'd)
Chairman
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Dear Major General Wilson

It is with pleasure that I present the August 2017 Monthly Report – the 78th report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

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

The Authority is charged with helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters through managing and coordinating the Queensland Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities and being the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy.

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

QRA is currently administering Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) works for 28 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event periods that are in the delivery and/or acquittal phases.

Of the estimated \$1.8 billion program of reconstruction works in the delivery phase, \$746 million has been approved by QRA and additional submissions worth \$152 million are being assessed by QRA or awaiting additional information. QRA is working with delivery agents to expedite the progress of the remaining submissions in relation to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and other recent 2017 events. In addition \$546 million (30 per cent) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 30 June as in progress or delivered.

Since the last report, the Commonwealth replied to the state's proposal to jointly fund \$220 million packages of NDRRA special Category D measures to assist with the recovery of the most impacted communities from the effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Of the proposed packages, the Commonwealth has approved measures of \$58.6 million, to be cost-shared with the state on a 50/50 basis. The state has since reaffirmed its commitment to contribute the full \$110 million it allocated under the proposal and called on the Commonwealth to review its decision. Should no additional Commonwealth funding be approved, the state will contribute \$29.3 million through NDRRA Category D contributions and \$80.7 million through non-NDRRA funding for exceptional recovery measures.

The August report's Program Spotlights profiles:

- The success of the \$20 million 2015 Category D Betterment Fund established in response to Tropical Cyclone Marcia. More than 80 per cent of completed Betterment projects withstood the impacts of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie when put to the test in 2017.
- The release on 19 July 2017 of the updated Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, a blueprint aimed at making Qld the most disaster-resilient state in Australia.
- 70 BlazeAid volunteers who worked in the Scenic Rim region to assist many local farmers clean up debris and fix fences following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.
- How the Department of Transport and Main Roads has collaborated with Education Queensland to provide a temporary campus for local students whilst repairs are undertaken on Marlborough-Sarina Road following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

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

Yours sincerely



Brendan Moon
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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Section one:
Introduction



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

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

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

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

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

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

As part of its role, QRA administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works, Restoration of Essential Public Assets, Category C and Category D assistance to State Departments and Agencies (SDA) and Local Government Authorities (LGA). Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 68 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

1.2 Timing

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

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

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



Following acceptance of the 2015-16 NDRRA Claim by the Commonwealth in June 2017, QRA has now finalised the close out of all works up to and including the 2014 events other than a small number of projects that received extensions of time for drought-related impacts.

NDRRA works for 28 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery and/or acquittal phases.

On 30 June 2017, the deadline passed to complete NDRRA works from the 2015 events. Other than three projects that requested extensions of time, delivery agents consistently indicated works were completed on time. QRA is working with delivery agents to gather and assess completion documentation to close out the 2015 events' works for acquittal in the 2016-17 claim.

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

Section two:
Disaster Assistance

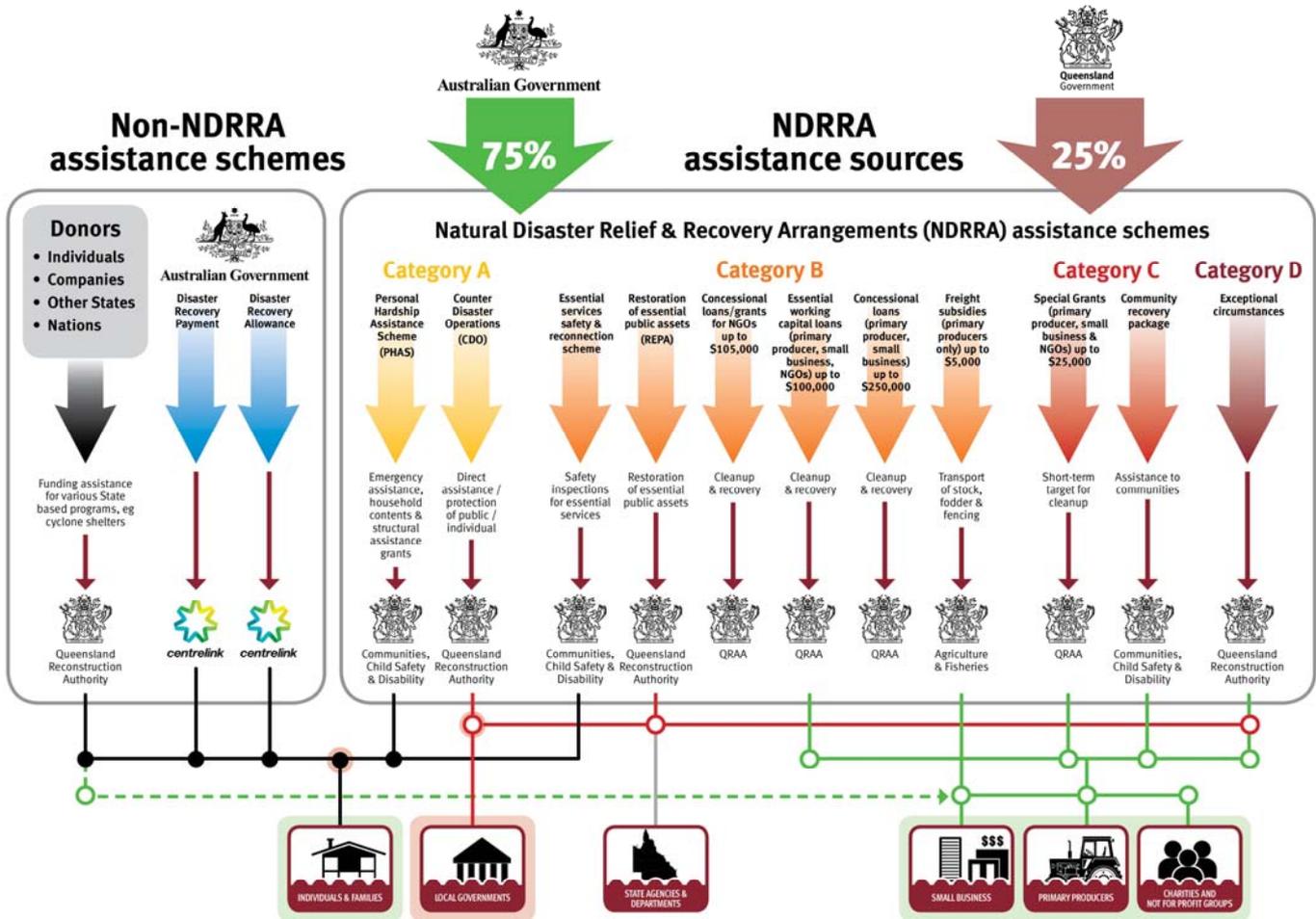


2.0 Disaster Assistance

2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework

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

Figure 2.1.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework



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

Disaster events managed by QRA

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

This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

- **2017 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA occurring in the financial year ending **30 June 2017**
- **2016 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA occurring in the financial year ending **30 June 2016**
- **2015 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2015**
- **2014 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2014**
- **2013 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2013**, including Tropical Cyclone Oswald and associated rainfall and flooding (January 2013)
- **2012 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2012**
- **2011 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2011**, including Tropical Cyclone Yasi and Queensland flooding (December 2010 to February 2011).

2.2 Events and relief measures managed by QRA

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

Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 68 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, 40 events are complete, having been delivered, closed out and acquitted to the Commonwealth in audited claims.

Works for 25 events from the 2015 to 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery phase and completed works from a further three events from the 2014 event period are also in the acquittal phase¹.

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

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

2017 events

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

- Far North Queensland Trough, 21-28 March 2017
- Far North Queensland Trough, 3-10 February 2017
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and associated rainfall and flooding, 28 March - 6 April 2017
- Gulf Tropical Low, 15-24 February 2017
- Far North Queensland Low, 8-11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding, 13-20 September 2016
- Central Queensland Severe Weather, 15-20 July 2016

2016 events

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

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

2015 events

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

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

1. The NDRRA Determination imposes a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works (delivery phase) and a further nine months to acquit completed works (acquittal phase) through lodgement of an annual claim to the Commonwealth. Following extension of time approvals, a number of projects from the 2014 and 2015 event period are still in delivery and acquittal phases.



