

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

May 2016

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

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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 May 2016 Monthly Report – the 63rd 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 that 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.

Since the last report, the Commonwealth has indicated that it will defer payment of the funding due following lodgement of the 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim in March 2016 until it has undertaken assurance activities over the claim. The Authority understands that these assurance activities are yet to commence and is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to progress the review and release the funding in a timely manner.

The Authority has also received the Commonwealth's agreement for extensions of time for delivery of the 2014 event program of works for four drought-affected local government areas. These councils - Barcardine, Croydon, Etheridge and Longreach - have received extensions ranging between four and six months beyond 30 June 2016 to complete works impacted by water shortages. Two 2013 Event betterment projects for Central Highlands Regional Council have also received additional extensions of time for delivery to 31 December 2016.

With the deadline nearing for completion of other 2014 events works, the Authority is working with delivery agents to ensure delivery of relevant works by 30 June 2016, as well as progress delivery of the 2015 event program and provide advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation for the more recent 2016 events. Following the end of the 2016 disaster season, 33 local government areas in Queensland have been activated for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) assistance as a result of six disaster events in the period.

Of the estimated \$970 million program of works for the 24 events from the 2014, 2015 and 2016 disaster periods in the delivery phase, \$739 million has been approved by the Authority to 30 April 2016. Additional submissions worth \$106 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information. \$466 million (48 percent) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to the Authority at 31 March 2016 as in progress or delivered.

During April, the Authority continued 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.

The April report highlights how betterment works on the Weipa-Mapoon road came through with flying colours when put to the test just three months after completion and continue to provide uninterrupted access for Mapoon residents. The report also profiles the finalisation of Cassowary Coast Regional Council's \$156 million program of reconstruction works after four years of successive natural disasters, and the substantial completion of the 2015 event restoration program for Department of Transport and Main Roads' North West District more than one year earlier than the NDRRA delivery deadline.

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
Acting 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.

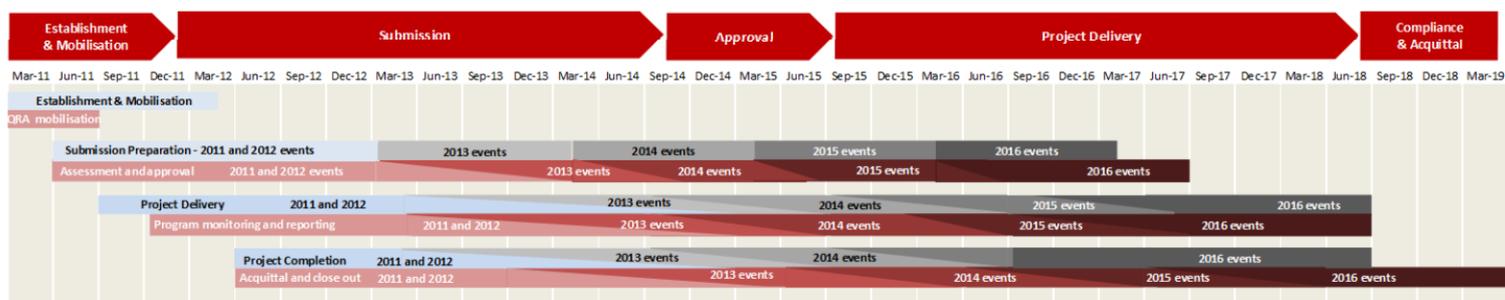
As part of its role, the Authority administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works, Restoration of Essential Public Assets, Category C and Category D assistance to State Departments and Agencies (SDA) and Local Government Authorities (LGA). Since its establishment in February 2011, the Authority has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 58 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 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 24 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 event periods are currently in both the delivery and acquittal phases.

On 24 March 2016, the Authority submitted the audited claim for NDRRA financial assistance to acquit more than \$1.6 billion of eligible state expenditure arising on works completed by 20 June 2015 in relation to the 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 event programs of work.

With the deadline nearing for completion of the majority of 2014 events works, the Authority is working with delivery agents to ensure delivery of relevant works by 30 June 2016, as well as progress delivery of the 2015 event program and provide advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation for the more recent 2016 events.

The Authority 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.

Section two:
Disaster Assistance



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 58 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 24 disasters from the 2014 to 2016 event periods are currently in the delivery and acquittal phases¹.

The maps opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2011 to 2016 event periods managed by the Authority. During April, 12 LGAs were activated for NDRRA relief measures for the two most recent 2016 events.

2016 events

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

- Far North and North West Queensland Tropical Low, 14-18 March 2016
- Western Queensland Trough, 7-11 March 2016
- Central Coast Surface Trough, 4-8 February 2016
- Central Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall & Flooding, 2-4 February 2016
- Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough – 20-31 December 2015
- Fernvale Severe Storm, 27 October 2015.

