

WHAT WE DO:

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Government’s program of **recovery and reconstruction** works within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice administration of public reconstruction and resilience funds. QRA is also the state’s lead agency responsible for **disaster recovery and resilience policy**, working collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

OUR VISION:

Make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

OUR PURPOSE:

Enable recovery and build resilience to disaster events within our communities.

Status of NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program

	2018 Events	2019 Events	2020 Events
\$1.770B Delivery Program	\$288M Program	\$1.466B Program	\$16M Program
\$597M Current Spend	\$207M Spend to date	\$387M Spend to date	\$4M Spend to date
Deadline for Delivery	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022
Time Elapsed	71%	21%	-
% Completion	72% complete	26% complete	23% complete

In January

1 NEW ACTIVATION FOR DRFA MEASURES

QLD Monsoonal Flooding 24 - 31 January 2020

\$123M SUBMISSIONS APPROVED

\$32M WORKS REPORTED AS DELIVERED

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

NDRRA/DRFA Grants Program

QRA administers and coordinates joint Commonwealth/State disaster recovery grant measures in Queensland through Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Acquittal:

The State’s next claim to the Commonwealth for DRFA is due by **31 March 2020**. QRA has completed the close out of all submissions for the claim and the claim is currently subject to audit by the Queensland Audit Office.

Works for **22** events from

2018 disaster seasons are currently in delivery with

2019 an estimated value in excess of

2020

\$1.77B

Additional Recovery Measures

QRA is administering a suite of exceptional DRFA assistance measures for recent events.

Southern Queensland Bushfires and Eastern Queensland Bushfires (2019) - \$25 million

Additional funding under the DRFA has been approved in Queensland in response to bushfires between September to December 2019. \$25 million in Category C and D DRFA funding is being made available to assist with the recovery from these bushfires.

The current packages are outlined below.

Recovery package	Amount (\$)
Marketing Campaign	\$1.5M
Tourism Recovery Officers (TROs)	\$500k
Tourism Recovery Fund for Local Government	\$3M
Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience	\$1M
Mental Health and Wellbeing	\$4.7M
Community Development Officers (CDOs)	\$3M
Flexible Funding Grants	\$6M
Monitoring and Evaluation	\$300K
Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package	\$5M

North & FNQ Monsoon Trough (2019) - \$242 million

- Infrastructure \$134.5M**
 - \$47.85M allocated to date to 22 projects, to restore and improve the disaster resilience of flood damaged essential public, community and water assets.
- Economic \$39M**
 - 9 Industry Recovery Officers and 3 Rural Financial Counsellors in operation.
 - 145 small business grants approved to the value of \$1.45M.
 - 41 Travel bursaries provided for delegates to attend the Destination Q Events Conference.
 - \$1.7M provided to councils for fodder supply costs.
- Environment \$36M**
 - Riparian Recovery Program - 77 projects worth \$13.4M recommended across riparian reconnaissance, urgent riparian works, Coastal Recovery Program and the Regional Invasive Species Program.
 - \$100,000 Emergency Response Program for Parthenium Weed is being delivered through Department of Agriculture and Fisheries as an emergency response immediately following the Monsoon Trough.
- Human & Social \$12.75M**
 - 9 Community Development Officers in place.
 - Mental Health program has commenced delivery with 13 clinicians, social and health workers and one Child and Youth Mental Health service delivering services through the Townsville, North West and Central West Hospital and Health Services (HHS).
 - 3616 people screened, 70 individuals have received clinical treatments and 1173 clinical hours undertaken.
- Resilience \$19.75M**
 - Flexible Funding Grants totalling \$4.5M approved across 68 projects. The projects will continue to support and enable recovery, and contribute to building awareness and resilience.
 - Townsville Flood Mapping project initiated.

RECOVERY

QRA works extensively on recovery planning with councils impacted by major disaster events, increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support for local recovery governance.

Recovery Plans

QRA is currently coordinating three state event specific recovery plans:

Queensland Bushfires (2020)

The Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan addresses the Southern Queensland Bushfires and Eastern Queensland Bushfires. Functional Recovery Groups have completed recovery action plans for incorporation into the Recovery Plan. Gladstone, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim, Somerset and Toowoomba Regional councils are being assisted to develop event specific recovery plans by QRA. Southern Downs, Noosa and Livingstone Regional Councils have endorsed their event specific recovery plans.

