

**QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY**

# **CEO Monthly Report**

**January 2017**



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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 January 2017 Monthly Report – the 71st 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 role of QRA has since been extended a number of times to cover historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland. Since June 2015, QRA's operations have been permanent, enabling it to continue the work of helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

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 now 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.

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

Of the estimated \$702 million program of reconstruction works for 20 events from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 disaster periods that are in the delivery phase, \$624 million has been approved by QRA and additional submissions worth \$60 million are being assessed by QRA or awaiting additional information. QRA is working with delivery agents to progress their preparation of submissions for the remaining program. \$358 million (51%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 30 November 2016 as in progress or delivered.

QRA is also managing the close out of an estimated \$868 million works from the 2013 to 2017 disaster periods that will be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth over the next four financial years. QRA has finalised the eligibility assessments of 2014 event and other works completed to 30 June 2016 for acquittal in the next disaster funding claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2017.

On 6 January 2017, the Commonwealth confirmed that it would proceed with reimbursing approximately \$1 billion payable to Queensland since the 2014-15 NDRRA Claim was submitted in March 2016. This payment follows finalisation of the Commonwealth's assurance review over Queensland's seven claims for NDRRA assistance dating back to 2008-09 that it had not previously acquitted.

The January report also provides a review of the disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts that occurred across 2016, during which 37 local councils were activated for NDRRA assistance for ten disaster events that occurred across the state. The report also profiles the re-opening of Mount Archer's Pilbeam Drive by Rockhampton Regional Council on completion of reconstruction and betterment upgrades to the road following severe damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February 2015. The report also profiles the implementation of Transport and Main Road's Recording Asset Damage and Restoration (RADAR) app to facilitate the collection of damage evidence for Queensland's state road network following disaster events.

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

Yours sincerely



Brendan Moon  
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 61 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:



Works for 29 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery and acquittal phases. With the deadline now passed for completion of the majority of 2014 events works, QRA has finalised the close out of these and other event works completed by 30 June 2016 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2017. QRA is also working with delivery agents to progress delivery of the 2015 and 2016 event programs and provide advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation for the more recent 2016 and 2017 events.

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

On 6 January 2017, the Commonwealth confirmed that it would proceed with reimbursing approximately \$1 billion payable to Queensland since the 2014-15 NDRRA Claim was submitted in March 2016. This payment follows finalisation of the Commonwealth’s assurance review over Queensland’s seven claims for NDRRA assistance dating back to 2008-09 that it had not previously acquitted.

**Section two:**  
**Disaster Assistance**

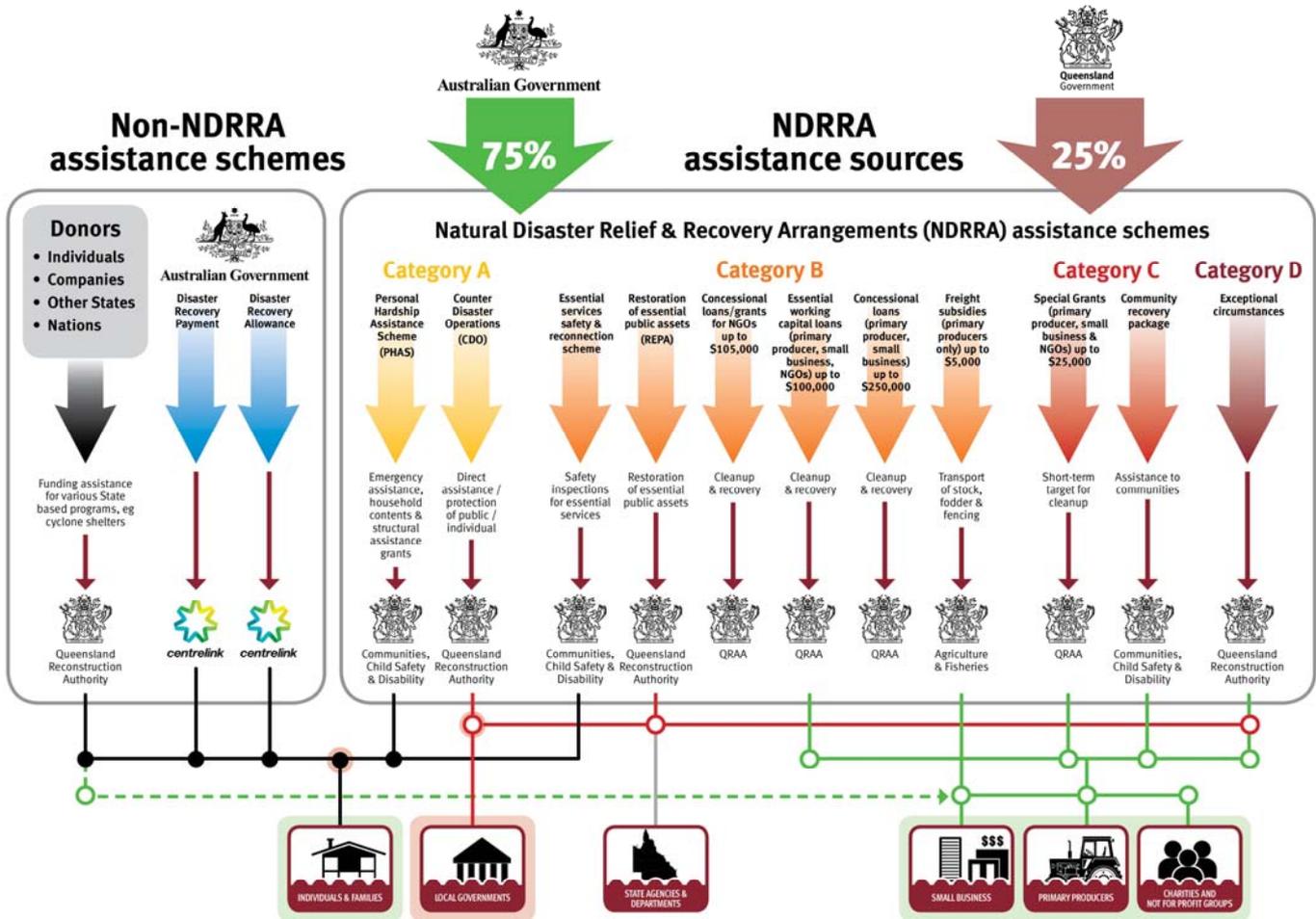


## 2.0 Disaster Assistance

### 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](http://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 63 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, 34 events are complete, having been delivered, closed out and acquitted to the Commonwealth in audited claims.

