

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

CEO Monthly Report

November 2016



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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 November 2016 Monthly Report – the 69th 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. In June 2015, QRA'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.

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 November 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.

The report is provided following completion of QRA's September 2016 Review of damage estimates. The review is undertaken on a regular basis and involved a complete review of the active NDRRA program of each local government authority (LGA) and State agency. The review included updated estimates for the 2015 and 2016 events, which are in the delivery phase, and preliminary estimates for the two events that have occurred to date in the current 2017 event period.

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, \$578 million has been approved by QRA and additional submissions worth \$78 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. \$316 million (45%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 30 September 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. Of this, QRA is currently working with delivery agents to gather and assess completion documentation to close out 2014 event and other works for acquittal in the next disaster funding claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2017.

The November report highlights Somerset Regional Council's completion of the Fredrickson Bridge, one of 11 projects for the Council approved under the 2015 Betterment fund. The report also profiles the success of the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries (DAF's) Industry Recovery Officer program (IRO Program), implemented to help primary producers and small businesses get back on track after Tropical Cyclone Marcia, and Transport & Main Road's commencement of the Burnett River Bridge replacement project. The bridge was washed away by floodwaters associated with Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February 2015 and is being replaced with additional complementary state funding allocated to improve flood immunity and safety of the new bridge.

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 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 is finalising 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. At the same time, QRA is facilitating the Commonwealth’s review of seven Commonwealth Claims lodged by Queensland dating back to 2008-09 that have not yet been acquitted by the Commonwealth.

Section two:
Disaster Assistance

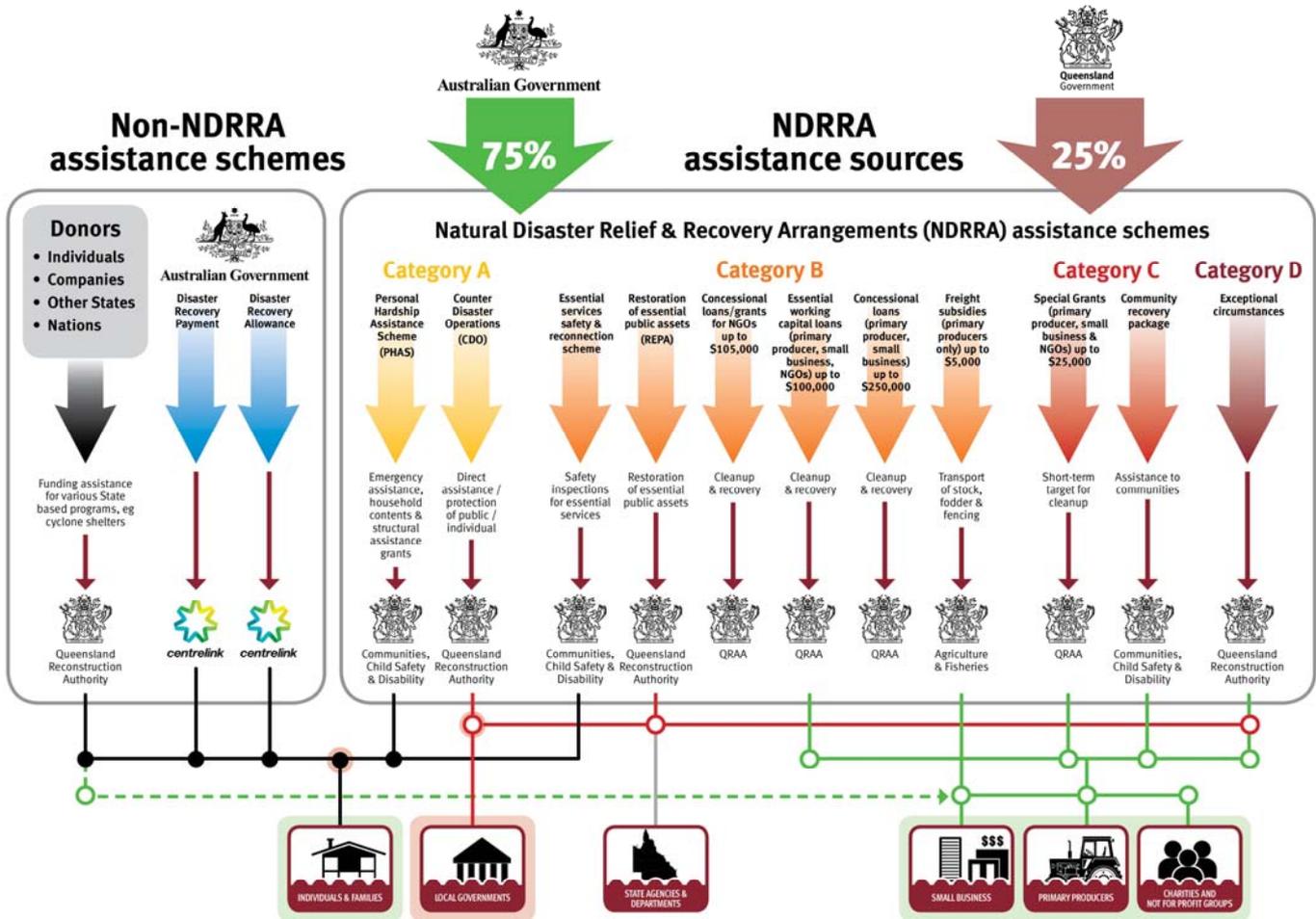


2.0 Disaster Assistance

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.

During November, seven LGAs were activated for NDRRA relief measures for the *Western Queensland Flooding, 13-20 September 2016* event.