Section three:

Program Status



3.0 Program Status

3.1 NDRRA program status

The value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by QRA since its establishment is estimated to be \$14.4 billion. Of this, \$12.7 billion of works from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 events have been finalised (delivered and acquitted) with the remaining works for 28 events from the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event years in the active delivery and/or acquittal phases.

The current status of each active program is summarised as follows:

2014 Events

All 2014 event works have been acquitted by the Commonwealth other than four councils' programs granted extensions of time to deliver works for drought-related reasons.

These works are now complete and will be closed out and acquitted in the next (2016-17) claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2018.

2015 Events

The deadline passed to complete NDRRA works from the 2015 events on 30 June 2017. Other than three projects that requested extensions of time, delivery agents have indicated works were completed on time.

QRA is working with delivery agents to gather and assess completion documentation to close out the 2015 events' works for acquittal in the 2016-17 claim.

2016 Events

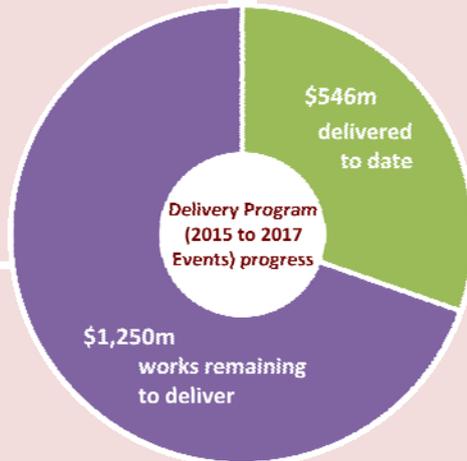
All submissions for the 2016 events have been pre-approved and works are required to be complete by 30 June 2018 in order to be eligible under NDRRA.

QRA continues to monitor and assist councils and state agencies with progressing their program of 2016 event works through delivery.

2017 Events

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

QRA is currently assisting, as required, with damage assessments in order to progress the reconstruction program into delivery as soon as possible. Delivery agents have until 30 June 2019 to deliver eligible NDRRA works.



In other areas relevant to NDRRA:

- During July, the Commonwealth replied to the state's proposal to jointly fund \$220 million package of NDRRA special Category D measures to assist with the recovery of the most impacted communities from the effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Of the proposed packages, the Commonwealth has approved measures of \$58.6 million, to be cost-shared on a 50/50 basis. The state has since reaffirmed its commitment to contribute the full \$110 million it allocated under the proposal and called on the Commonwealth to review its decision. Should no additional Commonwealth funding be approved, the state will contribute \$29.3 million through NDRRA Category D contributions and \$80.7 million through non-NDRRA funding for exceptional recovery measures.
- QRA is continuing to participate in consultations with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions in relation to the potential funding reforms. The Commonwealth is investigating a model to provide natural disaster recovery funding based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs.

Right: Recovery works completed and underway by TMR following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie—(Top) John Muntz Causeway reopening on 30 June 2017; (Bottom) Pine Creek Road works in progress (below)



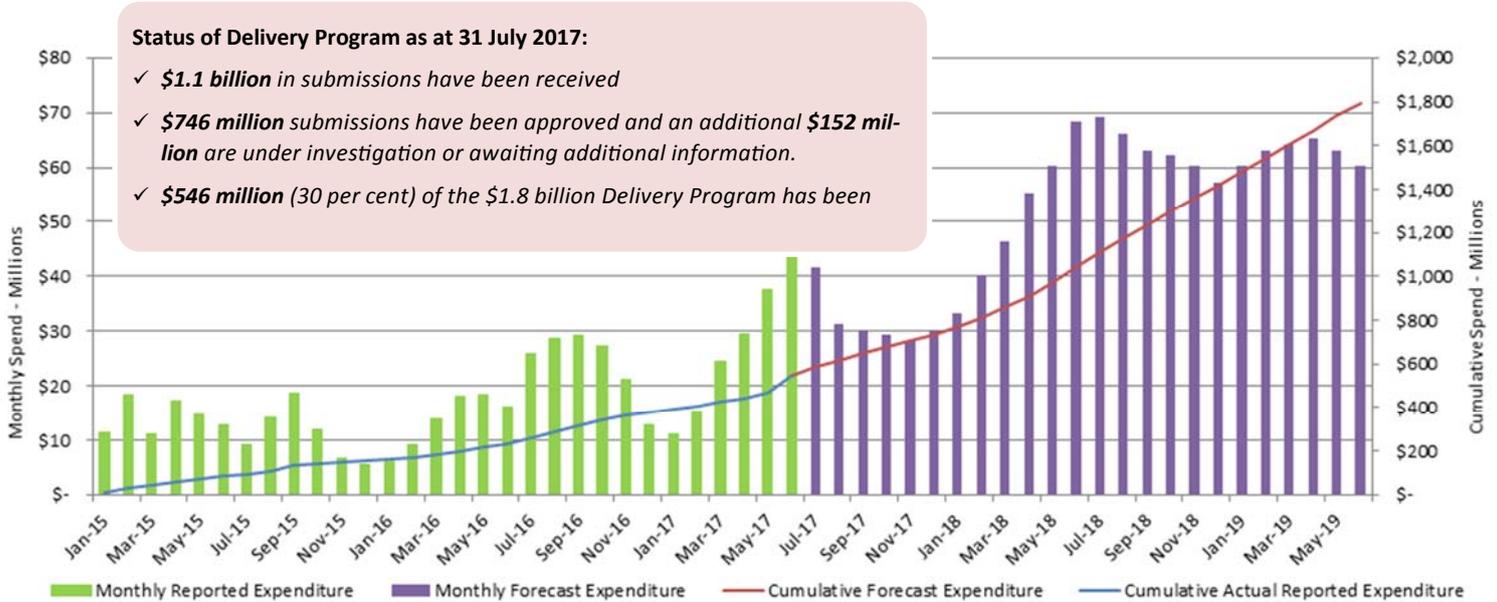
(Source: The Authority, 31 July 2017)

3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

Delivery Program status

The QRA is managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$1.8 billion for 25 events comprising the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events (**Delivery Program**).

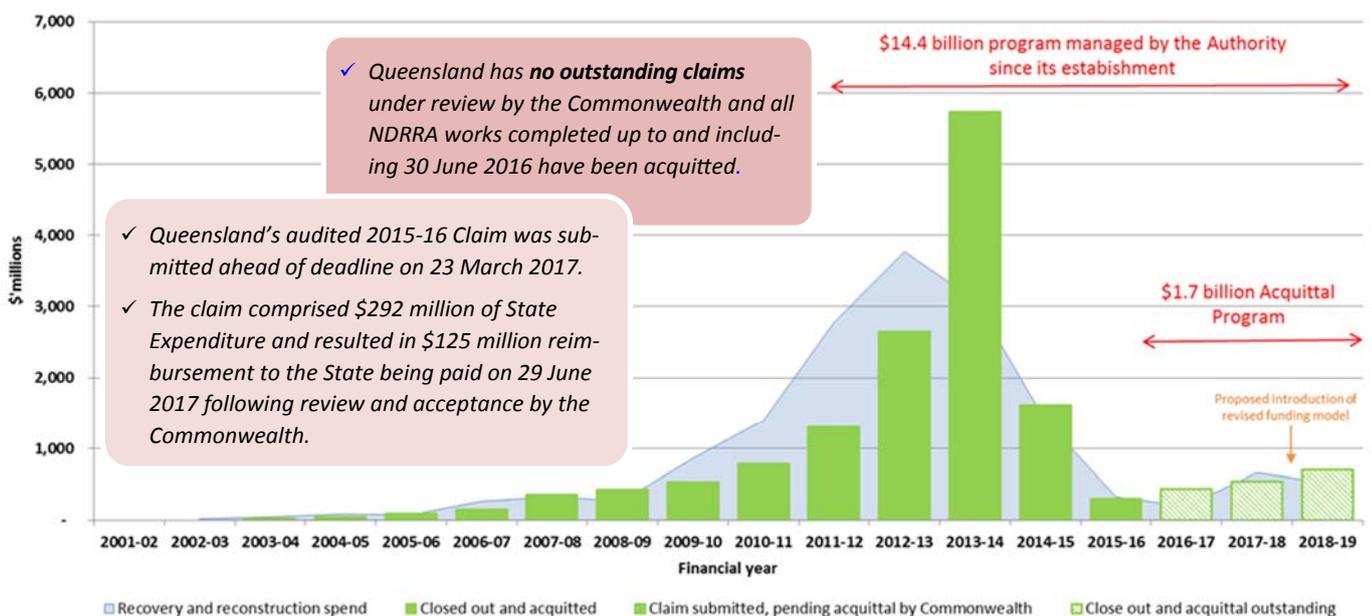
The graph below show monthly reported expenditure and forecast monthly costs to completion at 30 June 2017 on a combined basis for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events.