2015 events

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

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

2014 events

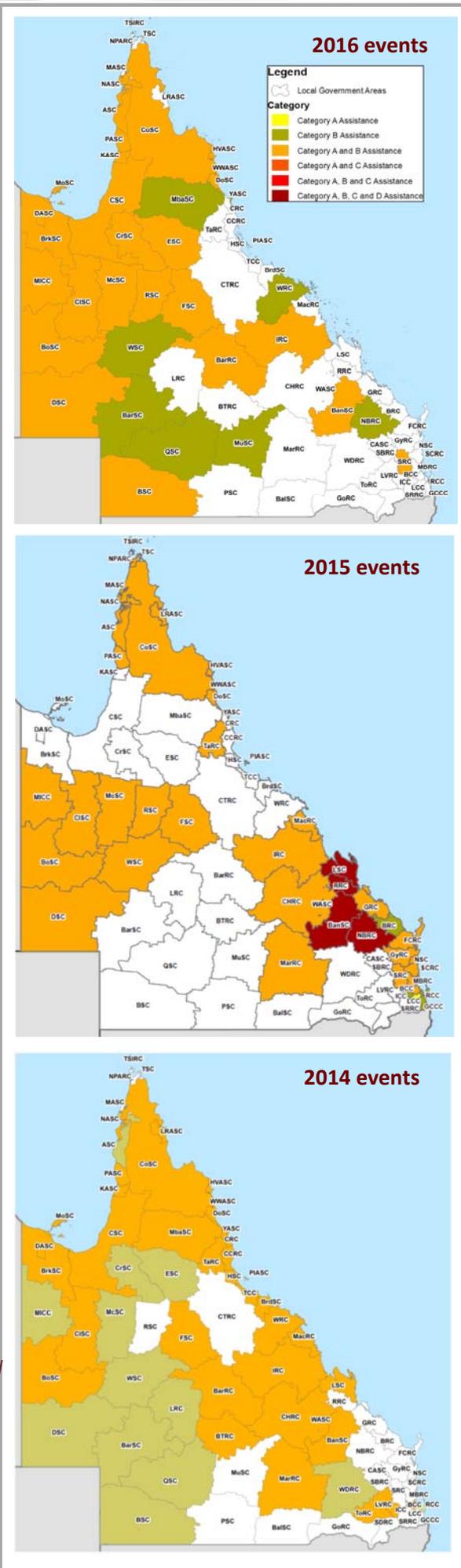
(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2016, with final acquittal due by March 2017)

- 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 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 and Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013
- Central & Southern Queensland Low, 25 February - 5 March 2013.



2.2 Events managed by the Authority (cont.)

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 March 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 and Tropical Cyclones Tasha and Anthony, December 2010 to February 2011 *.

2007-2010 events managed by the Authority

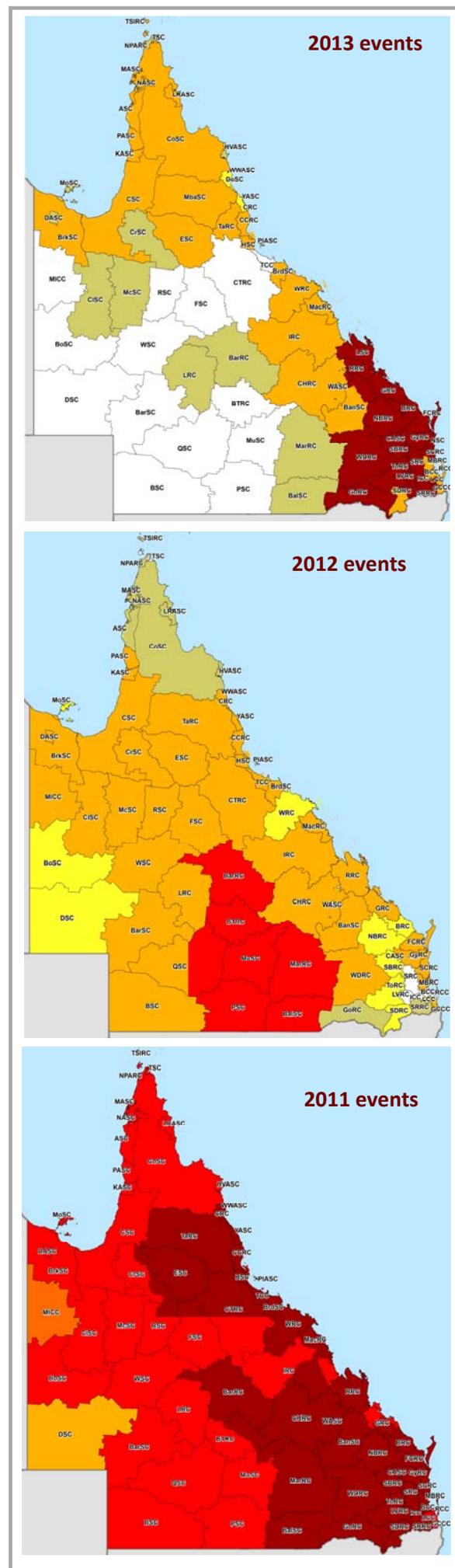
(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- 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 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 December 2007
- South East and North Coast Queensland East Coast Low, August 2007.

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 after the end of the financial year in which the works were completed to acquit the works (acquittal phase). Acquittal occurs through lodgement of an annual claim to the Commonwealth and is required to secure reimbursement of the Commonwealth's share of eligible expenditure.

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.

Measures relevant to the 2014 and 2015 events that are still in the delivery and acquittal phase are 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.

Other active Category D measures

- The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to an extended **Day Labour** Trial for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 events, which enables councils to deliver restoration works with their own workforce on condition that they provide evidence of savings in both time and cost
- Three projects funded under the **\$80 million Category D Betterment fund** in relation to **2013 Events** received extensions of time for delivery beyond 30 June 2015.

