

North Queensland Recovery and Resilience Grants

(North & Far North Queensland
Monsoon Trough, 25 January – 14 February 2019)

Guidelines



Queensland Government



Australian Government

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Recovery and Resilience Grants

Program Description	Support locally-led recovery and resilience activities in the 14 local government areas most impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, January-February 2019.
Administered by	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Eligible grant recipients	Burdekin Shire Council Burke Shire Council Carpentaria Shire Council Charters Towers Regional Council Cloncurry Shire Council Douglas Shire Council Etheridge Shire Council Flinders Shire Council Hinchinbrook Shire Council McKinlay Shire Council Richmond Shire Council Townsville City Council Whitsunday Regional Council Winton Shire Council.
Available funding	Total program - \$12 million Each local government to receive up to \$857,000
Timeframe	To 1 December 2023
More information	Queensland Reconstruction Authority Phone: 1800 110 841 Email: Submissions@gra.qld.gov.au

Purpose

The objective of the *Recovery and Resilience Grants* is to provide impacted Local Governments with funding for projects and activities they deem essential for the recovery of their communities and to increase resilience, consistent with the strategic pillars and actions identified in 'After the flood: a strategy for long-term recovery' (refer Table 1).

Eligible scope

The Australian Government's *'After the flood: A strategy for long-term recovery'* (the Strategy) sets out a blueprint for a prosperous and secure future for North and North-West Queensland.

The Strategy aims to guide investment in actions that support the long-term recovery and prosperity of the affected communities, strengthen their preparedness for future challenges and help the regions adapt and transform in an ever-changing environment.

The Strategy has five strategic pillars, underpinned by 19 actions (refer Table 1 below), which reflect what communities, businesses and people said were essential to ensure future prosperity and resilience of the flood-affected regions.

Table 1: Strategic pillars and identified actions

Broadening the economic base	Building more resilient infrastructure	Building prosperous enterprises	Fostering connected and cohesive communities	Supporting information enabled regions
<p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening the base in the agricultural sector • Broadening the base outside the agricultural sector • Place-based approaches 	<p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water infrastructure • Supply chain infrastructure • Telecommunications and electricity 	<p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering innovation • Best practice management for improving business fundamentals • Rebuilding the herd and managing the environment 	<p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental wellbeing • Leadership and local capability • Community services 	<p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved collection and availability of information • Building skills and using information • Disaster planning and management
<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivise and facilitate investment • Improve information collection and sharing • Facilitate opportunities for collaboration 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify gaps and opportunities • Ensure collaborative planning • Incentivise and coordinate investment 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect business with the best available, regionally relevant information to secure long-term change • Create opportunities to innovate, share ideas and design regionally relevant solutions • Support innovation and technology that improves business natural disaster management • Invest in natural capital and business training to achieve long-term sustainability and profitability 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure health services coordinate and increase cross-sector collaboration • Focus on preventive health measures • Support and fund community infrastructure and events • Support and invest in local leadership capability • Build disaster management capability • Encourage the delivery of innovative educational opportunities for regional areas 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure information is captured and shared • Build skills and digital capability • Improve collection and use of disaster related information

Local governments are required to submit a Program of Works, up to a maximum of \$857,000, outlining projects and activities they deem essential for the recovery of their communities and to increase resilience.

Local governments are encouraged to identify key recovery and resilience projects that are not typically eligible for funding under existing programs, such as the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Collaboration across eligible local government areas is encouraged, as is complementary funding.

Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Workshops/activities that are focussed on skill development;
- Business improvement/resilience activities;
- Increasing investment opportunities within the community;
- Employing additional local staff to take on specialist recovery or resilience roles to help coordinate and plan the rebuilding and resilience effort;
- Providing existing local staff with training in recovery/resilience activities
- Hosting new public activities and events to bring communities together and attract visitors back to impacted regions;
- Investing in new tourism infrastructure;
- Repairs or enhancements to evacuation centres;
- Improvements to emergency communications and the resilience and security of related infrastructure;
- Projects that facilitate community preparedness for disasters and or increase resilience;
- Workshops or community education sessions on community preparedness;
- Resilience and security of water infrastructure.

