

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

October 2015

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Document details:

Security classification	Public
Date of review of security classification	October 2015
Authority	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Author	Chief Executive Officer
Document status	Final
Version	1.0

Contact for Enquiries:

All enquiries regarding this document should be directed to:

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

*Phone the call centre - **1800 110 841***

Mailing Address

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

PO Box 15428

City East Q 4002

Alternatively, contact the Queensland Reconstruction Authority by emailing info@qldra.org.au

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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 October 2015 Monthly Report – the 56th report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority).

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

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

The Authority is currently assisting delivery agents to progress the 2014 and 2015 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases. The Authority is also focused on gathering and assessing completion documentation to close out the 2013 events and other works completed by 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in March 2016.

The October report provides an update on the progress of recovery. Of the \$1.0 billion of works from the 2014 and 2015 events in the delivery phase:

- \$822 million in submissions have been received, representing an increase of \$36 million since last month
- \$553 million has been approved, representing an increase of \$57 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$106 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- \$280 million (29%) of works has been reported to the Authority at 31 August 2015 as in progress or delivered.

The October report also profiles the official reopening of North Burnett Regional Council's Mundubbera Aerodrome in September, which has been built back better thanks to funding from the 2013 Event Betterment Fund; the reconstruction of Flagstaff Road by Banana Shire Council, which was damaged in a major landslip following Tropical Cyclone Oswald in 2013; and the completion of Mount Isa City Council's 2014 program of works. After avoiding major damage impacts from the extreme weather events of 2011 to 2013, Mount Isa sustained damaged from Tropical Cyclone Fletcher in 2014 and mobilised quickly to complete the resultant program of works.

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



Frankie Carroll
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Reconstruction Authority



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Section one:
Introduction



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

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

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

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

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

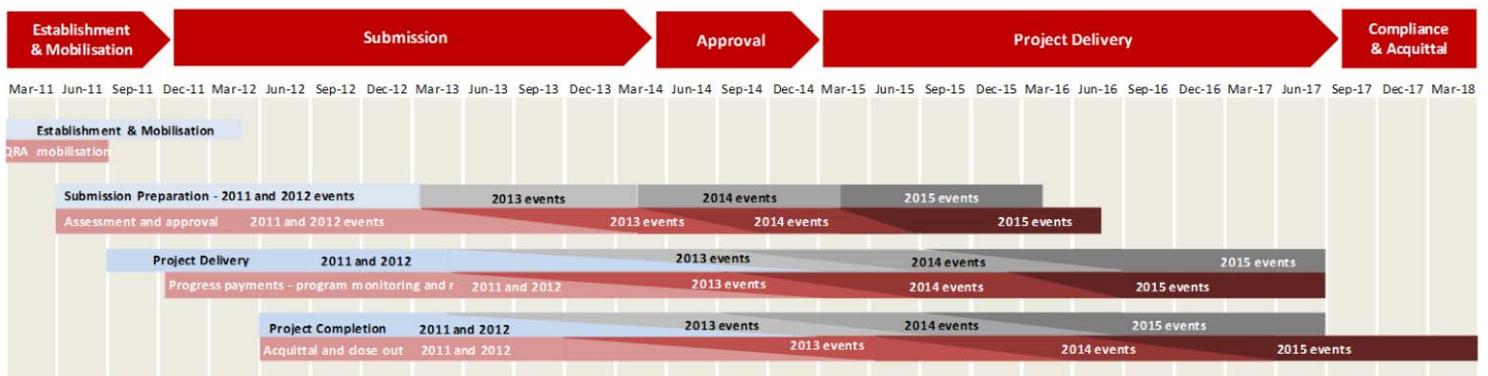
As part of its role, the Authority administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works and Restoration of Essential Public Assets to both State Departments and Agencies and Local Government Authorities. Since its establishment in February 2011, the Authority has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 50 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 imposes 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 a compilation of claims for financial assistance in respect of state NDRRA expenditure incurred on eligible disasters in the preceding financial year (Commonwealth Claim). Lodgement of Commonwealth Claims is required to secure reimbursement of the Commonwealth's share of eligible expenditure.

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



Works for 16 disasters from the 2014 and 2015 event periods are currently in the delivery phase; and completed works from a further 12 events across the 2011 to 2013 event periods are in the acquittal phase.

On this basis, the Authority's operations are currently focused on assisting councils and State agencies to complete their reporting and progress through the close out and acquittal phase of the program of works completed prior to 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2016. Relevant works include the balance of works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other events of 2013 which were due for completion prior to 30 June 2015.

The Authority is also assisting with the damage assessments from the recent 2015 events and progression of works in the delivery phase, that comprises works from the 2014 and 2015 events, through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases.