Acquittal Program status

The QRA is currently managing an acquittal program worth \$1.7 billion, comprising the remaining works for 28 events from the 2014 to 2017 Events that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2015-16 financial years and preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2016-17 to 2018-19 in order to finalise acquittal of the \$1.7 billion remaining in the Acquittal Program. Should funding reforms be introduced as envisaged from 1 July 2018, the state will administer and submit claims under both the existing NDRRA Determination and also under the revised arrangements for a two year period (2018-19 and 2019-20) whilst the existing model is phased out.



Source: the Authority, February 2017 NDRRA Estimates Review and 31 July 2017

3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

Additional NDRRA assistance measures - 2017 Events

The State Government in conjunction with the Commonwealth has activated a range of Category C and Category D relief measures to alleviate distress due to the impact of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Category C Community Recovery Package

- The Commonwealth has agreed to a **\$14.7 million Category C Community Recovery Package** to deliver support programs to individuals, and community mental health and community development programs
- Over a two year period, the community recovery program will support initiatives and projects aimed at resting social networks and building community resilience and capacity for the future in the local government areas of Gold Coast, Isaac, Logan City, Mackay, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim and Whitsunday.
- The Queensland Government Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) and Queensland Health (QHealth) will deliver three programs as follows:
 - Individual Support Program (DCCSDS)
 - Community Development Program (DCCSDS)
 - Community Mental Health Program (QHealth)
- DCCSDS is currently assessing tenders received for delivery of its programs.

Category D Exceptional Recovery Packages

- In May 2017, the State Government proposed a range of jointly-funded Category D NDRRA measures to the Commonwealth valued at \$220 million to provide additional assistance to alleviate distress for communities, businesses, industries and the environment impacted by Tropical Cyclone Debbie
- On 14 July 2017, the Commonwealth replied to the State's proposal, approving measures of \$58.6 million, to be cost-shared on a 50/50 basis as follows:

	Requested by State \$'millions	Approved by Commonwealth \$'millions
Package 1: Local Council Package to help the hardest hit local government areas undertake key infrastructure projects that will generate employment, boost the local economy, drive community recovery and build resilience:	135.000	1.510
<i>Shute Harbour Marina Revitalisation (Whitsunday)</i>	18.700	-
<i>Whitsunday Coast Airport (Whitsunday)</i>	40.000	-
<i>Airlie Beach Revitalisation (Whitsunday)</i>	6.300	0.850
<i>Bluewater Trail & Queens Park Redevelopment (Mackay)</i>	10.000	0.660
<i>South Rockhampton Flood Levee (Rockhampton)</i>	60.000	-
Package 2: Resilient Infrastructure (Betterment) - to enable important infrastructure that has been damaged by STC Debbie to be rebuilt to a stronger more disaster resilient state	60.000	40.000
Package 3: Environmental Recovery Package - to ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas	15.000	15.000
Package 4: Economic Recovery Package - to support recovery of industry and businesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage.	10.000	2.100
TOTAL	220.000	58.610

- The state has since reaffirmed its commitment to contribute the full \$110 million it would have funded if the full proposal had been approved by the Commonwealth. Should no additional Commonwealth funding be approved, the state will contribute \$29.3 million through NDRRA Category D contributions and \$80.7 million through non-NDRRA funding for exceptional recovery measures.
- QRA is continuing to liaise with Emergency Management Australia and affected local government areas to provide additional information to support the proposed packages and establish the terms of the approved packages.

3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

Additional NDRRA assistance measures - 2015 Events

The State Government in conjunction with the Commonwealth activated a range of jointly-funded Category C, Category D and other relief measures to alleviate distress due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015:

Package	Purpose	Status
2015 Events Betterment Fund (\$20 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To restore or replace essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster. 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"> Delivery of 2015 betterment works was required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements, unless Extensions of Time requests were made to the Commonwealth prior to that date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 projects with a total project value of over \$40 million, including \$20 million in Betterment funding were approved 61 projects with a total value of \$22 million were complete by 30 June 2017 the Commonwealth has granted an EOT to 31 December 2017 for the delivery of the Scenic Highway project at Statue Bay in Livingstone Shire Council an extension of time request has been submitted for completion of Linkes Road work in Banana Shire Council beyond 30 June 2017. A profile of the 2015 Betterment Fund projects following completion of works is provided in Section 3.3.
Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (\$6 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QRA received EOIs from seven applicants for more than \$16 million Nine submissions worth \$6 million were approved across the seven applicants, fully allocating the program funding. Key projects allocated funding include the clean-up and restoration of Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton which was severely damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia. An extension of time request has been submitted to the Commonwealth for completion of Kershaw Gardens work beyond 30 June 2017. Delivery of other works was complete by 30 June 2017.
Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five submissions worth \$1 million have been delivered and closed out across the three applicants, fully allocating the program funding.
Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IRO program was managed by the Queensland Farmers Federation on behalf of Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) IRO officers were located with Growcom, Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation, AgForce and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland IROs have now completed delivery of a range of support activities delivered including workshops, field visits, soil testing and feed sample analysis work. The IPO program has been finalised, fully utilising the program funding.
Category C Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone LGAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The package was managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) All activities are complete following the end of the available timeframe on 30 June 2017. Examples of activities undertaken during the program include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community wellbeing and resilience building projects undertaken by UnitingCare at Rockhampton, Gladstone and Livingstone Homesafe, self-care and domestic and family violence training preparedness activities at Yeppoon Cyclone Shelter and various retirement villages counselling services.

Other active Category D measures

- The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to continue the **Day Labour** exemption for the 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 events, which enables councils to deliver restoration works with their own workforce on condition that they provide evidence of savings in both time and cost.

3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities

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

Activity	Purpose	Status
Interim Queensland Recovery Plan	The Interim Queensland Recovery Plan applies to Queensland Government agencies, and informs local governments, government-owned corporations, statutory bodies representing the state, non-government organisations and other disaster recovery stakeholders of the procedures and processes employed by the state during recovery operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan was approved by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee in March 2017 and released on the Queensland Disaster Management website. The Plan is being reviewed to incorporate learnings following the 2016-17 event year, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie for release as the Queensland Recovery Plan, ahead of the next severe storm and cyclone season. A series of face to face engagement activities are being conducted throughout the state to maximise consultation and input from recovery partners.
Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) Guide	The DRC Guide provides information and guidance on the roles, responsibilities, training and induction requirements, management arrangements and operational issues relating to DRCs in Queensland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The guide is available online via the QRA and Queensland Disaster Management websites. QRA will maintain the DRC Register commensurate with the role of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRPPC). A State Recovery Coordinator and two Deputy Recovery Coordinators were appointed to manage and coordinate recovery operations following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The State Recovery Coordinator transitioned responsibilities to the SRPPC on 2 June 2017, while the two Deputy Recovery Coordinators completed their duties on 28 July 2017. On completion of the Deputy Recovery Coordinators' appointments the guide will be reviewed and updated, as required.
Strategic Policy Framework for Riverine Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience	The Framework addresses key recommendations from Disaster Management Reviews conducted in 2015 and will support a state-wide best practice approach to riverine flood risk management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Framework was approved by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) in late June, and was published on the QRA website on 4 July 2017.
Disaster Management Reviews	<p>In 2015, a series of reviews were conducted into disaster management operations following Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia.</p> <p>An Interdepartmental Committee was established to review 160 recommendations from these reviews, including KPMG's operational review of QRA.</p> <p>The QRA review identified 14 recommendations relating to operational and policy-related matters, including the need for clarity in the disaster management framework on the roles and responsibilities of the QRA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 30 June 2017, 11 of the 14 recommendations have been completed. The three remaining recommendations are progressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical leadership in Commonwealth funding negotiations Greater role in prioritisation of disaster recovery funding QRA provide support to QFES for a central repository for the collection and storage of whole-of-government disaster management data. IGEM is finalising a report on aspects of response and recovery to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. This report is currently being considered by government, the findings of which will be used to inform future recovery policy and planning development.
Floodplain Management	QRA is developing the Queensland Flood Resilience Program (QFRP) to support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The QFRP is a proposed program to facilitate delivery of improved flood risk management solutions across Queensland through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development of catchment-scale flood risk management strategies; approaches for capturing critical infrastructure and building data across Queensland. It is proposed to undertake a Pilot Program in the Burnett River catchment to test technical methodologies and assess the suitability of the program for full state-wide rollout. Project planning and scoping is underway, including how the QFRP may support other initiatives and projects. Preliminary officer-level discussions have occurred with Bundaberg Regional Council to provide feedback on the proposed approach. The pilot is on track to be rolled out with a 6 to 8 month timeframe. Options for the program will be developed in conjunction with the Queensland Flood Resilience Coordination Committee, which includes LGAQ. Further consultation is also proposed with the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils as the representative body for the catchment.