Works for 20 events from the 2015 to 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery phase<sup>1</sup> and completed works from a further 9 events from the 2014 event period are also in the acquittal phase<sup>1</sup>.

No NDRRA relief measures were activated for Queensland during December 2016.

The figures opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2011 to 2017 event periods managed by QRA<sup>2</sup>.

### 2017 events

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

- 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)*

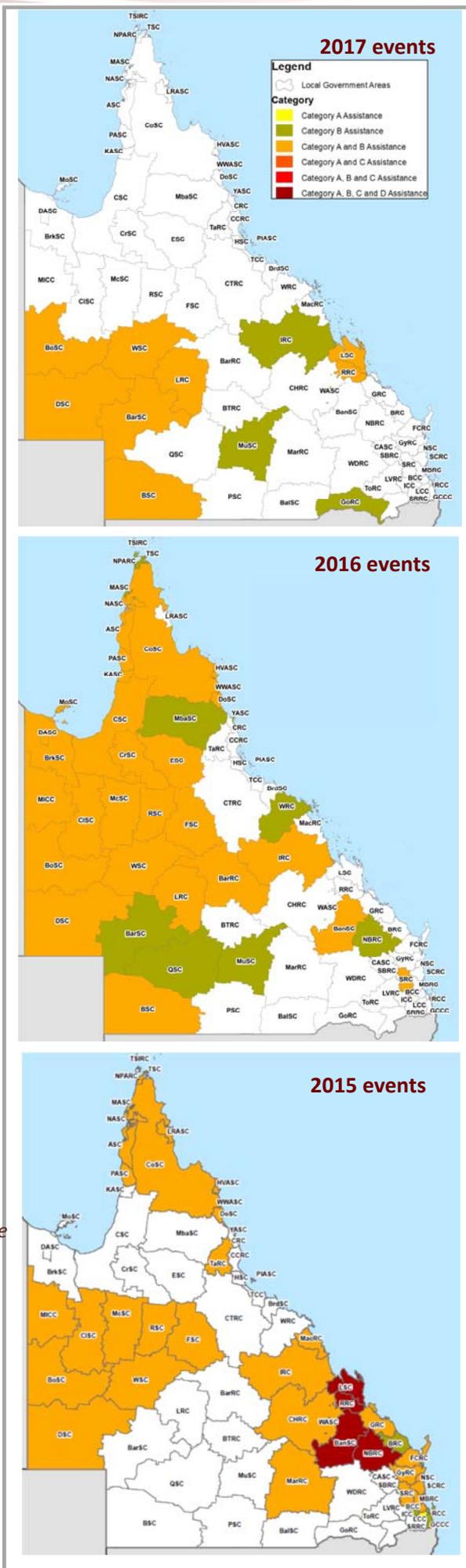
- South East Queensland Low, 30 April – 1 May 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Nathan and associated rainfall & flooding, 11-15 March 2015
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia and South East Queensland Trough - 19 to 22 February 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Lam, 15-18 February 2015
- North Queensland Severe Weather and 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.

### 2014 events

*Delivery of works complete with final acquittal due by March 2017, 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 March 2014
- Central & Western Queensland Flooding & Rainfall, 18-28 February 2014
- North East Queensland Monsoonal Rainfall & Flooding - 7 to 9 February 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Fletcher, commencing 2 February 2014
- Far North Queensland Peninsula Flooding (27-31 January 2014)
- Tropical Cyclone Dylan, 31 January 2014
- North Stradbroke Island Fires, commencing 29 December 2013

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 2013 and 2014 event period are still in delivery and acquittal phases.



## 2.2 Events managed by QRA (cont.)

### 2013 events

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three projects that received extensions of time for delivery, with acquittal due by March 2017)*

- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late October - December 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013<sup>#</sup>
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013
- Central & Southern Queensland Low, 25 February - 5 March 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 and flooding and East Coast Hybrid Low, 24 February - 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 and Anthony, December 2010 to February 2011.

### 2007-2010 events managed by QRA

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)*

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

<sup>#</sup> Three 2013 Event Betterment projects received extensions of time for delivery, with final acquittal due by 31 March 2017. All other 2013 event s have completed delivery and acquittal phases.



**Section three:**

# **Program Status**



### 3.0 Program Status

#### 3.1 NDRRA program status

QRA is currently focused on the preparation and audit of the 2015-16 Commonwealth Claim, which is due to the Commonwealth in early 2017. QRA is also assisting with the damage assessments from the two recent 2017 events and progression of the program of works from the 2015 and 2016 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases.

The value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by QRA since its establishment is estimated to be \$13.3 billion. Of this, \$12.3 billion of works from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012 and 2013 events have been finalised (delivered and acquitted) with the remaining works for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event years in the active delivery and/or acquittal phases.

On 6 January 2017, the Commonwealth confirmed that it would proceed with reimbursing approximately \$1 billion payable to Queensland since the 2014-15 NDRRA Claim was submitted in March 2016. This payment follows finalisation of the Commonwealth’s assurance review over Queensland’s seven claims for NDRRA assistance dating back to 2008-09 that it had not previously acquitted.

#### Active program

QRA is managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$702 million for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events (**Delivery Program**) and an **Acquittal Program** worth \$868 million, comprising the remaining works from the 2013 to 2017 Events that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth.