Section two:
Disaster Assistance

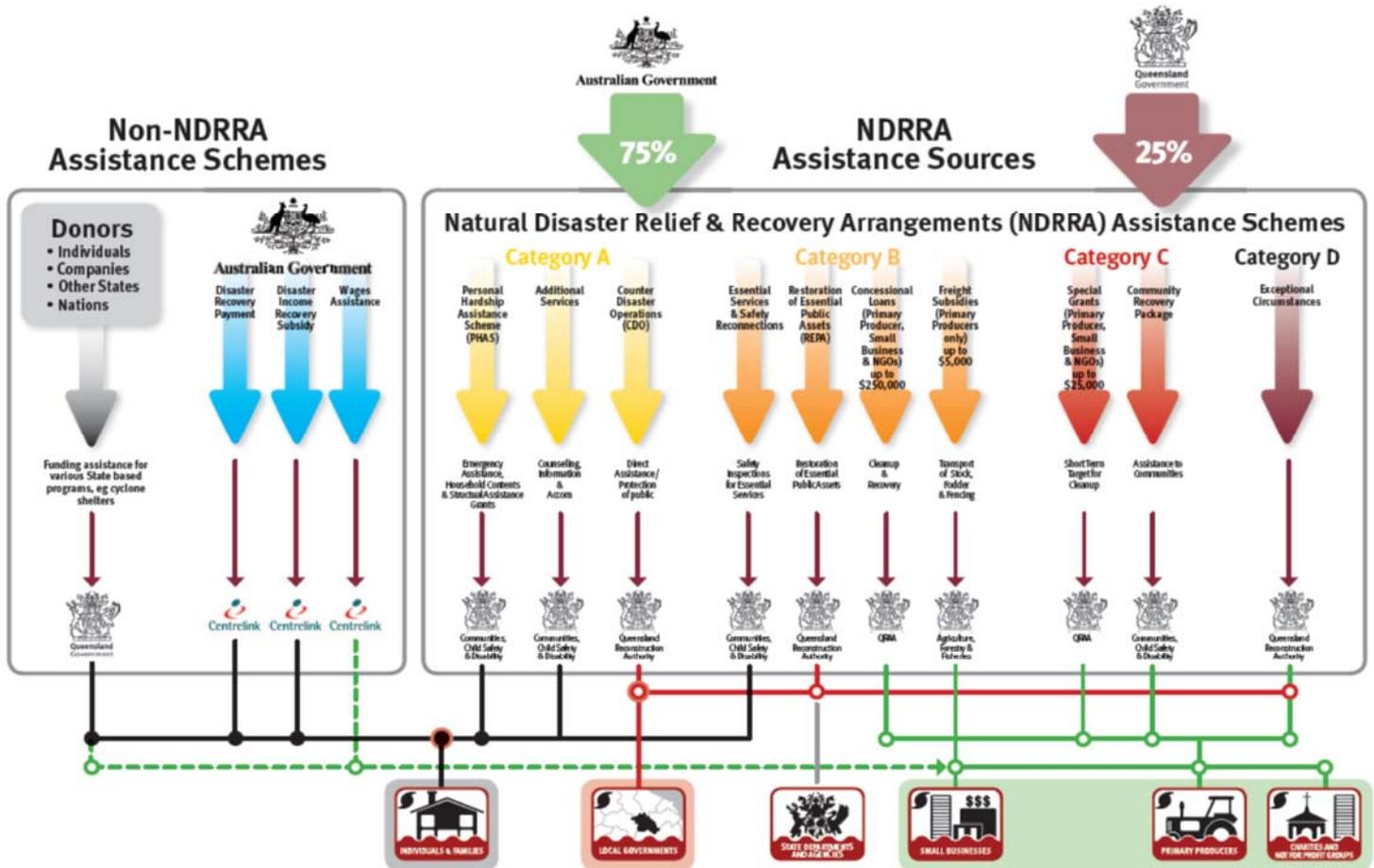


2.0 Disaster Assistance

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



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

Disaster events managed by the Authority

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

This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

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

2.2 Events and relief measures managed by the Authority

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

Since its establishment in February 2011, the Authority has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 50 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, works for 16 disasters from the 2014 and 2015 event periods are currently in the delivery phase¹ and completed works from a further 12 events across the 2011 to 2013 event periods are in the acquittal phase¹.

The maps opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2011 to 2015 event periods managed by the Authority.

There have been no NDRRA relief measures activated since the last report.

2015 events

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

- 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
- 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 November 2014.

2014 events

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

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

2013 events

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

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

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



2.2 Events managed by the Authority (cont.)

2012 events

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

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

2011 events

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

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

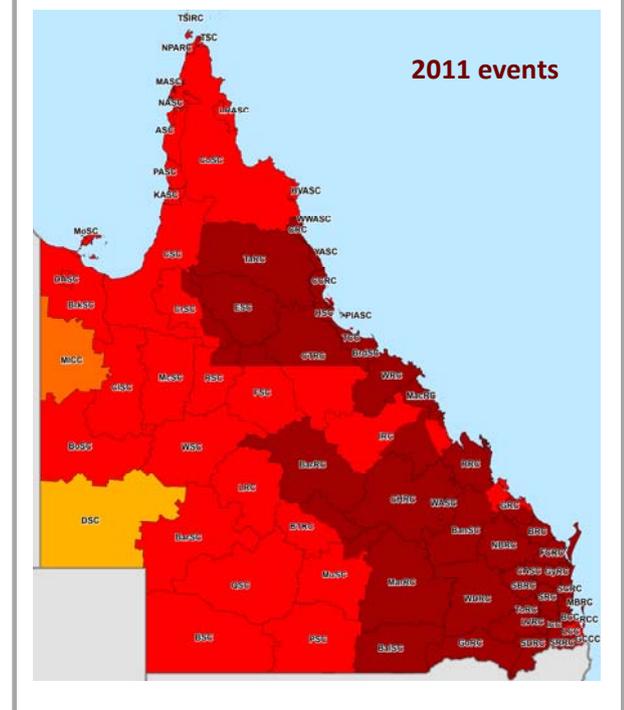
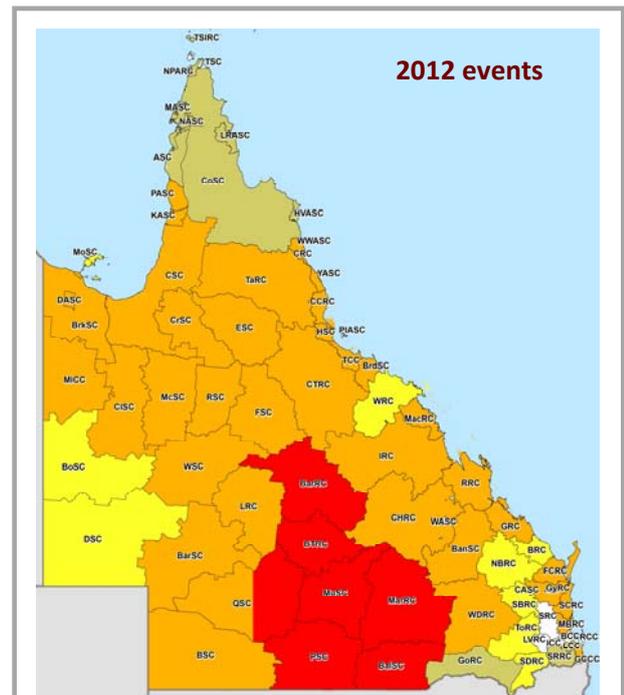
2007-2010 events managed by the Authority