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)

- Western Queensland Flooding, 13-20 September 2016
- Central Queensland Severe Weather, 15-20 July 2016

2016 events

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

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

2015 events

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

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

2014 events

Delivery of works complete with final acquittal due by March 2017, other than three LGA programs that received extensions of time for delivery)

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

1. The NDRRA Determination imposes a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works (delivery phase) and a further nine months to acquit completed works (acquittal phase) through lodgement of an annual claim to the Commonwealth. Following extension of time approvals, a number of projects from the 2013 and 2014 event period are still in delivery and acquittal phases.



2.2 Events managed by QRA (cont.)

2013 events

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

- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late October - December 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013[#]
- 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 event s have completed delivery and acquittal phases.



Section three:

Program Status



3.0 Program Status

3.1 NDRRA program status

QRA is currently focused on gathering and assessing completion documentation to close out works completed by 30 June 2016 for acquittal in the next claim 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. During October, seven LGAs were activated for the *Western Queensland Flooding, 13-20 September 2016* event.

Since the last report, QRA has completed its regular review of damage estimates. The review involved a complete review of the active NDRRA program of each LGA and state agency at 30 September 2016. The review included preliminary final costs for the 2014 event works currently in close out, recognition of the first, preliminary estimates for the two recent 2017 events as well as updated estimates for the 2015 and 2016 events that are in the delivery phase.

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.

During October, the Queensland Government also announced its intention to reimburse councils the state's 25% share of ineligible costs associated with plant and equipment for 2014 reconstruction programs. This follows retrospective changes to NDRRA that exposed more than 30 councils that used their own plant and equipment to deliver 2014 reconstruction work.

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

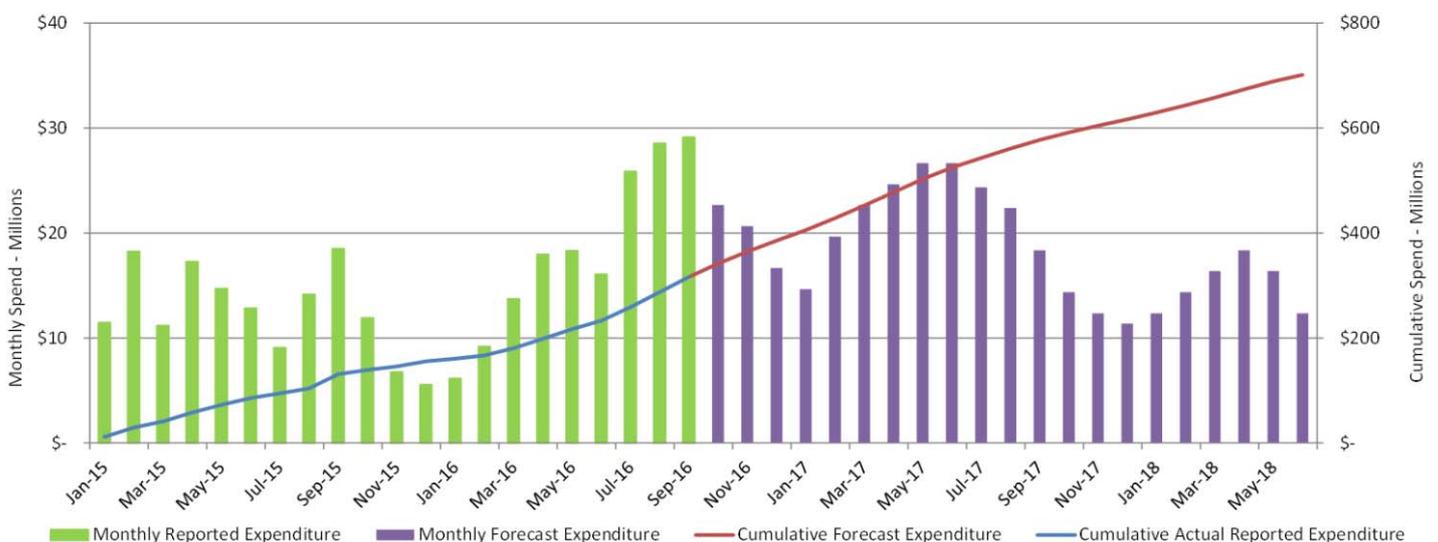
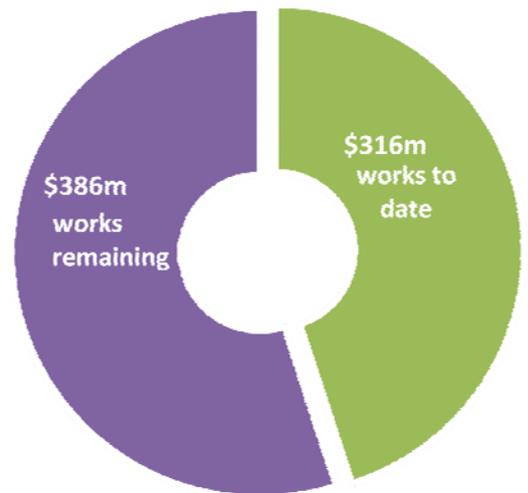
Since the last report, QRA's Delivery Program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$840 million in submissions have been received, an increase of \$44 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$578 million has been approved, an increase of \$33 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$78 million are with QRA and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$316 million (45 percent) of the Delivery Program has been reported to QRA at 30 September 2016 as in progress or delivered.