#### Delivery Program status

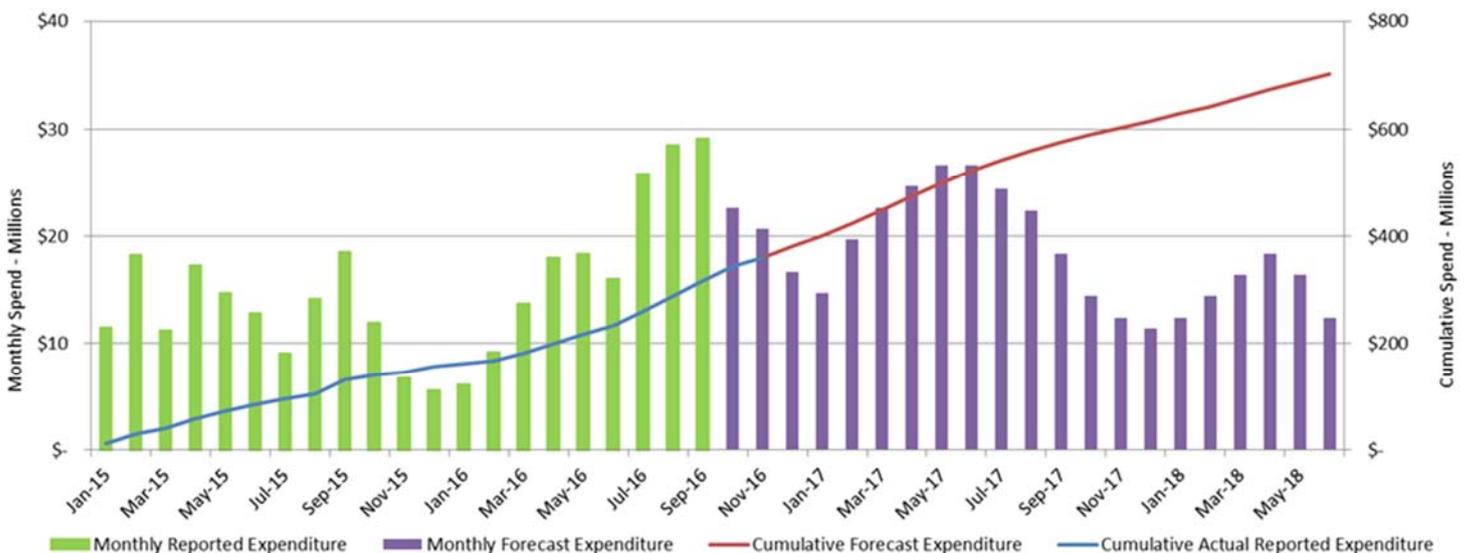
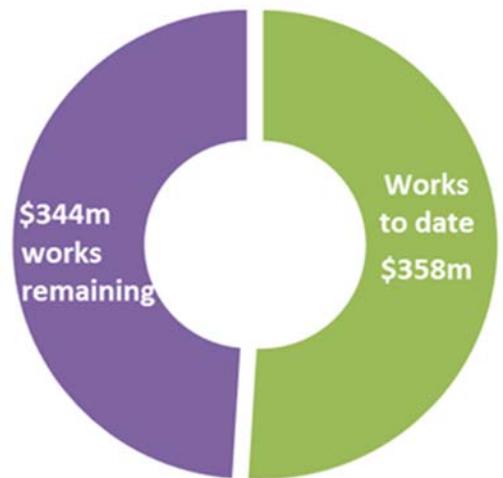
Since the last report, QRA’s Delivery Program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$881 million in submissions have been received, an increase of \$24 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$624 million has been approved, an increase of \$35 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$60 million are with QRA and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$358 million (51 percent) of the Delivery Program has been reported to QRA at 30 November 2016 as in progress or delivered.

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecast monthly costs to completion at 30 November 2016 on a combined basis for the 2015 and 2016 Events.

The 2015 and 2016 Event works are due for completion by 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018 respectively. The 2017 Events will have until 30 June 2019 to complete reconstruction works.

#### Delivery Program (2015 to 2017 Events) progress



(Source: The Authority, 31 December 2016)

### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

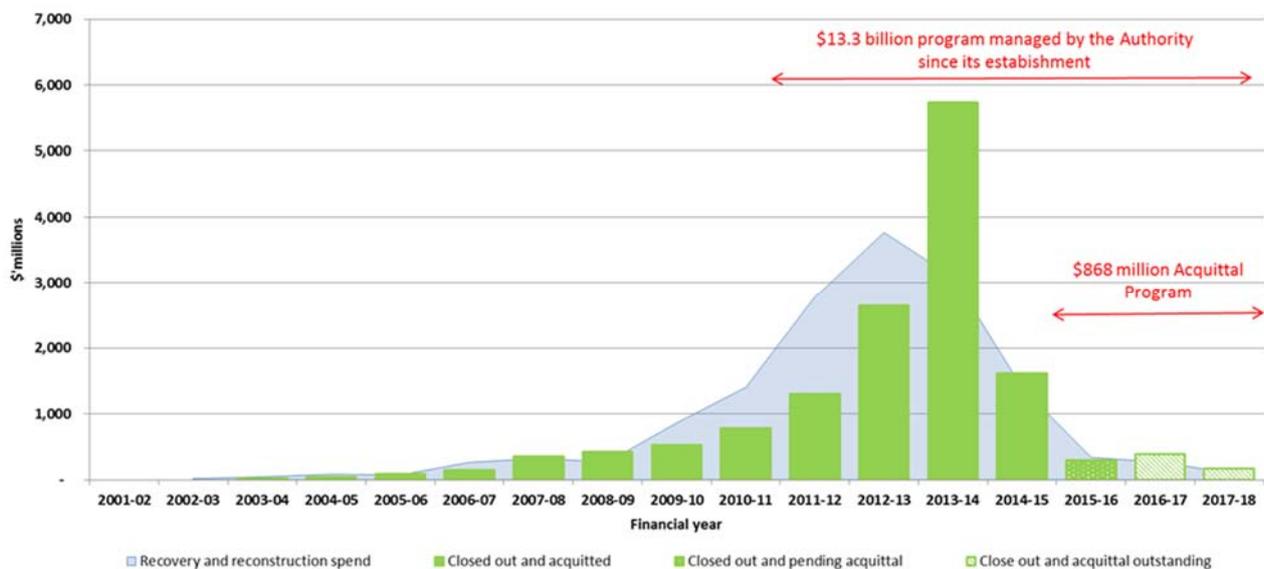
#### Acquittal Program status

The next Commonwealth Claim is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2017 to acquit works completed up to 30 June 2016. QRA is currently closing-out submissions for the claim prior to audit review in early 2017. The 2015-16 Commonwealth Claim will include final works from the 2014 events and components of 2015 and 2016 works that were completed by 30 June 2016.

