

### 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

**In July**

QRA confirmed that all 2018 Event works were completed by the deadline of 30 June 2020, other than those with extensions of time approved for COVID-impacts. Spend will be formally reported over coming months.

QRA also undertook a full DRFA program review and is currently revising the estimated value of the Delivery Program for adoption from August 2020.

	2018 Events	2019 Events	2020 Events
<b>NUMBER OF EVENTS</b>	6	12	5
<b>\$2,150M Delivery Program</b>	\$281M Program	\$1,504M Program	\$365M Program
<b>\$869M Current Spend</b>	\$248M Spend to date	\$564M Spend to date	\$57M Spend to date
<b>Deadline for Delivery</b>	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022
<b>Time Elapsed</b>	100%	50%	-%
<b>% Completion</b>	88% complete	38% complete	16% complete

### DISASTER ASSISTANCE

#### NDRRA/DRFA Grants Program

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 \$16 billion.



#### Impact of COVID-19 on NDRRA/DRFA Programs

QRA is working closely with all councils and agencies with an active recovery program to assist manage emerging impacts of COVID-19. Some councils and agencies are experiencing delays due to community lockdowns, loss of access to sites, supply chain issues and restrictions on consultants' and contractors' capacity to undertake works or prepare tenders.

QRA has received approval from the Commonwealth for extensions of time for delivery and approvals across the active program. These extensions are being managed by QRA on an individual project basis in order to minimise delays wherever possible. To date, 12 delivery agents have sought extensions for COVID-related impacts on their 2018 NDRRA program and 16 delivery agents for their 2019 DRFA programs.

#### Acquittal:

The state, through QRA, is up to date with the lodgement and acquittal of NDRRA/DRFA claims to the Commonwealth. The next claim, which will relate to the 2019-20 financial year is due for lodgement to the Commonwealth in March 2021.

#### Additional Recovery Measures

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

### Queensland Bushfires (2019) - \$30.175M

Tourism Recovery package	\$6M
Marketing Campaign	\$1.5M
Tourism Recovery Officers (TROs)	\$500k
Tourism Recovery Fund for Local Government	\$3M
Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience	\$1M
<b>Binna Burra Recovery Package</b>	<b>\$1.775M</b>
<b>Community Recovery Fund</b>	<b>\$14M</b>
Mental Health and Wellbeing	\$4.7M
Community Development Officers (CDOs)	\$3M
Flexible Funding Grants	\$6M
Monitoring and Evaluation	\$300k
<b>Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package</b>	<b>\$8.4M</b>

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

<b>Infrastructure \$134.5M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$116.6M allocated to 166 projects, to restore and improve the disaster resilience of flood damaged essential public, community and water assets.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic \$39M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) and 3 Rural Financial Counsellors in operation.</li> <li>295 small business grants approved with payments to date of \$2.83M</li> <li>Over 245 business owners accessed free mentoring under the Mentoring for Growth program.</li> <li>12 scholarships awarded for Event Management and Tourism Programs.</li> <li>41 Travel bursaries provided for delegates to attend the Destination Q Events Conference.</li> <li>\$1.93M provided to councils and Rural Aid for fodder supply costs.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment \$36M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 projects worth \$30.02M recommended across Riparian Recovery Program.</li> <li>17 projects worth \$2.4M recommended across Coastal Recovery Program.</li> <li>\$100,000 Emergency Response Program for Parthenium Weed is being delivered through Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.</li> </ul>
<b>Human &amp; Social \$12.75M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 Community Development Officers in place.</li> <li>16 Mental Health clinicians, social and health workers and one Child and Youth Mental Health service delivering services through Townsville, North West and Central West Hospital and Health Services (HHS).</li> </ul>
<b>Resilience \$19.75M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$13.13M Flexible Funding Grants approved across 187 projects.</li> <li>Townsville Flood Mapping project initiated.</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation \$500K</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IRO program has been evaluated for the Coastal IROs.</li> <li>Some significant data monitoring improvements have been observed. In particular, Health have developed a <b>Disaster and Emergency Incident Relief and Recovery Application</b> (referred to as the DEIRR app) which will enable tracking of all data including therapeutic outcomes for Cat C funded recovery processes of the <b>Mental Health Program</b>.</li> </ul>