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecast monthly costs to completion at 30 September 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 October 2016)

www.qldreconstruction.org.au

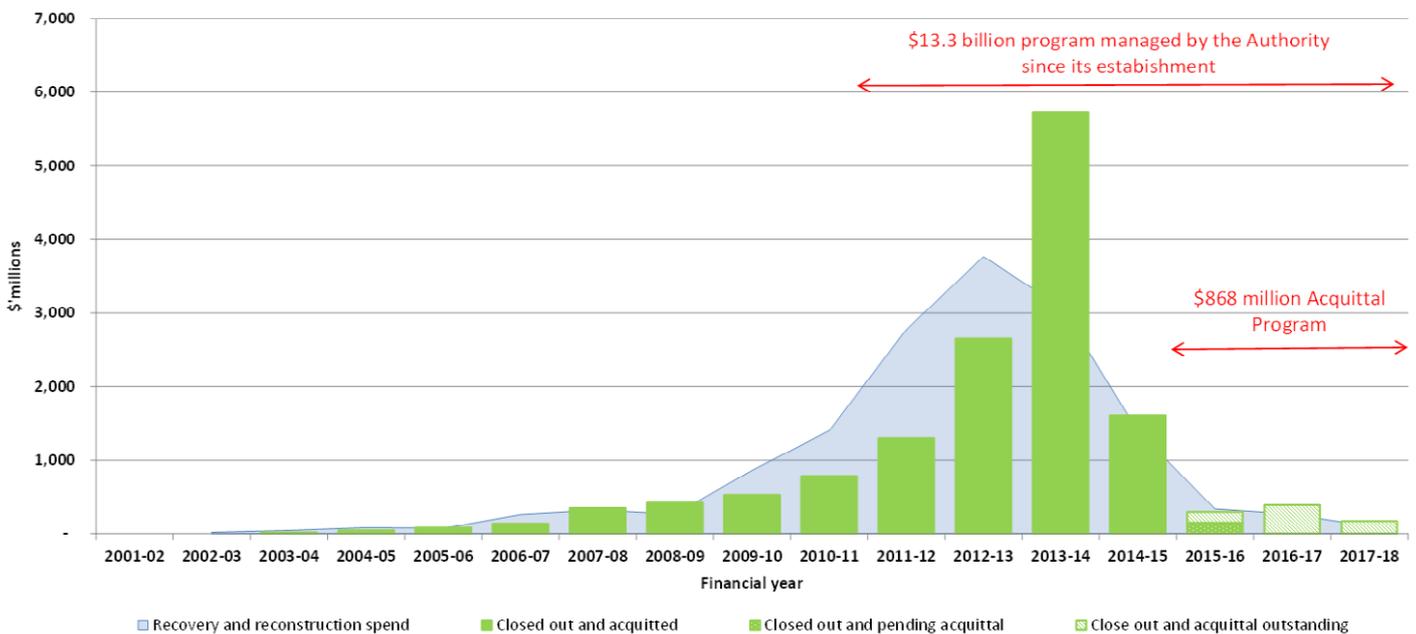
3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

Acquittal Program status

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

The 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim was submitted to the Commonwealth on 24 March 2016. The claim acquitted \$1.6 billion of works completed in the year ended 30 June 2015. On acceptance by the Commonwealth, the claim will secure approximately \$1.1 billion of funding to the State. However, through the Federal Budget in May 2016, the Commonwealth 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. QRA is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to progress the review and release of the funding as soon as possible.

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 comprise works to increase the resilience of damaged roads, culverts and floodways. Delivery of 2015 betterment works will be required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements. To 31 October 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 58 submissions with a total project value of \$39.6 million, including \$19.99 million Betterment funding have been approved 27 projects with a total project value of \$4.6 million, including \$3.5 million Betterment funding have been reported as complete. Key 2015 Event Betterment projects completed to date include 13 projects for NBRC and 7 projects for Somerset RC, including Monsildale Bridge which is profiled in section 3.5. 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.

(Source: QRA, 31 October 2016)

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. QRA is monitoring the delivery of works. Any project savings identified may be considered for reallocation to eligible works.
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 applicants Five submissions worth \$1 million have since been approved across the three applicants, fully allocating the program funding. QRA is monitoring the delivery of works. Any project savings identified may be considered for reallocation to eligible works.
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 delivered a range of support activities delivered including workshops, field visits, soil testing and feed sample analysis work. Refer Section 3.3 for a program spotlight on the IRO program.
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.

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

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 2103 Events Betterment fund** received extensions of time for delivery beyond 30 June 2015 due to excessive rainfall and other factors:
 - Aroona Road (Central Highlands) - currently in delivery and due for completion in December 2016
 - Boolburra Edungalba Road (Central Highlands) - currently in delivery and due for completion in December 2016
 - Booyal Crossing Road (Bundaberg) - since completed.



Aroona Road Betterment project under construction
- October 2016



Boolburra Edungalba Road Betterment project under construction - October 2016

3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities

Following Cabinet’s recent review of disaster management roles and responsibilities in Queensland, the QRA is now the lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. A summary of recent progress is set out below:

Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study (BRCFS)

