

Monthly Report

March 2019

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Disaster Assistance

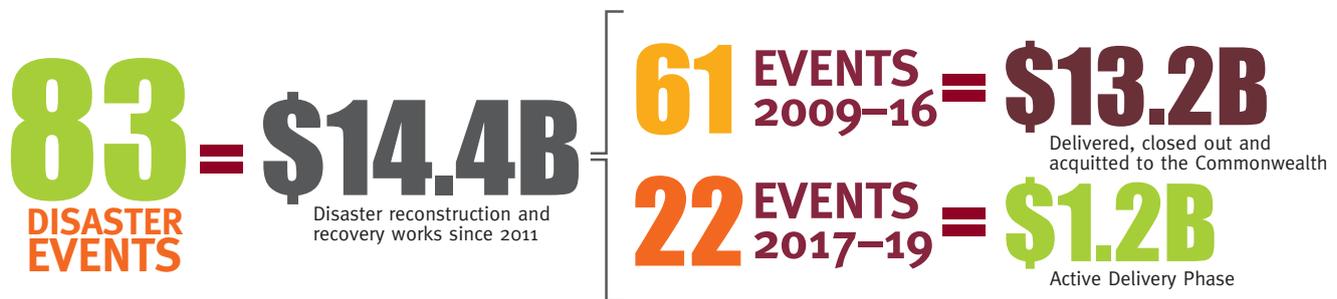
Overview

QRA has responsibility to administer Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) measures in Queensland, coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities.

Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated \$14.4 billion of disaster reconstruction and recovery works for 77 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.¹

QRA is also managing six disaster events under DRFA, including the recent North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January – 14 February 2019, which has devastated North Queensland communities.

The list of activated disaster events is found on www.disaster.qld.gov.au.



NDRRA

Although the disaster funding arrangements transitioned to DRFA from 1 November 2018, the state will continue to administer and submit claims under the existing NDRRA Determination for a three year period while the existing NDRRA program for disasters occurring in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 event periods² are finalised. Event periods are based on the closing date of the financial year, i.e. the 2018 event period represents the 2017/18 financial year. Three events also occurred in the 2019 event period prior to the implementation of DRFA and will be the final events administered under NDRRA.

With an allowable time limit of two financial years to deliver reconstruction works, \$13.2 billion of works from 61 events across 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 events have been delivered and works worth \$1.2 billion for the remaining 16 events from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 event periods (that occurred prior to 1 November 2018) are currently in the delivery phase (Delivery Program).

Of the total program, \$13.1 billion of completed works have been closed out and acquitted in audited claims, with the remainder of the program from the 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 event periods to be acquitted in annual claims through to 2021 following completion of works.

DRFA

The DRFA arrangements apply to any disaster events that occur after 1 November 2018.

Six events have been activated to date to which DRFA applies in Queensland, including the recent North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January – 14 February 2019 event.

The main change under DRFA relative to the NDRRA model is that natural disaster recovery funding for the restoration of essential public assets is based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs rather than reimbursement of actual costs incurred. DRFA also provides the potential for the state to retain savings delivered in the state's restoration program for allocation to disaster mitigation and resilience projects.

1. Estimates for the 2019 events are not yet reported in the program values.

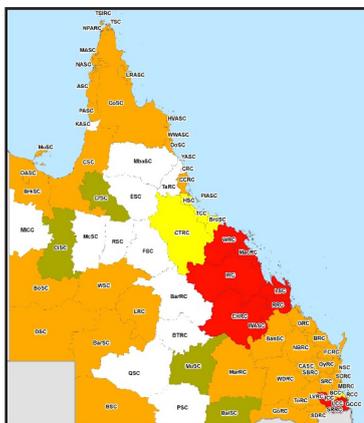
2. Event periods are based on the closing date of the financial year, ie the 2018 event period represents the 2017/18 financial year.

