

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.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Since establishment, QRA has administered recovery and reconstruction program through the joint State-Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth more than \$16B.

NDRRA has been replaced by DRFA for disaster events that occurred post 1 November 2018.

STATUS OF NDRRA/DRFA DELIVERY PROGRAM



	2018 Events	2019 Events	2020 Events
NUMBER OF EVENTS	6	12	5
\$2,150M Delivery Program	\$281M Program	\$1,504M Program	\$365M Program
\$649M Current Spend	\$217M Spend to date	\$413M Spend to date	\$19M Spend to date
Deadline for Delivery	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022
Time Elapsed	83%	33%	-
% Completion	77% complete	27% complete	5%

NDRRA/DRFA GRANTS PROGRAMS

IN THE MARCH 2020 QUARTER:

- 4 new events activated for DRFA assistance
- \$84M works delivered and \$163M submissions approved
- 2018-19 NDRRA/DRFA Claim submitted to Commonwealth on 31 March 2020 accompanied, as required, by an unmodified audit opinion. The Claim acquitted \$840M recovery expenditure delivered in the 2018-19 financial year. The Claim will now be subject to assurance review by the Commonwealth before it acquits and delivers the near-\$500M payment due to the State.
- Extensions of time sought and received from Commonwealth for COVID-19 related impacts on NDRRA/ DRFA recovery programs.
- \$22.2M additional assistance packages announced for 2020 Bushfires
- At the end of the quarter, QRA completed a detailed review of the DRFA program, updating estimates of final eligible costs for 2018 and 2019 events and first recognition of preliminary estimates for all 2020 events. As a result, the program value increased from \$1.77B to \$2.15B

COMING UP – JUNE 2020 QUARTER:

- 2018 event NDRRA program due for completion by 30 June 2020 (subject to COVID-19 delays)
- Commonwealth expected to acquit State's 2018-19 NDRRA/DRFA claim and make payment
- QRA will progress approvals of 2019 and 2020 submissions and support delivery
- identify COVID-19 program impacts and progress extension of time requests for approval

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON NDRRA/DRFA PROGRAMS

Since the implementation of restrictions, QRA has been working to understand the impacts of COVID-19 with all parties that have an active recovery program. Some delivery agents are experiencing delays due to physical access restrictions, and lack of access to consultants and contractors to undertake works or prepare tenders.

QRA has sought and received approval from the Commonwealth for extensions of time for delivery and approvals across the active NDRRA, DRFA and NDRP programs for COVID-related delays. These extensions will be managed by QRA on an individual project basis, with QRA officers remaining in close contact with all delivery agents in order to minimise delays wherever possible.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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

QUEENSLAND BUSHFIRES (2019) - \$28.2M

In the March 2020 Quarter, \$22.2M of recovery packages* proposed by the State were announced to supplement the \$6M Tourism Recovery Package that had been initially approved in November 2019.

Tourism Recovery package	\$6 M
Marketing Campaign	\$1.5M
Tourism Recovery Officers (TROs)	\$500k
Tourism Recovery Fund for Local Government	\$3M
Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience	\$1M
Binna Burra Recovery Package*	\$1.775M
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*	\$6.425M

ADDITIONAL RECOVERY MEASURES

SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE (STC) DEBBIE (2017)

Following STC Debbie in 2017, the state committed to fund \$110M additional recovery assistance measures to alleviate distress for impacted communities, businesses, industries and the environment.

This commitment included \$53M towards the NDRRA Category D packages approved by the Commonwealth, all of which have been delivered, except for Whitsunday Regional Council's Shute Harbour project which has an Extension of Time for delivery to 30 June 2021.

The State also committed to separately fully fund \$57M across 17 recovery projects, including:

- \$8.8M towards revitalising Queens Park, and \$4.562M for sand replenishment at Midge Point, Lamberts Beach and St Helens Beach in Mackay
- \$5.775M for restoration of Proserpine Entertainment Centre, \$5M for repairs to the Whitsunday Council Administration Building, which serves as the region's local disaster coordination centre; and \$2.65M towards revitalisation of the Airlie Beach Foreshore
- \$4.78m across nine resilience projects.