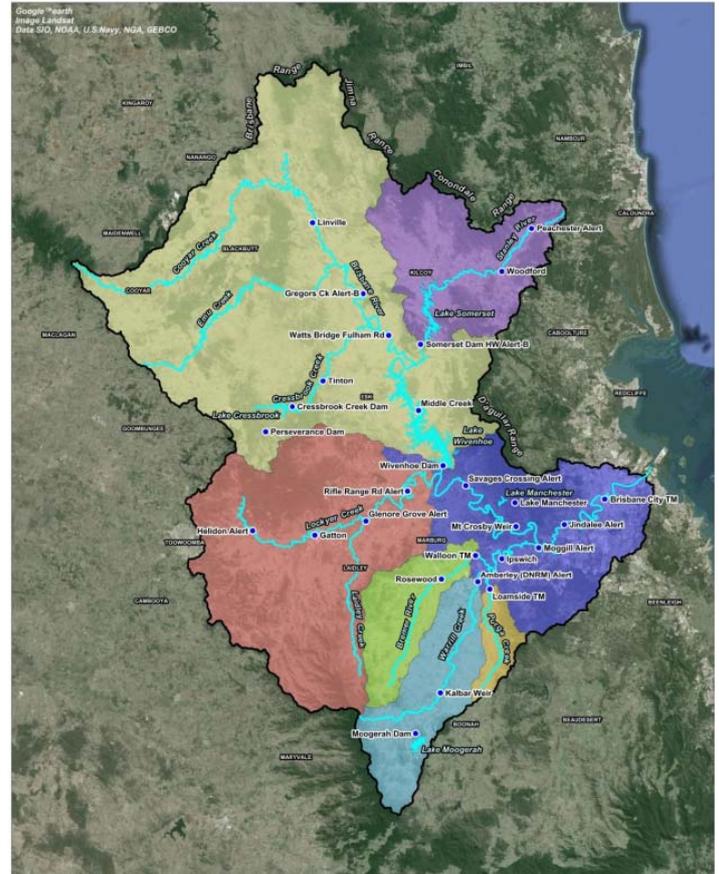
Development of the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study (modelling and mapping work) is nearing completion and will inform the development of a Floodplain Management Study and Strategic Floodplain Management Plan.

In October 2016, the request for Expression of Interest (EOI) was released for delivery of the Floodplain Management Study and Strategic Floodplain Management Plan. It is expected work on the plan will commence in early 2017.

Flood Warning Gauge Network Review

Flood Gauge Network Designs and Investment Plans were submitted to 36 priority councils in September 2016 and provided recommendations for flood gauge infrastructure upgrades. Seven councils have since applied for government grants to improve their flood warning systems as per the recommendations of the Investment Plans.

The QRA continues to work with councils to provide information and support in relation to future improvements to flood gauge assets to improve our real-time visibility of flood data across the state.



LEGEND

Major Subcatchment

- Upper Brisbane River to Wivenhoe Dam (5,600km²)
- Stanley River to Somerset Dam (1,300km²)
- Bremer River to Walloon (630km²)
- Warrill Creek to Amberley (900km²)
- Lockyer Creek to O'Reilly's Weir (3,000km²)
- Purga Creek to Loamside (210km²)
- Lower Brisbane River (1,800km²)

Hydrologic Assessment Reporting Location

BMT WSM endeavours to ensure that the information provided in this map is correct at the time of publication. BMT WSM does not warrant, guarantee or make representations regarding the currency and accuracy of information contained in this map. B:162702 BRCFS Hydraulic08_Mapping08/GRM07FLD_002_161104_Catchment Overview.vor

Brisbane River Catchment area



Queensland river flood warning network—Savages Crossing, Somerset (right), and Fitzroy River, Rockhampton (above)

3.3 Program spotlights

Somerset Regional Council Somerset completes milestone in building resilience



Somerset Regional Council has reached a significant milestone in its recovery from Tropical Cyclone Marcia with works on Monsildale Bridge completed following approval of more than \$700,000 from the 2015 Betterment Fund.

Now re-named Fredrickson Bridge, it was one of 11 projects for Somerset Regional Council approved under the \$20 million NDRRA Category D 2015 Betterment Fund.

Monsildale Road is a rural connector road that services a community of primary producers, approximately 15 kilometres north of Kilcoy, who rely on Fredrickson Bridge for direct access to markets through Monsildale and Kilcoy.

The Monsildale beef area produces more than 3,500 head of cattle each year, which are transported over the Fredrickson Bridge, significantly contributing to the local economy.

The old timber bridge across Sheep Station Creek was vulnerable to flooding and had been impacted three times between 2011 and 2015.

High velocity floodwaters caused by Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February 2015 stripped the seal from the bridge's approaches, exposing the pavement and causing deep scouring. The timber bridge also suffered impact damage from debris in the floodwaters, affecting its structural integrity.

Thanks to the 2015 Betterment Fund, Somerset Regional Council was able to replace the old wooden Monsildale Bridge with a new concrete bridge, improving safety and access for residents and local industry following flooding and heavy rainfall. Council contributions and NDRRA Category B funding supported the project.

Somerset Regional Council Mayor Graeme Lehmann said the funding was a boost to the region still rebuilding following Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

"We have seen damage to these roads occur time and time again, but with Betterment funding we can rebuild roads and bridges ensuring greater resilience to future flooding," Cr Lehmann said.

"Thank you to the Queensland and Australian governments for ensuring regional Australia has the opportunity to keep these vital access roads open," he said.

Betterment works are also underway to improve nine sites along Monsildale Road with more than \$390,000 in Betterment funding.

Somerset Regional Council has also completed Betterment projects for School Road, Kingaham Road and Ten Mile Road. In addition, Council has also been approved for Betterment works on Mount Kilcoy, Rasmussen, Winya, and Sandy Creek roads.



Damage to Monsildale Bridge following Tropical Cyclone Marcia flooding (top); during Betterment works construction (middle) and the completed and re-named Frederickson Bridge (bottom)

3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

IRO Program Industry Recovery Officer Program success following Marcia

Following Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February 2015, the State and Federal governments jointly funded \$750,000 to assist primary producers and small businesses with their recovery. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) contracted the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) to implement and manage an Industry Recovery Officer Program funded under a special NDRRA Category D package.

