

# Summary Report

## 2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods Recovery Progress – Report 2

For the period 1 February 2023 – 30 September 2023





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*Image (this page): Maryborough in flood, February 2022.  
Courtesy Fraser Coast Regional Council.*

*Image (cover): Flooding, Brisbane, 28 February 2022.  
Photographer – RAW.Exposed.*





## Message from the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator

Our community has made significant progress in recovering from the 2021-22 disaster season. We will continue to work together to ensure a strong recovery from the 2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods, and to increase community resilience to the effects of future flooding.

This *2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods: Recovery Progress Report 2 (November 2023)* outlines the progress to date and recovery progress for the period 1 February 2023 – 30 September 2023 at both a local and state level. The recovery progress reports against the identified recovery actions in the *2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022-24* and the event specific Local Recovery Plans.

Together the Queensland Government and Australian Government have funded the biggest disaster support package in Queensland's history to respond to the immediate clean up, to build back better, and to increase resilience in Queensland communities.

The state's recovery operations from the 2021-22 natural disaster season continues with an estimated reconstruction bill for the 2021-22 disaster season now exceeding \$4.2 billion.

The 2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods event comprised repeated and devastating flooding across many Queensland communities. In November, as summer arrived, heavy rainfall brought devastating flooding across parts of southern and western Queensland. As the new year arrived, the townships of Maryborough and Gympie suffered major inundation. The rains continued and in late February, Brisbane and surrounds faced flooding not seen at such a scale since the devastating summer of 2011. In May, there was unseasonable rain and more flooding, with some communities being impacted for the fourth time across the season.

Thousands of Queenslanders, families, small businesses, not-for-profit organisations and primary producers have felt the impacts of these events and tragically, too many lives were lost.

The damage was widespread, with Queensland facing one of the biggest recovery operations in its history, spanning 39 of Queensland's 77 local government areas.

The 2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods included the following four significant events and a range of assistance has been activated through the joint State and Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to address the immediate and long-term impacts from these events:

- Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 10 November – 3 December 2021
- Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth, 29 December 2021 – 10 January 2022
- South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 22 February – 5 April 2022
- Southern Queensland Flooding, 6-20 May 2022.

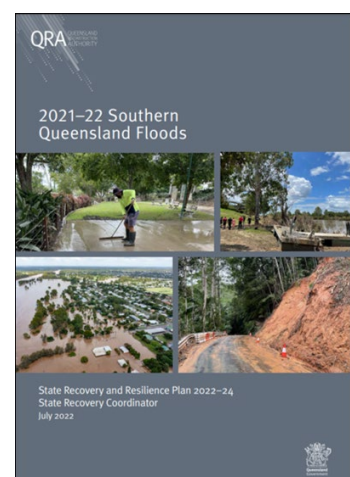
### **Jake Ellwood DSC, AM, CSC**

Major General (Retd)

State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator

and

Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Reconstruction Authority



*Image (top): Brisbane flooding, 28 February 2022. Photographer – RAW.Exposed.*

*Image (inset top): Jake Ellwood, State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator and Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Reconstruction Authority.*

*Image (inset bottom): State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022-24 (July 2022).*



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*Image (top): Maryborough flooded at sunset.*





## Executive summary

This *2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods: Recovery Progress – Report 2 (November 2023)* (Recovery Progress Report 2) outlines the progress from 1 February 2023 – 30 September 2023 at both a local and state level against the identified recovery actions.

The *2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022-24* (the Plan), published in August 2022, aims to inform decision-makers and the public of the role the state government, local governments and communities will play in recovery from the events, and outline improved resilience outcomes for the people who live in the region.

Through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), various programs and funding channels to assist flood-impacted communities and businesses have been established, including:

- the first-of-its-kind \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund
- \$164.7 million for human and social initiatives like mental health services, flexible funding grants, community recovery and resilience officers and accommodation support
- \$201 million for economic recovery, including loans for medium-to-large businesses, grants for rural landholders, and support for small businesses and tourism operators
- \$193 million to rebuild, recover and strengthen community and recreational assets
- \$87.4 million for environmental recovery, including \$31 million for flood risk management
- \$150 million Betterment Fund for councils and state agencies to improve the resilience of essential public infrastructure
- \$17.5 million clean-up package for beaches, waterways and parks
- \$24 million local recovery and resilience grants.

A further \$35.8 million has also been provided in personal hardship assistance, benefitting more than 111,000 people.

This personal hardship assistance allowed impacted Queenslanders to purchase food, clothing or medical supplies, and also included more than \$8 million in Structural Assistance Grants that have helped more than 980 people repair their homes.

More than \$127 million has also been approved to date, over 7,800 grants and counting, for affected primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profits.

The \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund has seen more than 4,900 homes assessments completed, with over 4,700 reports distributed as at the end of September. The valuation inspections for the buy-back scheme have been completed, with 100 demolitions completed.

*Image (top): Brisbane flooding, 28 February 2022. Photographer – RAW.Exposed.*



## About this report

### Purpose

This *2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods: Recovery Progress – Report 2* outlines progress at both a local and state level against activities identified in the [2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022-24](#) (the SRRP).

### Scope

#### Events

The *2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods: Recovery Progress – Report 2* addresses recovery progress for Southern Queensland Floods including the following four events:

- Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 10 November – 3 December 2021
- Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth, 29 December 2021 – 10 January 2022
- South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 22 February – 5 April 2022
- Southern Queensland Flooding, 6-20 May 2022.

#### Timeframe

The recovery reporting is for activities during the time period 1 February 2023 – 30 September 2023.

#### Recovery activities

The recovery reporting is for recovery activities under the five functional lines of recovery coordinated by the Functional Recovery Groups (FRGs)

- Human and Social
- Economic
- Building
- Environment
- Roads and Transport

Recovery reporting includes local recovery activities progressed by the 16 impacted councils under their respective event specific Local Recovery Plans. The Queensland Government will work with local governments and community organisations to facilitate the delivery of local recovery initiatives, focus on community connectedness and support community development in order to recover and build resilience following the impacts of the Southern Queensland Flooding events.