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul, January to April 2010
- Northern, Central and South West Queensland Flooding, 22 December 2009 to 8 January 2010
- South West Flooding, 20 – 25 November 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 November 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.

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

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



2.3 Additional assistance measures

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

2015 events (Tropical Cyclone Marcia)

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

2014 events

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

2013 events

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

2011 events

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

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

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

Section three:

Program Status



3.0 Program Status

3.1 Recent developments

A key milestone in the State's reconstruction effort was reached on 30 June 2015 with the deadline passing for councils and state agencies to complete works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other events from 2012-13; and the remaining works from the 2011 and 2012 event periods that had received extensions of time. Councils and state agencies have indicated that all relevant works were completed on time other than three betterment projects impacted by weather for which extension of time requests have been submitted to the Commonwealth.

The Authority is currently focused on gathering and assessing completion documentation to close out works completed by 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2016.

The Authority is also assisting with the damage assessments from the 2015 events and progression of the program of works from the 2014 and 2015 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases.

3.2 Program status

Following completion of the June 2015 NDRRA estimates review, the Authority's total program has been revised to \$13.3 billion. Of this, \$12.3 billion of works from the 2010 to 2013 event periods has completed the delivery phase and more than \$10.8 billion of the program has completed the State's acquittal processes.

On this basis, the Authority is currently managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$1.0 billion for the 2014 Events and 2015 Events (the **Delivery Program**) and an **Acquittal Program** worth \$2.5 billion, comprising the remaining works from the 2011 Events, 2012 Events, 2013 Events, 2014 Events and 2015 Events not yet acquitted.

Delivery Program status

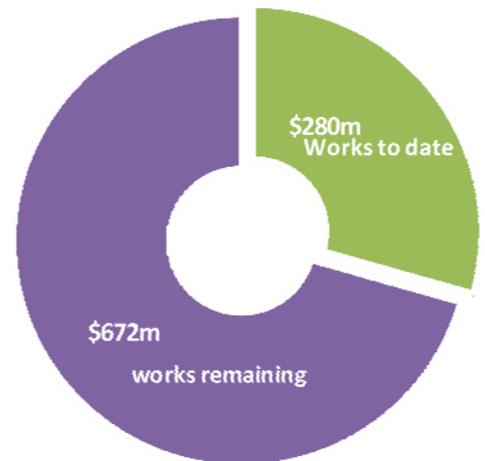
Since the last report, the Authority's program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$822 million in submissions have been received, representing an increase of \$36 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$553 million has been approved, representing an increase of \$57 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$106 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$280 million (29%) of the \$1.0 billion Delivery Program has been reported to the Authority at 31 August 2015 as in progress or delivered.

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

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

Delivery Program (2014 and 2015 Events) progress



(Source: The Authority, 30 September 2015)

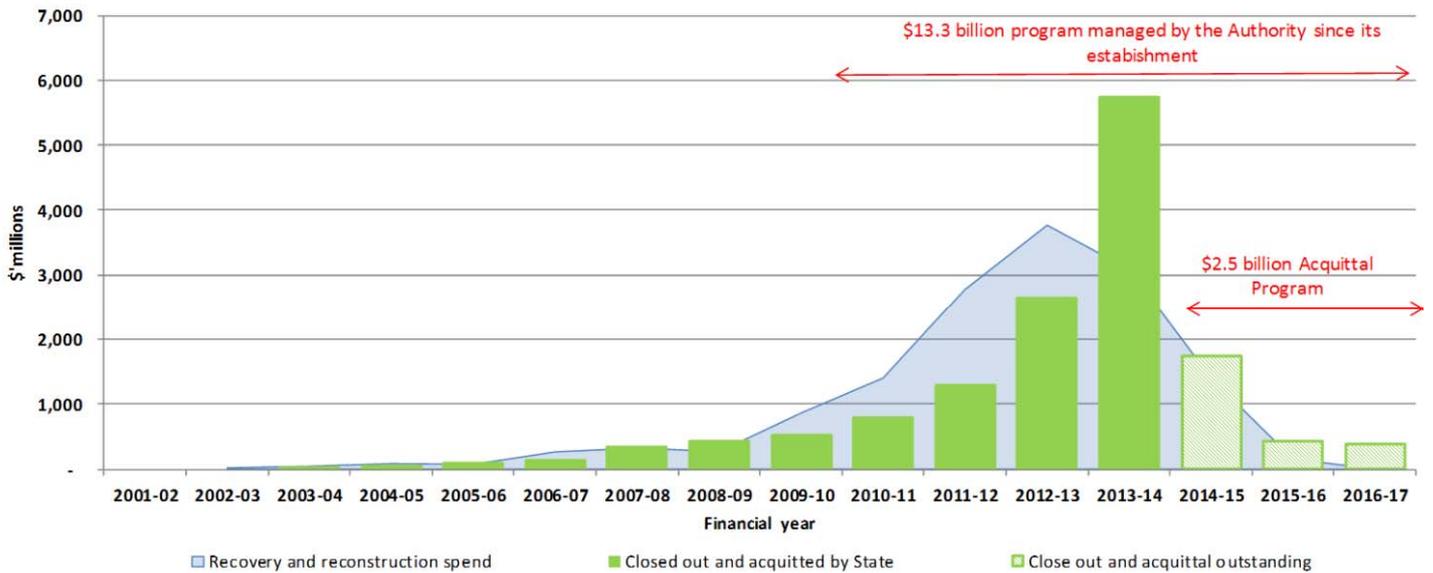
3.2 Program status (cont.)

