

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

CEO Monthly Report

February 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 February 2017 Monthly Report – the 72nd 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 February 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, \$631 million has been approved by QRA and additional submissions worth \$63 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. \$376 million (54%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 31 December 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.

The February report profiles the restoration of Normanton Airport, a vital piece of infrastructure for remote communities in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The airport is back in action following essential repairs to restore the runway damaged by natural disasters in 2014 and 2016. The report also highlights the reconstruction of the Pascoe River crossing on Portland Road in Lockhart River. The crossing provides the sole access for surrounding communities to the Peninsula Development Road and Cairns and can be cut for up to four months from flooding in the wet season. Following Cyclone Nathan in 2014, this vital crossing has been restored to be more resilient with a combination of NDRRA funding, council contributions and additional State contributions from the Community Resilience Fund. The February report also profiles how the Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads is building a more resilient state road network in north-west Queensland through contributing additional funding to improve the capacity of the Flinders Highway between Julia Creek and Cloncurry to withstand flooding from Canal Creek.

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

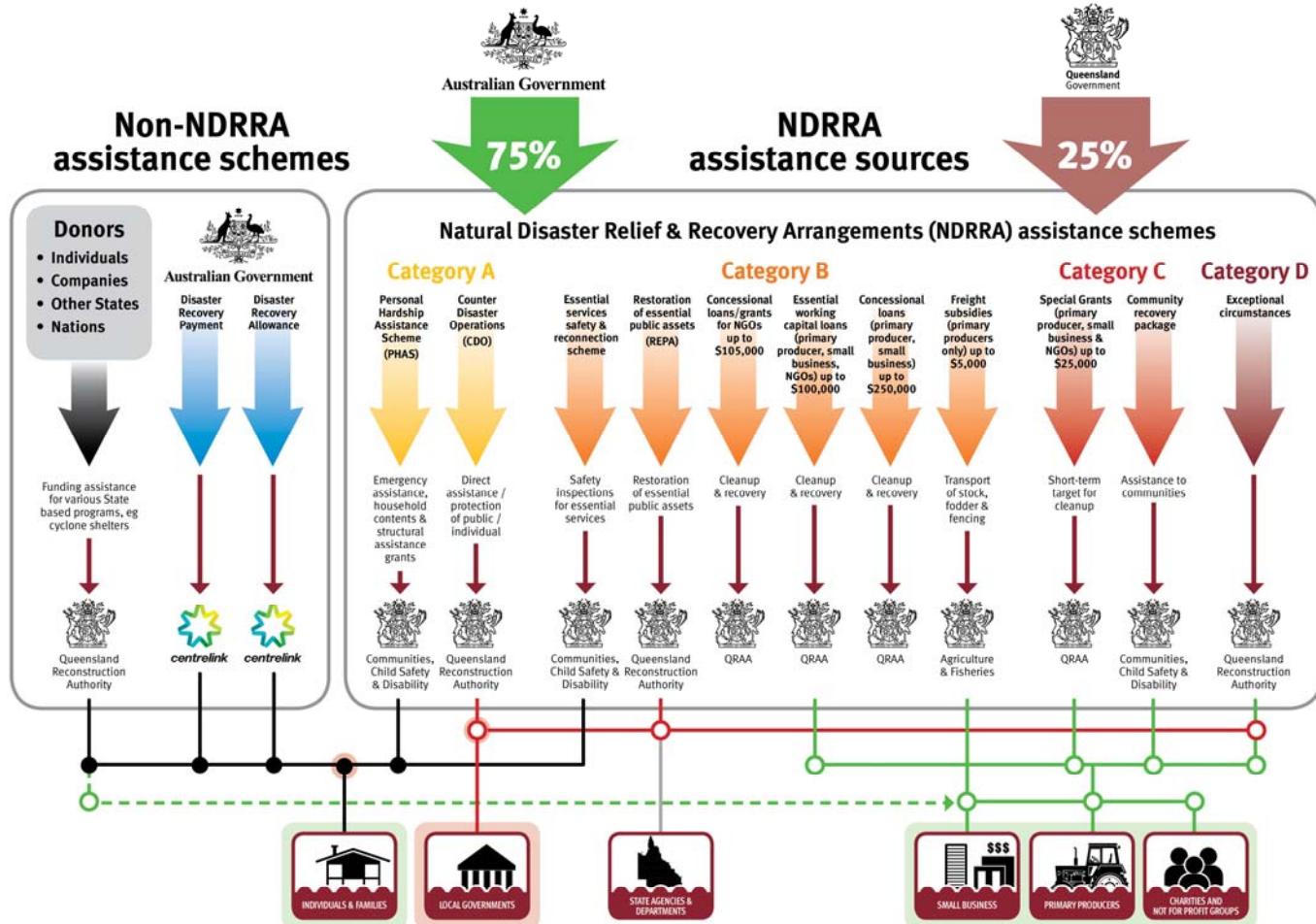


2.0 Disaster Assistance

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.

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 phase¹ and completed works from a further 9 events from the 2014 event period are also in the acquittal phase¹.

Since the last report one event was activated for NDRRA relief measures—*Far North Queensland Low, 8-11 January 2017*.

The figures opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2011 to 2017 event periods managed by QRA².

2017 events

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

- Far North Queensland Low, 8-11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding, 13-20 September 2016
- Central Queensland Severe Weather, 15-20 July 2016

2016 events

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

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

2015 events

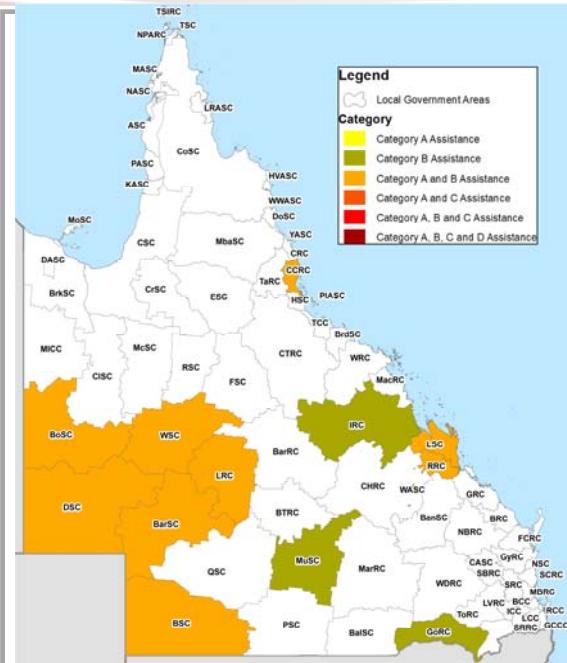
(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2017, with final acquittal due by March 2018)

- 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



2016 events



2015 events



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[#]
- 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)

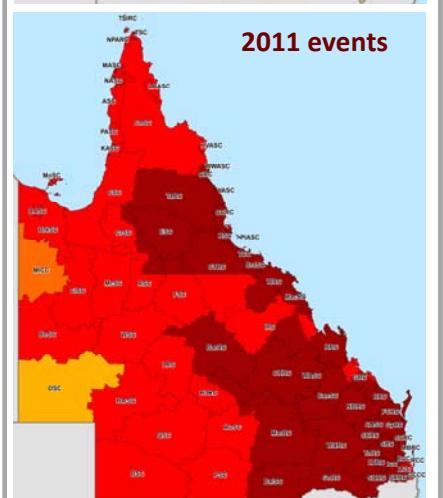
- South West Flooding, April 2011
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding Event, 28 February 2011
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on 2 February 2011
- Queensland Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Tasha and Anthony, December 2010 to February 2011.

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.