### Recovery reporting

The recovery progress reports have been developed by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and is informed by input from FRGs, Local Governments (LGs) and the State Recovery Coordinator (SRC) or State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRRPC).

### Monitoring recovery

Recovery progress of state government agency and local government recovery actions is monitored against key metrics nominated by the agencies and councils through regular recovery status reporting for the duration of the 2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022-24. The recovery progress reports will focus on the status of recovery activities during the timeframes below:

- Recovery Progress Report 01: 1 August 2022 – 1 February 2023
- Recovery Progress Report 02: 1 February 2023 – 30 September 2023
- Recovery Progress Report 03: 30 September 2023 – 1 February 2024
- Final Recovery Progress Report: 1 February 2024 – 1 August 2024.

### Report format

The *2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods: Recovery Progress – Report 2* includes this high level summary report which is supported by a detailed Excel report:

- **Summary report (PDF)** – This summary report provides a high-level overview of recovery progress for each of the functional lines of recovery including the exceptional circumstances package along with links to recovery progress case studies.
- **Detailed report (Excel)** – provides full details of each recovery activity, an individual recovery activity code, the responsible Functional Recovery Group (FRG) or local government, progress status, and progress comments. The codes for each recovery activity are provided for reference purposes, and the status for each recovery activity is colour coded for ease of tracking.

### Report availability

The report meets public reporting requirements related to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and is available on the QRA website at: [www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods)

*Image (top): A home in Enid Street, Goodna, following the February 2022 flooding.*





## Timing and speed of recovery

In Queensland, disaster recovery is always locally-led and community focused. The role of the state in recovery is to support and build capacity; to remove barriers, to enable, and to use local knowledge and strengths. The aim is to build strong partnerships between communities and those involved in the recovery process.

Floods can deeply impact people's lives and livelihoods. Helping communities recover from disasters can be challenging and complex. Recovery can be time-consuming and the speed of recovery for different lines of recovery can be affected by many factors. Communities can each have their own distinct recovery challenges.

## Flexibility in recovery initiatives

Recovery planning in Queensland acknowledges the need to ensure the specific and changing needs of affected communities are met with flexible and adaptable policies, plans and services. The National Principles for Disaster Recovery guide and underpin recovery planning and operations at the state level.

As the recovery process progresses, impacted communities become increasingly able to lead their own recovery. Successful recovery requires a planned, coordinated, and adaptive approach, between the community and all levels of government.

Recovery planning at the state and local levels is designed to be flexible, taking into account changing needs of impacted communities as well as the need to strengthen the resilience of communities to future flood events.

Through ongoing consultations with stakeholders and the evolving needs of the community, it is imperative for flexibility in the delivery of the disaster recovery programs and the potential of reallocation of funding across the different funding streams.



*Image (top): Lowry Court, Gold Coast, February 2022.*

*Images (bottom): The Resilient Homes Fund is available to assist eligible flood impacted homeowners to repair, retrofit, raise or buy back their flood affected property. This family home in Goodna was part of the Voluntary Homes Buy-Back program.*





## Exceptional circumstances package

### DRFA Category C and D package

The exceptional circumstances package is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments to support Queensland communities in their recovery from four significant weather events during the 2021-22 Queensland summer.

This package includes funding for business and industry support, housing and accommodation, assistance for primary producers and rural landholders, funding to address community development, health and wellbeing and assistance for impacted community, sporting and recreational not-for-profit organisations.

The package has been designed to be flexible to meet recovery requirements and this accounts for flexibility with the allocated funding and approved changes both within and across the packages.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

The 2021-22 Southern Queensland flooding event exceptional circumstances DRFA package (Category C and D) represents a significant investment by the Queensland and Australian Governments to support the recovery and resilience of impacted communities following the disaster events. The extraordinary assistance package includes \$5 million allocated to monitoring and evaluation.

A requirement of the DRFA is to conduct evaluations of programs for the purpose of improving their effectiveness through the documentation of learnings that can be incorporated into the design and implementation of future disaster recovery programs.

QRA have developed program logics, as well as monitoring and evaluation frameworks which will enable both QRA and delivery agencies the ability to embed continuous improvement initiatives into program management and deliver practices based on and endorsed, consistent approach to monitoring progress, evaluating outcomes and identifying lessons for future disaster resilience and response programs. The development of these frameworks will also promote cross agency engagement to facilitate a shared understanding of the inter-related nature of delivery objectives and M&E requirements, including the commitment to data capture and reporting.

Final evaluations will be completed at the end of the programs and will examine the effectiveness, efficiency, appropriateness and implementation of the program and considers whether the program supported disaster affected communities become more sustainable and resilient.

### Extraordinary assistance packages (DRFA Categories C and D)

2021-2022 CAT C and CAT D	Budget (\$M)
<b>Human and Social Recovery Package</b>	<b>\$164.70</b>
Flexible Funding Grants	20.00
Community Health and Wellbeing	15.22
Community Health and Wellbeing: Mental Health Services	9.30
Accommodation Support	108.10
Community Dev. Program: Community Recovery and Resilience Officers	12.08
<b>Economic Recovery Package</b>	<b>201.00</b>
Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers	2.50
Small Business Recovery and Resilience Package	14.50
Tourism Recovery and Resilience Package	7.00
Rural Landholder Recovery Grants	3.00
Local Recovery and Resilience Grants	24.00
Medium to large business recovery loans	150.00
<b>Environmental Recovery Package</b>	<b>87.40</b>
Clean-up Package	17.50
Environmental Recovery	38.90
Flood Risk Mitigation	31.00
<b>Building Recovery Package</b>	<b>935.50</b>
Resilient Home Fund: Rebuild and Retrofit	231.00
Resilient Home Fund: Voluntary Home Buy-Back	500.00
Resilient Home Fund: Property Level Flood Information Portal	10.00
Community and Recreational Assets	193.50
Sports and Recreation Recovery Grants	0.96
<b>Roads and Transport Recovery Package</b>	<b>150.00</b>
Betterment	150.00
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<b>5.00</b>
Monitoring and Evaluation	5.00
<b>Extraordinary Disaster Assistance</b>	<b>507.50</b>
Grants for Primary Producers	250.00
Grants for Small Business and Non-Profits	257.50

Details of each of the components of the package are published at: [www.qra.qld.gov.au/funding-programs/event-specific-exceptional-circumstances-assistance/2021-22-rainfall-and-flooding-exceptional-circumstances-package](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/funding-programs/event-specific-exceptional-circumstances-assistance/2021-22-rainfall-and-flooding-exceptional-circumstances-package)

Image (top): George Street, Beenleigh, 1 March 2022.