Section three:

Program Status



3.0 Program Status

3.1 Recent developments

On 24 March 2016, the Authority submitted Queensland’s \$1.6 billion audited claim for NDRRA financial assistance in relation to the 2014-15 financial year. Following release of the 2016-17 Federal Budget, the Commonwealth has indicated that it will defer payment of more than \$1 billion funding due to the State on the claim until it has undertaken assurance activities. The Authority understands that these assurance activities are yet to commence and is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to progress the review and release of the funding in a timely manner.

Since the last report, the Authority has received the Commonwealth’s agreement for extensions of time for delivery of the 2014 event program of works for four drought-affected local government areas. These councils - Barcaldine, Croydon, Etheridge and Longreach - have received extensions ranging between four and six months beyond 30 June 2016 to complete works impacted by water shortages. In addition, two 2013 Event betterment projects for Central Highlands Regional Council have also received additional extensions of time for delivery to 31 December 2016.

With the deadline nearing for completion of other 2014 events works, the Authority is working with delivery agents to ensure delivery of relevant works by 30 June 2016, as well as progress delivery of the 2015 event and more recent 2016 event programs into and through the delivery phase. During April, an additional 12 LGAs have been activated for NDRRA relief measures for two new disaster events.

3.2 Program status

The value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by the Authority 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 and 2016 event years in the delivery and acquittal phases.

The Authority is actively managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$970 million for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 Events, which are due for completion by 30 June 2016, 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018 respectively (**Delivery Program**). Of this, \$813 million is yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth (**Acquittal Program**).

Delivery Program status

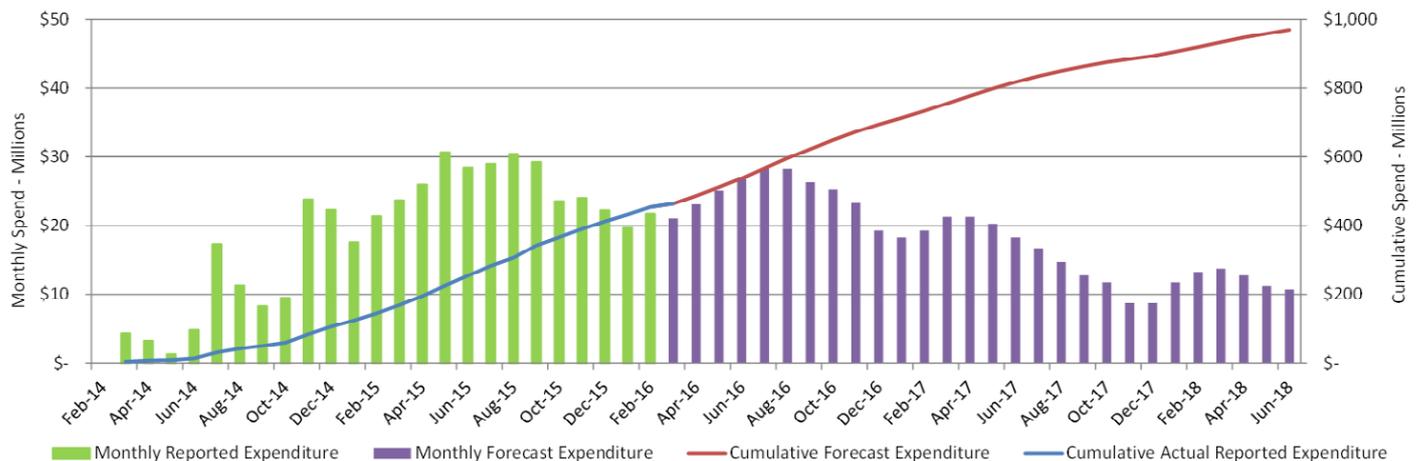
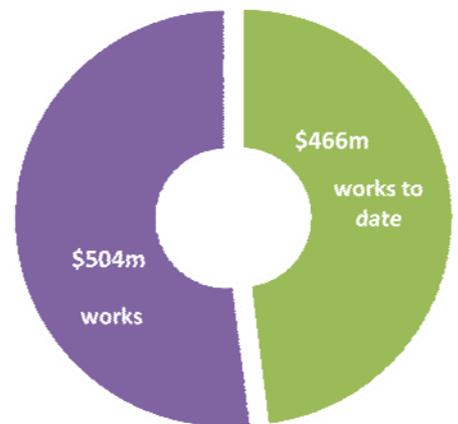
Since the last report, the Authority’s program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$1.1 billion in submissions have been received in relation to the Delivery Program, an increase of \$37 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$739 million has been approved, an increase of \$4 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$106 million are with the Authority and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$466 million (48 percent) of the Delivery Program has been reported to the Authority at 30 April 2016 as in progress or delivered.

The 2014, 2015 and 2016 Event works are due for completion by 30 June 2016*, 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018 respectively.

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecasted monthly costs to completion at 30 April 2016 on a combined basis for the Delivery Program (2014, 2015 and 2016 Events).