The 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim was submitted to the Commonwealth on 24 March 2016. The claim acquitted \$1.6 billion of works completed in the year ended 30 June 2015. However, through the Federal Budget in May 2016, the Commonwealth indicated that it would defer payment of the funding due on the claim until it had undertaken assurance activities over it and the previous six annual claims dating back to 2008-09 that it had not previously acquitted.

QRA actively engaged with the Commonwealth to progress the review and, during November 2016, received notification that the Commonwealth had completed its review of the seven claims with no significant adjustment to claimed expenditure. On 6 January 2017, the Commonwealth confirmed that it would proceed with reimbursing approximately \$1 billion that has remained payable to Queensland since the 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim was submitted in March 2016.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2014-15 financial years and Commonwealth Claims preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2015-16 to 2017-18 in order to finalise acquittal of the \$868 million remaining in the Acquittal Program.



#### Additional NDRRA assistance measures

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

Package	Purpose	Status
<b>2015 Events Betterment Fund (\$20 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster.</li> <li>The normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard is funded under Category B NDRRA and the incremental cost to 'better' the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard is funded by a capped allocation from the Betterment fund and Council contributions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received for 190 projects across eight LGAs eligible for funding. The proposals principally comprised works to increase the resilience of damaged roads, culverts and floodways.</li> <li>To 31 December 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63 submissions with a total project value of over \$40 million, including \$20 million in Betterment funding have been approved</li> <li>34 projects with a total project value of \$6.1 million, including \$4.5 million Betterment funding have been reported as complete.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Key 2015 Event Betterment projects completed to date include 13 projects for NBRC and 10 projects for Somerset Regional Council.</li> <li>Should the betterment component of a project be delivered for a cost below the capped allocation, then the savings will be returned to the Betterment fund for allocation to other eligible projects, where possible.</li> <li>Delivery of 2015 betterment works will be required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements.</li> </ul>

### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

Package	Purpose	Status
<b>Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (\$6 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRA received EOIs from seven applicants for more than \$16 million</li> <li>Nine submissions worth \$6 million have been approved across the seven applicants, fully allocating the program funding.</li> <li>Key projects allocated funding include the clean-up and restoration of Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton which was severely damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia.</li> <li>QRA is monitoring the delivery of works. Any project savings identified may be considered for reallocation to eligible works.</li> </ul>
<b>Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRA received EOIs for more than \$1.7 million from three of the four LGAs eligible for funding allocation.</li> <li>Five submissions worth \$1 million have since been approved and delivered across the three applicants, fully allocating the program funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IRO program has been managed by the Queensland Farmers Federation on behalf of Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)</li> <li>IRO officers are located with Growcom, Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation, AgForce and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland</li> <li>IROs have now completed delivery of a range of support activities delivered including workshops, field visits, soil testing and feed sample analysis work.</li> </ul>
<b>Category C Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS)</li> <li>Livingstone, Gladstone, North Burnett and Banana councils and Rockhampton Uniting Care Community are delivering Community Development and Personal Support &amp; General Counselling programs across each of the five affected communities.</li> <li>Relationships Australia and Uniting Care Community are delivering Personal Support and General Counselling services.</li> <li>The final payment has been made on this program, which exhausts the Category C Community Recovery Package.</li> </ul>

(Source: QRA, DCCSDS and DAF; 31 December 2016)

#### Other active Category D measures

- The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to continue the **Day Labour** extension for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 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
- Three projects funded under the **\$80 million 2013 Events Betterment Fund** received extensions of time for delivery beyond 30 June 2015 due to excessive rainfall and other factors, and were completed by 31 December 2016:
  - Aroona Road (Central Highlands)
  - Boolburra Edungalba Road (Central Highlands)
  - Booyal Crossing Road (Bundaberg).

## 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:

### Disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy

QRA is currently reviewing key disaster recovery policy and planning tools to inform disaster recovery stakeholders on procedures and processes that will be employed by the state during recovery operations.

### Interim Queensland Recovery Plan

An Interim Queensland Recovery Plan has been developed for approval by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee. The plan provides information and guidance to stakeholders on disaster recovery governance, preparedness, planning and operations arrangements and issues for the 2016-17 disaster season and provides guidance for the development of functional, district and local recovery plans. The plan also defines key disaster recovery roles including the newly established roles of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator and Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

The Interim Queensland Recovery Plan will be reviewed to incorporate learnings following its implementation during the 2016-17 severe weather season, with the longer term Queensland Recovery Plan to be finalised by mid-2017.

### Disaster Recovery Coordinator guide

A draft guide for the role of Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) was developed in November 2016 and is expected to be finalised in early 2017. 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. A DRC Register is being compiled commensurate with the role of the SRPPC and will be maintained by the QRA.

### GIVIT

GIVIT's Gold Coast appeal in response to the Dreamworld incident closed on 21 December 2016. More than \$400,000 was distributed to the families affected by the tragedy.

### Floodplain management

In September 2016, QRA engaged a contractor to prepare two inter-related reports relating to flood risk management and resilience across local government authorities (LGAs). This work investigated:

- The effectiveness of LGAs application of flood mapping and associated products for building economic and community resilience
- Issues faced by LGAs in delivering flood resilience and potential support required
- How LGAs were implementing the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry recommendations.

The contractor undertook a desktop review of all LGA websites, sent an online questionnaire to all LGAs and held workshops with 21 targeted LGAs.