Disaster Assistance

Activations

one DRFA activations new in February 2019

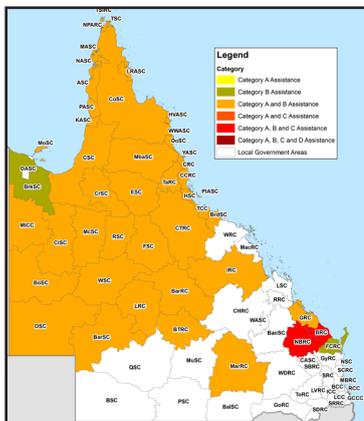
The information below shows the LGAs activated for NDRRA and DRFA relief measures for the 2017 to 2019 event periods that are still in the delivery phase.



2017 event period – \$796 million NDRRA program

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

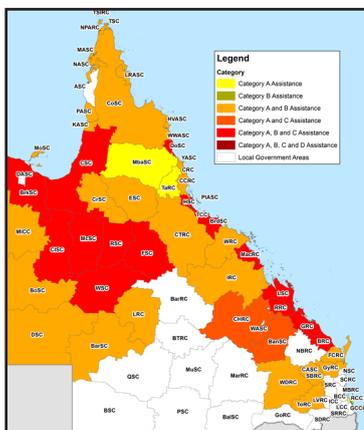
- Far North Queensland Trough, 21–28 March 2017
- Far North Queensland Trough, 3–10 February 2017
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, associated rainfall & flooding, 28 March – 6 April 2017
- Gulf Tropical Low, 15–24 February 2017
- Far North Queensland Low, 8–11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding, 13–20 September 2016
- Central Queensland Severe Weather, 15–20 July 2016



2018 event period – \$437 million NDRRA program

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2020, with acquittal by March 2021)

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora and Associated Flooding, 24–29 March 2018
- North Queensland Flooding, 6–10 March 2018
- North and North West Queensland Low and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 24 February – 8 March 2018
- Central Queensland Storm, 20 February 2018
- Cape York Queensland Trough, 26 January – 2 February 2018
- Central Coast Queensland Severe Weather, 16 – 19 October 2017



2019 event period – Combined NDRRA/DRFA program value to be determined

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2021, with acquittal by March 2022)

NDRRA

- Wide Bay-Burnett Severe Storms, 11–14 October 2018
- Mareeba & Tablelands Bushfires, 17 September – 9 October 2018
- Gympie Bushfires, 19 – 27 September 2018

DRFA

- North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January – 14 February 2019
- Tropical Cyclone Owen, 9 – 17 December 2019
- Tropical Cyclone Penny, 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019
- South West Queensland Trough, 14 – 17 December 2018 (New Activation)
- Redland Bushfires, 28 November – 13 December 2018

Disaster Assistance

NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program status

The **Delivery Program** comprises works for 21 events across the 2017, 2018 and 2019 event periods.

Of this, QRA is actively monitoring and reporting to \$1.23 billion of works from the 2017 and 2018 event periods. The eight 2019 events in the program, including the six events activated under DRFA, will be formally reported against following the next estimates review process in March/April 2019.

The status of the Delivery Program by event period is as follows:



2017 event period

Across the 2017 disaster season, 62 councils were activated for NDRRA assistance from seven events, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$796 million.

To date, all funding submissions have been approved, and QRA is actively working with delivery agents to progress the reconstruction program through the delivery phase. Delivery agents have until 30 June 2019 to deliver eligible NDRRA works.

Weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting, all delivery agents have reported that they expect to complete works within the deadline. Whitsunday Regional Council's Shute Harbour project has an extension of time approved due to geo-technical complexities.

2018 event period

Across the 2018 disaster season, 48 councils were activated across six disaster events at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$437 million.

To date, approximately 64 per cent of funding submissions for the 2018 event period have been approved, and QRA is assisting delivery agents to prepare submissions and progress into delivery for the remaining program.

Delivery agents have until 30 June 2020 to deliver eligible NDRRA works from the 2018 events.