North & FNQ Monsoon Trough (2019)

The first quarterly progress report was approved by the Premier of Queensland and is available on the Queensland Reconstruction Authority website. A media release was issued highlighting recovery progress at the anniversary of the Monsoon event.

Central Queensland Bushfires (2018)

Local Government and State agencies are continuing to support the recovery objectives outlined in the recovery plan. Flexible funding grants have enabled Council to use innovative approaches to recovery including the development of Rural Community Connect in the Central Highlands and an art education program in Mackay.

Recovery Planning and Governance Project

As a result of the 2018-19 disaster season, assisting local governments with developing and/or strengthening local disaster recovery capabilities has been identified as a key recovery priority for Queensland.

Delivery underway on completed Council event-specific recovery plans related to the Central Queensland Bushfires and the NFNQ Monsoon Trough

19

8 Council event-specific recovery plans being finalised for the Southern Queensland Bushfires

8

49 Council Recovery sub-plans underway or endorsed

49



Image: The State Recovery Coordinator (SRC) and Deputy Mayor of Southern Downs Regional Council participated in a Queensland Bushfire Recovery Progress meeting with staff from QRA and Southern Downs Regional Council.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

QUEENSLAND ASSISTS THE NATION IN BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

As Australia battled the largest bushfire event in the nation's history, Queensland drew on its wealth of disaster recovery experience to provide guidance to the new National Bushfire Recovery Agency (NBRA).

From 6 September to 19 December 2019, more than 3000 bushfires scorched more than 6.6 million hectares across Queensland, destroying homes and businesses, and causing disastrous consequences for residents, primary producers, agriculture and the environment.

In response to this crisis, the QRA moved swiftly to activate a range of assistance measures under the DRFA to support individuals, families, small businesses, non-profit organisations and primary producers impacted by the 2019 Queensland Bushfires.

As the new decade dawned, although the fires were mostly out in Queensland, they were having a devastating effect on communities throughout New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

On 6 January 2020, the NBRA was established by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, to lead and coordinate a national response to rebuilding communities affected by bushfires across large parts of Australia.

Within a week of the establishment of the new NBRA, QRA had held planning and information sharing meetings with Deputy Bushfire Recovery Commissioner Major General Andrew Hocking.

QRA CEO Brendan Moon said the meetings were an opportunity to frame the scale of the current national emergency and offer insights on how the most disaster-impacted state in Australia has risen to confront similar challenges in the past decade.

"Queensland has a long track record in recovery, having delivered more than \$15.7 billion in reconstruction and community recovery efforts since the establishment of the QRA in 2011," Mr Moon said.

"Throughout that time, we have been invested in resilience to ensure our state bounces back from each of the more than 80 natural disasters to impact us, and also ensure we are prepared for the next inevitable disaster.

"QRA's processes and procedures in disaster recovery will be invaluable to the new federal agency and I am proud to be able to share our expertise.

"These payments will help farmers, small business owners, tradies, contract workers and others who are eligible volunteer fire fighters and have been hit especially hard this fire season."

The NBRA is led by Mr Andrew Colvin, APM, OAM, former Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, and reports to the Prime Minister through the Minister for Emergency Management, David Littleproud MP.

The NBRA is responsible for administering a National Bushfire Recovery Fund which is supporting recovery efforts across Australia over the next two years. An initial \$2 billion has been allocated to this fund, which is in addition to other services and support available under existing natural disaster support mechanisms, such as the DRFA.



Image: Deputy Bushfire Recovery Commissioner MJ Gen Andrew Hocking with QRA CEO Brendan Moon.

RESILIENCE

QRA leads the coordination and development of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risk, improving the resilience of communities, and facilitating mitigation against potential disasters.

Resilience grant programs

Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) and Prepared Communities Fund

\$10.65M allocated to 73 projects for the 2018-19 round of the State-funded QDRF (\$9.5M, 62 projects) and State-Commonwealth Prepared Communities Fund (\$1.15M, 11 projects). Applications for the 2019-20 allocation of resilience funding are expected to open in Q2 2020.

Get Ready Queensland

Get Ready Queensland (GRQ) provides Queensland Government funding for grants and community awareness campaigns to help local governments improve their communities' resilience.