QFF partnered with AgForce, Growcom, Nursery and Garden Industry Queensland, and the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation to work directly with affected primary producers and small businesses to assist their recovery and future resilience. The Industry Recovery Officers helped farmers to better manage business risks associated with climate variability and identify practical management options for future responses to natural disaster events.

QFF Project Manager Ross Henry said the Industry Recovery Officer Program commenced in October 2015 and focused on dairy, horticulture, grazing, crops and nursery industries in the areas impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia. "Four Industry Recovery Officers were appointed to deliver industry specific recovery and resilience work," Mr Henry said.

"To date they have assisted 175 primary producers and small businesses in the Rockhampton, Livingstone, Gladstone, Banana and North Burnett regions. The Industry Recovery Officers held multiple workshops and targeted one on one engagement in each region.

"They developed recovery plans that were based specifically on local data to give assistance to those needing it the most and improve resilience for future events," he said

Mr Henry explained that Industry Recovery Officers also arranged additional support from professionals such as financial advisors, technical advisors and health professionals. "Anglicare and Relationships Australia focused on the emotional impact of natural disasters. The Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) advised growers about services on offer and technical specialists, like soil scientist David Hall who provided advice on soil recovery, helping farmers plan for next season.

"This NDRRA funding has helped many primary producers and small businesses get back on track after Marcia, as well as improving their resilience to natural disasters.

"The program has been an overall success and we'd like to thank the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments for the funding that enabled us to roll out this important program," he said.



Industry Recovery Officer Climate Risk workshop held in Biloela in August 2016 with Bureau of Meteorology and local landholders.

3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

TMR

Construction starts on Burnett River Bridge replacement project

Before it was washed away by floodwaters associated with Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February 2015, the Burnett River Bridge (previously called Jubilee Bridge) was located on Monto–Mount Perry Road, about 6km southeast of the Burnett Highway. The township of Monto is situated about 40km to the north and Eidsvold about 45km to the south of the bridge.

Eligible works to replace the bridge will be funded under NDRRA with additional complementary state funding allocated to improve flood immunity and safety of the new bridge.

To improve safety for motorists, the road and new bridge have been realigned to reduce the curvature of the bridge approaches and improve visibility for motorists.

Construction activities at the project site commenced in September 2016.

To construct the replacement bridge, a temporary platform has been installed across the Burnett River. This platform will provide a flat, stable surface from which construction machinery can operate. Bridge drilling and piling works also started in September.

Cast-in-place piles using steel liners, reinforcement cages and concrete are being installed as the bridge foundation. Eight reinforced concrete columns and six reinforced concrete headstocks will then form the bridge structure.

Complementary works include building the bridge higher and wider. The increased height will improve flood immunity and the extra width will accommodate two lanes of traffic with road shoulder for improved safety.

Once works are completed, the temporary construction platform and temporary river crossing – constructed to keep the community connected while a replacement bridge is delivered – will be removed.

The Burnett River Bridge replacement is scheduled for completion in early 2017.



*Opposite from top: Preparation for bridge approaches;
Steel liner and reinforcement cage for piles;
Drilling and pile installation from the temporary construction platform*

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 190 media items in October 2016 (68 print – 36%, 16 TV – 8%, 69 radio – 36%, 37 online – 20%), which reached a cumulative audience of approximately 2.4 million people.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from recent and previous natural disaster events including articles in The Australian, Albert and Logan News, Cairns Post, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Telegraph, Cooktown Local News, Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone Observer, Gold Coast Bulletin, Goondiwindi Argus, Herbert River Express, High Country Herald, Ipswich Advertiser, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, North West Star Mount Isa, Oakey Champion, Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette, Queensland Country Life, Redcliffe and Bayside Herald, Rural Weekly, Stanthorpe Border Post, Sunshine Coast Daily, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin, Warrego Watchman, Weekend Australian, Western Star, and the Westside News; Internet coverage at abc.net.au, cairnspost.com.au, couriermail.com.au, goldcoastbulletin.com.au, theaustralian.com.au, queenslandtimes.com.au, and townsvillebulletin.com.au; TV coverage on ABC News 24 as well as the Seven and WIN networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4BU Bundaberg, 4RO Rockhampton, 4WK Toowoomba, 4CA Cairns and Radio 4KZ Innisfail, Mix FM Sunshine Coast, River FM Ipswich, SEA FM Rockhampton.

Making news in October 2016 were Betterment works in Rockhampton and North Burnett with articles appearing in the Morning Bulletin and the Central and North Burnett Times. Also making news were communities preparing for the upcoming disaster season, with articles appearing in the North West Star (Mount Isa), Bundaberg News Mail and Cooktown Local News.

Engagement Activities

On 10 October 2016, **Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk** and **Deputy Premier Jackie Trad** launched the 2016 RACQ Get Ready Week, which encourages the community to be prepared for storm season. The Deputy Premier also attended the RACQ Get Ready Queensland community day on 16 October, where she met with members of the community and other stakeholders to promote the Get Ready message.

On 18-19 October 2016, the Deputy Premier attended the Local Government Association of Queensland's annual conference and announced the Queensland Government's intention to reimburse councils the state's 25% share of ineligible costs associated with plant and equipment for 2014 reconstruction programs.

The Deputy Premier also attended Community Cabinet in the Whitsundays on 23-24 October, where she met with members of the community and local government representatives.

During October 2016, **Chief Executive Officer Mr Brendan Moon** met with Sunshine Coast Regional Council and received a demonstration of Council's new Disaster Hub website.