NORTH & FNQ MONSOON TROUGH (2019) - \$242M

Infrastructure \$134.5M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$55.1M allocated to 49 projects, to restore and improve the disaster resilience of flood damaged essential public, community and water assets.
Economic \$39M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) and 3 Rural Financial Counsellors in operation. 203 small business grants approved worth \$1.96M. Over 200 small business owners accessed free mentoring under the Mentoring for Growth program. 12 of 35 insurance complaints received from small businesses have been resolved. 41 travel bursaries provided for delegates to attend the DestinationQ Events Conference. \$1.7M provided to councils for fodder supply costs. Small Business Recovery Centre has received 2,700 phone calls and undertaken 1,675 visits. 12 scholarships awarded under the TAFE QLD Training Program.
Environment \$36M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 114 projects worth \$23.74M recommended across Riparian Recovery Program. \$100,000 Emergency Response Program for Parthenium Weed is being delivered through Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
Human & Social \$12.75M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 of the 9 Community Development Officers appointed. 15 mental health clinicians, social and health workers delivering services through Townsville, North West and Central West Hospital and Health Services (HHS). 5,355 people screened, 169 individuals have received clinical treatments and 1,951 hours of service undertaken (community events, screening treatment and clinical intervention).
Resilience \$19.75M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$4.5M Flexible Funding Grants approved across 68 projects. Townsville Flood Mapping project initiated.
Monitoring & Evaluation \$500K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IRO program has been evaluated for the Coastal IROs. Some significant data monitoring improvements have been observed. In particular, Health have developed a Disaster and Emergency Incident Relief and Recovery Application (referred to as the DEIRR app) which will enable tracking of all data including therapeutic outcomes for Cat C funded recovery processes of the Mental Health Program.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND BUSHFIRES (2018) - \$12.0M

Human & Social \$3.79M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Community Development Officers delivering program across 8 councils. Mental Health program - 6 clinicians appointed across Rockhampton, Mackay and Wide Bay HHSs 842 people screened, 35 individuals have received clinical treatments and 1,583 clinical hours undertaken.
Resilience \$8.25M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.5M Rural Residential Recovery program has commenced roll-out with \$1.2M paid to date. \$5.19m Flexible Funding Grant approved across 78 projects. Bushfire awareness campaign underway.

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

LOCAL RECOVERY PLANNING

Local Recovery Planning support includes supporting impacted councils to identify their damage and impacts, recovery objectives and tasks and measures for success. This approach has assisted councils to develop and/or strengthen their individual recovery capabilities.



QRA IS CURRENTLY COORDINATING 3 STATE EVENT SPECIFIC RECOVERY PLANS:

QUEENSLAND BUSHFIRES (2020)

The Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan addresses the Southern Queensland Bushfires and Eastern Queensland Bushfires of November and December 2019. Functional Recovery Groups have completed recovery action plans for incorporation into the Recovery Plan. Lockyer Valley and Gladstone Regional councils are being assisted by QRA to finalise their event specific recovery plans. Southern Downs, Noosa, Livingstone, Somerset, Toowoomba and Scenic Rim Regional Councils have endorsed their event specific recovery plans.

NORTH & FNQ MONSOON TROUGH (2019)

39 councils across North and Central Queensland were impacted by flooding associated with the monsoon trough in January and February 2019.

The North and North West Floods State Recovery Plan includes 14 event specific Local Recovery Plans-on-a-Page developed by Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Douglas, Flinders, McKinlay, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Richmond, Torres, Torres Strait Island, Townsville, Winton and Wujal Wujal councils. Cloncurry, McKinlay and Flinders Shire Councils developed Event Specific Recovery Action Plans.

The second quarterly progress report has been completed and submitted for consideration. A media release was issued highlighting recovery progress at the anniversary of the Monsoon event.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND BUSHFIRES (2018)

In November and December 2018, the Central Queensland Bushfires devastated 35 communities across eight LGAs, burning 1.4 million hectares of land. The CQ Bushfires Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans (on a page) for five severely impacted council areas. The first and second progress reports have been submitted to the Queensland Disaster Management Committee and the third progress report has been completed and submitted for consideration.