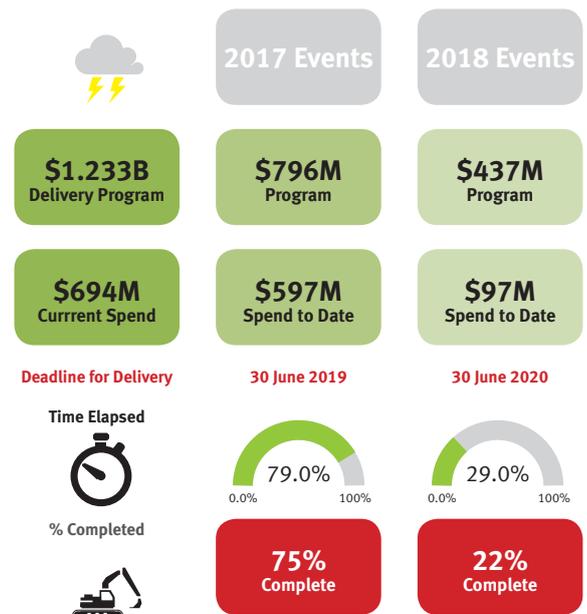
2019 event period

In 2018-19 the State has been impacted by a series of significant disaster events, including the December bushfires in Central Queensland and the record-breaking monsoon flooding which devastated infrastructure, businesses, primary producers and residents across 37 local government areas around Townsville and Western Queensland through to the Far North in January/February 2019.

In total, nine events and 67 councils have been activated for assistance to date in 2019, with three events that occurred in September and October 2018 activated under NDRRA and six events that occurred after 1 November 2018 activated under DRFA.

The recent monsoon event is one of the most significant to hit in the state in recent history with early estimate of recovery and reconstruction costs at more than \$1 billion.

Progress of recovery against the nine 2019 events will be included in the Delivery Program following the next estimates review in early 2019.



Note: % Spend will highlight green if tracking above time elapsed or red if tracking behind