Delivery Program (2014 to 2016 Events) progress



* Four LGAs have received extensions of time for delivery of 2014 Event works beyond 30 June 2016

(Source: The Authority, 30 April 2016)

3.2 Program status (cont.)

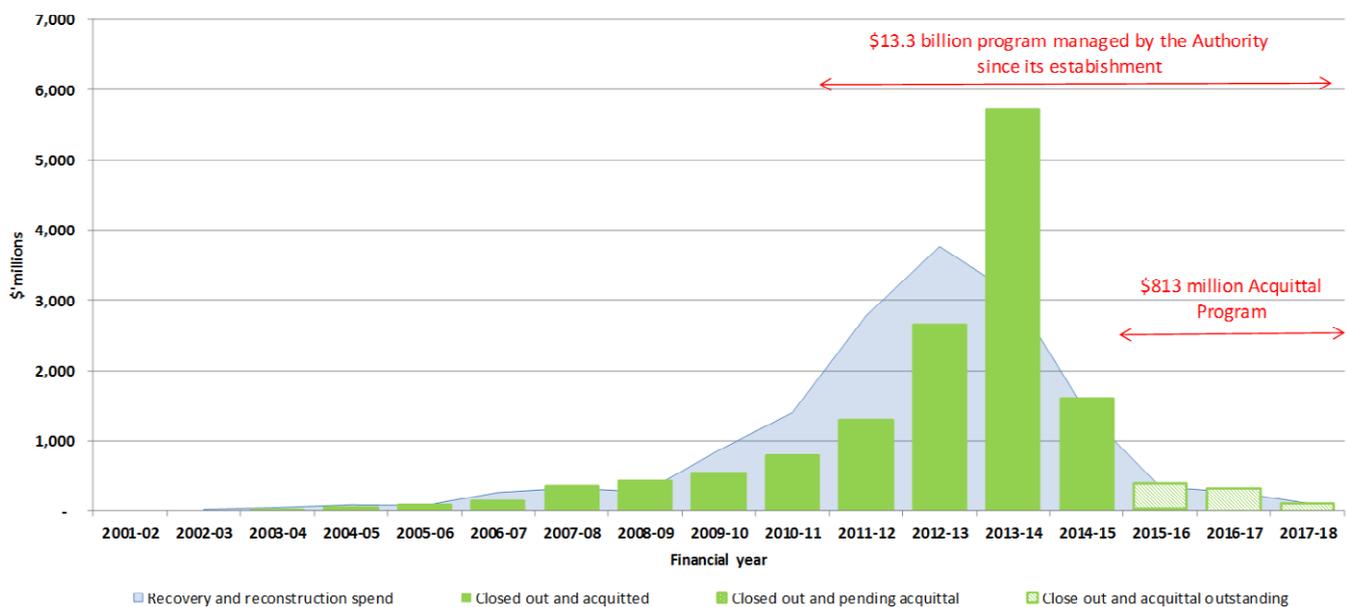
Acquittal Program status

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. On acceptance by the Commonwealth, the claim will secure approximately \$1.1 billion of funding to the State.

Since the last report, the Commonwealth has indicated that it will defer payment of the funding due on the 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim until it has undertaken assurance activities over the claim. The Authority is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to progress the review and release of the funding in a timely manner.

The next claim is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2017 to acquit works completed up to 30 June 2016. On receipt of claim documentation from delivery agents, the Authority will progressively close-out submissions for the Claim through to December 2016 prior to audit review in early 2017. The claim will include final works from the 2014 events and those components of the 2015 and 2016 works that were completed by 30 June 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 \$813 million remaining in the Acquittal Program.



(Source: The Authority, 30 April 2016)

3.3 State-controlled roads and highways

DTMR is managing the recovery and reconstruction works of Queensland's integrated transport system for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 event works currently in the delivery phase through its Program Delivery and Operations Branch.

The transport system includes state-controlled roads, ports, navigation aids and the rail network.

Current status

- Reconstruction on all 102 recovery and reconstruction projects in the 2014 events program was completed in December 2015, six months ahead of the funding deadline. Works included 214km of road reconstruction, repairs to 52 structures including bridges and culverts, and 56 locations requiring earthworks and batter repairs.
- Of the 112km of roads that DTMR is forecast to reconstruct following 2015 events, 62km of works have been completed and the remaining 49km is under construction on active works contracts. During March, construction started on nine projects, including works on the Peninsula Developmental Road in Far North District, and Dawson Highway (Biloela to Gladstone) and (Biloela to Banana) in Fitzroy District.
- DTMR is currently targeting to complete the majority of 2015 event works on State-controlled roads and highways by 31 December 2016, six months before the funding deadline (weather permitting).
- DTMR districts are currently commencing the assessment of damage to the state road network from the 2016 events and are undertaking emergent works to restore damaged state roads to a safe condition where required. A total of 5255km of Queensland's state road network has been closed or had limited access as a result of the 2016 disaster events to date, including 418km affected by multiple events.