Draft reports were produced in December 2016 that will be finalised in January 2017. The detail in these reports will be used by the QRA as an evidence basis to inform:

- the finalisation of the Strategic Policy Framework for Flood Risk Management, and
- design of a Queensland Flood Resilience Program to enable the QRA to support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans

### Flood warning

In December 2016, QRA began working with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to engage with LGAs to review the adequacy and appropriateness of the BoM flood warning classifications. This work is being led by QFES and further status updates will be provided in early 2017.

In 2017, QRA will work with BoM to undertake an audit of the Queensland Flood Warning Network asset register to identify infrastructure where ownership and responsibility for the asset is not clearly identified.

Ownership of flood gauge infrastructure across Queensland is shared between State Government, LGAs, industry bodies and the private sector, and over the years some of this infrastructure has been maintained by BoM. Preparations are now underway for BoM to return maintenance responsibilities for all flood warning infrastructure back to asset owners.

An asset register for all flood warning infrastructure in Queensland and the respective ownership arrangements will be produced.

The project will commence in February 2017 and is expected to take approximately three months to complete.

### 3.3 Program spotlights

#### Queensland Reconstruction Authority 2016 in review

Queensland is no stranger to wild weather and 2016 was true to form. From a fifth year of crippling drought to unseasonal winter flooding, Queensland experienced the often violent extremes of Mother Nature's darker side.

There were 10 NDRRA-activated disaster events across the state in 2016. As ever, the QRA played a vital role helping Queensland communities overcome these disasters by working closely with the 37 local councils activated for assistance.

The year began with the Gulf Monsoonal Trough event over the New Year period, which brought severe flooding to communities in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Queensland was again battered by disaster events in February, March, May, June, July and September.

Formidably, 16 councils were impacted by more than one disaster event, with Cloncurry and Cook impacted by three, Winton by four, and Boulia Shire Council impacted by five events.

The monsoonal flooding in the Gulf of Carpentaria brought into sharp focus the benefits of rebuilding with resilience following natural disasters, when Carpentaria Shire Council's 2013 Betterment projects withstood what would usually cause severe annual damage.

The crossings over the Flinders, Bynoe and Little Bynoe Rivers were all rebuilt to a higher standard thanks to an injection of more than \$6 million from the Category D \$80 million 2013 Betterment Fund.

When the floodwaters receded, the Betterment projects remained undamaged. In previous years, these access routes were closed for weeks following a significant event. This time they were accessible within a few days, delayed only by minor emergent works required on an approach to the Little Bynoe Crossing. The avoided costs from this single event for Carpentaria's Betterment projects is estimated at \$2.2 million.

To prepare Queensland communities' resilience to future natural disaster risk, considerable progress was made on the delivery of the \$20 million 2015 Betterment Fund. By year's end, 33 of the 64 projects approved had been completed, including projects such as Rockhampton's iconic Pilbeam Drive.

Significantly, 2016 was the year QRA increased its roles and responsibilities and became the lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy in Queensland. In addition, on 24 June 2016, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk appointed QRA Chief Executive Officer Brendan Moon as the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator to assist in the rapid recovery of communities following natural disasters.

2016 also saw the successful delivery and completion of 48 councils' 2014 NDRRA programs, which included recovery from events such as Cyclones Ita, Dylan and Gillian as well as the Central and Western Queensland Flooding event. The combined estimated cost of these events is approximately \$342 million.

During 2016, QRA also assisted in the development of an online Community Recovery Grants portal in partnership with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. When activated in times of disaster, the portal will provide access to grants such as the NDRRA Category A Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme designed to meet people's immediate emergency needs including accommodation, clothing, medical supplies and food as well as the replacement or repair of whitegoods and other damaged household contents. The first of its kind for any Australian, state or territory government, this portal places Queensland at the forefront of disaster relief administration worldwide - helping QRA meet its strategic objective of making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.



*Floodwaters submerge the Little Bynoe Crossing—January 2016*



*The Flinders River Crossing, resilient after the 2016 flood, was a Carpentaria Shire Council Betterment project in 2013.*

### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### Rockhampton Regional Council Upgrade works complete for Pilbeam Drive

Mount Archer's scenic Pilbeam Drive has reopened following extensive repair and upgrade works by Rockhampton Regional Council.

Council completed the works to the popular tourist route thanks to more than \$5.5 million provided through the NDRRA program following severe damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February 2015.

In the aftermath of the cyclone, Rockhampton Regional Council was successful in securing \$2 million for the upgrade of Pilbeam Drive from the \$20 million Category D 2015 Betterment Fund, as well as approximately \$3.5 million in standard NDRRA restoration funds to restore the road.

Cyclone Marcia caused severe damage to Pilbeam Drive including landslips that closed the road for six days and restricted ongoing access for traffic.

Thanks to Betterment funding, Pilbeam Drive has been rebuilt to a more resilient state, with improved drainage that makes it better able to withstand heavy rainfall and flooding, ensuring this vital link is stronger and more disaster-resilient.

Rockhampton Regional Council Mayor Councillor Margaret Strelow said the completion of works on Pilbeam Drive was a major morale boost for the region and its recovery from Cyclone Marcia.

"With the added drainage infrastructure at the two main landslip sites and the widened shoulders of the road, along with works on 10 other sites, this upgrade of Pilbeam Drive will minimise rock falls and new slips forming," Cr Strelow said.

"It's been a big project, starting back in February and I'd like to thank residents and visitors to our region for their patience while we carried out the works to not only restore but improve Pilbeam Drive.

"I'd also like to thank the contractors for their professionalism and willingness to work with council and the residents throughout the reconstruction process," she said.

"To demonstrate this road's importance to the region, Council has also been carrying out a further \$1.6 million in complementary works on Pilbeam Drive which is due for completion at the end of January 2017," she said.

Council is planning a Community Day on Saturday 21 January 2016 to celebrate the completion of works on Pilbeam Drive.



Right: Pilbeam Drive during repair and upgrade works and at completion

### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### TMR

#### New RADAR app for natural disaster program

This summer, Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is implementing a mobile application to capture and manage natural disaster damage evidence for its NDRRA Program.