OTHER RECOVERY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

RECOVERY INFORMATION HUB

The Recovery Hub went live on 30 March 2020. The Hub enables Local and State Government Agencies and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to access a range of recovery resource material including: recovery reporting cycle documents, research material, recovery case studies, Local Recovery Plans-on-a-Page, Recovery Sub-plans as well as reference materials such as the Community Recovery Handbook, Queensland Recovery Plan and Queensland Recovery Strategy.

49 Council Recovery sub-plans underway or endorsed

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.

All 77 Councils and one Town Authority have been contacted to establish the status of their Recovery Sub-plans and set, where required, dates for a Recovery Sub-plan development workshop.

102 participants attended six Recovery Sub-plan Development workshops delivered during this reporting period.

The project has resulted in the endorsement of 12 recovery sub-plans by local government (of which six were assisted by QRA), and feedback has been provided to five local governments to enhance existing recovery sub plans. 13 local recovery sub-plans are currently in development.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

QRA ASSISTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

As Australia responds to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority has again stepped up to the plate and provided specialist support in the fight to keep Queenslanders safe.

Acting on the advice of health officials, QRA has enacted its Business Continuity Plan that has seen a range of initiatives including almost all staff working remotely, while continuing to work collaboratively with other agencies to provide advice on disaster recovery.

QRA is a member of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Taskforce being led by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. QRA's experience in recovery and resilience planning has been recognised as vital as we move into the extremely complex recovery phase of this once-in-a-century event.

QRA has been deeply involved in the development of Queensland Health's COVID-19 Reporting Dashboard, which is based in part on QRA's Disaster Dashboard prepared following major events showing damage statistics, available funding and the lines of recovery.

This has included QRA's specialist Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping team working with Queensland Health to map all reported cases of COVID-19 in Queensland, to give a geographical overview of the path of the virus and known cluster-points.

The Queensland Health Dashboard will be distributed to the heads of Queensland government agencies, and will help inform Queensland's response efforts to COVID-19.

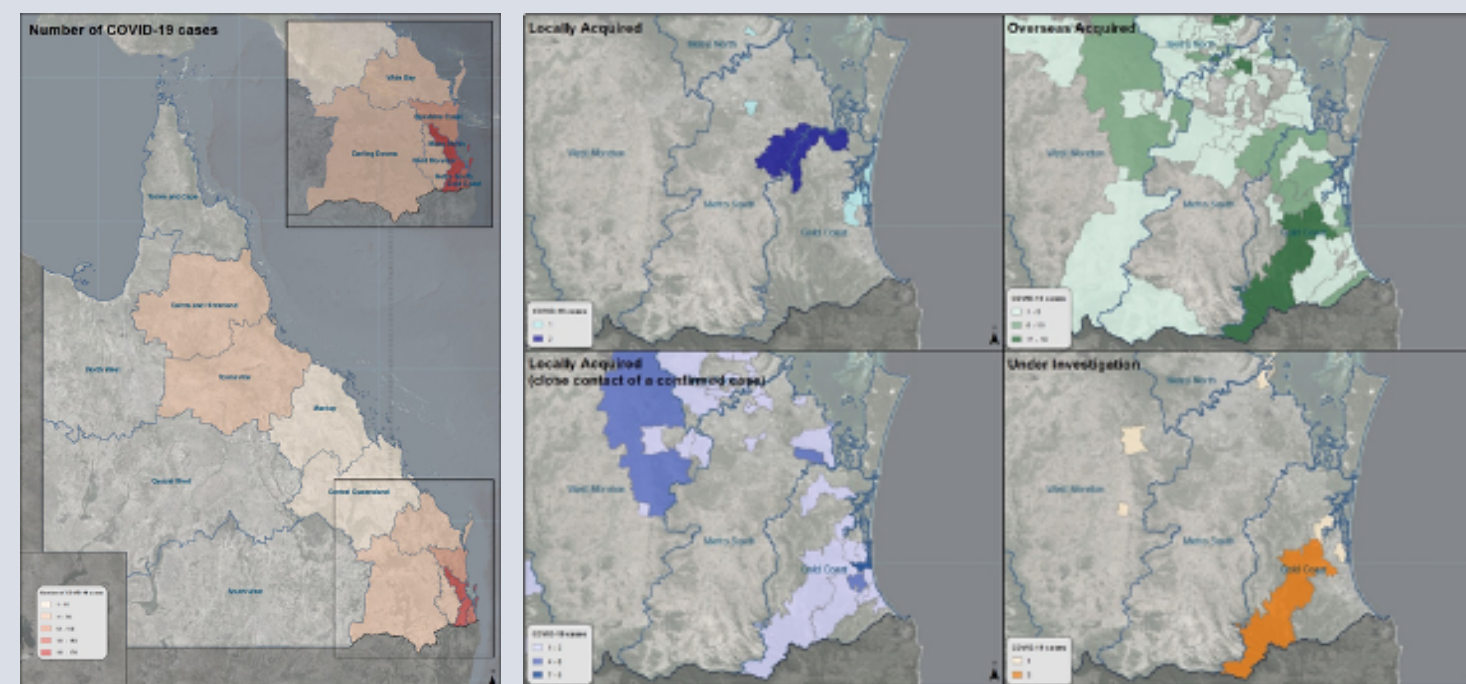
QRA is also supporting the timely and coordinated management of offers of assistance received across the Queensland Government from private enterprise, individuals and non-government operations.