Disaster Assistance

NDRRA Acquittal Program status

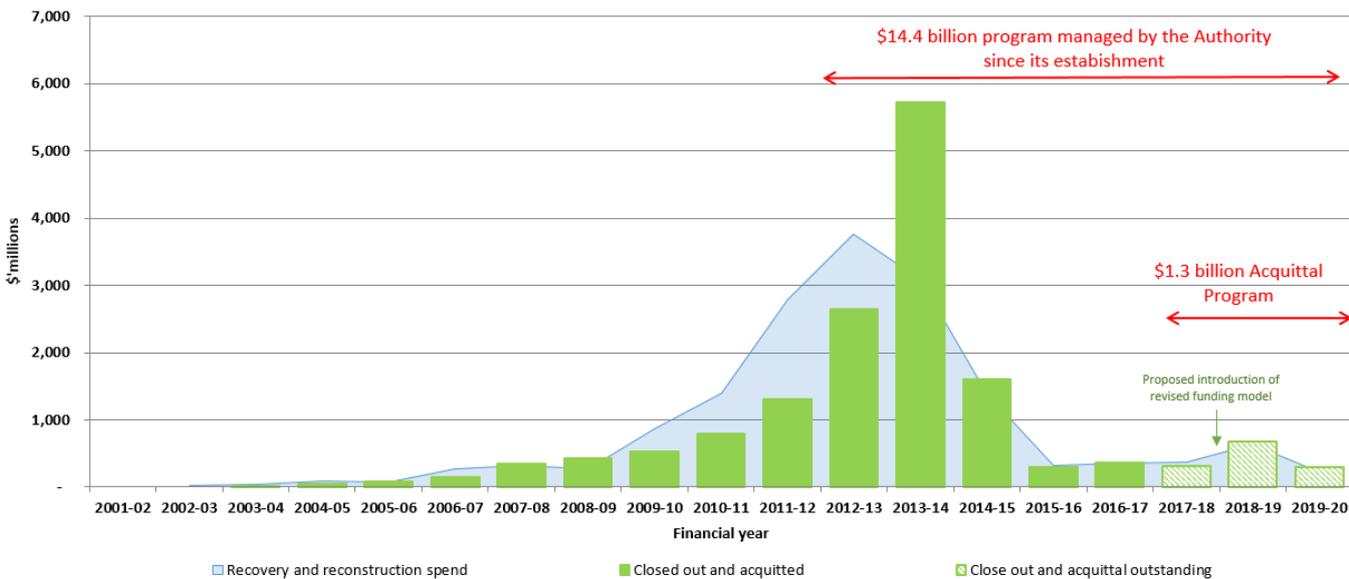


The **Acquittal Program** comprises works that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth, and is spread across the 22 events from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 event periods in the Delivery Program, the works from the 2016 event period that were completed in the year up to the deadline for delivery on 30 June 2018 and three projects from the 2015 event period that received extensions of time for delivery.

Queensland’s next claim for NDRRA works completed in the 2017–18 financial year is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth this month. The 2017–18 Claim is estimated to acquit approximately \$310 million of NDRRA expenditure.

The claim is currently subject to audit review prior to its lodgement with the Commonwealth by 31 March 2019.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001–02 to 2016–17 financial years and preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2017–18 to 2019–20 in order to finalise the Acquittal Program.



Disaster Assistance

Additional Recovery Measures – Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie (2017)

A range of NDRRA and non-NDRRA relief measures have been activated to alleviate distress for communities, businesses, industries and the environment impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND NDRRA CATEGORY C \$14.9M

- Fund to support initiatives and projects over a two year period to restore social networks and build community resilience and capacity for the future in the Gold Coast, Isaac, Logan City, Mackay, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim and Whitsunday council areas.
- The Queensland Government Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and Queensland Health are delivering three support programs to individuals and community mental health and community development programs, with detailed status reports provided on a quarterly basis.

EXCEPTIONAL DISASTER MEASURES NDRRA CATEGORY D \$96.3M

Package	Purpose	Status
Local Council Package (\$17.3 million)	<p>Infrastructure projects to generate employment, boost the local economy and drive community resilience in key impact areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shute Harbour Marina (\$15.2 million) – demolish and replace the existing jetty, rebuild the terminal building, repair an existing seawall, and replace ancillary infrastructure. • Airlie Beach repairs, Whitsundays (\$850k) – for repairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shute Harbour – Demolition works on the Lloyd Roberts jetty and terminal building were completed in July 2018. • Whitsunday Regional Council released the construction tender to market in January 2019. Tender period closes 11 March 2019. • Unforeseen geotechnical complexities and identification of coral bommies within the construction area has resulted in delays to project design, impacting the project completion date. The Commonwealth has approved an Extension of Time for delivery to 30 June 2020. • The construction works for the Airlie Beach foreshore parklands have commenced and are expected to be completed April 2019, weather permitting.
Resilient Infrastructure (Betterment) (\$41.9 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To restore or replace essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard. • 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 from eligible councils activated for Category B (REPA) seeking \$114 million. • 83 projects have been approved worth \$41.9 million, fully allocating the Betterment funding across 22 councils. • 33 projects have been completed and a further 37 have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2019.
Environmental Recovery Package (\$35 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, including the clean-up of beaches, recreational parks, rivers and waterways. • \$35 million of the Environmental Recovery Package across five areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Coastal B. Environmental C. Riparian D. Mapping E. Water Courses. 	<p>A & B (Coastal, Environmental) – \$19.4 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 submissions worth more than \$19.2 million have been approved to date across 15 Councils. • 29 projects have been completed and a further 13 projects have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2019. <p>C, D & E (Riparian, Mapping, Water Courses) – \$15.6 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All funding has been allocated to eligible projects across seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies. • This program of work is approximately 59% complete.
Economic Recovery Package (\$2.1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support recovery of industry and businesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture & Fisheries has Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) in impacted areas across five primary industries including nursery, grazing and cropping, horticulture, sugarcane and dairy. • Rural financial counselling services are delivering support on the ground and IROs have been assisting primary producers with Category C Recovery Grant applications to QRIDA. Agronomic advice is being provided to farmers on a needs basis.