The Recording Asset Damage and Restoration (RADAR) app will enable TMR to meet mandatory requirements to demonstrate eligibility for NDRRA funding, ensure data is captured consistently and make the funding submission process more efficient.

General Manager (Program Delivery and Operations) Amanda Yeates said the RADAR app would support Queensland's robust NDRRA funding submission process and substantiation of claims.

"As well as TMR staff, the RADAR app can be used by local councils and contractors, and will enable us to capture and manage the photographic evidence required for funding submissions in a consistent format," Ms Yeates said.



*TMR Manager (Special Programs) Maria Tegan leads RADAR training in Darling Downs District*

The app includes a simple site form to record key damage attributes, ability to capture photos with GPS information, and automatic conversion of GPS information to chainage after download.

"Data can be viewed promptly to determine if sufficient evidence has been captured, which will reduce the need for additional site visits to collect data.

"This will make road inspectors' and engineers' jobs easier on the ground and funding submission writers' jobs easier in the office – ultimately making the NDRRA funding submission process more efficient and enabling works to start sooner to restore roads for the Queensland community."

The RADAR app is compatible with both Apple IOS and Android devices and is being launched with three key features:

- Mobile app with standard site form linked to damage capture photos
- Desktop version to add information in additional fields and assess eligibility
- Ability to generate reports for inclusion in funding submissions.

"The RADAR app is a great example of business improvement and innovation in TMR," Ms Yeates said.

"It will help minimise ineligible costs and support best use of taxpayers' money in repairing the road network following natural disasters."

## **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 237 media items in December 2016 (99 print – 42%, 27 TV – 11%, 45 radio – 19%, 66 online – 28%), which reached a cumulative audience of approximately 6.6 million people.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from recent and previous natural disaster events including articles in The Barcoo Independent, Beaudesert Times, Bowen Independent, Bush Telegraph Warwick, Cairns Post, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Chinchilla News, Cooktown Local News, The Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Warwick Daily News, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gladstone Observer, Gold Coast Bulletin, Goondiwindi Argus, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, High Country Herald, Kilcoy Sentinel, Longreach Leader, MacIntyre Gazette, Mareeba Express, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Noosa Today, North West Star, Northern Miner, Oakey Champion, Queensland Country Life, Queensland Times, Redland City Bulletin, South-West News, Stanthorpe Border Post, Sunshine Coast Daily, Tablelands Advertiser, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin, Weekend Post, Western Cape Bulletin, Western Times and the Westside News; Internet coverage at abc.net.au, blackwaterherald.com.au, brisbanetimes.com.au, couriermail.com.au, cairnspost.com.au, goldcoastbulletin.com.au, gympietimes.com.au, themorningbulletin.com.au, news-mail.com.au, queenslandtimes.com.au, and theaustralian.com.au; TV coverage on ABC News 24, Channel 10 and the Seven and WIN networks throughout the state; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4BC Brisbane, 4CA Cairns, 4KQ Brisbane, 4RO Rockhampton, 4WK Toowoomba.

Making news in December 2016 was the completion of works on Rockhampton Regional Council's Betterment project for Pilbeam Drive at Mt Archer, with articles appearing in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin and the Capricorn Coast Mirror. Also making news in December was the ongoing works on Livingstone Shire Council's Betterment project for the Scenic Highway at Statue Bay with articles appearing in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin.

#### Engagement Activities

On 12 December 2016, **Chief Executive Officer Mr Brendan Moon** attended the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils meeting at Mission Beach. Mr Moon gave a presentation to the attending councils on disaster season preparedness and natural disaster funding reforms.

Councils represented at the meeting were Cairns Regional Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Cook Shire Council, Croydon Shire Council, Douglas Shire Council, Etheridge Shire Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, Mareeba Shire Council, Tablelands Regional Council, Torres Shire Council, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council.

#### 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, including information about progress on Betterment projects and current recovery efforts. There has been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 31 December 2016, total website visits amounted to 510,212. (See [Figure 5.1.1](#))

In December, we received an additional 15 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 133 pieces of written correspondence (See [Figure 5.1.2](#))

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

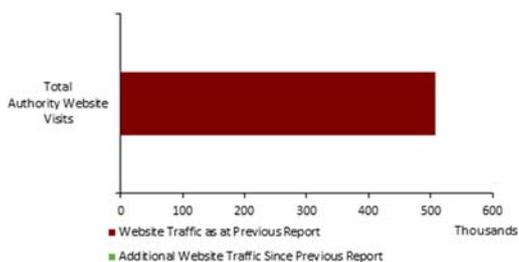
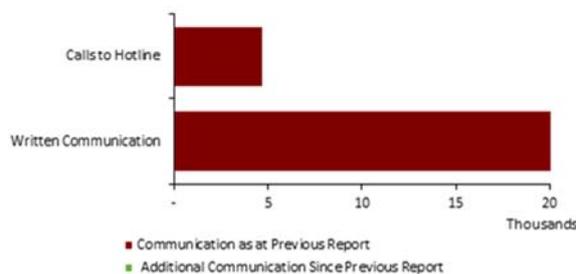


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



Source: QRA at 31 December 2016

## 4.0 Communications (Cont.)

### 4.2 Media reports

Rockhampton Morning Bulletin

21 December

# An election win and \$95m

This is the third in a series of Q&As with CQ's community, political and business leaders as we review the challenges and triumphs of 2016 and look ahead to 2017

#### LIVINGSTONE SHIRE MAYOR BILL LUDWIG

WHEN it comes to benchmarking achievements I have rarely looked to any one project or aspect in my role as mayor and community leader.

The main reason is that many of the things Council achieved for the community, from both major projects and funding wins to grassroots community support and partnerships, are usually the culmination of long term planning, hard work and a collective team effort.

From a personal perspective I had to reflect on highlights in 2016 my election return for a fourth term as Mayor of Livingstone with a record majority vote was a significant milestone in my life.

It was especially gratifying to also have my entire council returned with a clear mandate to keep up the solid track record of delivering for our community.