A central register collated by QRA will be used across government, including COVID-19 Functional Recovery Groups, to effectively coordinate these opportunities.

At the local level, QRA's Liaison and Recovery (L&R) Officers have been in contact with Local and District Disaster Management Groups across the state, providing advice and sharing intelligence with QRA's disaster management team.

Officers are also having ongoing discussions with councils and partner agencies around Queensland about the potential impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of natural disaster recovery and resilience programs and projects currently underway.

As Queensland's peak agency for disaster recovery, reconstruction and resilience it is only fitting that QRA uses its vast experience gained from the 90 disasters to hit the state in the past decade, to inform Queensland's recovery response to this unprecedented pandemic threat.



Images: (Left) State-wide map showing number of cases by region. (Right) GIS developed COVID-19 heat maps based on data extracted by QLD Health on 31 March 2020.

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

NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM (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 not-for-profits, to build disaster resilience across the state.

A total of \$14.9 million of funds was allocated to 76 approved projects from 54 councils and 14 organisations and agencies in the 2017-18 funding round. Projects are due to be completed by 30 June 2020, with 30 NDRP projects reported as complete by December 2019. The Commonwealth has also agreed to a 12-month extension of time for the delivery of the NDRP, to 30 June 2021, to accommodate delays in community consultations and cessation of works in some communities due to COVID-19.

GET READY QUEENSLAND (GRQ)

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

On 6 March, the program produced a sponsorship proposal and approached multiple organisations seeking formal partnership. So far one organisation (Compare the Market) has shown interest.

Get Ready is currently looking at virtual options for Get Ready Week (proposed for 11-17 October) in response to social distancing, which could mean a live broadcast of the media launch on 12 October.

Get Ready is planning to commence an insurance campaign that will discern if Queenslanders have adequate cover to protect them if disaster strikes. The goal is to get Queensland residents to visit GRQ's website and use its guide to checking insurance cover. The insurance campaign creative assets will be developed but implementation is placed on hold due to COVID-19.

The program is also going through three market research proposals to allow the team to discern Queensland residents' understanding of their own risk, evaluate their disaster plans and their knowledge of insurance cover.

DISASTER RESILIENCE FUND

The Queensland Government's \$38 million Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) is aimed at strengthening the state's resilience to future disasters.

The QDRF objectives are to support delivery of disaster resilience and mitigation projects that align with the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, 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 allocated \$9.5 million in June 2019 to 62 projects across local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations. In conjunction with the QDRF, \$1.15 million in Australian Government funding was also allocated to 10 projects under the Prepared Communities Fund (PCF), as part of the Australian Government's Preparing Australia Package.

The first round of QDRF and PCF projects will be delivered through to 30 June 2021.

