



**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:**

Stronger, safer, resilient Queensland communities.

**OUR PURPOSE:**

Coordinate action to improve the resilience of Queensland communities and facilitate locally led disaster recovery.

**DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**Disaster Assistance and Resilience Grants Program**

Since establishment, QRA has administered recovery and reconstruction programs through the joint State-Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth more than \$16.5 billion. Works for 28 events from the 2019, 2020 and 2021 disaster seasons are currently in delivery or acquittal with an estimated value of approximately \$3.0 billion.

In addition to DRFA, QRA is currently administering six other State, Commonwealth and joint-funded grant programs with a capped value of \$86.75 million, focused on disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

**Status of Active Grants Programs administered by QRA**

	Prior Events	2019 Events	2020 Events	2021 Events
<b>NUMBER OF EVENTS</b>	-	12	5	11
<b>\$3,106M</b> Delivery Program	<b>\$68M</b> Program	<b>\$1,466M</b> Program	<b>\$919M</b> Program	<b>\$630M</b> Program
<b>Deadline for Delivery</b>	Complete	Complete	30 June 2022	30 June 2023
 Time Elapsed	Complete Remainder under EOT's	Complete Remainder under EOT's	 67%	 17%
 % Completion	 95% complete	 92% complete	 50% complete	 11% complete

\*% complete represents delivery progress reported by delivery agents. This may reflect greater progress than inferred by spend due to program efficiencies.

**In October**

The focus of the disaster assistance grants program in October has been to finalise the close-out of recovery and reconstruction works completed in 2020–21 and monitor the ongoing progress of works in delivery.

In addition, QRA launched the 2021/22 Get Ready program, conducted a joint recovery exercise “FLOODDEX-21” and continued to work with delivery agents to progress the development and approval of 2021 Event reconstruction submissions.

## 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.**

### Disaster Season Preparation

#### Recovery Officers Network

A Recovery Officers Network is being developed to foster and support a trusted network of recovery practitioners working at a local level across regions throughout the state. In the event that a Council impacted by a disaster event has a potential gap in recovery workforce capacity and capability and requires additional resourcing and support, the network could be utilised to redirect support to the impacted LGA. A working group including representation from local government, the state and LGAQ has been established to develop the concept and outline a strategy for implementation.

The Recovery Officers Network working group held its first meeting on Thursday, 7 October 2021 to develop the concept and outline a strategy for the network's implementation. The working group will continue to meet monthly to further develop the concept and discuss the most effective means of implementation.



Image: State FRG representatives – FLOOD-Ex21 exercise.

#### Recovery in Practice Exercise

On 18 October 2021, QRA in partnership with Griffith University held a scenario-based recovery exercise (FLOOD-EX21) to demonstrate the recovery processes and activities undertaken when recovering from a natural disaster. FLOOD-EX21 was based on an extraordinary flood event in the Brisbane river catchment that had far reaching impacts and consequences across all functional areas of recovery.

Focused on Queensland's local and state recovery planning activities, the exercise involved participants from four local governments in the Brisbane river catchment (Brisbane, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley and Somerset), the five state Functional Recovery Groups (FRGs), the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA), tertiary education providers, not-for-profit associations, non-government organisations, and community services and statutory authorities.

The exercise highlighted the importance of coordination and shared situational awareness across the five functional lines of recovery through real time communication and information sharing to achieve the development of complementary objectives and actions. Further, exercise discussions enabled local government representatives and other participants to gain greater awareness of functional recovery group capabilities and responsibilities in recovery, and establish and/or strengthen networks and working relationships within the recovery sector. Lessons learned from the exercise highlighted a number of recovery challenges that require further attention.

Feedback from the exercise established that the FLOOD-EX21 event achieved its objectives:

- Demonstrated Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA), QLD Recovery Plan governance arrangements and councils' leadership role in the local recovery process.
- Reviewed the effectiveness of recovery networks, coordination and communication between recovery stakeholders at all levels and across all five functional recovery domains.
- Demonstrated recovery planning tools and processes, including identification of impacts and consequences, recovery objectives and tasks, and timeframes and measures.
- Demonstrated the transition from response and recovery, exploring mid to longer term recovery arrangements.