## Functional lines of recovery

### About the Functional Recovery Groups

Functional Recovery Groups (FRGs) support communities across the five functional lines of recovery: human and social; economic; environment; building; and roads and transport.

The FRGs are responsible for providing resources and supporting Local Recovery Groups (LRGs) and District Recovery Groups (DRGs) in their recovery efforts across impacted communities. The FRGs coordinate, link and facilitate recovery planning, issues management and activities at the state level across their different functional group areas.

The communication loop between LRGs, DRGs and state level FRGs is a crucial element of the recovery governance arrangements.

Learn more about the function, lead agency and membership of the FRGs at: [www.qra.qld.gov.au/recovery/recovery-governance/frgs](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/recovery/recovery-governance/frgs)

### Recovery progress summaries

Recovery progress is reported across the functional lines of recovery to track implementation of recovery activities against the metrics identified in the SRRP Action Plans. The summaries provide a high level overview of recovery progress against the lines of recovery, and the detailed report (Excel) is available at: [www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods)



*Image (top): FRGs and local councils exercising flood recovery planning for the Brisbane River catchment at FLOOD-EX21 prior to the 2021-2022 flood events. Brisbane, 28 February 2022. Photo courtesy of RAW.Exposed.*





## Human and Social

Human and social recovery relates to the emotional, social, physical and psychological health and well-being of individuals, families and communities following a disaster.

### Human and social recovery progress summary (1 February 2023 – 30 September 2023)

- As at 27 September 2023, \$36,190,603 has been paid to grant recipients, benefitting 111,800 people.
- Red Cross has distributed \$41,437,920 in direct cash assistance to impacted communities (including Relief Grants, Discretionary Financial Hardship Flood grant, Bereavement Grants, and Additional Support Grants).
- St. Vincent De Paul Queensland provided \$2,675,380 in assistance to 1,134 households (1,910 instances of assistance) to date since 27 February 2022.
- \$4,749,716 spent of donated funds through GIVIT.
- GIVIT continue to work closely with charities and community groups across all impacted areas to place requests for essential items including items to aid in clean-up efforts.
- Community Services Industry Alliance (CSIA) undertook community consultation of financial wellbeing support
- Australian Red Cross strengthened social connection, local empowerment and psychosocial capability through delivery of community events, workshops and delivering training
- Assisting vulnerable groups, particularly those living with disabilities, through active engagement with the Person Centered Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) program.
- Training and onboarding for Service Navigators in the Neighborhood Centers within impacted Local Government Areas (LGAs)

### Case studies

- [Dawn and Richard's story: Recovery housing helps flooded residents find their feet](#)
- [Cameron's story: 'I was watching all my stuff float out of the garage'](#)
- [Jaquob's story: Supportive community provides safe haven for Gympie dad](#)
- [Debbie's story: Finding community in flood recovery](#)
- [Ranee's story: "The dogs and I would go and sit in the car because that's what felt safe"](#)
- [Garry's story: "I'd still be in the old caravan with mud in it"](#)
- [Community Recovery Ready Reserves ready to get Queenslanders back on their feet](#)
- [Structural Assistance Grants helping disaster-hit Queenslanders back into their homes](#)

(21 March 2023. Source: [www.chde.qld.gov.au/news-publications/news](http://www.chde.qld.gov.au/news-publications/news))

### Media statements

- [\(30/03/2023\): SEQ recovery on track 12 months after devastating floods](#)
- [\(14/03/2023\): More than \\$100 million in government flood support](#)
- [\(12/10/2022\): Disaster Recovery Grants for Queensland Communities](#)

## Extraordinary assistance

The extraordinary assistance (DRFA Categories C and D) packages under the Human and Social line of recovery are all underway as summarised in the table below. The detailed report (Excel) is available at: [www.gra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods](http://www.gra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods)

### Extraordinary assistance (DRFA Categories C and D): Human and Social

Package	Value (\$M)	Status	High level summary
Flexible Funding Grants	20.00	Underway	Round 1: 42 community groups, non-government agencies, industry groups and local governments shared in more than \$3M for 54 projects Round 2: Applications closed 7 June 2023
Community Health and Wellbeing	24.53	Underway	Little Kids Day Out – engaged with 500 children, parents, teachers, carers and early learning schools providers Increase in referrals because of program promotions and informal screenings Delivery of Psychological First Aid (PFA) to communities
Accommodation Support	108.10	Underway	Rental Support Grant: payments to applicants exceeded \$1m Flexible Housing Solutions: received 8 tiny homes at Gympie Recovery Accommodation Park, increasing capacity to 34 units
Community Development	12.08	Underway	18 Community Recovery and Resilience Officers have commenced work across eligible LGAs
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>164.70</b>		

Images (top): Case studies of Gympie residents receiving accommodation assistance following the floods. Source CHDE.





## Economic

The effects of a disaster on the economic environment can be classified in terms of direct and indirect impacts. The tangible impacts can usually be given a monetary value and may include loss of tourism, employment opportunities and reduction in cash flow for businesses.

### Economic recovery progress summary (1 February 2023 – 30 September 2023)

The Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) is responsible for administering disaster recovery assistance in the form of grants and loans across four events as summarised below (as at 27 November 2023).