(Source: DTMR, 31 March 2016)

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 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. All works were completed by the deadline of 30 June 2015 other than three betterment projects, which received extensions of time due to excessive rainfall and other factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aroona Road (Central Highlands) Boolburra Edungalba Road (Central Highlands) Booyal Crossing Road (Bundaberg) (since completed). In early May 2016, the Commonwealth agreed to a further extension for delivery of the remaining two betterment projects for Central Highlands Regional Council to 31 December 2016. On completion, the total cost of all 2013 Event betterment projects is estimated to be \$150 million, of which \$76 million will have been funded from the 2013 Event Betterment fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions of Interest (EOI) were 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. Submissions for 127 projects have been received by the Authority to 30 April 2016. Of these, 51 submissions with a total project value of \$38 million, including \$19 million betterment funding, have been approved. Projects approved during April 2016 included: Linkes Road and Lindleys Road Floodway (Banana Shire Council); Cattle Creek Road (Gladstone Regional Council); Rossmore Road (Gympie Regional Council); Coowonga Road (Livingstone Shire Council); Leggetts Road, Barram Road, Kariboe Road and Swindon Road (North Burnett Regional Council); Beasley Street, Rockonia Road and Scott Road (Rockhampton Regional Council); and, Kingaham Road, Monsildale Road, Scrubby Creek Road, Ten Mile Road and Tooloorum Road (Somerset Regional Council). Delivery of 2015 betterment works will be required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements.

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"> The Authority 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.
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 received EOIs for more than \$1.7 million from three of the four LGAs eligible for funding allocation applicants Five submissions worth \$1 million have since been approved 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"> Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) appointed the Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF) to manage the IRO program, with IRO officers located with Growcom, Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation (QDO), AgForce and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland (NGIQ) Around 72 primary producers have been assisted by IROs to date.
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) Livingstone, Gladstone, North Burnett and Banana councils and Rockhampton Uniting Care Community have commenced delivery of 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, undertaken stakeholder and community engagement.

(Source: The Authority, DCCSDS and DAF; 30 April 2016)

3.5 Program spotlights

Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council

Betterment funding keeps Mapoon connected and provides value for money

Put to the test by Tropical Cyclone Marcia just three months after completion, betterment reconstruction works on the Weipa-Mapoon road came through with flying colours and continue to provide uninterrupted access for Mapoon residents.

The small Aboriginal Community of Mapoon is located in the remote, tropical Western Cape York in Far North Queensland and is connected to the nearest town of Weipa and the important Peninsula Development Road via the Weipa-Mapoon access road. Having safe and reliable passage to Weipa is vital to the small community of Mapoon, as the larger regional hub has vital goods and services.

Before its upgrade, the road was an unsealed gravel road and intense rainfall and run-off during Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul extensively damaged the road in 2010. It was reformed and re-sheeted with works totalling approximately \$650,000.

In 2013, the road was impacted again as a result of Tropical Cyclone Oswald, with damage including loss of gravel and formation worth more than \$940,000. In addition to these disaster events, the road surface and shoulders suffered heavy scouring even in minor storms.

The cost of repairing the regular damage caused by cyclones and the wet season was not providing value for money and Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council, with the support of the Authority, made a successful submission for NDRRA Betterment funding, receiving more than \$970,000 to upgrade the road to a stronger, more disaster-resilient standard.

The betterment project commenced in November 2013. One lane remained open for residents during the upgrade and side tracks were also installed, ensuring residents did not lose access during the construction period.

The betterment works included an eight-metre wide, two-coat bitumen seal to almost eight kilometres of Weipa-Mapoon Access Road. Some sections of the road had already been sealed and had proven to be more resilient during flooding.

The construction was not without its challenges as the remote location made access to materials as well as experienced road crews difficult. The newly upgraded, stronger road was completed in November 2014.

Since its completion, the upgraded road has already proved to be more disaster-resilient; it was impacted by Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015, with no damage to the betterment works.

Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Aileen Addo said the community was enjoying the smooth ride and uninterrupted access the bitumen road was providing.

“We are glad to have the road upgraded to provide safe, consistent access to Weipa for the people of Mapoon,” Cr Addo said. “Betterment funding is a great initiative, which has enabled us to upgrade the road making it stronger and more resilient to the extreme weather our unique part of the world experiences.”

Cr Addo said the value for money the upgrade provided was outstanding. “We are glad to see the upgraded road has already shown savings following the 2015 event.”



Weipa-Mapoon Road before Betterment funding when the unsealed road was susceptible to damage



The upgraded Weipa-Mapoon Road is now stronger and more resilient to future damage.

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

Cassowary Coast Regional Council Cassowary Coast completes massive restoration program

After four years of successive natural disasters from 2011 to 2014, Cassowary Coast Regional Council has finalised its \$156 million program of reconstruction works, completing works in late April 2016.

The Cassowary Coast is known for its pristine beaches, World Heritage-listed rainforest and tropical islands. It's a tropical paradise that attracts tourists from all over the world who come to enjoy the natural wonderland.

However, from 2011 to 2014 the region was struck by yearly events, including the devastating Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi, which pummelled the coast in 2011 causing extensive damage to public infrastructure such as the Cardwell foreshore.

With its abundance of natural beauty, the tourism industry plays an important role in the region's economy, alongside the cane and banana growing industries. Restoring damage to tourist hotspots of the region was vital to ensure the tourism industry remained robust in the long-term.

Following Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi, a \$15 million Category D exceptional circumstances package was agreed to, funded by the State and Commonwealth governments and included key projects aimed to support the reconstruction of the region's tourist attractions:



Clump Point jetty (left)

Reconstructed with a total project cost of approximately \$3.7 million, construction of the Clump Point jetty was completed in October 2013. The new jetty has been built to accommodate vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The old Clump Point jetty was dismantled as part of the project.