For the second round in 2019-20, now known as 'Disaster Resilience Funding', the Queensland Government has allocated \$9.5 million to support state and nationally significant projects. Applications for the 2019-20 funding were due to open on 31 March 2020. Due to the extenuating circumstances of COVID-19 and applicant capacity to develop detailed submissions, the application process has been postponed. Further details on the revised schedule will be available soon.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

MONSOON TROUGH ROAD REPAIR PROGRAM READY TO RAMP UP

The Monsoon Trough reconstruction program is preparing to ramp up on state roads, with works due to start on 72 projects valued at more than \$35 million over the next four months.

The North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough caused unprecedented flooding across northern and western Queensland in late January and early February 2019, with a total of 6420 kilometres of the state road network closed or under restricted access during the event.

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) fast-tracked emergency works on key transport routes immediately after the event, with the Flinders Highway reopening less than two weeks after floodwaters receded.

Following completion of repairs to major damaged sites near Townsville earlier in 2019, reconstruction and betterment works on the Flinders Highway in Queensland's north west were completed in December 2019. This involved repairing almost 22 kilometres of this vital link for rural and remote communities and improving flood resilience at key locations.

Also in the north west, pavement repairs on Richmond-Winton Road commenced in early September 2019 and were completed in December 2019.

Repairs have been completed at other major damaged sites including:

- **Alice River Bridge (Hervey Range Road)** – bridge repaired and reopened two months ahead of schedule on 26 June 2019 and works completed in early July 2019.
- **Hervey Range Road (geotechnical)** – emergency pavement repairs and slope stabilisation work completed in late February 2019. Further geotechnical treatments have been scoped and design work commenced in January 2020.
- **Mount Spec Road (Paluma Range)** – landslip repairs at nine sites completed in late July 2019. Further works to repair damaged pavement and stabilise additional slope sites have been scoped, and design work commenced in January 2020.

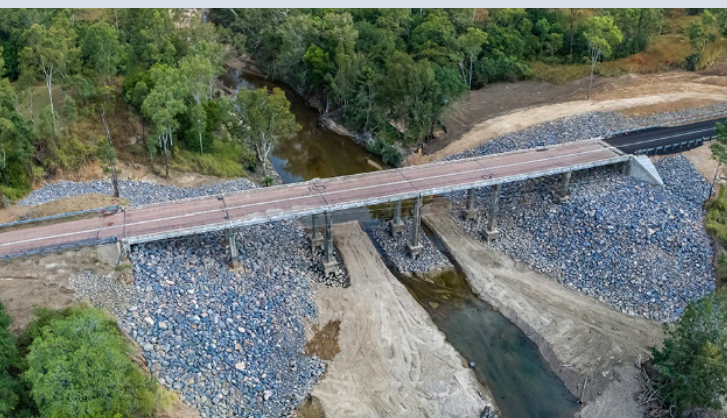
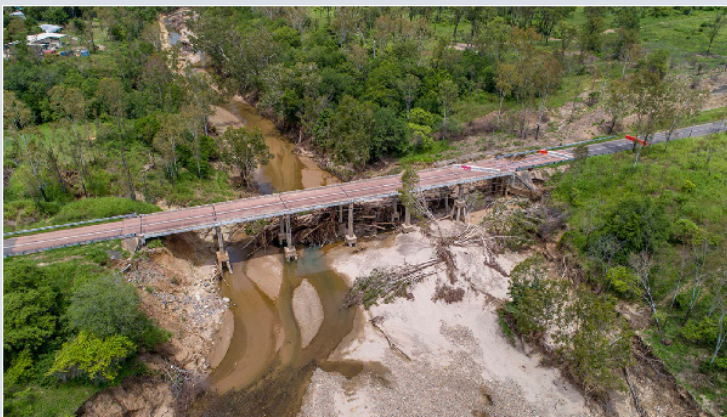
The Monsoon Trough program includes 57 completed emergency works projects and 145 reconstruction works projects. Reconstruction works will involve almost 538 kilometres of pavement reconstruction, 389 earthworks and batter repair locations, 45 structure repair locations and 284 sites to be cleared of silt and debris.