Acquittal Program status

The 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim is provisionally estimated to require the close-out and acquittal of approximately \$1.8 billion of works completed up to 30 June 2015.

The close-out of the majority of remaining submissions for the 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim is expected to occur in the three month period between October and December 2015. With works completed up to 30 June 2015, delivery agents are expected to collate their final claims for submission to the Authority through to September 2015. Following audit review, the audited 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim will be due for acquittal to the Commonwealth in March 2016.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for 2001-02 to 2013-14 and Commonwealth Claims preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2014-15 to 2016-17 in order to finalise acquittal of the \$2.5 billion remaining in the Acquittal Program. Beyond the 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim, the remaining \$0.7 billion of the Acquittal Program representing works completed after 30 June 2015 will be finalised in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 Commonwealth Claims to the Commonwealth by March 2017 and March 2018 respectively.



(Source: The Authority, 30 September 2015)

3.3 State-controlled roads and highways

DTMR set up its Transport Network Reconstruction Program (TNRP) to manage the recovery and reconstruction of Queensland's integrated transport system following the damage from natural disaster events in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. The transport system includes state-controlled roads, ports, navigation aids and the rail network.

On completion of the final works in June 2015, DTMR's TNRP had spent more than \$6.4 billion on the recovery and reconstruction of 8,741km roads across the State arising from the disaster events of 2010 to 2013.

DTMR is managing the recovery and reconstruction works for the 2014 and 2015 event works that are currently in the delivery phase through its Program Delivery and Operations Branch.

Current status

- All Queensland Rail lines affected by disaster events have been recovered.
- All ports, navigation aids, jetties and other boating infrastructure damaged by natural disaster events have been recovered.
- Of the 214km of roads forecast to be reconstructed following damage from the 2014 events, 204km of works have been completed and the remaining 10km is under construction on active works contracts as at 31 August 2015.
- A total of 5579km of Queensland's road network was closed or had limited access as a result of the 2015 events. Following completion of the initial recovery phase of works, DTMR is currently scoping its reconstruction program for the events. Of note, survey and geotechnical investigations have been completed and detailed design is underway to reconstruct the Burnett River Bridge in the Wide Bay/Burnett District. The bridge was washed away as a result of Tropical Cyclone Marcia.
- The majority of 2015 event works on State-controlled roads and highways are currently targeted by DTMR to be completed by 31 December 2016, six months before the funding deadline (weather permitting).

(Source: DTMR, 31 August 2015)

3.4 Additional assistance measures

2013 and 2015 Event Betterment Funds

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

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

Betterment funding is allocated on the basis of the estimated cost of the approved projects. Should the betterment component of a project be delivered for a cost below the capped allocation, then the savings will be returned to the Betterment fund for allocation to other eligible projects, where possible.

The current status of the 2013 and 2015 Event Betterment Funds is summarised as follows:

2013 Event Betterment Fund	2015 Event Betterment Fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2013 Event Betterment Fund was allocated to 232 approved projects across 35 LGAs to improve the resilience of infrastructure to natural disasters following the 2013 events. Betterment projects include improved bridges, floodways, culverts, levees, water treatment plants and numerous roads across Queensland. The deadline for completion of works from the 2013 events, including betterment projects, passed on 30 June 2015 and councils have reported that 2013 Event Betterment projects were completed on time other than three projects impacted by excessive rainfall in 2014 and 2015. Requests for extension of time for delivery of the impacted projects have been submitted to the Commonwealth and remain under consideration. Completion of the projects has been delayed pending the Commonwealth's response to the extension requests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions of Interest (EOI) for potential projects for consideration for 2015 Event Betterment funding have been sought with initial responses requested by 31 August 2015. As at 30 September 2015, EOIs have been received for 190 projects across eight LGAs eligible for 2015 Event Betterment funding. The proposed projects principally comprise works to increase the resilience of damaged roads, culverts and floodways. Projects are being progressively prioritised to allocate the available pool of funding. Of these, submissions for 20 projects have been received by the Authority to 30 September 2015 and are currently under assessment. Delivery of 2015 betterment works will be required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements.