Disaster Assistance

STATE PACKAGES \$62M

The state has committed to fund the full \$110 million of additional assistance measures that it would have funded under its original Category D proposal to the Commonwealth following STC Debbie. Of this, the State will fund \$62 million of recovery measures in addition to its \$48 million (50 percent) contribution to the \$96 million NDRRA Category D packages approved by the Commonwealth.

Key projects announced to date for state funding for additional recovery measures to repair damage and revitalise impacted regions following STC Debbie include:

- \$8.8 million towards revitalising the iconic tourism destinations of Mackay's Bluewater Trail and Queens Park.
- \$5 million for repairs to the Whitsunday Regional Council Administration Building in Proserpine, which was badly damaged by STC Debbie and serves as the region's local disaster coordination centre.
- \$4.562 million for sand replenishment at Midge Point and Lamberts Beach and construction of new rock groynes on St Helens Beach in Mackay.
- \$2.65 million towards the revitalisation of the Airlie Beach Foreshore. Additional funding is being provided through the state's Building our Regions program (\$2.83 million) and Category D (\$850,000).
- \$500,000 for the restoration of Proserpine Entertainment Centre.
- \$1 million to Toowoomba Regional Council to contribute towards a new regional SES headquarters in Charlton.
- \$895,000 to Whitsunday Regional Council for the rectification of the Bowen Front Beach Seawall.
- \$880,000 to Logan City Council consisting of \$770,000 towards Flooded Road Smart Warning System and \$110,000 for an updated flood study of Logan and Albert Rivers.

On 4 January 2019 and as part of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, working towards making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia, the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, The Honourable Cameron Dick announced \$3 million of additional state funding across six resilience projects:

- \$177,000 to Central Highlands Regional Council for Sapphire Emergency Warning Sirens.
- \$272,000 to Fraser Coast Regional Council for the replacement of the floodway at Bakers Road, Bauple.
- \$193,458 to Gladstone Regional Council for Causeway Upgrade at Bells Road.
- \$390,780 to the Herbert River Improvement Trust / Hinchinbrook Shire Council for the modification of the Halifax flood mitigation levee to restore flood immunity.
- \$1.884 million to Rockhampton Regional Council for the Wackford Street Drainage Scheme (Stage 1).
- \$82,231 to Scenic Rim Regional Council for the Sarabah Road Floodway Extension at Spring Gully Stays.

Recovery and Resilience

QRA is leading disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy in Queensland.

Resilience grant funding programs

Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

\$15M FUNDING AVAILABLE
NDRP Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) supports community groups, government and non-government agencies, as well as Queensland based non-profit organisations, to build disaster resilience across the state.

The 2017–18 NDRP is administered by QRA with total funding available of \$15 million, comprising \$12 million of new funding for 2017–18 and \$3 million of program savings from earlier funding rounds.

Applications were received for 207 projects seeking \$97 million NDRP funding in the 2017–18 funding round.

Funding of \$14.3 million was allocated in June 2018 to 72 approved projects. An additional \$557,000 was allocated to four projects in September 2018 following the transfer of additional savings realised from prior year NDRP programs. A total of \$14.9 million of funds has now been allocated to 76 approved projects from 54 councils and 14 organisations and agencies.

QRA is currently actively monitoring and assisting with delivery of the projects.



Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund

\$38M OVER 4 YEARS
QDRF The Queensland Government announced a \$38 million Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund in the 2018–19 Budget to strengthen the state’s resilience to future disasters. The Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) is administered by QRA.