In the key areas of major project delivery and securing funding grants, this year saw Livingstone continue to rank with the best in the state.

Highlights in these areas have been the opening of Stage 2 of the Ems Park Centenary of Anzac Project, Stage 2 of Burney Bay Multi-sports Complex including netball and junior rugby league facilities, machine the half-way mark

with the \$30m Panorama Drive project, opening of the Yeppoon multi-dock carpark, opening of Stage 2 of The Gateway Business and Industry Park and commencement of the \$16.5m rebuild and upgrade of the Scenic Hwy at Statute Bay.

Significant funding successes will see the commencement in 2017 of the next exciting stage of the Ems Park Shoreline and Village Centre Revitalisation, Stage 1 of Harley Street Multi-Sports Complex, substantive completion of Stage 4 & 5 of Yeppoon Foreshore and Town Centre Revitalisation including the major tourist lapoon precinct and completion of both the Panorama Drive and Statute Bay projects.

From a disaster management perspective 2017 will also see our new state of the art Local Disaster Coordination Centre constructed to make our community safer and better prepared to manage and respond to future threats similar to Cyclone Marcia.

This facility in the town centre will also play a vital regional Disaster Management training role as well as functioning as an innovation hub and learning centre for our community.

Undoubtedly the biggest challenge council faced in 2016 was securing funding and designing the rebuild of the Scenic Hwy at Statute Bay.

It was one of the most complex engineering challenges Livingstone has ever undertaken involving construction of a new sea wall, widening and reinforcing of the roadway, installation of shared pedestrian and cycleway and the stabilisation of the uplope cliffs to minimise future rock slides and slippages.

The \$16.5m project is now well underway and due for completion by August 2017. The biggest challenge for Livingstone moving forward will be taking advantage of all opportunities and working collaboratively together with all levels of government and the private sector.

I can see that in the year ahead, new opportunities are likely to outnumber the challenges. Optimism and a renewal of business confidence has already taken hold across the shire and we will continue to work pro-actively with the State and Federal Governments and our own business community to create opportunities for even further community and commercial growth.

There will be a continued focus on innovation and we will work to ensure we have the best, up to date, internet infrastructure we can manage. I wish everyone a Happy New Year and a very exciting 2017.

“It was especially gratifying to also have my entire council returned with a clear mandate”

— Mayor Bill Ludwig

## Multi-storey carpark open for Christmas

CHRISTMAS came early for Yeppoon residents yesterday as a multi-storey car park was officially opened.

And fittingly, Santa was the first person to drive in.

The carpark, part of the \$53 million Yeppoon Foreshore and Town Centre Revitalisation project, is expected to boost Coast traders over the Christmas period.

In a bonus, Livingstone Shire Council has decided to make parking free for the first 12 months.

Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry joined the community for the opening of the car park along with Senator Matt Canavan and Assistant Minister for Local Government Glenn Butcher.

“The precinct is expected to attract an increase in visitors to the region, injecting up to \$6 million a year into the local economy, and \$60 million to the wider region,” Ms Landry said.

“This much-needed facility, which also incorporates state-of-the-art car wash facilities, will be a

great boost for traders and is designed to provide for future retail arcade links and direct connectivity to both the foreshore and town centre,” she said.

Keppel MP Brittany Lauga said the car park was one major construct on projects launched from the State Government’s \$29 million towards the Yeppoon Foreshore and Town Centre Revitalisation project.

“The car park will help to drive economic activity in the town centre. More parking close to businesses means more growth,” Ms Lauga said.

Livingstone Shire Mayor Bill Ludwig said the opening of the car park was the best possible early Christmas present for the community.

“I’d like to acknowledge and thank both the State and Federal Governments for their ongoing support in assisting (the) council to realise the community’s vision to transform the Capricorn Coast into a premier coastal destination,” Cr Ludwig said.



OPEN AGAIN: Although some work remains, the public again has access to a reconstructed Pilbeam Dr and all the walking trails at the summit of Mt Archer. PHOTO: ALLAN REINIKKA ROK2012EAPILBEAM

## Time to get your walking boots on

ROCKHAMPTON can once again enjoy the spectacular views from Mount Archer and, if they embrace the summer heat, take a bushwalk or two.

While some work continues on Pilbeam Dr, the city’s natural gem is once again open for business.

Some sections of Pilbeam Dr remain one lane only as Rockhampton Regional Council workers carve out the rock face to create

safer walking trails for those braving the climb to the top.

Councillor Neil Fisher explained it was part of the Mount Archer Activation Plan, which overlapped with the recently completed effort to rebuild and reinforce the mountain following dozens of landslips caused by Cyclone Marcia.

The new walkways are the first stage of a \$1.5 million Federal

Government-funded project which will roll out over some years.

Cr Fisher said this stage focused on the three most dangerous areas for pedestrians and drivers.

Although walking up Pilbeam Dr is not encouraged while this work continues, all paths at the summit are open, including Zamia Trail.

Council confirmed there are no restrictions on Fraser Park and the

community barbecues are ready to be fired up.

Along with the road reconstruction, Council has completed an extensive weed clean up and tidied key lookout areas, showing off the region at its best.

Council has also worked to create a helicopter landing space at Fraser Park.

Cr Fisher expected the road to be fully open “in a matter of weeks”.

— Michelle Gately

The multi-storey car park on the corner of Queen and Barry Sts. PHOTO: LIVINGSTONE SHIRE COUNCIL

Rockhampton Morning Bulletin  
31 December

Rockhampton Regional Council—12 December

## Pilbeam Drive works finally complete and open to public

IT TOOK 10 months and millions of dollars, but there is finally full access to Mt Archer.

The extensive reconstruction of Pilbeam Dr began in February last year after the road was devastated by the wrath of Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

Both lanes on Mount Archer’s scenic Pilbeam Dr are now open again following the works, undertaken by Rockhampton Regional Council thanks to more than \$5.3 million provided through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) program.

The works were due to be completed by August this year after more than 140 defects were recorded for the site following TC Marcia in February, including 26 landslips, scoured table drains, blocked culverts, pavement damage and debris build-up.