Event	Assistance summary (QRIDA)
Southern Queensland Flooding, 6-20 May 2022	Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – 966 received, 945 finalised, 774 approved for a total of \$17,912M Disaster Assistance Loans – 9 received, 7 finalised, 4 approved for a total of \$352K
South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 22 February – 7 March 2022	Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants (EDARG) – 11,551 received, 11,268 finalised, 8,555 approved for a total of \$151.35M Disaster Assistance Loans (DAL) – 182 received, 154 finalised, 57 approved for a total of \$7.78M
Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth, 7-10 January 2022	Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – 1,243 received, 1,220 finalised, 985 approved for a total of \$12.75M Disaster Assistance Loans (Primary Producers) – 9 received, 7 finalised, 6 approved for \$739K
Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 10 November – 3 December 2021	Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – 816 received, 798 finalised, 676 approved for a total of \$11.43M Disaster Assistance Loans (Primary Producers) – 6 received, 5 finalised, 2 approved for \$324.8K

Key economic recovery and resilience activities implemented include:

- [Small business disaster hub website](#) on Business Queensland website
- 17 workshops delivered to support tender capability and strengthen local supply chain capability
- DSDILGP will continue engagement with councils and state agencies to support and promote future plan-making changes to ensure local planning schemes appropriately avoid or mitigate future hardship from natural disasters.
- DSDILGP has made [regulatory changes to simplify how government can stand up emergency housing](#) in the event of a disaster. These changes give the State or local government the ability to deliver emergency housing on a temporary basis in response to a disaster or other event, without seeking planning approval to change the use of the premises.
- DSDILGP will continue working with QRA to develop the guideline to provide clarity for local governments about options available in the planning framework to assist in emergency situations.





## Extraordinary assistance

The extraordinary assistance (DRFA Categories C and D) packages under the Economic line of recovery are all underway as summarised in the table below. The detailed report (Excel) is available at:

[www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods)

### Extraordinary assistance (DRFA Categories C and D): Economic

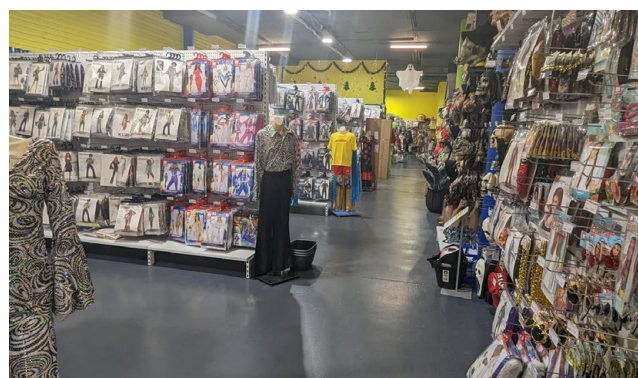
Package	Value (\$M)	Status	High level summary
Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers (IRROs)	2.50	Underway	IRRO's are visiting farms to assist Primary Producers assess their on-farm flood impacts, discussing available financial assistance such as grants and loans and referring people to mental health services and other support services, where required
Small Business Recovery and Resilience Package	14.5	Underway	<p>Skilling Queenslanders for Work: 26 projects have commenced delivery with 380 jobs created</p> <p>Small Business Support Service: flood recovery coordinators continue to work with regions to implements systems and disaster recovery resources</p> <p>Wellness coaches commenced in Gympie and Greater Brisbane</p> <p>Locally Led Economic Recovery: 17 councils submitted applications for grant funding under the Buy Local Initiative</p>
Tourism Recovery and Resilience Package	7.0	Underway	<p>The Building Resilient Tourism Infrastructure (BRTI) fund will provide more than \$3.5 million in total support to 32 projects across 35 declared affected local government areas</p> <p>25 Crisis Communications workshops held in impacted regions</p>
Rural Landholder Recovery Grants	3.0	Completed	59 applications received, 31 approved for a total of \$224,325.09
Local Recovery and Resilience Grants	24.0	Underway	Over 150 projects submitted for approval
Medium to large business recovery loans	150.0	Underway	<p>Round 1 opened 12 April, closed June 2023</p> <p>Round 2 opened 1 July, closed 30 September 2023</p> <p>Round 3 opened 1 October, closing 31 December 2023</p>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201.00</b>		

## Case studies

- [One year on from the 2022 SEQ floods – Jokers Costume Mega Store, Rocklea](#)
- [Tax Today – Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant recipient](#)
- [Bornen Constructions Willowbank work site inundated by water](#)
- [Austral Croissants – Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant recipient](#)
- [Blue & Grae – Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant recipient](#)
- [Deagon Dress Ups – Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant recipient](#)
- [Metal fabrication business – Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant recipient](#)
- [Milton Rum Distillery – Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant recipient](#)
- [Science of Fitness – Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant recipient](#)
- [Lockyer Valley milk back on shelves after floods \(QRIDA video case study\)](#)
- [‘The difference between re-opening and closing’: how a beloved Grantham store recovered from devastating floods \(QRIDA\)](#)

## Media statements

- [\(17/06/2023\): Extra help for flood-affected Queensland small business with mental health and wellness support](#)
- [\(16/06/2023\): More time for extraordinary disaster assistance grants](#)
- [\(03/05/2023\): Flood Funding Grants to boost community-led recovery and resilience projects](#)
- [\(16/04/2023\): \\$2.5 million to help Queensland's flood-affected small businesses](#)
- [\(25/02/2023\): Better natural disaster resilience for Queensland tourism operators](#)
- [\(21/10/2022\): Faster approvals for emergency housing](#)
- [\(07/10/2022\): New officers to support flood-affected Queensland producers](#)
- [\(10/11/2022\): Flood Recovery Upskilling Queenslanders](#)



Images (top): Jokers Costume Mega Store, Rocklea damaged stock following the February 2022 flooding, and (above) back in business.



## Environment

The effects of a disaster on the natural environment may be a direct result of the disaster or through a secondary impact or flow on from the disaster response or recovery process. Impacts to the environment may include damage or loss of flora and fauna, poor air quality, reduced water quality, land degradation and contamination, or damage to heritage listed places.