Figure 2: FLOOD-Ex21 exercise – 18 October 2021.

## National Recovery Agenda

### **Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-Committee (CORS)**

QRA is leading and contributing to key projects developed and delivered through the Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-Committee (CORS) as part of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) framework.

Work continues on the Catastrophic Crisis Model Recovery Arrangements and the Functional Domain Reference Groups. The Recovery Workforce Capability Framework is in draft and is out for comment.

Under the 'Recovery Needs Assessment and Data Sharing Methodology/Mechanism project', draft Recovery Needs Assessment Guidelines have been completed. CORS members are to use them over the high risk 2021/2022 weather season and provide feedback on their effectiveness.

### **Engagement with National Recovery & Resilience Agency (NRRRA)**

QRA team members are participating in, and contributing to the NRRRA's National Recovery Training Project. The intent of the project is to develop accredited training for recovery practitioners.

In addition, QRA is participating and contributing to the NRRRA's Regional Recovery Exercises program. The intent of the program is to provide a national approach to exercises, supporting and enhancing local recovery capabilities and resilience. A Recovery Exercising Toolkit and NRRRA supported recovery exercises will be developed.

During October, QRA also facilitated a workshop with NRRRA to discuss the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) and discuss how they applied to disaster recovery in Queensland. The NRRRA Recovery Support Officers (RSO) completed online Queensland Disaster Management Framework Training (QDMFT) modules to ensure they are prepared to maintain or enhance recovery capability under the QDMA.

## Recovery Capability

QRA supports recovery capability at the local, district and state disaster management levels. Recovery capability development activities undertaken this month include:

- Facilitation of a workshop with NRRRA.
- Facilitation of a Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) workshop for Queensland Health as well as Cairns, Mapoon and Tablelands Councils.
- Facilitation of an online DRFA workshop for local and state government staff based in far north Queensland.
- Attendance at the 2nd Indigenous Local Government Disaster Resilience Forum in Cairns.
- Facilitation of a District Recovery Workshop with Bundaberg and Longreach District Disaster Management Groups.
- Facilitation of a DRFA workshop with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services staff in the Northern Region.
- Participation in Balonne Shire Council's Get Ready Queensland community event.

## Recovery Planning and Governance

QRA works closely with Councils to develop and enhance understanding of recovery governance and planning at the local level through the delivery of recovery planning workshops and the development of Recovery Sub-plans. This ongoing body of work contributes to QRA's strategic objective of assisting local governments and communities build knowledge and capability that drives best practice in recovery and building resilience.

There are 53 council recovery plans endorsed across Queensland, and QRA is continuing to work with 45 councils to support the ongoing or enhancement of their recovery plans.

## District Recovery Project

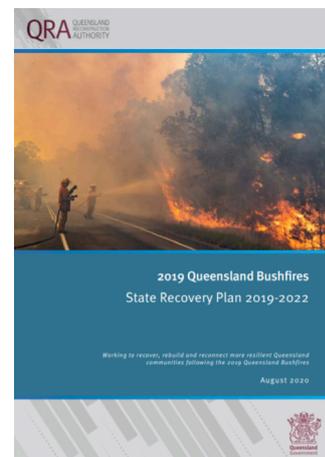
QRA is delivering the District Recovery Project, designed to understand recovery needs at the district level, and provide District Disaster Management Groups (DDMGs) with specific training based on those needs. During October, QRA facilitated workshops in Bundaberg and Longreach Districts. QRA continues to liaise with the Queensland Police Service to roll out additional workshops associated with the project.

## Event Specific Recovery plans

State event-specific recovery plans underpin the Government's commitment to supporting the locally led rebuild, recovery and reconnection of disaster affected communities. State event-specific recovery plans contain Local event-specific recovery plans, highlighting initiatives that support recovery and reconstruction activities and provide opportunities for communities to reconnect.