The fund will support local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations in delivering disaster mitigation projects and initiatives that build resilience throughout the state over the next four years in parallel with disaster reconstruction works.

The QDRF objectives are to support delivery of disaster resilience and mitigation projects that align with the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience objectives, are cost effective and evidence based and address state-risk priorities such as those identified in the Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment 2017.

The first funding round of the QDRF of \$9.5 million was launched on 26 February 2019, with applications closing 18 April 2019.

Projects approved under the QDRF will be allocated funding of up to \$2 million.

In addition to the QDRF, \$1.15 million in Australian Government funding may be available under the Prepared Communities Fund, as part of the Australian Government’s Preparing Australia Package, for eligible projects submitted under the first round of QDRF.

Recovery and Resilience

Other Recovery and Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
Resilient Queensland 2018–2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience	<p>Resilient Queensland 2018-21 was released on 31 May 2018 and represents the plan for implementing the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience.</p> <p>Pilot projects to facilitate delivery of improved disaster resilience on a regional scale, and to support LGAs in developing their own disaster risk management strategies and resilience plans.</p> <p>The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy was the first pilot project to be completed in mid-2018 and was delivered in partnership with Bundaberg, Cherbourg, North Burnett and South Burnett councils.</p> <p>The purpose of the pilots are to test and evaluate the relevant methodologies for potential State-wide application.</p> <p>The pilot projects are now being developed across additional regions in close partnership with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three regional resilience pilot projects commenced in late 2018 for councils in Central Western Queensland, the Mary River and Fitzroy regions to provide a coordinated blueprint to leverage social, economic, built and environmental resilience. • NDRP funds have been approved for Resilient Queensland pilot work including funding Regional Resilience Coordinators for both the Burnett region and the Central West regions. The Regional Resilience Coordinators commenced in the Burnett region in September 2018 and Central West region in late 2018.
Recovery Capability Development	<p>Recovery from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and IGEM's 2017 Disaster Management Plan Assessment Report highlighted the varying levels of recovery capability across local governments.</p> <p>The Recovery Capability Development Project aims to address gaps in recovery capability through a series of training workshops and exercises.</p> <p>The project is being developed and delivered collaboratively with state government and local recovery partners in 3 stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial Engagement 2. Training and Exercise Package Development 3. Training and Exercise Delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 3 underway • Local Recovery Planning Workshop scheduled for 12-14 March for Northern Peninsular Area Development Regional Council. • Governance Planning Workshop on 6 March in Rockhampton. • Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire dates are proposed for early April. • Feedback received from Kowanyama and Napranum on recovery plans incorporated into plans and returned to council • Draft local recovery plans sent to Mapoon, Yarrabah and Aurukun for review and approval.
Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies	<p>The Queensland Government, through QRA and partner agencies, and local councils (Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley) are working together on a long-term plan to manage the impact of future floods and enhance community safety and resilience in the Brisbane River floodplain.</p> <p>The project includes development of a Flood Study followed by a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP) that will guide a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Flood Study was released on 5 May 2017. • The Flood Study supported the development of a SFMP, which is in the final stages of completion and scheduled for release in early 2019. • QRA will oversee the implementation of SFMP to be delivered by local governments and state agencies.