Dunk Island jetty (right)

The Dunk Island jetty was reconstructed at a total project cost of approximately \$1.8 million with construction completed in February 2013.



Cardwell foreshore - Reconstructing Cardwell (right)

\$9.5 million was provided for the redevelopment of the Cardwell foreshore as part of an estimated \$40 million project.

Works included the reconstruction of a 1.4km, two-lane section of the Bruce Highway known as Victoria Street; works on the foreshore, recreation, picnic, and pedestrian facilities; the construction of a memorial; a roundabout and formal parking.

DTMR managed the Reconstructing Cardwell project with construction starting in August 2012 and finishing in October 2013.

Cassowary Coast Regional Council Mayor John Kremastos said the community was enjoying the benefits from the recovery program.

"We appreciate the support of the Queensland and Commonwealth governments in helping us to get back on our feet," Cr Kremastos said. "Our infrastructure has been restored and nature has healed our beautiful landmarks so we are back to business as usual."

3.5 Program spotlights (continued)

DTMR

2015 event works completed in Queensland's northwest

Work to repair damage to state-controlled roads in DTMR's North West District following natural disasters in 2015 has been substantially completed, more than one year earlier than the NDRRA delivery deadline.

A number of key roads were impacted late January 2015 by the *Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding* disaster event throughout the district, which extends from Carpentaria in the north to Burketown and Mount Isa in the west and across to Hughenden to the east. The damage occurred after significant rainfall had already been recorded in the upper parts of the Georgina River catchment in the first half of January.

While damage to the state road network was less than in recent years, more than \$3 million of reconstruction works were required across North West District. A total of 75.8 kilometres required reconstruction works, along with five sites requiring earthworks and batter repairs, and six locations where silt and debris were cleared.

Reconstruction projects were completed on:

- Gregory Downs–Camooweal Road
- Cloncurry–Dajarra Road
- Richmond–Winton Road
- Hughenden–Muttaborra Rd
- Flinders Highway from Julia Creek to Cloncurry
- Flinders Highway from Richmond to Julia Creek
- Burke Development Road from Cloncurry to Normanton
- Landsborough Highway from Kynuna to Cloncurry.

All works are now substantially complete across the district other than some second coat seals and line marking work to be completed on the Flinders Highway following recent wet weather.



Damage to Gregory Downs–Camooweal Road from Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding (January 2015)



Burke Developmental Road following completion of reconstruction works



Gregory Downs–Camooweal Road following completion of reconstruction works

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 75 media items in April 2016 (45 print – 60%, 11 TV – 15%, 19 radio – 25%), which reached a cumulative audience of 1.9 million people.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from recent and previous natural disaster events, including articles in The Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Queensland News, Central Telegraph, The Courier-Mail, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone Observer, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, Innisfail Advocate, Kilcoy Sentinel, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Nambour Weekly, Bundaberg News Mail, Noosa Today, Sun Herald, The Sunday-Mail, The Valley Weekender, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin and the Tully Times; TV coverage on the ABC, WIN and Seven networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4RO Rockhampton, 4WK Toowoomba, Radio 4KZ Innisfail, SEA FM Rockhampton and Zinc FM Mackay.

There were media mentions for the completion of the 2014 NDRRA program of works for both Douglas Shire Council and Cassowary Coast Regional Council, with articles in the Innisfail Advocate and on SEA FM Cairns.

Also making news in April was Isaac Regional Council's clean-up efforts in the wake of the recent event, *Central Queensland Surface Trough, 4-8 February 2016*, with articles in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin and the Mackay and Sarina Midweek.

Engagement

On 7 April 2016, **Authority Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Brendan Moon** attended the third national workshop on natural disaster funding reform hosted by Emergency Management Australia in Melbourne.

The **Authority Acting CEO** also travelled to New Zealand on 27 April 2016 to attend the Law Crime and Community Safety Committee (LCCSC) meeting, where natural disaster funding reform was also an agenda item.

Communications

The Authority keeps its stakeholders and the community informed and ensures access to the latest information regarding the reconstruction effort through its website, phone hotline and management of correspondence.

The Authority's 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 30 April 2016, total website visits amounted to 493,710 – a 0.5 percent increase since last month. *(See Figure 5.1.1)*

In April, the Authority received an additional 12 calls to its dedicated hotline and managed 174 pieces of written correspondence. *(See Figure 5.1.2)*

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

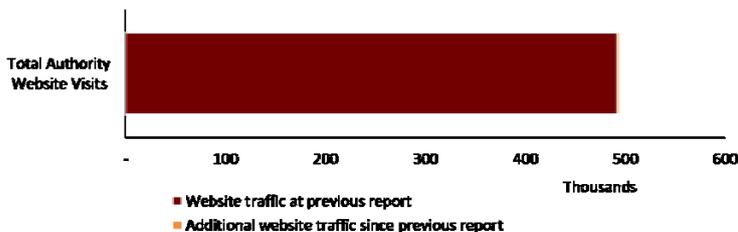
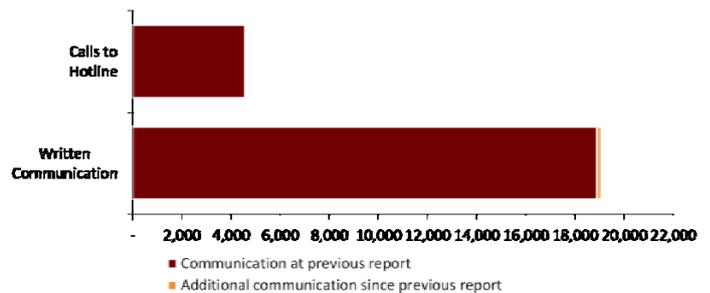


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



Source: the Authority at 30 April 2016

4.2 Media reports

Isaac's road bill rising following flood event

THE Isaac roads flood damage bill is rising, as IRC moves forward with reconstruction works.