3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities (continued)

Activity	Purpose	Status
Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience	<p>The QRA has updated the original Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (2014) to incorporate climate change risk and deliver a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to building disaster resilience throughout Queensland.</p> <p>The Strategy provides an overarching framework to empower Queenslanders to factor in resilience measures and activities as they anticipate, respond and adapt to changing circumstances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 19 July 2017 the Deputy Premier announced the release of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2017. • The release of the Strategy allows the QRA to formally commence a state-wide consultation and engagement process with stakeholders to develop an Implementation Plan. • This consultation process will be launched via an externally facilitated Focus Group Workshop to take place in early August.
Operation Queensland Recovery Plan and reporting	<p>The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The plan focuses on empowering local governments, supported by state agencies, to deliver local solutions to ensure communities are resourced appropriately and are able to lead their own recovery and build resilience for future events. The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans for the eight most severely impacted local government areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan was tabled in Queensland Parliament and publicly released on 9 May 2017. • QRA is coordinating cross-cutting recovery issues and monitoring the progress and effectiveness of recovery efforts through monthly reporting, informed by each Functional Recovery Group.
Brisbane River Catchment Studies	<p>The Queensland Government and local councils are working together on a long-term plan to manage the impact of future floods and enhance community safety and resilience in the Brisbane River floodplain.</p> <p>The project includes development of a Flood Study followed by a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan that will guide a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Flood Study is complete and is now available to the public following its launch on 5 May 2017. • The Flood Study supports the development of a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan, which is underway and scheduled for completion in December 2017. • The QRA is working with four local councils (Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley) as well as a range of government agencies and industry to coordinate a regionally consistent approach to managing the Brisbane River Floodplain. • A range of regional scale opportunities are being investigated as part of the Strategic Floodplain Management Plan including structural mitigation options, disaster management, land use planning, community awareness and resilience, building controls and integrated catchment management. • Detailed Local Floodplain Management Plans will commence from 2018.
Flood Warning Gauge Network Project	<p>QRA continues to ensure that the Bureau of Meteorology (the BOM) has the best available information for providing flood warnings and forecasts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The QRA continues to implement collaborative approaches to support local councils ensure that flood warning infrastructure is appropriate, by engaging with local councils, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the BOM and gauge owners across the state. • Draft Flood Gauge Network Investment Plans are being finalised for 40 priority local councils identified in an initial state-wide review as requiring a more detailed review of flood warning infrastructure. Final plans have been distributed to nine LGA's to June 2017. The Bureau of Meteorology is finalising maps for the remaining 31 local councils reports to be sent to local councils in early July 2017. • QRA commenced engagement with the remaining local councils in July 2017, with finalisation of all remaining Flood Warning Gauge Network Investment Plans scheduled for completion by December 2017. • QRA are providing a feedback seminar on the Flood Warning Gauge Audit of the Brisbane Catchment in early August that will build on the initial stakeholder workshop held in March 2017. • QRA are finalising the forecast location recommendations to the Bureau of Meteorology in the coming weeks, which identify eleven new forecast locations. • In August, the QRA will meet with the impacted local councils in Emerald to take learnings from the event, with a focus on the performance of the Flood Warning Gauge Network and to explore opportunities for regional collaboration and coordination.

3.3 Program spotlights

Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

Blueprint for making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia released

The Queensland Government has released its blueprint aimed at making Queensland the most disaster-resilient state in Australia.

Queensland is the most disaster impacted state in Australia, having experienced more than \$14 billion in damage to public infrastructure since 2011.

Since 2010-11, there have been 54 activated Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) events in Queensland. With that in mind, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority developed an updated strategy to deliver a comprehensive and all-hazards approach to building resilience throughout Queensland.

The updated Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience was released on 19 July 2017 and will help communities build resilience at a local level. The Strategy provides an overarching framework to empower Queenslanders to factor in resilience measures and activities as they anticipate, respond and adapt to changing circumstances.

The original Strategy developed in 2014 has been updated in order to incorporate consideration of climate change and deliver a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to building resilience throughout Queensland.

The Strategy now aligns with international best practice in Disaster Risk Reduction - the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The key objectives of the Strategy are:

- Queenslanders understand their disaster risk
- Strengthened disaster risk management
- Queenslanders are invested in disaster risk reduction
- There is continuous improvement in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

A key component of the Strategy is harnessing local knowledge that supports actions that will create stronger, safer, healthier and more secure communities.

The updated Strategy will provide a framework to harness the considerable knowledge and experience that already exists across government, non-government organisations and the broader community in disaster management and resilience building.

The Strategy has been developed in consultation with state agencies through the Disaster Management Interdepartmental Committee (DMIDC), the Local Government Association of Queensland and Griffith University, taking into account the diverse nature of the state, from urban and coastal cities to rural and remote regional communities.

To deliver objectives of the strategy, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority will commence broad, state-wide consultation to a community level to develop an implementation plan that will help ensure community-focused resilience initiatives are identified and actioned.

The broad consultation to be undertaken in the implementation phase will take into account the specific needs and circumstances of communities, including remote and indigenous Queenslanders.



3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

2015 Betterment Fund 61 projects built back better after Cyclone Marcia

Communities impacted by Tropical Cyclone Marcia are now better able to withstand Queensland's natural disasters thanks to the delivery of more than 60 projects as part of the \$20 million 2015 Queensland Betterment Fund.

The \$20 million Betterment Fund was established in response to Tropical Cyclone Marcia under Category D of the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

The 2015 Betterment Fund was distributed across eight local governments leaving infrastructure such as roads, bridges, floodways and other public infrastructure stronger and more able to withstand the effects of floods and cyclones.

Banana, Fraser Coast, Gladstone, Gympie, Livingstone, North Burnett, Rockhampton and Somerset councils received betterment funding to build infrastructure damaged during Tropical Cyclone Marcia to a more resilient standard.

Many of the projects were already completed when Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and its associated rainfall and flooding hit Queensland in late March and early April 2017 with almost all these projects withstanding the impacts of the cyclone with little or no damage.

Of the 49 Betterment projects that were complete when Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie hit, 40 completely withstood the effects of the event, while other projects, such as Rockhampton Regional Council's Pilbeam Drive, received only minor damage.

The Betterment project saw Pilbeam Drive works finished in 2016 with upgraded drainage infrastructure and stabilised slopes so the minor damage caused by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie will be easily repaired. Following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie the road was immediately open and functioning in comparison to being closed for six days following Tropical Cyclone Marcia with access then restricted for nearly two years. Council's early estimate for the damage sustained to its completed betterment projects was approximately \$350,000 while avoided costs were more than \$3.7 million.

North Burnett Regional Council was another great example of the benefits of betterment. No strangers to the impact of natural disasters, North Burnett was again impacted by flooding as a result of the Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie event. At the time of the flooding, council had completed 17 of its 19 projects funded through the 2015 Betterment program. All 17 of the completed projects were in the impact zone of the cyclone and flooding event and all were fully functional after the event.