Recovery and Resilience

Other Recovery and Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
Flood Warning Infrastructure Program	QRA continues to assist the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) to ensure the best available information is available for providing flood warnings and forecasts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRA continues to review the status of each of the councils' Network Investment Plans with regards to the implementation of recommendations. • QRA worked with the Bureau of Meteorology to develop the draft <i>Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan</i> that will support the Bureau's National Flood Warning Infrastructure Strategy. • The draft <i>Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan</i> was submitted to the Queensland Flood Warning Consultative Committee and is anticipated to be released in early to mid 2019
Operation Queensland Recovery Plan and reporting (2017 Recovery Plan)	<p>The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery following STC Debbie.</p> <p>The plan focuses on empowering local governments, supported by state agencies, to deliver local solutions to ensure communities lead their own recovery and build resilience for future events. The Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans for the eight most severely impacted council areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRA is continuing to work closely with the Mackay and Whitsunday councils, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Queensland Health and recovery partners to assist these entities address the recovery issues facing impacted residents after STC Debbie, including raising insurance matters with the Insurance Council of Australia, progressing reconstruction of property and connecting residents in need with targeted recovery services.
Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework	QRA has collaborated with government and industry to develop the Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework (QDRMIF) to provide guidance on effective investment prioritisation to support building resilience and mitigating disasters across Queensland. The QDRMIF defines key principles for investment in disaster resilience and mitigation, and articulates how an investment contributes value to Queensland's broader resilience agenda. It is informed by international and national approaches and recognised the significant work that has already been undertaken in this space across the state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The framework has now been endorsed and published on the QRA website

Program spotlights

Records broken in Queensland during monsoon season

The Queensland Government has moved swiftly to ensure communities impacted by the devastating floods in Queensland’s North, Far North, Central and Western communities get the helping hand they need on the long road to recovery.

These wide spread floods have caused unprecedented havoc in Townsville and had an enormous impact on already struggling farmers, flattening crops and devastating livestock with reports of some regions losing 100 per cent of their stock.

The early estimate of recovery and reconstruction costs is currently more than \$1 billion, and the Insurance Council of Australia has received claims of more than \$900 million.



QRA officers assisting QFES with damage assessments in Townsville



QRA CEO Brendan Moon accompanies Minister Cameron Dick on a visit to the Townsville Community Recovery Coordination Centre.

37 local government areas have been activated for disaster assistance for varying measures including personal hardship, counter disaster operations, the restoration of essential public assets, low interest loans and grants for small businesses, as well as freight subsidies, low interest loans and grants for primary producers in the hardest hit areas.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has worked closely with Emergency Management Australia to fast track activation of disaster assistance, including Category C/D grants for primary producers and small businesses and personal hardship payments under the joint State/Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

QRA is also working to produce a business case for a DRFA Category C Community Recovery and Category D Exceptional Circumstances Package to assist with community, social, environmental and infrastructure recovery and the creation of disaster risk reduction strategies and resilience building programs in the impact zone.



Brigadier Stephen Jobson, ADF with Mayor Jane McNamara of Flinders Shire and SRC Stuart Smith in Hughenden



QRA Officer assisting QFES with rapid damage assessments on Palm Island

More than 75,000 applications have been received for emergency hardship assistance with more than \$23.5 million paid to date, benefitting more than 109,000 people.

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority has approved a total applications, delivering more than \$9.5 million of recovery grants to impacted primary producers and small businesses.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, assisted by QRA, have carried out more than 8,467 rapid damage inspections, with approximately 40 per cent of the properties inspected showing damage, including 1255 properties that are uninhabitable.

The Department of Housing and Public Works has assisted close to 1700 people affected by flooding in Townsville and surrounding areas who have sought housing support.

Many Queenslanders in northern and western regions may not have seen a flood of this magnitude in a lifetime, but they are no stranger to disasters and are a resilient community.



QRA RLO inspecting damage to Laroona Road in Charters Towers



Damaged furniture after flooding in Townsville

There is no doubt the human, social and economic impact from this event will be significant, but QRA is standing together with local governments to reassure impacted communities.

A QRA team with disaster recovery expertise has been in Townsville since early February to support the local and district disaster management groups as well as Council, complete damage assessments with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and provide engineering and other support to impacted councils throughout Far North Queensland and the west.

The State Recovery Coordinator is working with impacted local governments as well as Functional Recovery Groups from across the Queensland Government in the areas of Human and Social, Economic, Environment, Building and Roads and Transport have been stood up to coordinate, link and manage recovery activities at the state level.

QRA is working with the State Recovery Coordinator, Functional Recovery Groups, other state agencies, councils and the Commonwealth to ensure a seamless path from response to recovery from the widespread impacts of flooding in Queensland.