[#] Three 2013 Event Betterment projects received extensions of time for delivery, with final acquittal due by 31 March 2017. All other 2013 events 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

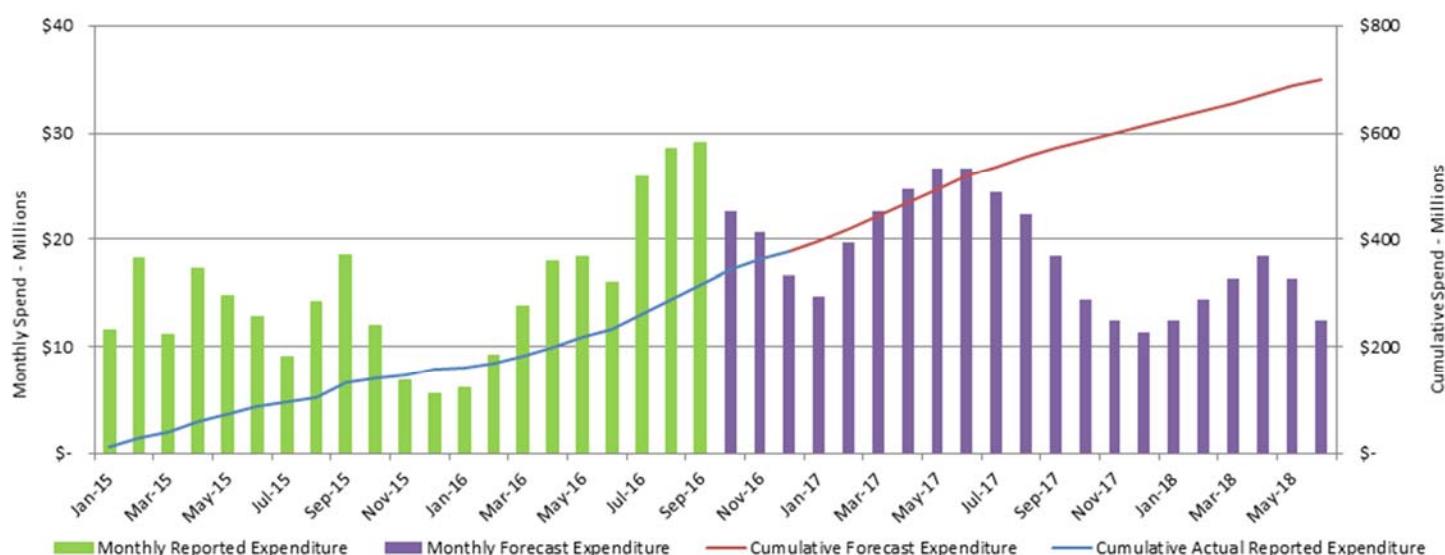
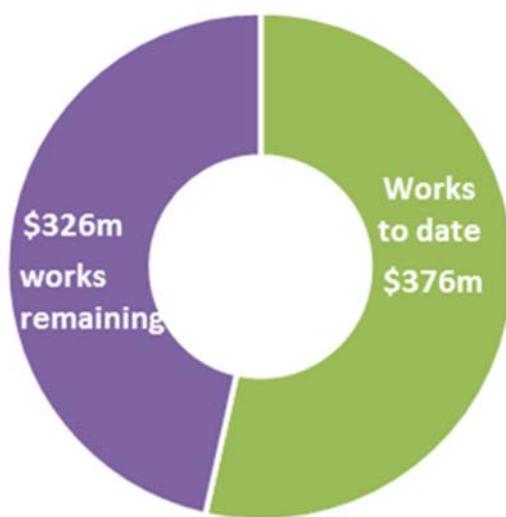
Since the last report, QRA's Delivery Program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$892 million in submissions have been received, an increase of \$11 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$631 million has been approved, an increase of \$7 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$63 million are with QRA and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$376 million (54 percent) of the Delivery Program has been reported to QRA at 31 December 2016 as in progress or delivered.