The intent of betterment is to increase the resilience of Queensland communities to natural disasters, while at the same time reducing future expenditure on restoration, reducing injuries and fatalities, and improving essential public infrastructure use during and after natural disasters. The recent examples following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie show that intent is being reached.

Under the Commonwealth's NDDRA Determination, works delivered through the 2015 Betterment Fund had to be completed by 30 June 2017. Livingstone Shire Council received an extension of time until 31 December 2017 to complete its betterment project for Scenic Highway at Statue Bay, while Banana Shire Council has requested Commonwealth approval for an extension of time to 31 December 2017 for its Linkes Road project.



Above: Pilbeam Drive in Rockhampton Regional Council after Betterment completion works



Above: Minor damage to Pilbeam Drive after Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie

3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

2015 Betterment Fund Betterment projects withstand Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie

Damage caused by
Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015



Following completion of
2015 Betterment works



Betterment works following impacts
of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie



A Creek Road, North Burnett Regional Council



Humphrey Binjour Road - North Burnett Regional Council



Redvale Road in North Burnett Regional Council

3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

Scenic Rim Regional Council Helping farmers in the Scenic Rim recover from STC Debbie

Scenic Rim Regional Council incurred significant damage from the flooding associated with Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. In particular, many local farmers felt the force of the flooding with their properties and fences receiving significant damage.

Such was the extent of the damage, primary producers in the Scenic Rim were activated for joint Commonwealth-State funded Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) Category C Special Disaster Assistance Clean up and Recovery Grants of up to \$25,000. However, many farmers in the region required additional assistance to clean up debris caused by the flooding.

As Queenslanders do in times of disaster, they worked together to help those most heavily impacted by natural disasters on the road to recovery. In the 45 days following the flooding, a total of 70 BlazeAid volunteers worked in the Scenic Rim region to help the farmers clean up debris and fix fences.

In that time:

- 33 properties were cleared of debris and fencing repaired
- 40 kilometres of fencing was cleared
- 20 kilometres of fencing was repaired
- 2500 meals were served to volunteers.

Scenic Rim Regional Council Mayor Greg Christensen said the BlazeAid volunteers were a saviour when farmers needed help the most.

“BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods,” Cr Christensen said.

“Council welcomed the volunteers with open arms and we couldn’t have been happier with their contribution.

“We originally set them up at the Beaudesert Showgrounds and then at the Rathdownie Memorial Grounds.

“They helped many farmers in the Scenic Rim and had a very positive effect as we started the recovery process,” he said.

Further, in another sign of recovery to support the local farmers and other businesses, Scenic Rim Regional Council hosted ‘Eat Local Week’ from 24 June to 2 July 2017. Scenic Rim Eat Local Week celebrated the food, farmers and natural beauty of the Scenic Rim.

Council advised Eat Local Week saw an increase in visitors from 8,000 last year to 12,000 this year and stall holders from 48 to 60.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk attended the annual Scenic Rim Winter Harvest Festival on 1 July 2017, which was part of Eat Local Week.

Ms Palaszczuk said she had the opportunity to visit the region following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie where she met with producers and toured the affected areas.

“It was particularly heartening to see such a bumper crop of visitors this year – three months after Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie hit the region,” she said.



Above: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk with Scenic Rim Mayor at the Tractor Pulling Competition (left) and with Kalfresh Vegetables CEO Richard Gorman (right)

3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

TMR

Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie clean-up progressing on Marlborough–Sarina Road

Twenty-eight primary school students are avoiding an 80-minute one way trip to school while repairs are undertaken on Marlborough–Sarina Road, thanks to a new temporary campus close to home.

The road has been closed at Sarina Range due to severe landslips caused by extraordinary rainfall from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in late March 2017, with alternate access via Koumala–Bolingbroke Road.

Children who live on the Sarina Range normally travel by bus to Swayneville State School – a 10-minute trip – however the detour route along Koumala–Bolingbroke Road meant the young students would be taking an 80-minute one-way trip to school, an option that both parents and Transport and Main Roads (TMR) wanted to avoid.

In consultation with Education Queensland, a demountable building was placed on land owned by the Country Women’s Association at Colston Park (at the top of the range) to serve as the Swayneville State School’s temporary second campus.

TMR has begun the mammoth task of repairing Sarina Range, with the clean-up in progress to provide access for further geotechnical investigations and field mapping, which will help determine the best solution for long-term repairs.

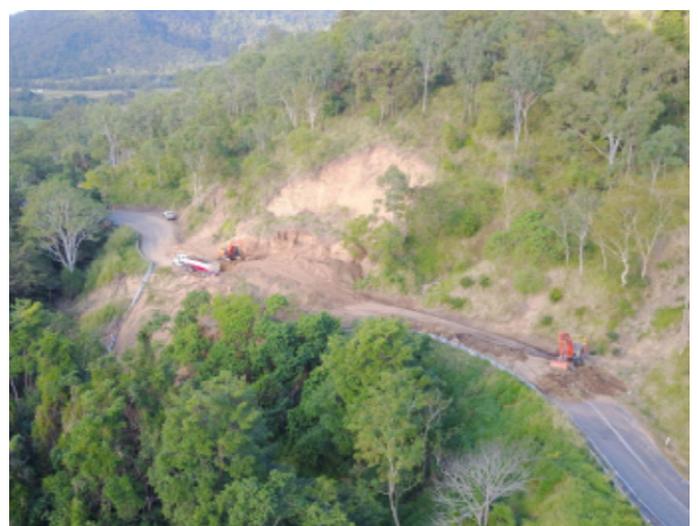
Nine bridges and approaches along Marlborough–Sarina Road were also damaged, with temporary sidetracks installed to provide access for local residents, emergency crews, businesses and industry until the bridges could be repaired.



Above: Sarina Range – preliminary works at landslide site



Above: Swayneville State School temporary campus site at Colston Park



Above: Sarina Range – preliminary works at landslide site

Section four: Communications



4.0 Communications

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

4.1 Communicating progress

Media analysis

There has been a total of 516 media items in July 2017 (285 print – 55%, 30 TV – 6%, 129 radio – 25%, 72 online – 14%), which reached a cumulative audience of approximately 12.7 million people.

There was extensive media coverage for regions impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and other natural disasters including:

- Newspaper articles in The Age, Albert and Logan News, The Australian, Beaudesert Times, Bowen Independent, Burdekin Advocate, Bush Telegraph, Caboolture Shire Herald, Cairns Post, Canungra Times, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Cassowary Coast Independent, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Queensland News, Central Telegraph, City North News, City South News, The Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Warwick Daily News, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone Observer, Gold Coast Bulletin, Gympie Times, Innisfail Advocate, Jimboomba Times, Kilcoy Sentinel, Mareeba Express, Mackay and Sarina Midweek, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Noosa News, North Queensland Register, North West News, North West Star, Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette, Queensland Country Life, Queensland Times, The Reporter, Rural Weekly, South Burnett Times, Sunday Mail, Sunshine Coast Daily, Tamborine Mountain News, Tamborine Times, Toowoomba Chronicle, Torres News, Townsville Bulletin, Weekend Australian, Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, Western Times, Whitsunday Guardian, and the Whitsunday Times
- Internet coverage at abc.net.au, balonnebeacon.com.au, blackwaterherald.com.au, couriermail.com.au, brisbanetimes.com.au, dailymercury.com.au, goldcoastbulletin.com.au, morningbulletin.com.au, news-mail.com.au, queenslandtimes.com.au, theaustralian.com.au, and thechronicle.com.au
- TV coverage on ABC News 24, Sky News, Channels Seven, Nine, and WIN networks throughout the State as well as nationally
- radio mentions on ABC Queensland Regional Radio, ABC Radio National, 2SM Sydney, 4BC Brisbane, 4CA Cairns, 4RO Rockhampton, 4TO Townsville, River FM Ipswich, 97.3 FM Brisbane, Triple M Central Queensland, Triple M Mackay and WS FM Whitsundays.

Making news in July 2017 was ongoing recovery of Queensland communities as they reconnect and rebuild following the devastating effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the announcement of NDRRA Category D funding.