In addition to reconstruction works, TMR is working with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to progress 10 projects in the 2019 Betterment Program to improve the flood immunity and resilience of the state-controlled road network. At 29 February 2020, two projects on the Flinders Highway, one on Burke Developmental Road, two on Richmond-Winton Road and one on Kennedy Developmental Road (Hughenden-Winton) had been approved to proceed.

Both projects on the Flinders Highway (from Hughenden-Richmond and at Nelia), which included stabilising damaged pavement and undertaking shoulder repairs and drainage works, were completed in December 2019. In situ stabilisation works on Richmond-Winton Road have been completed, with slope and margin works expected to be completed by June 2020.

A total of \$48.48 million has been spent on Monsoon Trough natural disaster event works to 29 February 2020. A further \$7.21 million has been spent on betterment works to 29 February 2020.

Eligible reconstruction works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Images: (top) Alice River Bridge – damage from the Monsoon Trough event (bottom) Alice River Bridge – completed repairs.

RESILIENCE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

RESILIENT QUEENSLAND 2018-2021: DELIVERING THE QUEENSLAND STRATEGY FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE

- Resilient Queensland 2018-21 was released on 31 May 2018 and represents the plan for implementing the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience.
- Resilient Queensland in Action was released on 21 February 2020 as the progress update on delivering the first 18 months of Resilient Queensland, demonstrating how we are implementing the QSDR. It includes case studies and initiatives showcasing some of the great work happening throughout Queensland to improve disaster resilience.
- On 21 February 2020, three regional resilience pilot projects were released as part of Resilient Queensland:
 - **Central West Regional Resilience Strategy**
 - **Mary Regional Resilience Strategy**
 - **Fitzroy Regional Resilience Strategy.**
- Evaluation and planning for statewide roll-out is currently underway. Statewide rollout is due to commence July 2020 and be completed by 2022.

BRISBANE RIVER STRATEGIC FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN (SFMP)

- 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.
- The project has completed a regional scale Flood Study and produced a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP) that is now guiding a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.
- QRA has oversight of 52 SFMP actions including 34 for State government, of which QRA is responsible for 12.
- The Brisbane River SFMP Management Group met on 20 February 2020 with representation from Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley councils and relevant State agencies. The group will meet again in May 2020 to monitor progress of the SFMP implementation.
- One of QRA's actions is to produce a Flood Communication Kit which provides a comprehensive suite of flood messaging that councils and relevant state agencies can use in their social media and other flood communication messaging to improve community awareness and resilience to floods for all Queenslanders. Consultation has also been undertaken with the Office of the Chief Scientist, the Insurance Council of Australia, the Bureau of Meteorology, and the Inspector-General Emergency Management. Brisbane River catchment partner councils were consulted in the development of the Toolkit to ensure that it meets council needs. Feedback from the councils has been very positive and the Toolkit is planned for release by July 2020.

FLOOD MAPPING AND FLOOD WARNING PROGRAMS

- QRA is assisting the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) to ensure the best available information is available for providing flood warnings and forecasts.
- \$2 million of Category C and D DRFA funding is available for councils impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough to deliver flood warning infrastructure improvements.
- The \$2 million Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project will analyse existing flood warning infrastructure, working with the Bureau 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. A network optimisation exercise has been completed and has produced a report (including maps) with a prioritised list of infrastructure improvements and costings for each impacted council. Consultation has commenced with the Bureau, the Department of Transport & Main Roads, and Queensland Rail, for the purposes of data sharing.
- The \$1 million Burdekin and Haughton Catchment Resilience Strategy Project commenced in January 2020 and 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 due for completion by end of 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 and is due for completion by June 2021.

RESILIENCE BUILDING GUIDANCE FOR QUEENSLAND HOMES

- QRA is leading the development of building guides to provide the building industry and homeowners with information about ways to strengthen the resilience of their homes to floods, cyclones, storm tide and bushfire and reduce the impact of future disasters to their homes.
- The guides have been developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders including the building and insurance industries, local government and state agencies.
- Three guides have been issued to date with a fourth in development:

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 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.
- A stakeholder workshop was held on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 February. CSIRO has undertaken an analysis of workshop outcomes to identify next steps. A report is due to QRA in June 2020.