Other 2015 Event special funding packages

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

Package	Purpose	Status
Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (\$6 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Authority has received EOIs from six applicants worth more than \$16 million Following consultation with Emergency Management Australia, the Authority has reviewed and identified EOIs that appear consistent with the intent of the package and requested submissions from relevant councils to progress allocation of the available funding.
Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Authority has written to the four LGAs that are eligible for funding allocations (Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana and North Burnett) seeking EOIs Initial responses for funding allocations have been received and the Authority is working with relevant councils to finalise applications during October.
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"> Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) During October, DAF appointed the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) to deliver the package services. The QFF will work directly with affected primary producers to better manage business risks associated with climate variability. Work will include practical management options for future responses to natural disaster events.
Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million Category C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone LGAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) Procurement arrangements were implemented in September 2015, with agencies commencing implementation of the programs thereafter.

(Source: The Authority, DCCSDS and DAF; 30 September 2015)

3.5 Program spotlights

North Burnett Regional Council Mundubbera Aerodrome officially re-opens

North Burnett Regional Council's Mundubbera Aerodrome has been built back better thanks to funding from the 2013 Event Betterment Fund. The Mundubbera Aerodrome was officially re-opened at a community event on 26 September 2015.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad said it was important to ensure the community of North Burnett had strong and more disaster-resilient infrastructure.

"The North Burnett region has been hit heavily by natural disasters in recent years and the Mundubbera Aerodrome runway suffered almost \$2 million in damage in 2013," Ms Trad said. "The aerodrome is a critical piece of infrastructure and during natural disasters it can now be used as a coordination area to evacuate vulnerable residents to larger centres. The NDRRA funding was used to repair damage sustained in the 2013 floods and additional Betterment Funding was provided to raise the 1.2 kilometre runway to above the 2013 flood level to increase its resilience and immunity to future flood events".



North Burnett Mayor Don Waugh with Authority CEO Frankie Carroll at the opening of Mundubbera aerodrome, 26 September 2015



Above: Mundubbera aerodrome under flood in 2013 (top), and nearing completion of betterment works, August 2015 (bottom)

North Burnett Regional Council Mayor Don Waugh said this was a major milestone for the community of North Burnett to assist the region to focus on building stronger and more disaster-resilient infrastructure.

"The betterment fund has been a major success for the region, and the Mundubbera Aerodrome is an example of this. Raising the runway aims to prevent flooding on the strip in future events and ensures the aerodrome can be used in times of need as a coordination area to evacuate vulnerable residents to larger centres," Cr Waugh said. "There are significant long-term benefits which the work on the Mundubbera Aerodrome will deliver to not just the Mundubbera community, but the region. Council is keen to assist with an increase and diversification of the use of the aerodrome, and to maximise the opportunity of direct linkages to Wellcamp in Toowoomba and the international community."

"Locally sourced fill was used to construct the runway; and, at various stages, 35 Council employees; and 35 Contractors of which 40% were regionally based whilst the remainder were specialised trades that of necessity had to be sourced outside the region, were employed on the project." Cr Waugh said. "North Burnett businesses have benefitted from the project's support requirements through purchases such as concrete, gravel, pipes, fuel, mechanical repairs, accommodation and food. This project was truly a regional commitment thus ensuring monies spent stayed in local pockets wherever possible. I thank both the Queensland and Commonwealth governments for their support in helping the North Burnett community with its recovery".

The Mundubbera Aerodrome project was the last of eight key projects delivered in the North Burnett region as part of the 2013 Betterment Fund. Approximately \$3.8 million was approved for the project under the NDRRA program, including approximately \$1.9 million in Betterment funding. North Burnett Regional Council also received funding from Royalties for Regions Program that was allocated to lengthen and widen the runway, upgrade the runway lighting system, retain pilot activated lighting (PAL) for night time landing and introduce Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Arrival Procedures to assist pilots with locating the aerodrome.

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

Banana Shire Council Flagstaff Road realignment delivers value for money

Banana Shire Council's Flagstaff Road on Flagstaff Range was badly damaged in a major landslip following heavy rainfall in January 2013.

The road had also been damaged as a result of Tropical Cyclone Tasha in 2010 and the repairs from that event were completely destroyed in January 2013.

Flagstaff Road is important to the local community as it connects rural grazing properties to the townships of Theodore and Taroom. Without Flagstaff Road, the detour to get to Theodore is more than 60 kilometres.

A 180-metre section of Flagstaff Road, which runs through the Isla Gorge National Park, needed to be repaired following the landslip in 2013.

Council received engineering advice to realign the road 30 metres further into Flagstaff Range. As the road runs through the National Park, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service also did an assessment and agreed that realigning the road was the best treatment in this instance.



Major landslip damage to Flagstaff Road following the 2013 disaster events



Flagstaff Road, following completion of restoration works

The project was completed for approximately \$1.5 million, a significant saving on the original estimate for the works.

Banana Shire Council's Manager of Infrastructure Delivery Stephen Mow said the Council was able to achieve such a good value for money outcome because of its attention to detail. "The project was challenging from the start because we did not want it to happen again," Mr Mow said. "A lot of effort was put in to ensure the design reflected the area and the indicative geometry of Flagstaff Road, so it took longer than expected because we wanted to make sure that the road would stand up to any future event."

"Consultation with all stakeholders was extensive including local landholders, Indigenous groups, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and the Authority. Council had a dedicated project team that ensured the project was delivered on time, on budget and to the required quality standards," he said.

Work started on the Flagstaff Road realignment project in November 2014 and was completed in May 2015.

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

Mount Isa City Council Mount Isa rebuilds quickly

As Queensland faced a run of unprecedented natural disasters in successive years from 2011 to 2013, Mount Isa City Council avoided any major damage impacts across this time.