## **Queensland Bushfires**

Currently, the Queensland Bushfires (2019) recovery plan is being implemented. QRA is monitoring the progress of recovery activities, with functional recovery groups reporting that the recovery objectives are either complete or in progress/on track.



**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**

**SOUTH COAST FLOOD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS RAMP UP**

Reconstruction is ramping up across South Coast roads damaged by flooding in December 2020 and March 2021.

Widespread heavy rainfall impacted many roads in the Gold Coast, Logan and Scenic Rim areas, causing landslips, tree falls, flood damage, drainage issues and scouring to bridge structures. Emergency works, such as clearing debris and other hazards, have been completed.

More than 20 roads require further repairs, with reconstruction already underway on the most severely damaged site on Tamborine Mountain Road (known locally as the Goat Track).

Significant repairs are required at this site, where large boulders detached and fell from a natural rock outcrop, resulting in a large path of damage and landslip onto the road and private property below.

Crews have since removed more than 20,000 tonnes of unsafe material from the slope above the road. This included successfully bringing down an extremely large unstable boulder, estimated to be 250 tonnes in weight, six metres wide and two metres thick.

Reconstruction works will involve installing upslope rock fall protection measures, downslope stabilisation and restoring the damaged road. Local civil construction company SEE Civil has begun rock anchoring, rock catch fencing and pavement rehabilitation works to restore the road and enable it to reopen.

The damaged section of Tamborine Mountain Road remains impassable and it is expected to remain closed until late 2021.



*Image: (Left) Tamborine Mountain Road – landslide site. (Right) Tamborine Mountain Road – emergency works.*

Planning and design works are underway for repairs to other South Coast roads. Works will include fixing unstable slopes above and below the road, replacing damaged road surfaces, repairing damaged road shoulders, and repairing damaged culverts and bridges.

Workers will be on the ground progressively from early 2022. Major reconstruction works will take place on roads including Lamington National Park Road, Gold Coast–Springbrook Road, Currumbin Creek–Tomewin Road, Beechmont Road, Nerang–Murwillumbah Road and Running Creek Road.

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



*Image: (Left) Currumbin Creek Road – damage site. (Right) Currumbin Creek Road – emergency works.*

## RESILIENCE

**QRA is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risks and improving the resilience of communities, and facilitating mitigation against potential disasters.**

### Resilience grant programs



#### **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 under the State-funded QDRF (\$9.5M, 65 projects) and the Commonwealth funded PCF (\$1.15M, 10 projects). As at 30 September 2021, 71 projects were complete and 4 projects remain in progress.

#### **Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF)**

The QRRRF is part of a five-year National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments. This partnership has seen more than \$66.5 million in joint funding dedicated to resilience and risk reduction.

Expressions of Interest for 2020–21 QRRRF opened in March 2021 with \$19.1 million of funding from the Queensland and Australian Governments available for allocation. More than 450 applications were received, seeking a total of \$162 million. This high level of enthusiasm from applicants demonstrates the desire across the state to improve resilience within our communities.

The 82 successful projects for QRRRF 2020–21 were announced on 23 July 2021 - 13 resilience, 43 DRR, 1 resilience and DRR, and 25 Managing Disaster Risk Fund (MDR). These include extensive road, floodway and levee upgrades, flood and river studies, and disaster management workshops across Queensland.

The 2019–20 round of the QRRRF is also currently being delivered. The fund fully allocated \$13.1 million of funding available at the time to 68 projects across 61 recipients. A list and interactive map of the successful projects is available on the QRA website. As at 30 September 2021, 17 projects were complete, 44 projects were in progress and 7 projects were yet to commence.

*The next round of QRRRF is due to open for applications in late 2021.*

#### **North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program (NQNDMP)**

The NQNDMP is a \$10 million Queensland Government program to fund disaster mitigation initiatives that aim to help reduce the cost of insurance premiums in high risk, cyclone-prone coastal areas by reducing disaster risk and/or supporting a better understanding of future risk.