Minister for Justice Michael Keenan said funding for the works was part of a larger round of funding to restore Rockhampton to its pre-cyclone glory.

“Rockhampton Regional Council has completed a \$2 million upgrade of Mount Archer’s Pilbeam Dr thanks to the 2015 Betterment Fund, as well as completing about \$3.5 million in restoration works, which began earlier this year,” Mr Keenan said.

“The \$20 million Betterment Fund was

established in response to Tropical Cyclone Marcia for projects just like this and is provided under Category D of the jointly funded Commonwealth-state NDRRA.”

Rockhampton Regional Council Mayor Margaret Stredow said the upgraded infrastructure would minimise rock falls and prevent new slips forming.

“It’s been a big project, starting back in February and I’d like to thank residents and visitors to our region for their patience while we carried out the works to not only restore but improve Pilbeam Dr,” Cr Stredow said.

“To demonstrate this road’s importance to the region, council has also carried out a further \$1.6 million in additional works on Pilbeam Dr.”

“I’d like to thank residents and visitors to our region for their patience”

— Cr Margaret Stredow



Cyclone Marcia causes major damage to Pilbeam Dr. PHOTO: CHRIS ISON ROK20035CPILBEAM4



ROAD WORKS: It took 10 months to repair the damage caused by Cyclone Marcia to Pilbeam Drive. PHOTO: CHRIS ISON ROK10036CPILBEAM2

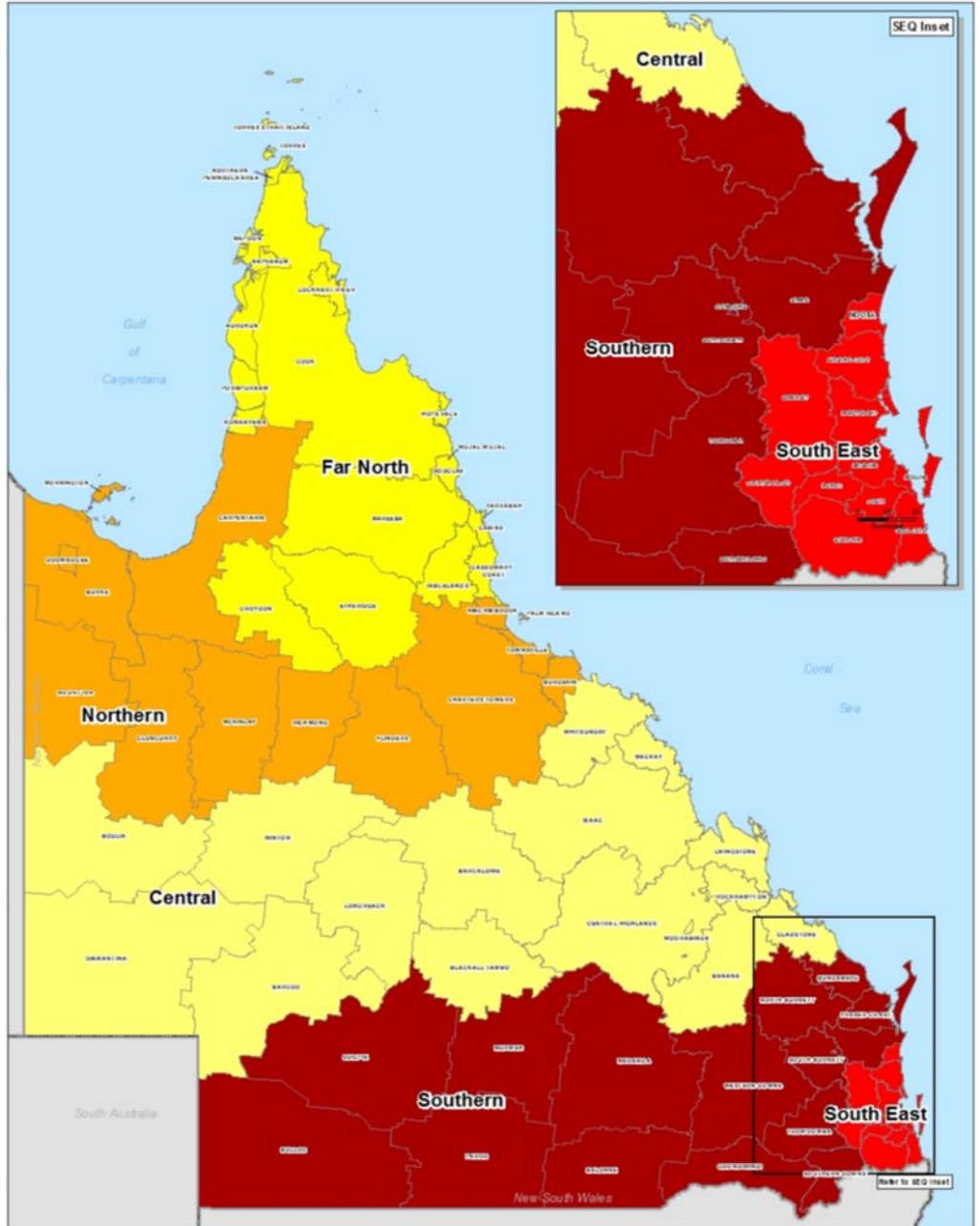
Rockhampton Morning Bulletin—20 December

Western Cape Bulletin—1 December

# Appendices

# Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

Region	Local Government Areas (LGA's)		
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	Banana Shire Council
		BarRC	Barcaldine Regional Council
BarSC		Barcoo Shire Council	
BTRC		Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	
BOSC		Boulia Shire Council	
CHRC		Central Highlands Regional Council	
DSC		Diamantina Shire Council	
GSC		Gladstone Regional Council	
IRC		Isaac Regional Council	
LSC		Livingstone Shire Council	
LRC		Longreach Regional Council	
MacRC		Mackay Regional Council	
RRC		Rockhampton Regional Council	
WRC		Whitsunday Regional Council	
WSC		Winton Shire Council	
WASC		Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council	
Southern Queensland (SQ)	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		



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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