Ineligible activities include:

- Maintenance activities (not including upgrades)
- Projects already completed
- Projects where the grant funding would be used to replace already committed funds
- The purchase of land or property

Ineligible costs include

- General operating costs that are not directly associated with delivery of an approved activity
- Land/property acquisition
- Costs that are reimbursable under other sources
- Non-specific indirect costs
- Legal costs

Funding

A total of \$12 million is available to local governments under this program (up to \$857,000 for each eligible local government), funded under the *National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Grants Assistance to Primary Producers Impacted by the North Queensland Floods*. The program is being administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority for the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency.

Program funding is approved as a capped amount to an approved project. Only the actual eligible cost, up to the capped amount and directly associated with delivering the approved project works, is eligible for reimbursement. Local governments may provide complementary funding.

How to apply

Local governments must submit a Program of Works (Appendix 1: Program of Works Template) to QRA detailing the activities to be undertaken by email to submissions@qra.qld.gov.au by 31 March 2021.

Local governments can apply for one or more projects, up to \$857,000, with all expenditure to be incurred by 1 December 2023. Local Governments are encouraged to progressively rollout their program and will be required to review/update their Program of Works by 31 March each year. The first Program of Works does not need to commit all funding available and can be developed and added to over time.

Local government should ensure the projects outlined in the Program of Works align with its strategic plan (or similar corporate document) and/or reference the resilience plans (or similar documents) developed by Community Development Officers in the region.

The final Program of Works must be submitted no later than 31 March 2023, with all projects to be completed by 1 December 2023.

The Program of Works should contain details of the proposed project, including:

- project name
- project description
- accurate GPS locations of proposed site/s, if applicable
- requested funding
- estimated total project cost, including complementary funding
- proposed project start/finish date and approximate project duration
- how the project contributes to the recovery and/or resilience of the community
- how the project aligns with existing corporate documents (i.e. strategic plan)
- how the project aligns with the strategic pillars and/or actions identified in Table 1 (pg 4).

Assessment and approval

QRA will assess the Program of Works according to program eligibility requirements, as outlined in these guidelines, in consultation with the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency.

If Local Governments do not expend allocated funds in accordance with their approved Program of Works, the funds will be required to be returned.

Progress reporting

Progress reporting is mandatory throughout project delivery, to ensure applicants update QRA on status of works, dates and expenditure. Monthly progress reports are required to be lodged through QRA's MARS Portal, detailing:

- actual expenditure reported against the approved capped amount
- project milestones, start and finish dates
- any variances in scope, cost or time
- details of complementary programs.

Acquittal

Local governments must submit acquittal reports to QRA within three months of project completion and must include:

- final progress report detailing the completed scope/programs/activities (a template will be provided)
- detailed general ledger evidencing the final actual expenditure claimed and supporting source documents available for sampling by QRA if requested
- evidence demonstrating completed works/activities, including demonstrating the project has achieved recovery and resilience outcomes
- Infrastructure projects: photos of completed works in JPG format, including EXIF metadata, GPS coordinates and date taken
- Activity projects: report documentation supporting the completed activity.

Evaluation activities may be undertaken by the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency.

Certification

All Program of Works, progress reports and acquittal reports must be certified by the applicant in line with its accountable officer.

Governance

Acknowledgment of Australian Government assistance

Public acknowledgement of Australian Government assistance is required.

The announcement of an eligible measure will occur as a joint local government/Australian Government media statement unless otherwise agreed by the Australian Government. In addition, prior agreement must be reached with the Australian Government on the nature and content of any subsequent events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to an eligible measure under the arrangements. This includes but is not limited to: media releases, events, social media, signage and advertising.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

When claiming reimbursement of expenditure the amount to be lodged must be the GST exclusive actual cost incurred.

Funding Agreement

When awarding funding, QRA will issue a Project Funding Schedule which, when executed by both parties, will be considered a binding Project Funding Agreement under the terms and conditions of the Head Agreement.

The Project Funding Schedule will detail the terms and conditions specific to the approved funding, including reference to the relevant funding guidelines that govern the program, funding type and amount, key date and milestone schedules, payment claim and reporting requirements.

Procurement

When procuring goods or services, local governments must act in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and applicable procurement policies.

Record Keeping

Records must be available for seven years from the end of the financial year the claim is acquitted by the Australian Government. For assurance purposes, the Australian Government may at any time, via QRA, request documentation from applicants to evidence the State's compliance with any aspect of the NPA. This may include, but not be limited to access to project level information, to confirm acquittal in accordance with the NPA.