The funding is available to 33 councils and one town authority in high risk, cyclone-prone coastal areas with population centres within 50 kilometres of the coastline, from Bundaberg all the way up to the Northern Territory border.

The Program aims to address some of the issues highlighted in the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission's (ACCC) Northern Australia Insurance Inquiry's Final Report released in December 2020.

*Applications are due to open in late 2021.*

#### **Recovery and Resilience Grants**

QRA is administering a \$12 million grant fund, which was announced on 16 December 2020, to support locally-led recovery and resilience activities in 14 local government areas most impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, January-February 2019.

The grants are being funded by the Commonwealth Government through the National Recovery and Resilience Agency.

Local governments Programs of Work for projects and activities they deem essential for the recovery of their communities and to increase resilience are underway.

**Resilience projects and activities**



QRA is currently actively delivering or participating in a suite of projects and activities with the intent of building the resilience of Queensland communities:

- Phase 2 of the statewide rollout of regional resilience strategies as part of *Resilient Queensland 2018-2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience*
- oversight of 52 actions including 12 actions that QRA is responsible for under the *Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP)*
- scoping the implementation of the *Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework*
- continuing to deliver on the *Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan*
- reviewing the *Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2017*
- contributing to a whole-of-government response to recommendations of the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (RCNDA)*
- leading reform negotiations on behalf of Queensland Government agencies in the Commonwealth’s review of *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements*.

**Key progress in October 2021**



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

- QRA continues to coordinate the delivery of the SFMP implementation, with over 80% of the actions completed or in progress.
- The QRA project team completed the Strategic Assessment of Service Requirement (for improvements to) Brisbane River Catchment Flood Forecasting and Warning Systems, which has been shared with key stakeholders. This comprehensive body of technical work involved many agencies and was directly supported by the Bureau and Seqwater.
- DTMR, in collaboration with QRA and other key stakeholders, completed the State Guideline: Flood evacuation route improvements, which is published on QRA’s website. This guideline and supporting materials provide guidance on a process to support the identification of ‘fair and reasonable’ flood evacuation route improvements in Queensland.
- On 31 May 2021, the Queensland Government endorsed the Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework which was subsequently released on QRA’s website in mid-July. This framework outlines the expectations and roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in flood risk management, and guides and support decision-making by councils.
- Progress has been made in demonstrating how climate change sensitivity has been or will be addressed through the SFMP actions.



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

- As part of the \$8 million Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project, a group procurement arrangement has been established, with QRA supporting work across three areas of operation; Far North Queensland; North West Queensland; and Townsville and Surrounds. One contractor has been appointed for all three areas of operations and works are due to be delivered by June 2022.

## 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 QRA, alongside a grass roots grants program providing \$2M across Queensland's 77 councils and the Weipa Town Authority to deliver locally-led disaster preparedness initiatives.

### Get Ready Queensland Week 2021 – 10–16 October

Get Ready Week kicks off preparations for Queensland's disaster season by amplifying the 'three steps to Get Ready' message with media, community engagement, marketing and school events across the state. Coordinated by the Get Ready team at Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and championed by Get Ready coordinators across the state, Get Ready Week 2021 generated significant national, state and local media coverage with 65 stories across TV, press and digital media outlets delivering the Get Ready message to a potential audience of 1.42 million people.

The Get Ready Facebook page also received more than 50,000 impressions throughout the week, with more than 1,800 engagements. The most successful post was our new campaign video, targeting recent arrivals to Queensland and featuring Get Ready Ambassador Johnathan Thurston.



*Image: Get Ready Ambassador Johnathan Thurston and students from Milton State School at the 2021 Get Ready Launch.*

### 2021 Campaign

The 2021 Get Ready awareness campaign launched during Get Ready Week starting Sunday 10 October, with advertisements promoting the three steps across television, radio and social media for a six week period.