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 October 2016, total website visits amounted to 506,541. (See Figure 5.1.1)

In October, we received an additional 27 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 949 pieces of written correspondence (See Figure 5.1.2)

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

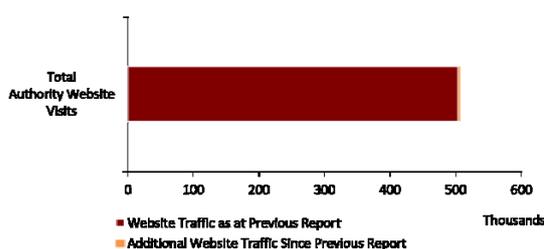
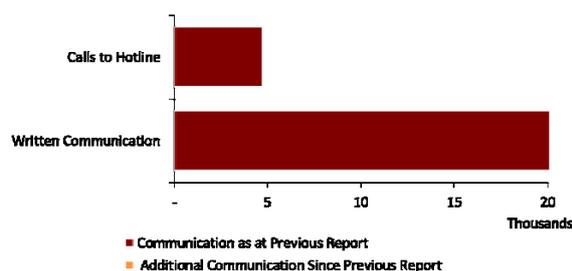


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



Source: QRA at 31 October 2016



Floody good plan to save properties from torrential downpours

STRONG DEFY Powerful flood water surged through Marisa and Alison Favari's home during Cyclone Marcia, taking with it their car, pool and sense of security. They are hopeful new debris deflectors can save their property from future flash flood events. Story Page B-2. PHOTO: GUY CARROLL

Memories flood as works begin

Amber Hooper
 POWERFUL flood water surged through Marisa and Alison Favari's Kerrigan St home during Cyclone Marcia, taking with it their car, pool and sense of security. Neighbour Alison Moody found herself in the same boat, with the bottom story of her home destroyed during the two cyclones she has lived since living at number 200 Kerrigan St for 28 years. The residents have since lived in fear the bridge near their home, which runs across Moores Creek, could again transform into a "dam wall" as debris builds up and

water inundates the road during heavy rainfall. But the trio are hopeful the Rockhampton Regional Council's current flood mitigation works will be the answer to their pleas as debris deflectors are installed at three North Rockhampton sites on Rockonia Rd, Beasley St and Kerrigan St. Local Disaster Management Group chair, Councillor Tony Williams said the deflectors would provide major benefits in a future flood event. "This is one of many projects we are working on to reduce the effects of

flooding in our Region," Cr Williams said. "It focuses on improving culverts which often become blocked by upstream debris during heavy rain events, causing flood waters to spread and linger. "Large objects often become trapped in these locations and then continue to trap smaller objects until a complete blockage occurs. "By installing deflector walls, we will reduce the opportunity for debris to build up and see flood water getting away in a shorter time frame," he said. The \$405,000 worth of

funding comes from the joint Australian Government State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and \$34,000 from council's works budget. Marisa said the works were a long time coming. "When it happened, we thought 'why had it been cleaned, or they put in a collapsible barrier?' "I think this is proactive, it's good to see it go ahead and gives us piece of mind. "We just don't want it to be tested," he laughed.

Rockhampton Morning Bulletin—12 October

Mornington is ready

BY DEREK BARRY

MORNINGTON Shire Council is asking residents to Get Ready as the build-up and wet season fast approach, and the chance of summer cyclones intensifies. In partnership with the Queensland Government, Mornington Shire Council will conduct its annual mass clean up on the island which will include the removal of loose branches and objects around homes. Council's Executive Manager of Infrastructure and Technical Services Andrew Thompson said this was about being realistic that extreme weather events occur in the region. "The more prepared residents are - the faster the community will bounce back should a natural disaster eventuate," Mr Thompson said. "Like last year, Council will aim to work with organisations to develop Cyclone

Pantry Kits for residents who could be devastated if a cyclone or tidal surge did occur." Mayor Brad Wilson said Mornington Shire Council was unshaken. "Our residents are among the 5% most disadvantaged in Australia and we receive no rates revenue, however we want to greatly improve circumstances - support the community and create greater resilience," Cr Wilson said. Meanwhile runway works at Mornington Shire aerodrome are commence after a year of waiting. The aerodrome was shut down in December 2015 due to the unsafe condition of the main runway. Council is urging residents and visitors to be "patient" as runway works are due to commence in early November, with the delivery of materials in progress and work on the runway beginning

in October. Chief Executive Officer Frank Mills said he was keen to see the Department of Transport and Main Roads run project completed before the wet season. "We are hopeful the full scope of works is completed shortly before the busy festive season and somewhat unpredictable wet season," Mr Mills said. The Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning is investing \$4.5 million into the project, with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Mornington Shire council investing a further \$1.5 million each.