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecast monthly costs to completion at 31 December 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 January 2017)

3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

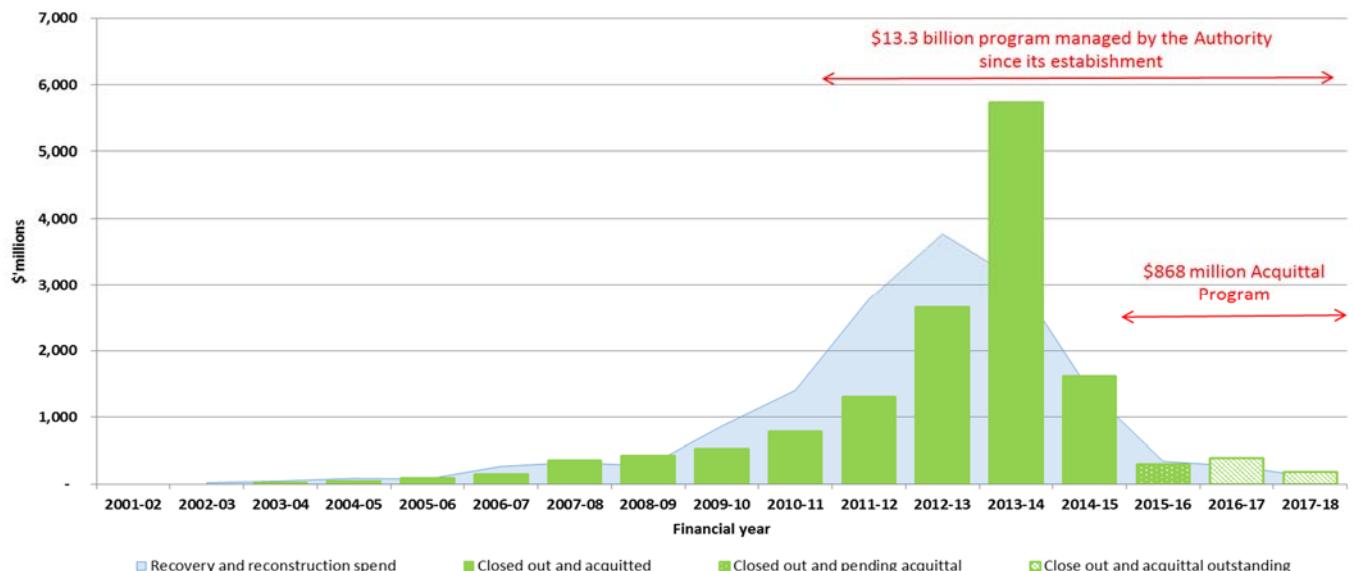
Acquittal Program status

The next Commonwealth Claim is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2017. Having closed-out all submissions due for inclusion in the claim, QRA is currently managing the claim audit review. The 2015-16 Commonwealth Claim includes final works from the 2014 events and components of 2015 and 2016 works 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
2015 Events Betterment Fund (\$20 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster. The normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard is funded under Category B NDRRA and the incremental cost to 'better' the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard is funded by a capped allocation from the Betterment fund and Council contributions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. To 31 January 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 submissions with a total project value of over \$40 million, including \$20 million in Betterment funding have been approved 39 projects with a total project value of \$8.7 million, including \$6.1 million Betterment funding have been reported as complete. Key 2015 Event Betterment projects completed to date include 15 projects for NBRC and 11 projects for Somerset Regional Council. 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. Delivery of 2015 betterment works will be required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements, unless any requested Extensions of Time are approved by the Commonwealth prior.

3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QRA received EOIs from seven applicants for more than \$16 million Nine submissions worth \$6 million have been approved across the seven applicants, fully allocating the program funding. Key projects allocated funding include the clean-up and restoration of Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton which was severely damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia. QRA is monitoring the delivery of works. Any project savings identified may be considered for reallocation to eligible works. Delivery of works is anticipated by 30 June 2017.
Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QRA received EOIs for more than \$1.7 million from three of the four LGAs eligible for funding allocation. Five submissions worth \$1 million have since been approved and delivered across the three applicants, fully allocating the program funding.
Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IRO program has been managed by the Queensland Farmers Federation on behalf of Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) IRO officers are located with Growcom, Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation, AgForce and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland IROs have now completed delivery of a range of support activities delivered including workshops, field visits, soil testing and feed sample analysis work.
Category C Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone LGAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) Livingstone, Gladstone, North Burnett and Banana councils and Rockhampton Uniting Care Community are delivering Community Development and Personal Support & General Counselling programs across each of the five affected communities. Relationships Australia and Uniting Care Community are delivering Personal Support and General Counselling services. The final payment has been made on this program, which exhausts the Category C Community Recovery Package.