### Environmental recovery progress summary (1 February 2023 – 30 September 2023)

- On 3 April 2023, DES published an update to the Prescribed Tidal Works Guideline, which provides recommendations for local government and applicants to improve construction standards in pontoons where they are subject to damaging flood flows.
- Industry and Resilience and Recovery Officers (IRROs) have been visiting farms and developing flood management plans with primary producers across several LGAs, including Gympie, North Burnett, South Burnett, Somerset and the Lockyer Valley.
- The IRROs have been developing plans based on flood scenario mapping, existing tools and methodology through workshops, farm site visits and face to face meetings.

#### Case studies

- [Helping Queensland's Riverine Environments Recover](#)
- [Cleaning up Stable Swamp Creek and the Rocklea Markets, Brisbane](#)
- [Shining a new light on Queensland in the name of flood risk management](#)
- [Woodstock Farm recovery project grows flood resilience and job skills](#)
- [Comprehensive coastline clean-up following the 2022 South East Queensland floods](#)

#### Media statements

- [08/09/2023\): Landholders receive funding to repair Queensland's flood-affected nature refuges](#)
- [07/09/2023\): Joint funding to support threatened species recovery in flood-affected communities](#)
- [28/07/2023\): Disaster repairs delivered for Queensland's heritage list](#)
- [25/05/2023\): 12 Queensland projects supported through tourism industry resilience grants](#)
- [28/02/2023\): Flood Risk Management paves the way forward for more resilient regions](#)
- [10/01/2023\): Helping Queensland's Riverine Environments Recover](#)
- [03/01/2023\): Funding to repair Queensland's disaster-impacted heritage-listed places](#)
- [05/12/2023\): Funding to support the recovery of Queensland's threatened freshwater aquatic species](#)
- [04/11/2023\): Over \\$1m up for grabs in nature refuge grants](#)
- [03/09/2022\): Supporting environmental recovery from Queensland flood](#)

### Extraordinary assistance

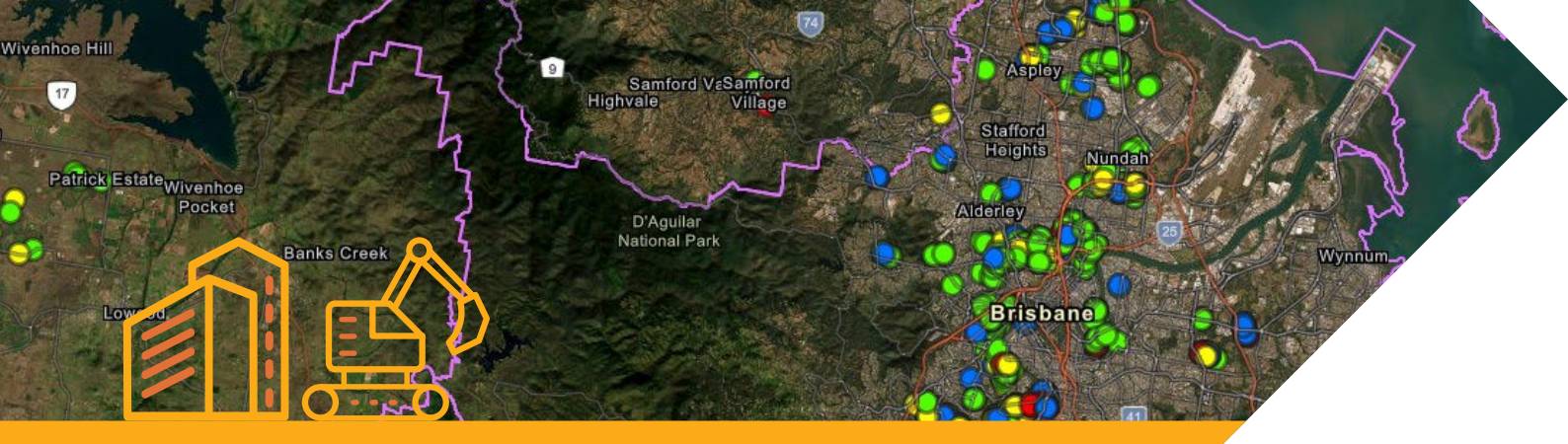
The extraordinary assistance (DRFA Categories C and D) packages under the Environment line of recovery are all underway as summarised in the table below. The detailed report (Excel) is available at: [www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods)

#### Extraordinary assistance (DRFA Categories C and D): Environment

Package	Value (\$M)	Status	High level summary
Clean-up Grant Program	17.50	Underway	Rocklea flood debris completed Leachate disposal from Gatton and Laidley landfills completed Dredging works in Sunshine Coast Regional Council completed Disposal of flood debris to landfill, mulching in Goondiwindi completed
Environmental Recovery	38.9	Underway	Marine Program – \$3.5M allocated Freshwater Grant Program closed 20 January 2023 Riverine Reconnaissance Stage 1 funding completed – 14 projects completed; total value \$1.5M Stage 2 funding allocated – 42 projects; total value \$26M Weeds and Pests “On Park” Program – 5 regions received a share of \$850K, 26 projects Nature Refuge Grant Program – 10 projects to be completed June 24; \$80,341 allocated Heritage Grant Program – 10 projects to be completed June 24; \$306,796 allocated
Flood Risk Mitigation	31.0	Underway	LiDAR capture progressing well 41 projects have commenced
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87.40</b>		

Image (top): Brisbane River, Hawthorne, 4 March 2022.





## Building

The effects of a disaster on the built environment often result in damage and disruption which inhibits the capacity of essential services and services such as housing, accommodation, education and health facilities.

### Building recovery progress summary (1 February 2023 – 30 September 2023)

#### Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring

The South East Queensland floods caused damage to almost 7000 homes and was one of the state's most devastating disaster damage assessment and reconstruction monitoring (DARM) operation since the 2011 floods. It has also been the largest DARM operation since the 2011 floods.