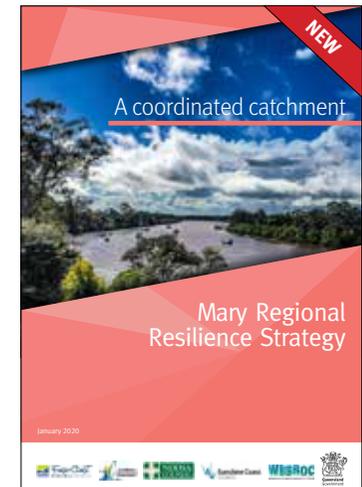
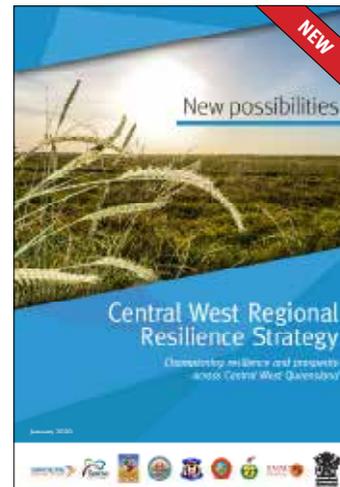
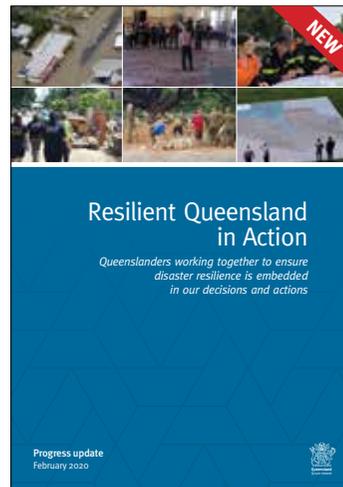
GRQ's annual preparedness advertising campaign launched on 13 October 2019 and was initially scheduled to run through to 25 November, however the campaign was extended in Monsoon Trough impacted areas until 14 December. Following delivery of the Line of Fire bushfire awareness campaign in partnership with Queensland Fire & Emergency Services, market research was conducted to assist in future GRQ advertising campaigns. A disaster awareness campaign focussing on insurance will take place between April and May 2020 targeting communities impacted by the 2019 Monsoon Trough and 2018 Central Queensland bushfires.

Resilience projects and activities

Resilient Queensland 2018-2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

- Resilient Queensland in Action 2019 has been completed and is a progress update on delivering the first 18 months of Resilient Queensland, implementing the QSDR, and includes case studies and initiatives showcasing some of the great work happening throughout Queensland to improve disaster resilience. Planning is underway for release in February 2020.

- Three regional resilience pilot projects have been completed as part of Resilient Queensland including the **Central West Regional Resilience Strategy**, **Mary Regional Resilience Strategy** and the **Fitzroy Regional Resilience Strategy**. Planning is underway for release in February 2020.
- Evaluation and planning for statewide rollout is underway and expected to commence in early 2020.



Resilience projects and activities

Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP)

- QRA has oversight of 52 SFMP actions including 34 for State government and 12 which QRA is responsible for.
- The Brisbane River SFMP Management Group met on 3 December with representation from Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley councils and relevant State agencies.

Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes

- **Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes** – launched 9 April 2019.
- **Cyclone Resilient Guidance for Queensland Homes** – released 17 December 2019.
- **Storm Tide Resilient Guides for Queensland Homes** – released 17 December 2019.
- **Bushfire Building Guideline for Queensland homes** – in development and due for completion by June 2020.

Resilience policy

- QRA is working with CSIRO to develop an adaptation of their Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach (RAPTA) for Queensland to support resilience building activities.

North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough Cat D - Flood Mapping and Flood Warning Programs

- The \$1 million Burdekin and Haughton Catchment Resilience Strategy Project will develop locally-led and regionally-coordinated resilience solutions to address recent and emerging disaster risks for councils in the catchment area including Townsville City Council. This project is currently underway and due for completion by end of 2020.
- The \$2 million Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project will analyse existing flood warning infrastructure, working with the Bureau of Meteorology and councils to identify high priority locations requiring additional flood warning infrastructure capability including repairs of and/or installation of new infrastructure. This project is underway in Townsville and surrounds, North West Queensland, Far North Queensland and Central West Queensland. Procurement has been finalised and delivery is underway for completion of the Network Optimisation Phase by end of March 2020.
- Townsville Recalibrated Flood Modelling and Mapping Project - supporting Townsville City Council to update and recalibrate flood modelling and mapping across the council area including the Ross River. This project is underway.



Image: QRA officers with Cr Sean Dillon of Barcaldine Regional Council at the upper Belyando catchment, 6 February 2020.



Image: QRA facilitating a resilience strategy workshop with Barcaldine and Isaac Regional Councils, 7 February 2020.