The campaign is headlined by Get Ready Ambassador Johnathan Thurston in a 30 second television advertisement and complementary 30 second radio advertisement, along with two new 15 second videos produced specifically for social media and streaming platforms. The short videos were created following requests from local councils to raise awareness of the importance of preparing for the summer disaster season with the state's many new residents.

*See the Get Ready website to see this year's campaign materials.*



*Image: Year 3 students from Bounty Boulevard State School displaying their posters on how to Get Ready as part of their entry into the schools competition.*

### 2021 Get Ready Queensland Schools Competition

Now in its second year, the Get Ready Queensland Schools Competition received entries from nearly 50 classes involving almost 1,000 students. The classes completed Get Ready activities to help them learn about severe weather and disasters, with many classes integrating the materials into their STEM and HASS curriculum classes.

This year's winner was Mary MacKillop Catholic College in Highfields, Toowoomba. The school's Year 5 students created a presentation on flood resilient design for their HASS assignment. Get Ready Queensland Ambassador Johnathan Thurston is set to join the Get Ready team for a visit to Mary MacKillop College on 2 December 2021.

It was inspiring to see so many students integrate the competition into their learning program for the year and we look forward to seeing next year's entries.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### AWARDS CELEBRATE QUEENSLANDERS' RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS

**Inspiring projects helping to build the resilience of Queensland communities to natural disasters were celebrated at the 2021 Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards held in Brisbane on 6 October 2021.**

The gala event saw **56 entrants across six categories** (a record number of submissions and the most of any state in Australia for 2021), with 10 projects awarded for their incredible work to increase the resilience of Queenslanders.

Many of the entries this year focused on responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and also preparing the most vulnerable members of our community.

Among the winning projects was *Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council's Elders and Vulnerable Person's initiative* in the **Local Government category**.

The project involved translating disaster awareness resources into the Kuku Yalanji language, creating and delivering emergency kits to the vulnerable before the wet season, and relocating dialysis patients to Cooktown when a disaster threatens.

The joint winner in the **Local Government category** was *Mackay Regional Council* for its work improving the safety and wellbeing of people with disability during disasters by training 100 disability service providers and distributing 4000 workbooks to help people with disability create tailored emergency plans.

In the **Community category**, the *Townsville Community Rebuild Project* was a joint winner for its work bringing together 14 organisations to help 47 vulnerable households with psychological support and home repairs after the 2019 North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough.

*The Australian Red Cross* was the second community winner for its development of multilingual disaster preparedness resources, advocacy and research to help culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders prepare for, cope with and recover from disasters.

The three joint winners in the **Schools category** included *Longreach State High* for its *Central West Health and Wellbeing Day*; *Pimlico State High* for its response to supporting student wellbeing during online learning and innovative 'show must go on' approach; and *Roma's St John's School* for its efforts to reduce stigma and normalise mental health as students, families and the wider community grapple with the long-term impacts of drought and the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Queensland Fire and Emergency Services* received the **Government Award** for creating the *Happy Valley Community Bushfire Risk Management Project* in partnership with community members on Fraser Island.

One of the most exciting winners was Queensland start-up *FloodMapp*, which picked up the **Business Award** for developing real-time flood modelling software to help forecast peak river heights and inundation.

Meanwhile, fire captured the public's imagination with *Ben Brackin's* image of a volunteer firefighter battling a grass fire between Gladstone and Yarwun winning the popular vote for **Best Photograph**.

The **Queensland Chapter of the Resilient Australia Awards** is delivered by Get Ready Queensland, the Queensland Government's all hazards disaster awareness program, in partnership with the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience.

**Selected projects will progress to the National Resilient Australia Award ceremony in late 2021.**



Image: The 2021 Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards winners.



Image: QRA CEO Brendan Moon addresses the audience at the awards.

**The full list of Queensland winners and highly commended entrants is available at [www.getready.qld.gov.au/2021-Resilient-Australia-Awards-Queensland-Winners](http://www.getready.qld.gov.au/2021-Resilient-Australia-Awards-Queensland-Winners).**