(Source: QRA, DCCSDS and DAF; 31 January 2017)

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

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.

Disaster Recovery Coordinator guide

A draft guide for the role of Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) is being finalised and is scheduled for distribution to local and district disaster management groups in February 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. QRA has received all nominations for the DRC Register and will maintain this information commensurate with the role of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRPPC).

Strategic Policy Framework for Riverine Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience

QRA is developing a strategic policy framework for Riverine Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience to support a state-wide best-practice approach. The policy framework is a key recommendation from the Disaster Management Reviews conducted in 2015. The draft framework will be submitted to the Queensland Disaster Management Committee for endorsement in the coming months.

Floodplain management

Work has begun to develop the Queensland Flood Risk Management Implementation and Capacity Building Program to enable the QRA to support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans. Options for the development and delivery of this program will be developed in conjunction with the Queensland Flood Resilience Coordination Committee, which includes the Local Government Association of Queensland.

Disaster Management Reviews

In 2015, a series of reviews were conducted into disaster management operations following Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia. An Interdepartmental Committee was established to review 160 recommendations from these reviews, including KPMG's operational review of QRA.

The QRA review identified 14 recommendations relating to operational and policy-related matters, including the need for clarity in the disaster management framework on the roles and responsibilities of the QRA.

As at 1 February 2017, 11 of the 14 recommendations have been completed. The three remaining recommendations are progressing:

- Technical leadership in Commonwealth funding negotiations
- Greater role in the prioritisation of disaster recovery funding
- The QRA assume stewardship for a central repository for the collection and storage of whole-of-government disaster management data.

Flood warning

QRA continues to support Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to engage with LGAs to review the adequacy and appropriateness of the flood warning networks that provide data to the BoM. In February, QRA will commence work with BoM to undertake an audit of the Queensland Flood Warning Network asset register to identify infrastructure where the ownership and responsibility of the asset is not clearly identified. The audit is expected to take approximately three months to complete.

Draft Flood Gauge Network Investment Plans were developed for 39 priority LGAs in 2016. The QRA is working with these councils and the BoM to finalise these plans. Initial plans are now being developed to prioritise the remaining LGAs. This work is expected to be completed in 2017 and will support LGAs in prioritising new and upgraded flood gauge infrastructure.

Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study

The Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study has been several years in development, using the best available technology and techniques as overseen by an independent panel of experts. The Flood Study is nearing completion and endorsement from the Technical Working Group. The Flood Study will support the development of a floodplain management strategy, which is scheduled for completion in December 2017.

3.3 Program spotlights

Carpentaria Shire Council Normanton airport back serving remote communities

The Normanton Airport, which serves remote communities in the Gulf of Carpentaria, is back in action following essential repairs to restore the runway damaged by repeated natural disasters.

The Normanton Airport connects the regional centre of Carpentaria Shire with other key regional centres in Queensland, including Cairns, Doomadgee, Karumba, Mount Isa, Burketown and Mornington Island.

Carpentaria Shire Council was activated for NDRRA assistance following repeated natural disasters in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016, with an estimated public infrastructure damage from these events of approximately \$120 million.

The Normanton Airport suffered repeated damage during the natural disasters of 2014 and 2016 causing a safety hazard and making the runway unsuitable for some commercial flights.

Works to repair the runway began in late April 2016 and included stabilising and resealing it to ensure a smooth and consistent landing surface for aircraft.

Carpentaria Shire Council also carried out complementary works to Normanton Airport to increase its resilience to future disasters. These works included stabilising and resealing additional areas of the runway, with additional line-marking, earthworks and resealing of the taxiway and apron area.

Carpentaria Shire Council Mayor Cr Jack Bawden said the restored Normanton Airport is a vital piece of infrastructure for communities in the Gulf.