Also making news was the release of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience with articles appearing in the Central and North Burnett Times, Queensland Country Life and on ABC regional radio.

Engagement Activities

On 4 and 5 July 2017, QRA's **Chief Executive Officer Mr Brendan Moon** travelled to Far North Queensland and met with Cairns Regional Council, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Burdekin Shire Council and Townsville City Council.

From 20 July to 26 July, Mr Moon accompanied **Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Chief Superintendent Kevin Walsh** and **Queensland Police Service Superintendent Charysse Pond** to inspect progress in the regions most impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Chief Superintendent Walsh and Superintendent Pond have stepped down from their role as Deputy State Recovery Coordinators and handed responsibility for recovery to QRA.

Source: QRA at 31 July 2017

4.1 Communicating progress (Cont.)

Communications

We keep our stakeholders and the community informed and ensure access to the latest information regarding the reconstruction effort through our website, phone hotline and management of correspondence.

Our website is regularly updated with information about progress on current recovery efforts. There has been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 24 July 2017, total website visits amounted to 534,443 (See Figure 5.1.1).

In July, we received an additional 51 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 208 pieces of written correspondence (See Figure 5.1.2).

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

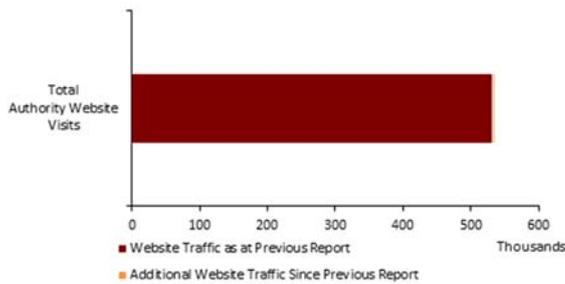
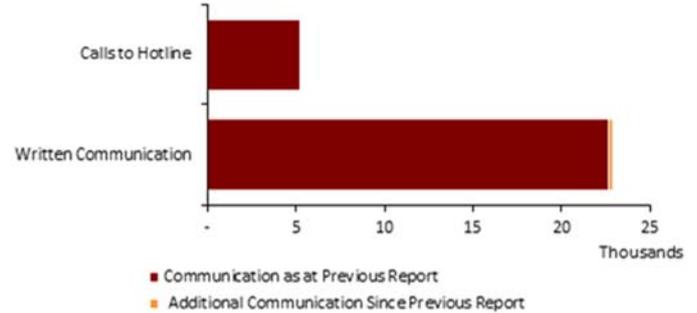


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



4.2 Media reports

United on cyclone recovery

COUNCILS DEAL WITH DEBBIE

Darlie Akersby

SOUTHEAST Queensland councils will inject more than \$1 million in pooled funds to accelerate Cyclone Debbie recovery in the Logan-Albert catchment. The Logan-Albert Catchment Action Plan is the fourth to be released as part of the Resilient Rivers initiative. The pooled council funds will ensure works begin immediately in the hardest-hit areas. Logan Mayor Luke Smith said the works were needed to climate-proof the catchment. "While we can't stop the severe weather that may affect southeast Queensland, there are steps we can take to lessen the overall impact," he said. "Logan is proud to be partnering with

several southeast Queensland councils to take the lead in delivering on-ground projects to build climate resilience in our catchments and improve the condition of the waterways." City of Mayors (SEQ) Treasurer and Redland City Mayor Karen Williams said Cyclone Debbie stripped valuable agricultural soil, knocked out water treatment plants and threatened local water supply. The Council of Mayors would continue to lobby the federal and state government for long-term funding. On the weekend, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull refused a state request for funding of \$20 million saying relief money was only for repairs and not new infrastructure. His government will pay \$20 million.



Lockyer Valley Deputy Mayor Jason Cook, Logan Mayor Luke Smith and Redland Mayor Karen Williams assessed the project with State Rep Mayor Greg Christensen. (Photo: SAPP/ABC)

20 July - Albert & Logan Times

FLOOD RESTORATION UPDATE

Over the next fortnight, flood restoration works have been programmed for the following location:

Biggenden Area - Giles Rd
Gayndah Area - North Branch Creek Rd, Watercross Rd
Mundubbera Area - Riverleigh School Bus Rd, Gwatha School Bus Rd, Mundubbera Rd, Maurens Rd, Church Rd, NO 6 Rd, Marston Rd, Brownings Lane, Erzy St, Old Edsvald Rd



Browning Lane, Mundubbera recently completed

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

13 July - Central & North Burnett Times

Resilience boost
 THE State Government has released its blueprint aimed at making Queensland the most disaster-resilient state in Australia, with a focus on locally-led recovery. Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure Jackie Trad said the updated Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience would help communities build resilience at a local level. To view the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience visit qldreconstruction.org.

20 July - Central & North Burnett Times



BACK IN BUSINESS

Cyclone-ravaged resort welcomes first guests since Debbie's arrival: P3

19 July - Daily Mercury

Government sticks to TC funds

THE Palaszczuk Government will still commit \$10 million for disaster recover to help communities hit by Cyclone Debbie, despite Canberra deciding not to match the funds. The Federal Government has only committed \$29.3 million for Category D disaster funding — which includes exceptional circumstances agreed to by the Prime Minister — for areas such as Whitsunday, Mackay and Rockhampton. Premier Annastacia

Palaszczuk confirmed the State Government would honour its \$10 million commitment during yesterday's estimates hearing. "Our government is determined to keep our commitments to those Queenslanders devastated by Debbie," she said.

Ms Palaszczuk and Deputy Premier Jackie Trad planned to meet with the mayors from Whitsunday, Mackay and Rockhampton yesterday to discuss how to proceed with the recovery effort.

19 July - Daily Mercury

4.0 Communications (cont.)

4.2 Media reports

20 July—Queensland Country Life

STRATEGY

NEW DISASTER STRATEGY

The Palaszczuk government has released its blueprint aimed at making Queensland the most disaster-resilient state in Australia, with a focus on locally led recovery.

Queensland has been hit with more disasters than any other state in Australia. In fact, we have had more than \$14.4 billion of damage to public infrastructure since 2011.

The core focus of this strategy is harnessing local knowledge because we know that it is locals who know what is best to make their communities stronger, safer and more resilient.

This was demonstrated so clearly during Cyclone Debbie, which is why those people who were on the ground will be at the table as we shape the implementation plan for this strategy.

All levels of government should work together to ensure communities are able to get back on their feet shortly after natural disasters.

It's sad to see that the Turnbull Government hasn't come to the table on disaster recovery because our communities are the

ones who ultimately suffer. We'll be talking to councils, community groups, emergency services and experts in the field about what we can learn from their experiences leading disaster recovery projects and how we together we can make sure Queensland can weather any storm.

Through this strategy and its implementation we will identify key community-led initiatives and deliver a clear roadmap of how our councils respond in the event of a disaster.

The strategy has been developed in line with international best practice and will provide a framework to bring together governments, industry and the community. Importantly, this consultation will take into account the different needs of remote communities and indigenous Queenslanders.

Also, for the first time the strategy will consider the impacts of climate change including incorporating leading international research undertaken by Griffith University. To view the strategy go to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority website.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure Jackie Trad

Flood Aid funds start to flow

FUNDS raised at last month's Flood Aid concert at Logan Village Hotel are being distributed to flood-affected members of the Logan City community.

A total of \$25,000 was raised by the concert which took place on June 4 at Logan Village Hotel, Logan Village, where a host of well-known and emerging performers took to the stage.

Acts included local performer Ruby Jo, who recently appeared on *The Voice*, sharing the line-up with country

singer James Blundell, and iconic Australian musician John Williamson.

In consultation with the assistant state recovery co-ordinator, Logan City Division 4 councillor Laurie Koranski and state member for Logan Lindsay Power have agreed to donate the total funds raised to the Red Cross, which will distribute the funds.



12 July—Jimboomba Times

Prossie business boosted

Peter Casanoves
p.casanoves@whitsundaytimes.com.au

OPEN less than a week after being closed for three months in the wake of Cyclone Debbie, Blaise Cafe in Prosserine welcomed the State Minister for Small Business, Lesanne Enoch last Thursday.