### Central Queensland Bushfires (2018) - \$12.0M

<b>Human &amp; Social \$3.79M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Community Development Officers delivering program across 8 councils.</li> <li>Mental Health program - 6 clinicians appointed across Rockhampton, Mackay and Wide Bay HHSs.</li> </ul>
<b>Resilience \$8.25M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1.5M Rural Residential Recovery program has commenced roll-out with \$1.2M paid to date.</li> <li>\$5.19m Flexible Funding Grant approved across 78 projects.</li> <li>Bushfire awareness campaign underway.</li> </ul>

## 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.**

### Event Specific Recovery Plans

QRA is currently coordinating 3 state event specific recovery plans:

#### Queensland Bushfires (2019)

The Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan was approved by the Premier of Queensland on 31 July 2020. The Recovery Plan addresses bushfires that occurred across the state during the period September to December 2019. Endorsed event specific local recovery plans from Gladstone, Lockyer Valley, Southern Downs, Noosa, Livingstone, Somerset, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba Regional Councils are included in the Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan.

#### North & FNQ Monsoon Trough (2019)

The fourth quarterly progress report is being progressed through Government for consideration.

#### 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. The third progress report is currently progressing through Government for consideration.

Delivery underway on **20** completed Council event-specific recovery plans related to the Central Queensland Bushfires and the NFNQ Monsoon Trough

**8** Councils have endorsed their Queensland Bushfires event-specific recovery plans.

### Recovery Projects and activities

#### COVID-19

QRA is working with 31 local governments across the state to develop COVID-19 local recovery plans. Twenty-seven local recovery plans are under development and one council has advised their intention to develop an event specific local recovery plan. The City of Gold Coast, Goondiwindi, Logan City and Toowoomba Regional Councils have endorsed their local recovery plans.

#### COVID-19 Regional Recovery Strategies

QRA has developed an approach to Regional Recovery Strategies to support COVID-19 Recovery. There are 11 identified regions across the state with Regional Recovery Strategies for each under development.

An online survey was distributed by QRA to more than 1000 State government, local government and industry stakeholders nominated to represent their regions, and 430 responses were received from across the state.

Workshops were held with regional leaders in each of the 11 recovery regions, including Mayors and CEOs of Councils, regional organisation of council representatives, and functional recovery group regional members from State agencies. KPMG was engaged to facilitate the online workshops using a combination of digital tools, including MS Teams, Mural (virtual whiteboard) and graphic illustration (ARTiculators).

- 11 workshops facilitated; and
- Approximately 350 participants engaged in the workshops

The outcomes of this engagement are now being analysed to inform the Economic Functional Recovery Group industry and agency blueprints and economic recovery planning. The Regional Recovery Strategies will ultimately combine with local recovery planning to inform the State Economic Recovery Plan, due to be completed in September 2020.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### SMALL TALK MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE



**A campaign to promote and encourage better connections to support mental health and wellbeing is helping to lift the spirits of monsoon-affected communities across Western Queensland.**

Launched last month by the **Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)**, Small Talk, Big Difference aims to reduce the distance and isolation experienced by many living in rural and remote areas.

The program is currently being rolled out across **2019 monsoon-impacted communities** in the state's west, including **Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Flinders, McKinlay, Richmond and Winton.**

While the campaign is targeted at people living in flood-affected areas of Western Queensland, the messaging has relevance for anyone interested in improving their wellbeing and connections with others.

**RFDS' Dr Tim Driscoll** said Small Talk, Big Difference was delivering a variety of activities and resources to help people develop and maintain connections.

*"Webinars, virtual morning tea events, podcasts and downloadable resources will all be made available over the next 12 months,"* Dr Driscoll said.

*"For example, advice on using technology to stay connected will be a focus as a method to overcome the distance and isolation experienced by many living in rural and remote areas."*

*"We also want to help people become more comfortable and confident in having challenging conversations, particularly about mental health. Help is readily available, but sometimes people need encouragement from those close to them, to get the help they need."*

Dr Driscoll said the campaign would encourage people to seek help and talk over their concerns with a GP.

*"A local GP or health centre is the best place to start, offering direct support and linking you in with professionals who can help you through the hard times."*

The Small Talk, Big Difference campaign recently hosted a free virtual catch-up involving Campaign Ambassador and former Rugby league star, **Preston Campbell**, and local musical group, the **Music Makers.**

People who registered to attend the session had access to an informative discussion about staying connected and how to become comfortable having conversations about mental health.

Small Talk, Big Difference is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the **Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.**

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority is helping to promote the campaign through its social media channels.