Our residents are among the most disadvantaged in Australia
 Cr Bradley Wilson

North West Star (Mount Isa) - 27 October

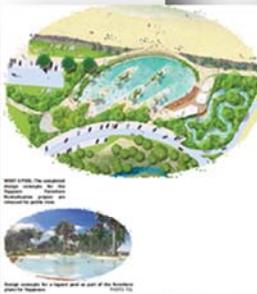
Foreshore designs available

\$53m revamp one step closer

THE \$53 million Yeppoon Foreshore and Town Centre Revitalisation has taken another key step forward with the release of the latest schematic design plans. And the lazy river takes centre stage. Mayor Bill Ludwig said the plans were now available for the public to view on the council's website ahead of a community engagement open day next month. "For Cully Leitchson (TCL) have done an excellent job designing a world-class masterplan in consultation with the community, with the latest schematic design plans to focus on key elements including the lagoon pool, foreshore boardwalk, upgrade beach amphitheatre and a proposed pedestrian bridge across Fig Tree Creek," he said. "The images are up on our website now and I would

encourage residents to hop online and check them out ahead of a community engagement open day at Salt next month." The Yeppoon Foreshore Revitalisation Project (Stages 3, 4 and 5) is a \$53 million project jointly funded, with the Australian Government contributing \$30 million, the Queensland Government contributing \$20 million, and Livingstone Shire Council contributing \$3 million. Deputy Mayor Graham Scott said the council was seeking tenders for the detailed design work and would be looking to award that before the end of the year so construction could begin on the next stage in February. "Current works on the multi-story car park and

signalled intersection at Queen and Barry St are due for completion in December," Cr Scott said. The council will host a community engagement open day on Wednesday, November 16, for an update on the progress of the Yeppoon Foreshore and Town Centre Revitalisation Project between 10am and 2pm and 6pm and 8pm.



Capricorn Coast Mirror — 26 October

Perfect storm for jobs

DOMINIC GEEGER

dominic.geeger@news.com.au

A SMALL Cape York indigenous town is buzzing thanks to employment opportunities born of flooding rains. Under a funding arrangement negotiated by the Queensland Government last year, Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council was able to employ local contractors to repair damage caused by cyclone Nathan.

The town's mayor Wayne Butcher said that decision meant, that instead of employing contractors from hundreds of kilometres away, locals were now reaping the benefits.

"The three business involved employ more than a dozen workers, some of whom are now looking to create their own businesses, Mr Butcher said.

A spokesman for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority said the funding arrangement changed after the State Government successfully lobbied for an exemption from the Federal Government that allowed councils to claim the cost of their own internal workforce for reconstruction programs. The work in Lockhart River is expected to be complete by June 30 next year.

Cairns Post—20 October

Get Ready for storm season

Preparation is key to staying safe

AN BEAUTIFUL as our part of the world is, we all know that the coming months can bring wild storms and an increased threat of floods. In conjunction with the region's emergency services, Bundaberg Regional Council recently launched Get Ready Week.

Bundaberg Regional Council Deputy Mayor and emergency services spokesman David Bell said Get Ready Week was a timely reminder for all residents to check, plan and prepare for the possibility of storms, cyclones and floods.

"Residents can access the flood mapping technology on council's website to assess their personal flood risk and, for their own peace of mind and to assist with evacuation planning, can discover what roads would need to occur at certain stages for their property."

"Residents can manage their own individual flood risk."

The council's Flood Mapping Options can be accessed at bundaberg.qld.gov.au/foreshore.

"Residents can also encourage to stay tuned to

the importance of being constantly prepared for the threat of rain. "However major flooding and accidents in the middle to lower catchment areas require long-scale rainfall across the entire catchment," he said. "Council is extremely well prepared for any event of this scale thanks to the award-winning flood mapping technology we have at our disposal, coupled with river and rain gauge which feed in to our early warning network."

"Residents can access the flood mapping technology on council's website to assess their personal flood risk and, for their own peace of mind and to assist with evacuation planning, can discover what roads would need to occur at certain stages for their property."

"Residents can manage their own individual flood risk."

The council's Flood Mapping Options can be accessed at bundaberg.qld.gov.au/foreshore.

"Residents can also encourage to stay tuned to

greater control over your personal situation and be with your loved ones, pets and belongings in a more comfortable environment."

"Residents bring it to your attention that you should be aware of the risk of storm tide inundation. "A storm surge is a rise in the ocean level associated with a cyclone or East Coast Low and can result in flooding, damage to buildings and cutting off evacuation routes."

"It is important that all council residents make an emergency plan for themselves, their family and pets and wherever possible make arrangements to stay with friends and family on higher ground should an extreme weather event occur."

"Residents can manage their own individual flood risk."

"Residents can also encourage to stay tuned to

Bundaberg News Mail — 15 October

Disaster support on council website



The online "dashboard" residents will see when residents access the Cook Shire Council website during disaster events. The dashboard is part of the Guardian software used by most councils across the state. ONLINE access to vital disaster preparation and tracking information will be much easier with a new section to be added to the Cook Shire Council website. Council's "Onion Dashboard" will be added to the website before this year's cyclone season. It will include information such as emergency news, bulletins, weather warnings and an interactive map showing local incident locations. Cook Shire Mayor and Local Disaster Management Group Chair Peter Scare said the dashboard provided fast and accurate information in one easy location. "It's easy to use and accurate and could save vital time during a disaster, be it, flood, cyclone or accident," Cr Scott said.

Cooktown Local News—13 October

Flood planning welcome

Mayor says the council is keen for flood plan update

BUNDBERG Mayor Jack Dempsey is looking forward to the state government's proposals regarding flood action in the region.

Cr Dempsey said a council briefing with Member for Bundaberg Leanne Donaldson was scheduled for Wednesday although he understood community consultation would begin on Tuesday afternoon at the North Bundaberg Progress Hall.

"I believe the council team associated with producing our flood plan study can be justly proud of its efforts following an extensive review of both the Flood Study and associated risk management and also the council initiated community engagement process."

"The reviews, undertaken by independent, state-appointed consultants Jacobs, generally found a high quality of procedure and data associated with the manner in which council undertook its flood analysis and engaged with residents. "Of course, as is the case with any review, areas of potential improvement are identified and this can only be positive, not only for the Bundaberg region in any future flood event, but must also assist communities across this state and the nation that are subjected to flood events."