The minister was in the Whitsundays to announce the launch of a free counselling service designed to support small business owners and their families affected by the cyclone.

Also announced was \$2 million for the ongoing "Go Local, Keep Queensland going strong" campaign.

Many businesses in Prosserine and the wider Whitsunday region are still not trading, while insurance payouts are finalised.

Ms Enoch said next week the "Go Local" message would be backed by print, digital and radio advertising, to "let cyclone impacted businesses know we haven't forgotten about them".

In addition to dedicated support specialist recovery grants, whose applications are currently being assessed, Ms Enoch called

on the Federal Government to match the State, dollar for dollar in the allocation of Category D funding under the National Disaster Recovery and Relief Arrangements.

The State Government has put up \$10 million but has heard "nothing but politics from the Federal Government," Ms Enoch said. "Which is not helpful for anybody."

"We have got all that stuff aside, the most important thing we need to be doing right now is supporting communities to get back up and running."

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said the Category D application "has been sitting in Canberra for two months, and Turnbull is inventing problems with paperwork while those communities are suffering."

Governments at loggerheads over NDRRA funding also played out in April after the Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce criticised an immediate submission made by the State Government, noting their inability to file out the forms correctly.

NDRRA Category D

assistance is provided to alleviate distress or damage in circumstances that are considered exceptional and is usually delivered through Local Government.

While in Prosserine, Ms Enoch commented on the abandoned Department of Transport and Main Roads building.

Three months on from Cyclone Debbie the State Government is still waiting on the building's owners to sort out insurance payments.

"The plan is to come back as a full service town."

"But it will be about whether there is a location to do that," she said.

"We have to wait and see what happens with the private owners and what they do next."

"There has been some conversations about demolishing... or whether it can be repaired."



12 July - Whitsunday Guardian

Meet the heroes who stood up to Debbie

CYCLONE Debbie may have knocked us over but it didn't knock us down. As our community/communities across Queensland and New South Wales get on with the recovery effort, now you can do your part.

In a News Corp special publication (also the owners of this publication) we feature the heroes who helped overcome adversity in March and April.

The glossy 132-page book *Defying Debbie* carries amazing stories of bravery as well as everyday derring-do, and is on sale now.

The stories are those of people you know and suggested. Importantly, when you buy a copy of *Defying Debbie* you're helping those who suffered in the severe tropical cyclone.

All the proceeds of the sale will go to the official recovery effort, and will be donated to the charity *Gift*, which is delivering goods and services to those in need in both states. The book follows Debbie's trail from Bowen to Lismore and features the stories of the State Emergency Service, first

responders, the armed forces, volunteers, and especially everyday people who stepped up in a time of need.

In the book's introduction, News Corp regional network editor Neil Malley wrote that it was hard to define what makes a hero, but the stories of *Defying Debbie* serve up many courageous acts to the readers.

"No doubt we won't have covered everyone who stepped up in time of need but we hope to have told stories that mattered and are indicative of everyone who 'defied' Debbie," he wrote.

"We'd like to thank the heroes for what they did and for taking the time to tell their stories."

Debbie crossed the coastline of Queensland on March 25 but even after its initial rampage which battered Bowen, Mackay and the Whitsundays, the ex-tropical cyclone continued to cause havoc as it dumped massive amounts of rain through south-east Queensland and into northern New South Wales.

Despite all it could throw at us we stepped up. Make sure you pick up your copy by phoning 1300 381 604. Pay by credit card.

John Muntz Causeway open to two way traffic

JOHN Muntz Causeway was re-opened for traffic on Friday following a huge re-construction project to repair the damage caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Main Roads and Road Safety Minister Mark Bailey said the connection was fully restored and traffic was flowing across the causeway.

"We were expecting to open a lane in July with both lanes to open in August but we've been able to bring that forward due to a combination of innovative construction methods, particularly around concreting, and contingency timing that was not required."

"Golding crews have been working 13 out of 14 days in order to expedite the process, and on this occasion good weather has allowed them to maintain the schedule and open lanes in less time than expected."

"Not only have all of these factors combined to shave weeks off construction time, but ultimately the innovative way in which crews were able to concrete under the bridge has produced a stronger final product than we had previously accounted for."

Mr Bailey said there would be intermittent single lane closures during the day to allow for safe construction to continue beneath the structure. Construction would continue on site until August 2017.

"This will include continuing rock protection of the causeway, line marking, installation of signs and the completion of any outstanding work," he said.

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

To keep up to date with the latest information about the work, motorists can subscribe to email-SMS alerts by emailing your details to prn.mur2@pm.gov.au

4 July—Toowoomba Mountain News

Green light for bridge replacement

LAMINGTON'S Beach Bridge will be replaced within the next 18 months after shared state and federal funding was approved for the project.

A State-Rail regional council spokesman said the timber bridge was hit with structural problems after its owner gave work to the local Council.

Shane Greg Christensen said Beach Bridge would be replaced with a single-lane concrete bridge under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), which was co-funded by the federal and state governments and administered by Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

Q Reconstruction said disaster recovery works were assessed by all levels of government to ensure value for money.

The spokesman said the vital business assistance provided by the state and federal governments to help local businesses, such as those in tourism, fish, to recover from the impact of major disasters, he said.

He said in Cyclone Debbie, which hit the region in late March, had caused \$62 million in damage to coastal roads and bridge infrastructure and asked for the community's patience as recovery plans were completed.

"Council is well-equipped to do this, being under a rolling program of disaster recovery works over the next 18 months through 2016/17," he said.

"In the weeks since ex-Cyclone Debbie, council crews have been busy undertaking high-priority infrastructure repairs under the emergency works criteria of the NDRRA."

Christensen said a letter from the Logan-Rail

ITS was just now drawn up and would be signed by the Queensland Government.

Debbie and the associated flooding caused major damage to the road network in Central Queensland down to the NDRRA works. Since the region had no major bridges throughout the year, each project has been made in the recovery effort against the state's agricultural production and transportation.

Queensland Farmers' Federation president Stuart Arndt said the recovery had been both financially and operationally difficult for many farmers, but there was plenty of signs that our sector was making considerable progress.

"It is reassuring to see that 148 Queensland farms have already received the natural disaster recovery grants with a combined value of \$2.2 million," he said.

"QRA (now the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Institute) should be commended for its positive engagement with affected farmers and the timely allocation of available grants."

"It has been disappointing that the state government hasn't been as proactive as we would have liked."

"That recovery process and decisions are made in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters, as farmers try to recover their business and protect production and farm operations, as insurance is 'between' and will remain slow and will become another victim of the state."

"QRA has been calling for the adoption of a 'shared' model approach to recovery grants that deprioritise recovery efforts immediately after a natural disaster so they can provide the support and technical advice needed to improve the recovery process."

"We recently said another issue that needed a focused thinking, whole of government approach was the issue of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA)."

Natural Disaster Relief grants are available through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Institute (QRI) on 18/06/16 11.

"The Queensland Rural Adjustment Agency (QRAA) has employed an additional 12 temporary staff to help process loan and grant applications as quickly as possible. These staff have spoken or met with more than 1500 businesses across the region," she said.

There have been \$2.7M immediate hardship payments with a total value of \$1.5 million made in the wake of Cyclone Debbie.

Electricity transmission towers damaged during Tropical Cyclone Debbie are being replaced as part of a \$7.8 million investment over the coming months.

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Electricity transmission towers damaged during Tropical Cyclone Debbie are being replaced as part of a \$7.8 million investment over the coming months.

5 July - Whitsunday Guardian

Minister declares 'still work to do' after Debbie

WHILE some have voiced the opinion that Prosserine has been left behind post-Tropical Cyclone Debbie, the town did receive a visit from Minister for Small Business, Lesanne Enoch on Thursday.

Ms O'Rourke visited the Conroy Beach Caravan Park as well as Prosserine's community recovery staff to see how things have progressed in the 12 weeks since the cyclone hit.

The Minister said that while things appeared to be back to normal on face value, she did admit there was still work to do.

"I had a good meeting with the Mayor and went through some of the local communities to see how they had transitioned three months on. On surface level things are looking much

better," she said.