CEO Rod Ferguson said significant damage was caused by the February flood event.

"Road crews are currently working on \$1.5 million in emergency works, with four major projects completed or nearing completion," he said.

"Crews have completed road reinstatement and batter protection on Golden Mile Rd's Blackburn Creek culvert, after the road leading into the culvert was washed away.

"Stabilisation and asphalt replacement has been completed on Peak Downs Mine Access Road.

"The road surface was warped after excess water seeped under the asphalt.

"Saraji Rd's Barrett Creek and Downs Creek Overflow culverts were also damaged, with reconstruction works expected to be completed in May."

Mr Ferguson said broader scoping of the entire Isaac region's flood damage is nearing completion.

"Further scoping should be finished in the next six weeks and will then be submitted to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) for assessment."

Work begins on Tully's five-way roundabout

TULLY'S Bryant St and Richardson St roundabout, traffic islands and road surface are about to undergo a \$300,000 upgrade.

Work will include replacing the roundabout's central island, other traffic islands and road resurfacing.

The five-way roundabout, which also directs traffic flow from Black and Curtis Sts, will be closed to traffic from Tuesday, April 12, until Saturday, April 30, weather permitting.

Detour signs will be in place, with alternative access via Still, McQuillen, Hort and Murray Streets.

Serious storm clouds deliver silver lining of recovery cash

ON THE ROAD

Reporter JEREMY PIERCE
Photos STEVE POHLNER

IT TAKES more than a Category 5 cyclone to take the wind out of Yeppoon's sails.

Just over a year after Cyclone Marcia ripped through the Capricorn Coast, Yeppoon has rebounded to record one of its strongest tourism performances in years.

Both international and domestic visitor numbers were well up on 2014.

It's a level of optimism that wasn't felt last February after

Marcia brought winds of almost 200km/h and left a trail of destruction.

But the scars were quick to heal in Yeppoon, the region's top tourism town, which is in the midst of a massive infrastructure spending spree.

About \$50 million worth of projects are already under way, while an extensive revamp of the foreshore has rejuvenated the beachfront in a way similar to Townsville's the Strand.

Capricorn Enterprise CEO

Mary Carroll said Marcia had at least delayed her arrival until after the school holiday rush, hitting during a traditionally quiet time of year.

And that wasn't the only silver lining.

"Ironically, we got an influx of recovery workers in to the region which probably boosted our numbers through February and March and helped offset the visitors we might have lost," she said.

Hard data on the start to the 2016 year is still some weeks away, but Ms Carroll said early signs were positive.

English backpacker Ellie Chaffers (pictured) likes Yeppoon so much she has decided to stick around, landing a job on nearby Great Keppel Island.

"This is the Australia you dream of," she said. "It's a beautiful tourism town but it's still authentically Australian."



FLOOD RESTORATION UPDATE

Over the next fortnight, flood restoration works will be concentrated in the following locations:

Gayndah Area - Tableland Rd, Slab Creek Rd, Gayndah Mundubbera Rd, Gayndah Water Intake Access Track

Monto Area - Monal Rd, Cahalane Rd, Dakiel Rd, Dooloo Tops, Clonmel Rd, Abercorn Rd, Schimkes Rd, Barram Rd

Mundubbera Area - Black Horse Creek Rd



Reids Creek Road, Gayndah.

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

In brief

ASSETS RESTORED

RESTORATION of essential public assets following extreme weather in the Cassowary Coast region in 2014 are on target for completion by June 30.

Cassowary Coast Regional Council's Works Department is finalising the last of a multitude of projects under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) Works Program.

The \$8.3 million of funded projects included repairing landslips at Tully Gorge and Bingil Bay along with repairs to culverts and sealed and unsealed roads.

Working together is a well-proven value: Ludwig

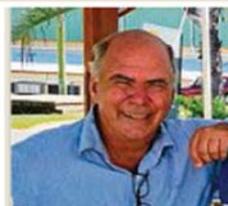
LIVINGSTONE Shire Mayor Bill Ludwig (pictured) said last week's Region Priority Projects Forum was an excellent chance to set the region's future priorities.

"Working collaboratively greatly enhances the chances of our region securing the vital state and federal funding our region needs to provide the economic growth, job creation and service delivery our residents need and deserve," Mayor Ludwig said.

"The value of working together is well-proven – by taking this approach and working collaboratively with organisations like Capricorn Enterprise, Livingstone Shire Council secured \$75 million in State and Federal funding in its last term."

Livingstone Deputy Mayor and economic development councillor Graham Scott said since forming the first Priority Projects list in 2010, Capricorn Enterprise had played a significant role in supporting and facilitating a number of great regional outcomes.