For more information about Small Talk, Big Difference, visit [www.smalltalkbigdifference.com.au](http://www.smalltalkbigdifference.com.au)



*Images clockwise from top left: Ad promoting virtual catch-up with Preston Campbell; Preston Campbell and Dr Driscoll in front of a RFDS plane Dr Driscoll hosting a workshop.*

**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. As at 30 June 2020, works were **complete for 50 projects**, with a further **25 projects in delivery**. One project is yet to commence. Projects are due to be completed by **30 June 2021**.

**Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) and Prepared Communities Fund (PCF)**

For 2018-19, **\$10.65 million** was allocated to **75 projects** to strengthen the resilience of Queensland communities, including funding under the **QDRF (\$9.5 million, 65 projects)** and State-Commonwealth funding under the **PCF (\$1.15 million, 10 projects)**. Sixteen QDRF projects have been fully delivered, 36 are in progress, and 13 are yet to commence. Three PCF projects are fully delivered, five are in progress and 2 are yet to commence.

**Queensland Risk Reduction and Resilience Fund**

Queensland’s commitments under the National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction are being delivered via the **\$13.1 million** Queensland Risk Reduction and Resilience Fund. The fund consists of **\$8.3 million** in State Government funds and **\$4.8 million** from the Australian government. Applications for grants under the fund closed on 22 July 2020.

**Get Ready Queensland (GRQ)**

GRQ is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The program integrates a state-wide research driven awareness campaign led by the QRA, alongside a grass roots grants implementation by providing **\$2 million** across all **77 Queensland councils** to tailor information most credible and relevant to their community.

**New council funding round launched**

QRA is currently assessing Get Ready Queensland funding submissions for 2020-21 and is scheduled to notify councils of their approved plan of activities in mid-late August 2020. The funding guidelines have been updated this year to enable councils to pool their funding for shared initiatives. The funding is to be directed towards preparedness and prevention activities for natural hazards and pandemic.

Queenslanders are being reminded to check their level of insurance as part of a new bushfire awareness campaign by Get Ready Queensland. The campaign targets the eight Central Queensland communities activated following the 2018 Bushfires including **Banana, Bundaberg, Central Highlands, Gladstone, Isaac, Livingstone, Mackay and Rockhampton**. The campaign commenced in late July and will be in market until 30 August 2020 on radio and social media.

- **Get Ready Queensland advertising campaign for 2020-21** – Work has commenced to plan for the next state-wide advertising campaign, which will once again include GRQ’s Ambassador Jonathan Thurston and run for approximately six weeks from early October 2020. Advertising channels will include television, radio and electronic billboards.
- **Corporate sponsorship** – GRQ is in the final stages of negotiations for a corporate sponsorship that is anticipated to take effect in the coming months. The sponsorship will provide the GRQ program with additional funding to extend our advertising reach across the state, particularly through television.
- **Get Ready Ambassador** – the schedule of activities to be delivered by GRQ Ambassador Jonathan Thurston in the 2020-21 financial year have been confirmed. Thurston will once again be the face of the annual advertising campaign, and other opportunities to help raise the profile of the program include school visits, and social media posts and videos.
- **Resilient Australia Awards (Queensland)** – Award nominations closed on 16 June and judging took place in mid-July 2020. GRQ will host an award ceremony in September 2020 via a virtual online event. Queensland winners will be recognised in the national awards across six categories including community, schools, business, local government, state/federal government and photography.



Image: Category C funded Bushfire insurance awareness campaign.

## Resilience projects and activities

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

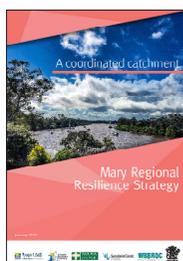
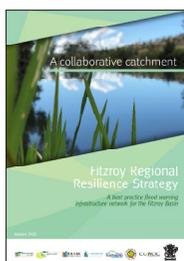
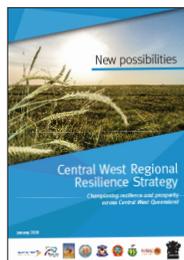
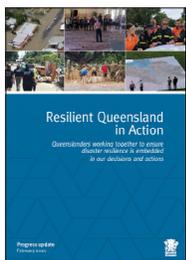
- Resilient Queensland in Action was released on 21 February 2020 as the progress update on delivering the first 18 months of Resilient Queensland, demonstrating how we are implementing the QSDR. It includes case studies and initiatives showcasing some of the great work happening throughout Queensland 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.

- Procurement activities for the statewide rollout is currently underway. An options analysis to facilitate statewide rollout has been completed, along with a project plan. Delivery on the next phase of the project is to commence September 2020.



### Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP)

- 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 21 July 2020 with representation from Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley councils and relevant State agencies. The group will meet again on 26 August 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 October 2020.
- The QRA led action FM5 Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework was presented in draft to the Queensland Resilience Coordination Committee (QRCC) on 15 July 2020. The Framework was endorsed by the QRCC and will be considered by Cabinet.

### 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 April 2021.
- The \$2 million Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project** recently received an additional \$6M in Category D funding, bringing the total project funding to \$8M. This increase provides funding to 12 additional impacted councils, and 13 councils will also receive uplifts in their funding previously approved. This project is underway in Townsville and surrounds, North West Queensland, Far North Queensland and Central West Queensland. Consultation continues with the Bureau of Meteorology, the Department of Transport & Main Roads, and Queensland Rail, for the purposes of data sharing.
- 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.

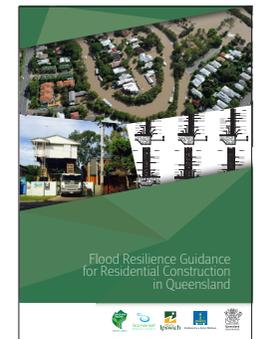
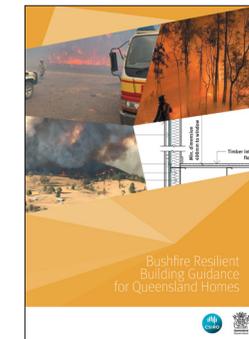
### Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes

**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** due for completion by September 2020.



### Resilience policy

- QRA has worked with CSIRO to develop a tailored version of their Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach (RAPTA) for Queensland to support resilience building activities. Draft reports have been received by QRA for final endorsement. Given the complexity of some of the materials, QRA intends to publish a summary document to introduce the materials when they are made available on the QRA website. This summary document is currently under development.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT KEY TO BINNA BURRA ROAD RECOVERY SUCCESS

**A collaborative and proactive stakeholder engagement approach has been a key focus for Transport and Main Roads (TMR) during the reconstruction of Binna Burra Road, following devastating bushfires in late 2019.**

Binna Burra Road is the only road leading to and from the popular eco-tourism destination Binna Burra Lodge, where the historic wooden lodge building was destroyed by fire. Binna Burra Road has been closed to the public since the bushfire, due to safety concerns and site constraints.

Close coordination with Binna Burra Lodge to manage access through an active road construction site is enabling the venue's reconstruction works to be undertaken concurrently with the road repairs. While works were undertaken **24 hours per day, at least six days per week until late April 2020** and are now underway 10 hours per day, five to six days per week, TMR continues to provide regular and ongoing daily access windows.

Domestic tourism will play an important role in the **area's economic recovery from both the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic**, and works are on track to reopen the road under traffic control in late **August 2020, in line with Binna Burra Lodge's plans to reopen to visitors.**

TMR will also assist the venue by providing a temporary 'control point' on TMR land to manage traffic through the roadworks following the road reopening. The temporary control point will be used for COVID-19 safety temperature checks, to provide information to visitors about the remaining roadworks, and for carparking and vehicle turnaround.

**TMR continues to meet with Binna Burra Lodge management** formally each fortnight and as required to ensure regular communication, and coordinate work schedules and access requirements.

While the project has been complex, most works to **stabilise the bushfire-damaged upslope** and **downslope of the existing roadway** are now completed. One main site, located 200 metres past the Rangers' Station heading up the mountain, requires further upslope works.

Other roadworks will be required at various locations, including **laying new bitumen seal and asphalt, line marking, installing signage, speed safety measures and environmental control measures.** Final works will continue under stop/slow traffic arrangements until October 2020 following the road reopening.

TMR has also been **facilitating access for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services staff**, who have been working to rejuvenate and maintain severely burnt areas of the World Heritage-listed Binna Burra rainforest reserve.

In addition, TMR has **assisted local residents in their recovery efforts** by allowing access for demolition works to be undertaken.

TMR's local engagement has been underpinned by the efforts of the **Binna Burra Lodge Recovery Taskforce.** On the taskforce, TMR works with multiple other Queensland Government agencies and Binna Burra Lodge management to coordinate the recovery of the lodge.

Pavement rehabilitation is funded through the **Queensland Transport Roads Investment Program (QTRIP).** Eligible reconstruction works are jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments under the **Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).**



*Image: Binna Burra Road – stabilisation works on upslope.*



*Image: Binna Burra Road – specialist personnel soil-nailing on steep downslope.*