Diamantina River flooding at Winton



Road damage on Palm Island

Program spotlights

Queensland disaster resilience fund is now open

Queensland is the most disaster impacted state in the nation.

In the past decade, the State has been struck by more than 70 significant natural disaster events, resulting in the loss of life, billions of dollars in damage to agriculture, industry and tourism, insurance losses, and more than \$14.5 billion in damage to public infrastructure state-wide.

In a climate such as this, it is imperative that Queensland communities adapt in such a way that allows us to confront the situation from a position of resilience and strength.

History has shown that an upfront investment in stronger infrastructure and more resilient communities saves money for all levels of government in the long-term.

That's why on Tuesday 26 February 2019, Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced applications are now open for the \$38 million QDRF – a crucial step towards making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in the nation.

The QDRF will support local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations deliver mitigation and resilience projects across four years starting in 2018–19, in parallel with disaster reconstruction works that will better protect Queensland communities from future disasters.

The QDRF aims to bridge the gap between the end of the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP), which provided \$6 million per year in joint state and Commonwealth funding to reduce Queensland communities' vulnerability to natural disasters and build community resilience.

The final round of the NDRP was heavily oversubscribed in 2018, with approximately \$97 million in funding sought for more than 200 projects from Queensland councils, state government agencies, non-government and not-for-profit organisations around the state.

The QDRF will allocate \$9.5 million each year across the next four years to fund activities and projects that will help communities become better prepared and more resilient to disaster in the future.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has contacted stakeholders to seek out the projects that will make a very real contribution to building more disaster resilient communities.

The latest round of cyclones and destructive flooding to hit the state shows the need to arm our state with resilient communities that are able to withstand all that Mother Nature can muster, and the QDRF aims to do just that.

The \$38 million Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund is 100 per cent state funded and is administered by QRA, the state's lead agency for disaster resilience, recovery and mitigation policy and Australia's only permanent disaster recovery agency.

More information on the QDRF and how to apply is available at www.qra.qld.gov.au.



Program spotlights

Sarina Range restoration completed

Up to 1000mm of rain was recorded around the Sarina Range, south of Mackay, following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

As a result, Marlborough-Sarina Road suffered severe geotechnical failure. In total, there were 30 areas requiring repair across 26 sites, including two major landslips more than 300 metres in length, that resulted in complete loss of the road and supporting embankment at each site.

The significant damage resulted in the long-term closure of Marlborough-Sarina Road along the Sarina Range, and the identification of nearby Koumala-Bolingbroke Road as a detour route. Following extensive works, one lane of Marlborough-Sarina Road was reopened on 8 October 2018 under traffic control. The restoration project reached completion in December 2018.



Marlborough-Sarina Road – damage at main slip site

The final works associated with the roadway restoration included drainage, completion of bitumen and asphalt sealing and rehabilitation works, installation of guard rails, line marking and revegetation.

Works on the Sarina Range restoration included the following:

- More than 10,500 dump trucks full of landslip and excavated material was removed from the damaged sites to facilitate the reconstruction of the road.
- By the end of the project, about 40,000 square metres of revegetation – equivalent to six international standard football fields – were introduced to stabilise embankments and restore areas that were cleared to assist with the reconstruction project.
- More than 50,000 litres of grout – equivalent to 3500 20kg cement bags – were used as part of the slope stabilisation process along the landslip sites.
- About 5km of soil nails were used to stabilise the slopes.
- The retaining wall at the main slip site was made from 7000 blocks. If you were to lay these blocks end to end, they would stretch along the entire Sarina Range crossing.

Works to revegetate non-roadway areas that were used to assist in the restoration project were completed in January 2019.



Marlborough-Sarina Road – completed repairs at main slip site



Marlborough-Sarina Road – repairs in progress at main slip site



Marlborough-Sarina Road – completed repairs at main slip site