However, when the rainfall and flooding came as a result of Tropical Cyclone Fletcher in early 2014, Mount Isa faced a reconstruction bill of approximately \$4.5 million.

As it was the first time Council had a reconstruction program to complete since the Authority was established in 2011, the Authority and Council immediately worked closely together to progress the program. The Authority trained Council representatives on data collection processes, which helped Council to build its restoration submission.

Mount Isa is due to complete delivery of the 2014 event program in October 2015, just seven months after it commenced on-ground works. Mount Isa City Council Chief Executive Officer Emilio Cianetti said Council was very pleased to be able to complete the program so quickly.

Mount Isa was also hit for a second consecutive year in January 2015 by heavy rainfall and flooding. Mr Cianetti said Council would now turn its attention to delivering that restoration program, which is also estimated at approximately \$4.5 million.

The Mount Isa City Council has worked with the Authority to divide the program into three separate submissions to address the differing aspects of the three Indigenous tribal areas damaged in the 2015 event.

Council advised that with the emergent works from this year's event already completed, delivery of the bulk of the 2015 program will follow on from the 2014 program and is expected to be finished in mid-2016.



Above: Reconstruction works completed as part of Mt Isa City Council's 2014 event restoration program at Julius Road (top), Gunpowder Road (middle) and Kajabbi Road (bottom)

Left: parts of Kajabbi Road following damage from Tropical Cyclone Fletcher in 2014.



Section four: Communications



4.0 Communications

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

4.1 Communicating progress

Media analysis

There has been a total of 131 media items in September 2015 (82 print – 61%, 17 TV – 13%, 32 radio – 26%), which reached a cumulative audience of 2.6 million people, with the focus this month being on ongoing recovery efforts from Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from natural disaster events, including articles in The Australian, Balonne Beacon, Barcoo Independent, Caboolture News, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Telegraph, Chinchilla News, The Courier-Mail, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone News Weekly, Gladstone Observer, Gold Coast Sun, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, Innisfail Advocate, Longreach Leader, North West Star, Queensland Country Life, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Stanthorpe Border Post, Tamborine Times, Townsville Bulletin, Toowoomba Chronicle, Warwick Daily News, The Valley Weekender, and The Sunday Mail; TV coverage on the ABC, Channel 10, Nine, WIN, and Seven networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4BC Brisbane, 4KZ Innisfail, 4RO Rockhampton, and River FM Ipswich.

Making news this month was the official opening ceremony at the re-opening of the Mundubbera Aerodrome in North Burnett. The completion of upgrades to the vital regional airport was made possible through the 203 Event Betterment Fund under Category D of the NDRRA and received coverage in Central and North Burnett Times and the Bundaberg News Mail.

Engagement activities

On 8 September 2015, **Queensland Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad** along with **Authority Chief Executive Officer Frankie Carroll** travelled to Canberra to meet with the **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss** and the Federal **Minister for Justice Michael Keenan**. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss national natural disaster funding reforms. While in Canberra, the Deputy Premier also met with **Shadow Attorney-General Mark Dreyfuss** to discuss the same topic.

Communications

The Authority's website provides information to the public and continues to be enhanced with ongoing updates, including information about Betterment projects and current recovery efforts. There have been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 30 September 2015, total website visits amounted to 476,746 - a 1% increase since last month. (See Figure 4.1.1)

In August, the Authority received an additional 37 calls to its dedicated phone line and 546 additional pieces of written correspondence were received. (See Figure 4.1.2)

Fig. 4.1.1 Website traffic

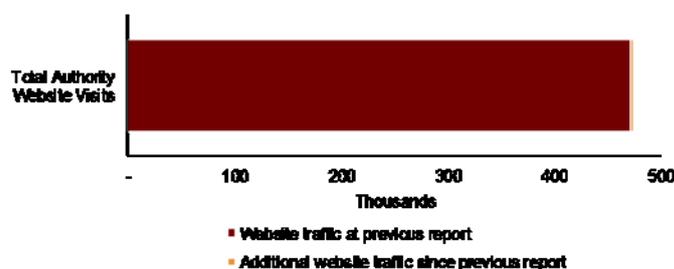
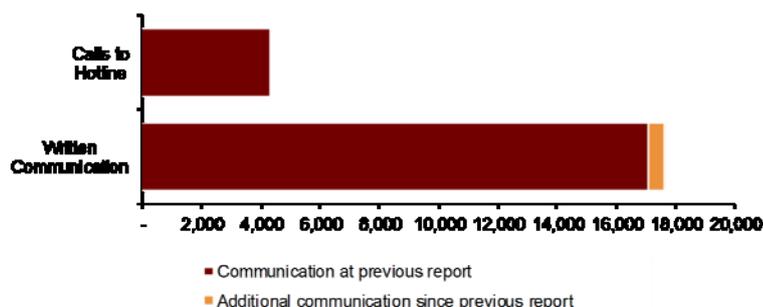


Fig. 4.1.2 Communications



(Source: the Authority at 30 September 2015)

Homestead gets new cap

Byfield locals celebrate funding

By AMY HAYDOCK

WHEN you visit the Raspberry Creek Homestead in Byfield, one thing that stands out more than anything else, is the value of community. The locals say there's not a day that goes by without something taking place at the historical building, which copped a bit of damage after ex-cyclone Marcia struck in February. About 20 locals met at the homestead on Monday along with Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga and

Livingstone Shire councillor's Jan Kelly, Glenda Mather and Adam Belot to celebrate \$16,000 in funding from the QRAA. QRAA's supports the delivery of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement (NDRRA) assistance for primary producers, small businesses and non-profit organisations, jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments. Homestead secretary Wilhelmina Newman said a brand new roof was put on the building last year. "Our homestead is a social place that holds many different events and activities like craft, yoga, movie club, library, school

holiday programs and more," she said. They also received funding from council to help paint the building.