Damage assessments of impacted properties have been conducted six, nine, twelve and fifteen months after the flooding event. This was a major operation with officers going street-by-street, house-by-house and business-by-business, inspecting the properties that had previously reported as damaged.

While these visits provide a status update on recovery efforts, they also give us the opportunity to check on impacted residents and, where required, arrange further support. When residents and owners were home, officers checked in on a range of issues, including flooding impacts, status of repair works and insurance coverage, to determine the current extent of the damage and any recovery that had occurred so far.

The information collected during this assessment will be shared with state agencies, impacted councils and other stakeholders to inform the ongoing recovery efforts. A number of residents were still experiencing delays in completing repairs due to the high demand for tradespeople, equipment and building supplies.

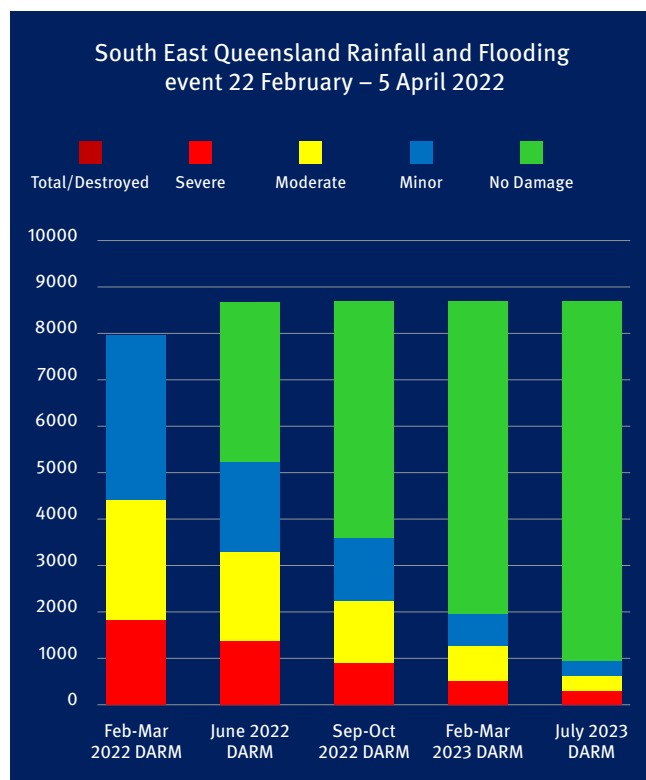
Between 10-14 July 2023, QRA conducted the fifteen-month DARM operation, revisiting properties identified as damaged during the twelve-month damage assessments.

QRA will continue to work with government agencies, community organisations and councils to provide advice and aid local decision making and solutions in relation to the reconstruction process. There are no more assessments planned for this event.

Of the 1,960 properties assessed, 1,025 were identified as no longer damaged. Of the 8,704 home and businesses identified as damaged, 7,769 properties are now damaged free. Almost 90% of homes and businesses impacted by the 2022 South East Queensland floods are no longer showing signs of damage.

During DARM, the progress of reconstruction is monitored by QRA, focusing on the structural damage and recovery of homes and businesses.

Graph: Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring showing recovery progress at 15 months post event.



[www.qra.qld.gov.au/darm](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/darm)

### Resilient Homes Fund

- Through the [Resilient Homes Fund](#), eligible Queenslanders will receive funding to repair and retrofit their house, raise their house or in some circumstances have their property purchased under a voluntary buy-back program. This is a nation-leading program, which will change people's lives by improving their resilience to future flooding or removing them from harm's way altogether.
- As of 30 September 2023, more than 4,900 homes assessments have been completed, with over 4,700 reports distributed.
- 621 builders have been registered and approved on the Queensland Building CC hosted contractor register.
- All voluntary buy-back inspections have been completed, with 100 demolitions completed.
- Over 400 homeowners registered for a webinar on 31 August to find out more on the home raise eligibility criteria expansion, with over 220 people online at its peak.
- Winner of Government category for the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (Qld) award.

Image (top): Map showing DARM 12 month assessments.



## Extraordinary assistance

The extraordinary assistance (DRFA Categories C and D) packages under the Building line of recovery are all underway as summarised in the table below. The detailed report (Excel) is available at:

[www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods)

### Extraordinary assistance (DRFA Categories C and D): Building

Package	Value (\$M)	Status	High level summary
<a href="#">Resilient Homes Fund</a>	741.00	Underway	Resilient Homes Fund – 6,566 registrations received, (with 4,977 active) Voluntary Home Buy-Back – 968 properties identified, 816 valuation inspections undertaken, 740 properties to purchase, 549 offers accepted
Community and Recreational Assets	193.50	Underway	Mount Ninderry Environmental Reserve in Sunshine Coast Regional Council completed Skippy Park Landsborough fence damage in Sunshine Coast completed
Sport and Recreational grants	0.960	Completed	Funding closed on 31 January 2023 with 57 organisations approved. Projects on track for completion by 30 November 2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>935.50</b>		

## Case studies

- [Chris and Ronnella Onyeajum, Goodna – Voluntary Home Buy-Back Program](#)
- [Luke Hardwick-Greaves, Rocklea – Voluntary Home Buy-Back Program](#)
- [Paul Harding, Goodna – Voluntary Home Buy-Back Program](#)
- [Dirk de Vos, Goodna – Voluntary Home Buy-Back Program](#)
- [The Queensland household resilience program setting the national standard](#)
- [Real-time test validates decade of flood resilience design work](#)
- [Synthetic turf recovery for resilient grass-roots football club](#)
- [Strengthening Bribie's sand surfaces in the wake of storms and floods](#)
- [Home buy-back demolitions giving a new lease of life to building materials](#)
- [Miika and Melina Puhakka, Deception Bay – Voluntary Home Buy-Back Program](#)
- [Video case studies \(NEMA\): Queensland buy-back scheme brings peace of mind](#)
- [Video case study: Fraser Coast – Voluntary Home Buy-Back](#)