Cr Dempsey said it was important for the State Government to articulate to the community what

mitigation measures would be applied, taking into account options identified in council's Flood plan action plan of 2014.

"As a council and as a community, we require to know what financial resources will be available to progress these mitigation options under the 10-year plan."

Cr Dempsey said options identified by council included: construction of a levee and floodgate in East Bundaberg; regional bridge upgrades; Bundaberg North evacuation route upgrades; funding for house raising and rumpusting; construction of a levee in North Bundaberg; dredging of the Burnett River in the town reach; construction of a low-level levee in North Bundaberg; and widening the Burnett River at Millaquin Bend.

"Of these options the evacuation routes and North Bundaberg levee adjacent to Tech Park have been completed."

Cr Dempsey said he understood that the mitigation options suggested ran into hundreds of millions of dollars. "However, I am certain the state government will align by its promised commitment to residents, and especially to those who suffered the emotional stress associated with personal flood experiences."

FLOOD RESTORATION UPDATE

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

Monto Area - Kariboe Rd, Barram Rd

Mount Perry Area - Swindon Rd



Flood works complete at Scanlans Road, Gayndah.

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

Central & North Burnett Times—27 October

FLOOD RESTORATION UPDATE

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

Gayndah Area - Scanlans Rd

Monto Area - Kariboe Rd, Barram Rd

Mount Perry Area - Swindon Rd



Bon Accord bridge approach, Gayndah.

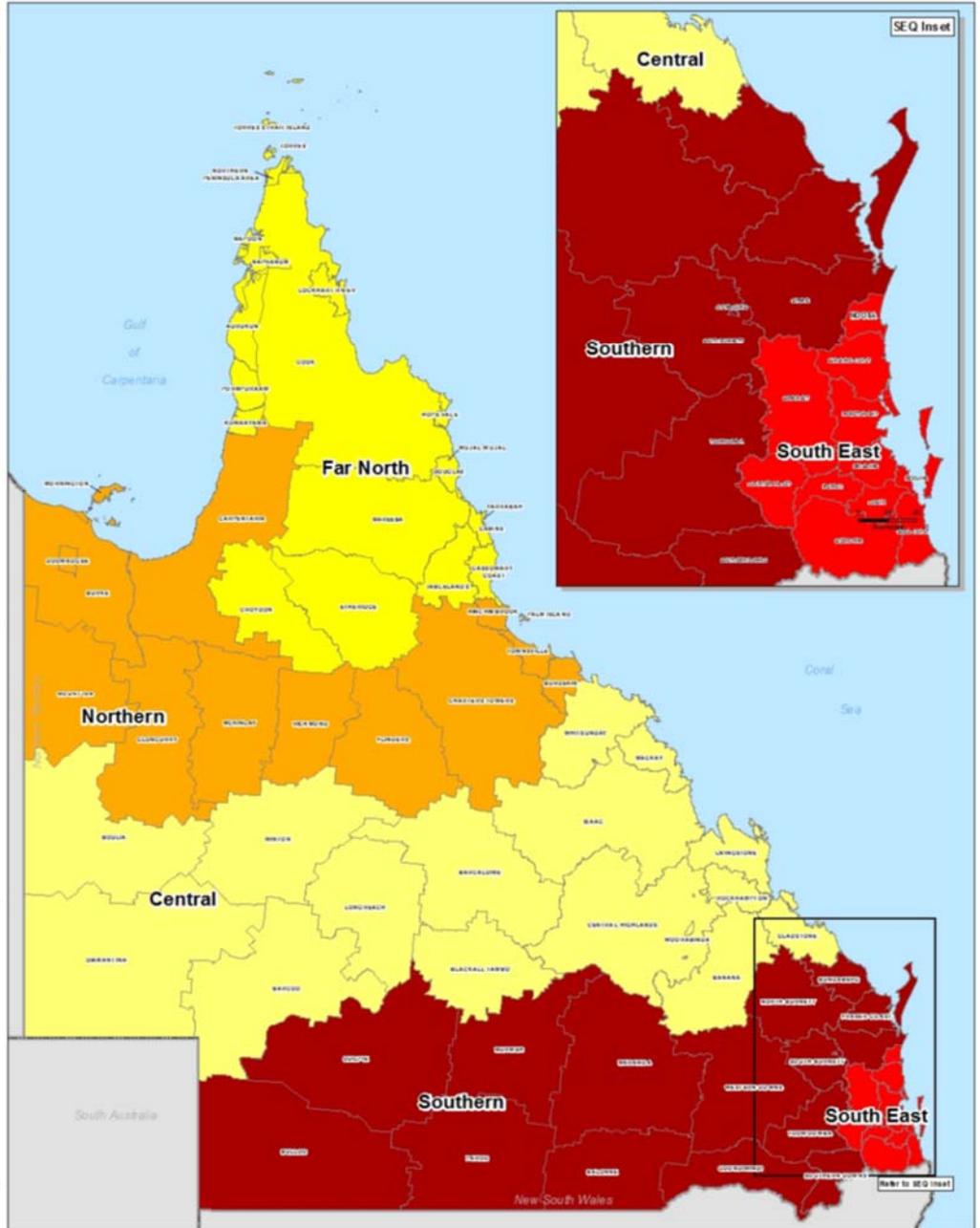
Council acknowledges the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding is a joint Commonwealth and State Government program.

Central & North Burnett Times—13 October

Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

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



Disclaimer:
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The Queensland Reconstruction Authority does not warrant or assume any liability for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this map.
The Queensland Reconstruction Authority does not accept any liability for damage or loss resulting from the use of or reliance 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