"(But) when you have a conversation (with locals) there is still that underlying uncertainty... there is still a lot to be done."

Ms O'Rourke said that Prosserine-based recovery staff had admitted there were still people coming through their doors seeking support and that the slowest of some insurance claims had been frustrating.

However she said she was confident the State Government was doing the best they could.

Minister O'Rourke reported that as of June 23, the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, National Disaster Category C grants program had provided 327 grants in Whitsunday region, totalling more than

\$2 million, with \$10 still being processed and a further seven applications for Category B loans.

"The Queensland Rural Adjustment Agency (QRAA) has employed an additional 12 temporary staff to help process loan and grant applications as quickly as possible. These staff have spoken or met with more than 1500 businesses across the region," she said.

There have been \$2.7M immediate hardship payments with a total value of \$1.5 million made in the wake of Cyclone Debbie.

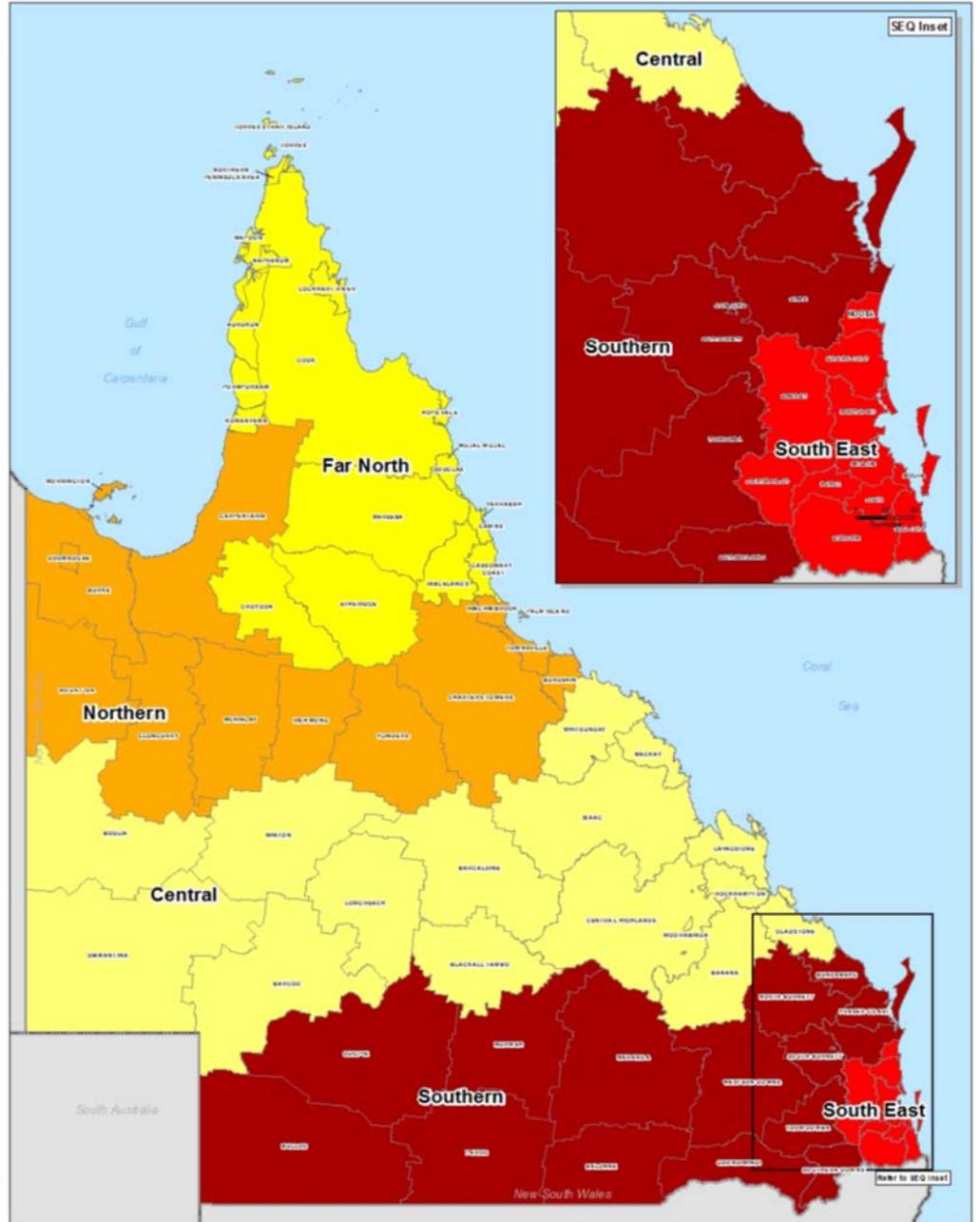
Electricity transmission towers damaged during Tropical Cyclone Debbie are being replaced as part of a \$7.8 million investment over the coming months.

5 July - Whitsunday Guardian

Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

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



Disclaimer:
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Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Local Government Areas and QldRA Reporting Regions

Scale at A4: 1:6,700,000

Legend

- QldRA Region
- Far North Queensland
- North Queensland
- Central Queensland
- Southern Queensland
- South East Queensland
- Local Government Areas

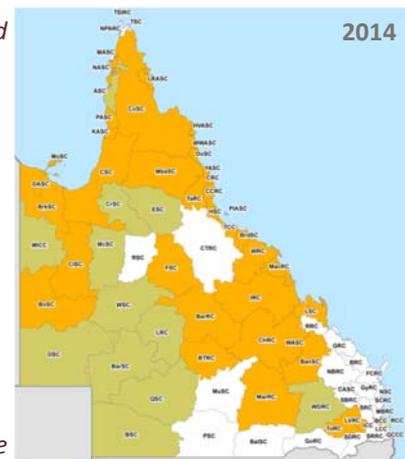
As at 5/02/2014

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

2014 events

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

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



2013 events

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

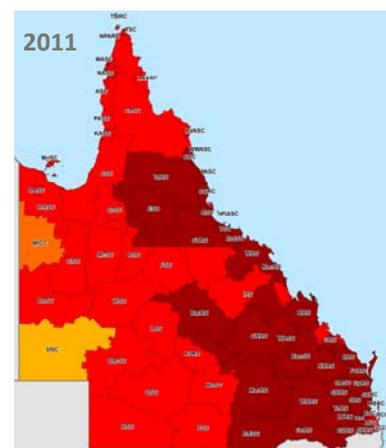
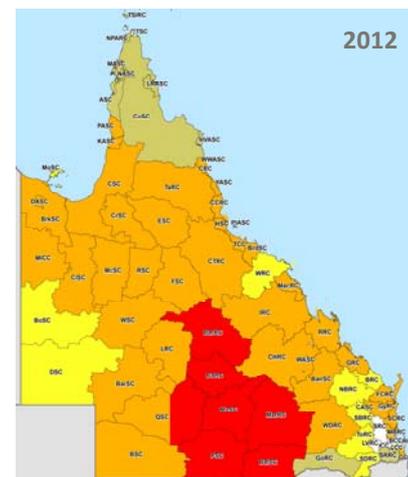
- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late Oct - Dec 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013[#]
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013
- Central & Southern Queensland Low, 25 Feb - 5 Mar 2013.

2012 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- Queensland Bushfires, August to October 2011
- Localised Heavy Rainfall Northern Queensland, October 2011

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



2011 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

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

2007-2010 events managed by QRA

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul, Jan to Apr 2010
- Northern, Central & South West Queensland Flooding, 22 December 2009 to 8 January 2010
- South West Flooding, 20 – 25 December 2009
- 2010 South East Queensland Flooding, 9-12 October 2010.
- Queensland Bushfires, September – October 2009

- South West Queensland Low and Associated Flooding, September 2010
- South East Queensland Low, May 2009
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding and Tropical Cyclone Charlotte and Ellie, January - February 2009
- Queensland storms and associated flooding, 16-22 December 2008
- South West Queensland flooding, June 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, February March 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, January 2008
- South East Queensland East Coast Low, 27 December 2007 - 7 January 2008
- Central Western Queensland storms and flooding, 22-30 December 2007
- South West Queensland storms and flooding, 23-30 November 2007
- South East and North Coast Queensland East Coast Low, August 2007.