## Media statements

- [\(03/11/2023\): Kicking goals for flood recovery](#)
- [\(24/08/2023\): Flood-impacted families freed from future flood risk](#)
- [\(28/07/2023\): Bribie's Northern Access Track re-opens](#)
- [\(14/07/2023\): Gympie Netball scores \\$2.3 million for rebuild of flooded courts and clubhouse](#)
- [\(30/06/2023\): Golden Beach seawall to be restored at Caloundra](#)
- [\(18/06/2023\): More Queensland Homes to benefit from Voluntary Home Buy-Backs](#)
- [\(10/03/2023\): More than 100 families moved out of flood danger zone](#)
- [\(10 March 2023\): More than 100 families moved out of flood danger zone](#)
- [\(17/11/2022\): Sporting facilities get \\$75 million in disaster funding](#)

Images: (top left) Goodna family residence following flooding and (top right) following a successful Resilient Homes Fund Voluntary Home Buy-Back.





## Roads and Transport

The effects of a disaster on transport networks, including road, rail, aviation and maritime normally result in difficulty accessing communities and disruption to critical supply chains (both within and outside of the impacted area). Restoration of these networks, or the identification of alternatives, is a priority in disaster recovery.

### Roads and transport recovery progress summary (1 February 2023 – 30 September 2023)

#### Roads

- Works completed at the main slip site on Beechmont Road in August 2023. Further works will be undertaken at other minor damage sites along Beechmont Road during 2023.
- More than 400 reconstruction and betterment projects undergoing eligibility assessments prior to being progressively delivered over the next 15 months
- To 30 September 2023, a total of 180 projects were completed and about 300 further projects are planned or underway. Works is underway on priority projects, with the program targeting construction completion by 31 December 2024.
- Major reconstruction sites impacted by at least one of the four major flooding events in 2021-22 include:
  - » Bowenville-Norwin Road
  - » Leichhardt Highway (Miles-Goondiwindi)
  - » Toowoomba-Cecil Plains Road
  - » Barwon Highway
  - » Warrego Highway (Dalby-Miles)
  - » Mount Glorious Road
  - » Warrego Highway (Ipswich-Toowoomba)
  - » Gold-Coast Springbrook Road
- As at 30 September 2023, a total of 90 emergency works/counter disaster operations (CDO) submissions, 66 immediate reconstruction works (IRW) submissions, 318 Phase 1 (Pre-Approval) submissions, 82 Phase 2 (Estimate Update/Tender) submissions and one Phase 4 (completion) submissions lodged
- Of which, 90 emergency works/CDO submissions, 59 IRW, 269 Phase 1 submissions, 41 Phase 2 submissions and one Phase 4 submissions have been assessed
- Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) prepared recommendations for sustainable/resilient floating pontoons and structures
- A total of 27 betterment projects are being progressed.
- Betterment projects being undertaken include:
  - » Barwon Highway (Goondiwindi-Talwood) pavement and drainage improvements and concrete floodways
  - » Bauple-Woolooga Road additional abutment and batter protection at Wide Bay Creek
  - » Beaudesert-Nerang Road pavement resilience works
  - » Beechmont Road drainage improvements
  - » Booyal-Dallarnil Road pavement strengthening with foamed bitumen and concrete margins
  - » Burnett Highway (Goomeri-Gayndah) foamed bitumen stabilisation
  - » Burnett Highway (Nanango-Goomeri) concrete batter protection
  - » Castlereagh Highway (Noondoo-Hebel) flood immunity improvements and pavement resilience
  - » Cunningham Arterial Road floodproof covers for ITS equipment
  - » Currumbin Creek Road pavement resilience works
  - » Currumbin Creek-Tomewin Road drainage improvements and concrete margins.
  - » Dalby-Cecil Plains Road stabilised pavement, concrete batters and floodways
  - » Gold Coast-Springbrook Road drainage improvements
  - » Isis Highway (Bundaberg-Childers) culvert improvements
  - » Lamington National Park Road drainage improvements and catch fencing
  - » Leichhardt Highway (Miles-Goondiwindi) pavement improvements, concrete margins and batter slope protection
  - » Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road (Lamington Bridge) handrails
  - » Moonie Highway (Dalby-St George) floodway improvements
  - » Moonie Highway (Dalby-St George) pavement stabilisation
  - » Mt Lindesay Highway drainage improvements
  - » Mt Sylvia Road floodway improvements and batter protection
  - » Murgon-Gayndah Road concrete batter protection
  - » Nerang-Murwillumbah Road culvert improvements
  - » Running Creek Road increased culvert capacity and floodway
  - » Tamborine-Oxenford Road pavement resilience works and concrete batter protection
  - » Toowoomba-Cecil Plains Road stabilising pavement to greater depth
  - » Wide Bay Highway (Gympie-Goomeri) additional batter protection upstream of abutment to protect from high-velocity flows from the Mary River

#### Betterment

The Queensland Government has established a \$150 million Betterment that will be available across local government areas in Queensland impacted in the 2021-22 disaster season. It is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments. The objectives of the 2021-22 Betterment Fund are to restore essential public assets damaged in 2021-22 events to a more resilient standard so that infrastructure and communities are more resilient to future disasters, future costs associated with disasters are reduced, and to address Queensland's assessed natural hazard risks.