COMMUNITY FOCUS: Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga, councillor's Adam Belot, Glenda Mather and Jan Kelly with Byfield locals at the Raspberry Creek Homestead, which received State Government funding for roof repairs after ex-cyclone Marcia. PHOTO: AMY HAYDOCK

Capricorn Coast Mirror, 23 September 2015

Right way for council roads

No Taj Mahals from Cr Anne Seymour

By CHRIS BURNS

LOCAL councils have to excel at basic necessities during tough times for rate-payers. That is why it was important to make Mount Isa's roads perfect and as cheaply as possible, according to councillor Anne Seymour. "Streets are our assets, we're a back-to-basics council," the chair of works said. "We can't be building Taj Mahals." Employees were maintaining water pipes during road repairs. In the full council meeting last week Cr Seymour said roads would be rescaled to feel as good as the recently fixed Camooweal Street but after the water pipes were fixed. To save money for rate-payers council employees

were trying to finish projects before they worked on other areas. Otherwise it would be a greater cost to return to the incomplete project, Cr Seymour said. "There's a great network between plumbing, engineering and the works department that are going into them and repairing the main water pipes." Infrastructure was old and worn out for a variety of reasons including weather, road trains and heavy machinery driving on the roads, and perhaps even regular Mount Isa Mine blasting, Cr Seymour said. She said the council allocated \$1.7 million in its updated September budget for pavement and drains, with \$114,000 spent so far. Mount Isa Mayor Tony

McGrady said a rural road network grant from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority had been approved. The council will be given \$10 million within three years to use on rural road restoration. "A lot of these projects have been a long time coming," Cr McGrady said. Current road projects included Sunset Drive and Simpson Street. Asphalt resurfacing for Simpson Street and Sunset Drive should begin in late October, according to a council technical services report. The pedestrian ramps in Simpson, Camooweal and Isa Streets are also nearly completed.

North West Star, 19 September 2015

Mundubbera airport reopens this week

THE Mundubbera Aerodrome will officially open on Saturday in conjunction with the 100 Years of Local Government in Mundubbera celebrations. North Burnett Mayor Don Waugh invited community members to attend this historic event and meet the many people who made this project a success. "There are significant long-term benefits which the work on the Mundubbera Aerodrome will deliver to not just the

Mundubbera community, but the region," he said. "Council is keen to assist with an increase and diversification of the use of the aerodrome, and to maximise the opportunity of direct linkages to Wellcamp in Toowoomba and the international community." Locally sourced fill was used to construct the runway and, at various stages, 35 council employees and 35 contractors were employed on the project. "North Burnett businesses have benefited

from the project's support requirements through purchases such as concrete, gravel, pipes, fuel, mechanical repairs, accommodation and food," Cr Waugh said. "This project was truly a regional commitment, thus ensuring monies spent stayed in local pockets wherever possible, with this model expected to continue with the aerodrome upgrade projects at Gayndah and Monto." The ceremony starts at 11.30am at the aerodrome.

Central and North Burnett Times, 24 September 2015



UPGRADE: Mayor Don Waugh welcomes all to the opening. PHOTO: SHIRLEY WAY

\$20k to get ready

Council receives funds ahead of storm season

By Dan Wilcott

SOUTHERN Downs Regional Council has been allocated \$19,566 in funding ahead of the coming storm season. The funding is part of a state-wide RACQ campaign, with the Palaszczuk Government to deliver \$2 million to local councils to help them prepare ahead of the looming storm season. The RACQ Get Ready Queensland campaign is a disaster preparedness and resilience building program that works with individuals, community groups, emergency services, businesses and schools. Mayor Peter Blundell said the council was working on an activities plan that may include All Hazards Information Booths in Stanthorpe and Warwick during Get Ready Week in October. "In response to a series of disaster events in the Southern Downs region over recent years, council has undertaken a lot of work with the community to build resilience and capacity through disaster preparedness activities," Cr Blundell said. "Council's disaster management staff work with schools across the



STORM SEASON: RACQ have launched a state-wide campaign to educate residents on the importance of disaster preparedness. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

region providing presentations on disaster preparedness in the local community." More information on what activities will be available to Southern Downs residents will be available once the activities plan has been finalised and approved. In the meantime residents can

access a range of disaster management information from the SDRC website www.sdr.gov.au including emergency contacts, flood fact and information sheets, flood guides and bushfire preparedness information. RACQ Get Ready Week runs from October 12 to 18.