"The damage to the runway made landings unsafe and essential repairs were urgently required," Cr Bawden said

"It was also important to us that the repairs wouldn't leave us vulnerable to the next flood.

"That's why we delivered the NDRRA works in conjunction with complementary works to increase the resilience of the runway and achieve a greater value for money outcome.

"I think this type of approach in looking outside the box is practical and innovative, which allows remote councils to provide solutions for government and the community.

"It allows assets to be reinstated to a more resilient standard that will save money in the long term and return services back to the local community faster and cheaper in the short term so they can get on with focusing on their livelihood and other daily demands," he said.

Carpentaria Shire Council's project for the Normanton Airport was completed in August 2016.

Council was able to achieve an approximate 20 per cent saving on the project by optimising construction efficiencies with complementary works. The estimated final cost of works funded under the NDRRA is approximately \$1 million.



Works to repair the Normanton Airport runway included stabilising, resealing and additional line-marking

3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Restoration of the Pascoe River Crossing to be more resilient

The remote Indigenous community of Lockhart River in Far North Queensland is no stranger to natural disasters, having been impacted by five events in successive years since 2011.

The combined cost of repairs to Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council's infrastructure from these events is estimated at more than \$25 million, with the majority of damage occurring in the early hours of 20 March 2015, when Category 4 Tropical Cyclone Nathan crossed the coast at Cape Melville, just south of the Cape York community.

High velocity winds and more than 450mm of rain soaked the region, downing trees and power lines, flooding creeks and rivers to bursting, and severely damaging the local road network.

One of the worst affected roads was the vital Portland Road, which provides the sole access for the surrounding community to the Peninsula Developmental Road and Cairns.

Wet season flooding can reach levels that completely cut the unsealed road to Lockhart River for three to four months. Following Cyclone Nathan, the floodway at the Pascoe River was submerged by 14 metres, causing severe damage to its linked concrete slabs and washout of its rock protection.

Council engaged experienced firm Black and More to identify a modern engineering solution for the flood-prone crossing that would withstand future flooding and allow the road to reopen sooner.

The project has replaced the damaged floodway with a raised single concrete slab, and rebuilt its approaches to increase the flood immunity of the Pascoe River Crossing. The width of the 110-metre crossing has been increased from 5.5 metres to 7.5 metres, accommodating two lanes. Flood level indicators on spring-loaded mountings that will withstand flooding have also been added to increase safety.

The scope of the project will significantly increase the resilience of this vital access road, enabling it to be reopened to traffic as soon as flood waters subside. The estimated cost of NDRRA restoration works to the crossing were approximately \$1.4 million, with complementary funding coming from Council and the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning's Community Resilience Fund.

Works began in November 2016 and were completed on 21 December 2016. In addition, further upgrades to Portland Road are progressively being carried out by TMR.



Pascoe Crossing in flood



During works - November 2016



Completed works – 21 December 2016

3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

TMR

Building the resilience of the Flinders Highway



Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is building a more resilient state road network with a long-term solution to keep a key north-west Queensland link open during the wet season.

The Flinders Highway is an important inland road link between Townsville on the Pacific coast and Cloncurry in the west.

In the Julia Creek–Cloncurry section, a major creek branches out over a flood plain and crosses the highway in three places.

Overland flows from Canal Creek have changed over the years, leading to silt build-up in culverts along the highway that require clearing after heavy rain each summer season.

The site was affected by flooding caused by the Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough in December 2015–January 2016, with emergent works undertaken to reopen the Flinders Highway to traffic.

Rather than continuing to clear the same road section each year, TMR worked with the QRA on a proposal to divert the creek to take the main water flow away from the road.

The project will also involve removing existing silt, reinstating rock protection on creek bends and reinstating fencing.

Rather than being taken off site, as in previous years, silt will be used to backfill the existing channel to provide further protection to the road.

Eligible reconstruction works will be funded under the NDRRA. Complementary funding will be used to cover other project costs such as digging the new channel.

The project is expected to be completed by May 2017, weather permitting.