"This meeting was about setting the future priorities, including the international



airport capability as well as securing the necessary funding for the Rookwood Weir," Mr Scott said.

"A fully functional international airport would provide a more effective export chain of our high-value, clean, green specialist agricultural products including beef, tropical fruit and seafood as well as greatly enhance our inbound tourism opportunities to support the planned Iwasaki Capricorn Resort expansion and Great Keppel Island Resort.

"Past priority projects that Capricorn Enterprise has successfully supported include Panorama Dr and the Yeppoon Foreshore as well as approvals for the Great Keppel Island revitalisation and the merger of CQ University and TAFE to form Australia's largest regional university."

IN BRIEF

Flood damage bill on the rise

ISAAC roads flood damage bill is rising, as Isaac Regional Council moves forward with reconstruction works. CEO Rod Ferguson said significant damage was caused by the February flood event.

"Road crews are currently working on \$1.5 million in emergency works, with four major projects completed or nearing completion," he said.

"Crews have completed road reinstatement and batter protection on Golden Mile Road's Blackburn Creek culvert, after the road leading into the culvert was washed away.

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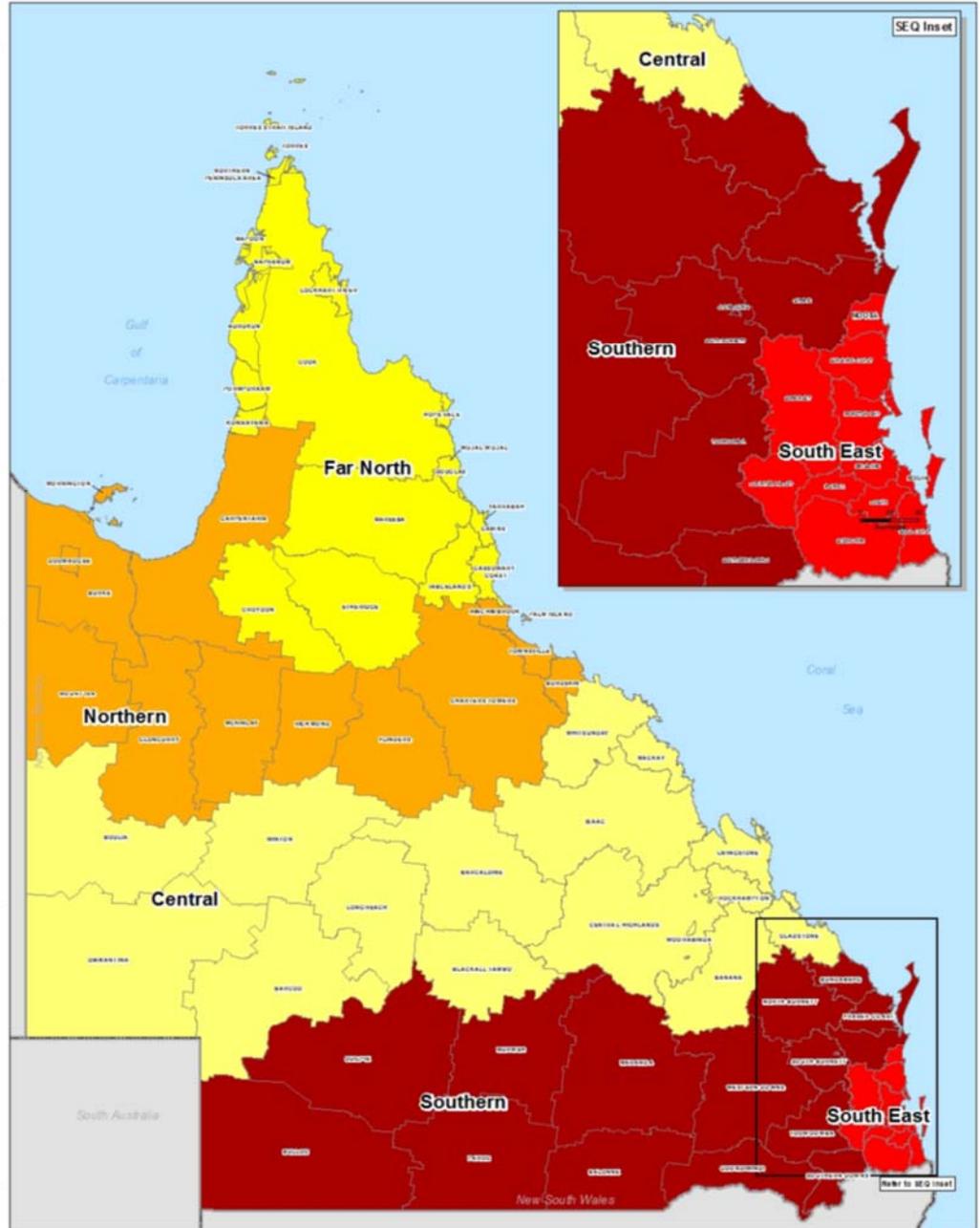
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Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

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



Disclaimer:
This map has been prepared by the Dept of Queensland, State
Infrastructure and Planning (SIP) and is intended to provide a general
overview of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's (QRA) reporting regions.
The Queensland Reconstruction Authority does not warrant the accuracy or
completeness of the information on this map.

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