Warwick Daily News, 24 September 2015



Mayor's Desk by Cr Don Waugh

Our crews are commencing flood repair work in the Monto area in the next couple of weeks. As part of this column each fortnight we will provide a list of roads programmed to be worked on in the coming month. We are looking to take a very measured approach to the repairs following from TC Marcia and coordinate the flood repairs into other planned works that Council has this financial year. Following TC Marcia the Commonwealth Government approved an additional package under NDRRA which included \$20 million in Betterment Funding jointly funded by the Qld and Commonwealth Governments. We are a big supporter of this program and congratulate both governments for the continuation of this program. North Burnett has several examples of the value of this program, both big and small. While we are very proud of the projects like the Gayndah Water Intake and the raising of Gayndah-Mundubbera Rd we are also proud of some of the smaller Betterment projects like the concrete floodway on Boondooma Rd. This was a section of

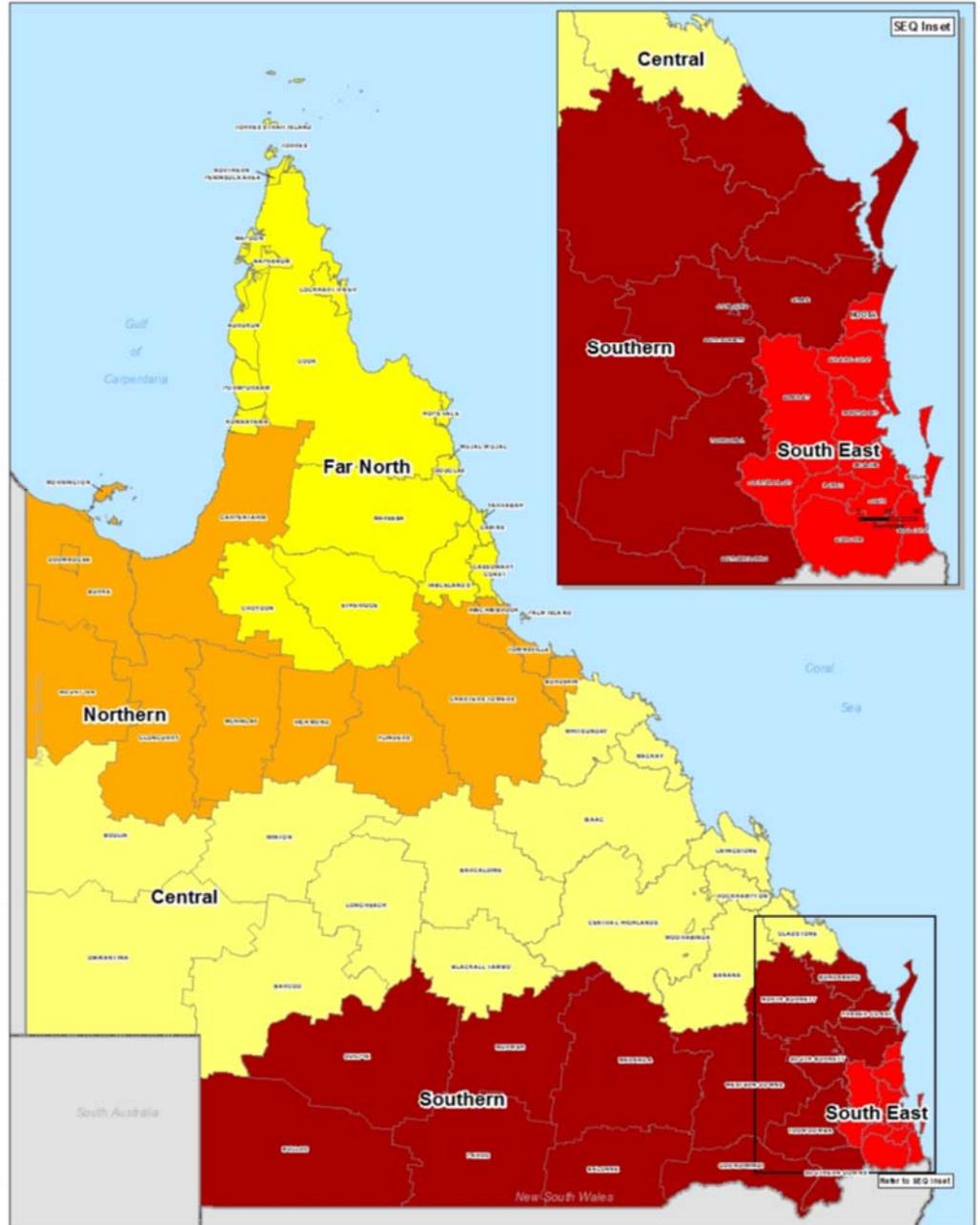
road that needed some work every time we had rainfall to patch potholes and clear silt that washed onto the road, since the works were completed there has not been the need to repair this section of road and traffic has been unaffected. It is these types of projects that Council is focussing on for the 2015 Betterment Fund. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority required Council to complete an Expression of Interest for Betterment Projects as the first stage of the assessment process. Council has submitted projects focussed on upgrading gravel floodways to concrete, and cement stabilising approaches to concrete floodways, concentrating on School Bus Routes and Industry routes for these projects. We look forward to working with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to improve the resilience of our Road network for the future.

Central and North Burnett Times, 3 September 2015

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	Morrington Shire Council	
	MICC	Mount Isa City Council	
	PIASC	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	
	RSC	Richmond Shire Council	
	TCC	Townsville City Council	
	Central Queensland (CQ)	BanSC	Banana Shire Council
		BarRC	Barcaldine Regional Council
BarSC		Barcoo Shire Council	
BTRC		Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	
BOSC		Boulia Shire Council	
CHRC		Central Highlands Regional Council	
DSC		Diamantina Shire Council	
GSC		Gladstone Regional Council	
IRC		Isaac Regional Council	
LSC		Livingstone Shire Council	
LRC		Longreach Regional Council	
MacRC		Mackay Regional Council	
RRC		Rockhampton Regional Council	
WRC		Whitsunday Regional Council	
WSC		Winton Shire Council	
WASC		Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council	
Southern Queensland (SQ)		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

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

As at 5/02/2014