Opposite: Canal Creek—Typical flooding (top); Canal Creek—Typical silt and debris build-up (middle); Canal Creek—Typical emergent works (bottom)

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 292 media items in January 2017 (92 print – 31%, 49 TV – 17%, 87 radio – 30%, 64 online – 22%), which reached a cumulative audience of approximately 11.7 million people.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from recent and previous natural disaster events including articles in The Australian Financial Review, Balonne Beacon, Bowen Independent, Bundaberg Guardian, Cairns Post, Canungra Times, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Queensland News, Central Telegraph, Chinchilla News & Murilla Advertiser, The Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Warwick Daily News, Dalby Herald, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone Observer, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, High Country Herald, Innisfail Advocate, Ipswich Advertiser, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, North West News, Oakey Champion, Queensland Country Life, Queensland Times, Rural Weekly, South Burnett Times, South-East Advertiser, South-West News, Stanthorpe Border Post, Sunshine Coast Daily, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin, Weekend Australian, Western Star and the Western Times; Internet coverage at abc.net.au, blackwaterherald.com.au, brisbanetimes.com.au, couriermail.com.au, cairnspost.com.au, dailym Mercury.com.au, frasercoastchronicle.com.au, goldcoastbulletin.com.au, gympietimes.com.au, themorningbulletin.com.au, news-mail.com.au, queenslandtimes.com.au, sunshinecoastdaily.com.au, theaustralian.com.au, thechronicle.com.au and warwickdailynews.com.au; TV coverage on ABC News 24, Sky News, Channels Seven, Nine, WIN and Ten networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4BC Brisbane, 4CA Cairns, 4KQ Brisbane, 4RO Rockhampton, 4WK Toowoomba.

Making news in January 2017 was the commencement of works for Ipswich City Council's Category D project for Sapling Pocket at Pine Mountain, which saw articles in the Ipswich Advertiser and Queensland Times.

Also making news was the joint State and Federal announcement of additional funding for Gladstone Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council and Banana Shire Council for projects under the 2015 Betterment Fund, which saw articles in Central and North Burnett Times, Gladstone Observer, Bundaberg News Mail and the Queensland Times.

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 January 2017, total website visits amounted to 511,894. (*See Figure 5.1.1*)

In January, we received an additional 21 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 103 pieces of written correspondence (*See Figure 5.1.2*)

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

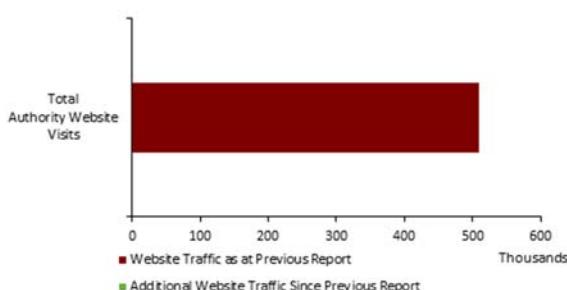
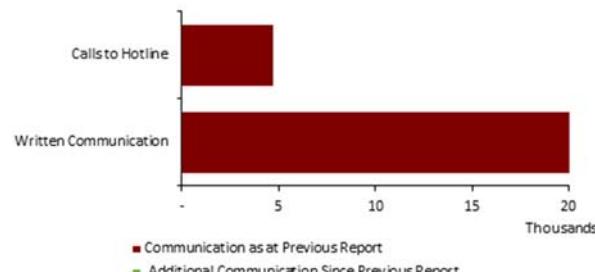


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



Source: QRA at 31 December 2016

Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

Region	Local Government Areas (LGA's)
Far North Queensland (FNQ)	ASC Aurukun Shire Council CRC Cairns Regional Council CCRC Cassowary Coast Regional Council CoSC Cook Shire Council CrSC 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 CTR C Charters Towers Regional Council CISC Cloncurry Shire Council DASC Doodmadgee 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)	BalSC 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 GRG 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 WDRC Western Downs Regional Council
South East Queensland (SEQ)	BCC Brisbane City Council GCC Gold Coast City Council ICC Ipswich City Council LVR 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