*Image: (top) Heavy rainfall caused a significant landslide on Beechmont Road.*





## Extraordinary assistance

The extraordinary assistance (DRFA Categories C and D) under the Roads and Transport line of recovery are underway as outlined in the summary table below. The detailed Excel spreadsheet is published at: [www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods)

### Extraordinary assistance (DRFA Categories C and D): Roads and Transport

Package	Value (\$M)	Status	High level summary
<a href="#">Betterment</a>	150.00	Underway	<p>Works completed at the main slip site on Beechmont Road in August 2023. Further works will be undertaken at other minor damage sites along Beechmont Road during 2023.</p> <p>More than 400 reconstruction and betterment projects undergoing eligibility assessments prior to being progressively delivered over the next 15 months</p>

### Case studies

- [Betterment – a better way to keeping a freight route open](#)
- [Restoring access for Brisbane’s western suburbs following the 2022 floods](#)
- [Beechmont Road upslope repairs completed](#)
- [South East Queensland 2022 flood reconstruction works \(TMR website\)](#)

### Media statements

- [\(12/10/2023\): Flood repair road works underway in the Western Downs](#)
- [\(08/06/2023\): \\$75 million to increase Queensland’s recovery and resilience to natural disasters](#)
- [\(01/03/2023\): Reconstruction ramps up one year after Southeast Queensland floods](#)

*Image: (top) Beechmont Road slope stabilisation works in progress. Courtesy TMR.*





## Local recovery progress summaries by council

Councils use local recovery planning to identify priorities and support to communities in their recovery. 16 event specific Local Recovery Plans were prepared and endorsed by councils for the 2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods. Each council has provided a recovery progress update against the Local Recovery Plans with summaries below and the detailed report (Excel) published at: [www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods)

### South-East Queensland Region

- Brisbane
- Gold Coast
- Ipswich
- Lockyer Valley
- Moreton Bay
- Scenic Rim
- Somerset

#### Brisbane

- A council survey was undertaken of all roads that were flood inundated (approximately 285km) due to the weather event
- Identified 71 roads that required further investigations and scoping of works
- Design has commenced (50% completed) on these projects and all designs have been completed
- Delivery of works planned progressively with first package commencing late March 2023 and final packages planned for completion in 2023-2024 FY
- Flood Recovery Taskforce was formed: Rebuild & Recover: Flood Resilience Action Plan (FRAP) was created which addresses 51 actions that will help the community recover, make the city more resilient, and ensure that council can better endure future severe weather events
- A total of 17 stormwater outlets were identified as requiring repair and improvement of scour protection as part of the rapid damage assessments
- Council has improved flood resilience of natural assets such as parks and waterways, including the rebuilding of embankments
- The Rebuild and Recover – Flood Resilient Communities program helping community organisations by providing technical assessments, recommendations, and repairs to help them build back better
- 101 flood resilience assessments have been conducted with 52 locations currently under construction works with remaining sites under procurement process

#### City of Gold Coast

- 42 training initiatives have occurred over the last 6 months to ensure Local Disaster Coordination Centre knowledge, operations and processes, including evacuation field exercises
- Exercises have included cross border and cross LGA areas, as well as partnering with districts
- Funding approved for the Gold Coast Enhanced Flood Response project
- Aim of this project will deliver infrastructure to improve the telemetry coverage by installing new telemetry rainfall and river height gauges across the gold coast catchment areas

- Aged Care Sector resilience forum conducted with a range of residential aged care facilities, emergency services agencies, organisations and all levels of government
- Community Recovery and Resilience Officers liaising with neighbourhood centres
- Betterment opportunities have been identified and submitted for consideration

#### Ipswich

- As at 18 September 2023, all environmental recovery projects are underway and progressing
- Immediate financial relief provided to impacted residents through the collaborative efforts of agencies including but not limited to Department of Communities, GIVIT and Red Cross
- Residents continue to receive multi-agency support and referrals to support services available
- As at 18 September 2023, 283 properties were approved for buy back as part of the Resilient Homes Fund
- A Community Recovery and Resilience Officer has been working directly with impacted residents and established community organisations to build connections, places of resilience and establish support mechanism for local referral pathways, particularly in outer suburbs of Ipswich with reduces access to primary services
- As at 18 September the program of works for community and sporting facilities had commenced with a number of facilities underway

#### Lockyer Valley

- Community Recovery and Resilience Officer actively engaging with a range of stakeholder to map out needs, assess preferred responses and coordinate support where possible
- Laidley Community Centre's recovery team playing a significant role in supporting those community members still in the recovery phase
- Financial and psychosocial support has been readily available to the community
- Lockyer Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism have secured a \$20,000 grant funding to support tourism and business development and capacity building with a focus on building disaster resilience and preparedness and mental health
- Mental health support for small business owners is still available through Small Business Wellness Coaching delivered along with the Rural Financial Counselling services
- Survey of mosquito populations undertaken at priority council reserves, commercial centres and council infrastructure in Withcott, Gatton, Laidley and plainlands
- Pest and weed surveillance program commences and ongoing by council officers
- Council continues to liaise with service providers both directly and via several interagencies to encourage, support and coordinate appropriate services for the affected parts of the community
- Project for improved coverage of flood model within Lockyer Valley catchment area has been approved. This will assist with project planning and assessment when undertaking erosion stabilisation works at priority sites in the catchment

*Image (top): Tallebudgera Creek Road, March 2022, Gold Coast.*

- Councils continues to deliver a range of events and activities with community hall committees and community groups that focus on better preparedness to support their local community. This includes information of preparing personal/home plans, strengthening community networks and organisations, and awareness of environmental resilience opportunities
- Council has partnered with Queenslanders with a Disability Network (QDN) on a project to engage with people with a disability, their carers and service providers to help develop better individual capacity to identify and address risks to local disasters
- Councils primary communication strategy has now moved to resilience and preparation for future disasters events

### Moreton Bay

- Additional Councillor Business walks have been completed to continue enhancing engagement across the business community in the region
- Buy local gift card program was developed “Moreton Money” gift card program, aimed at increasing local spending, grow Chamber membership and support local businesses, suppliers and jobs
- Council developed and funded a \$50,000 local small business assistance policy, which will enable flexible and timely support for the Moreton Bay region business community
- New flood gauges are planned to be installed across the region
- Worked with Unitywater to ensure water was drinkable and undertook water sampling at recreational waterways
- SEQ mosquito taskforce initiated
- Worked with Healthy Land and Water (HLW) on SEQ wide waterway assessments and collaborated on the SEQ strategic natural asset investment plan and associated resilience implementation plan
- Environmental approvals have progressed and completed for White Patch Esplanade
- Community Recovery and Resilience Officer will focus on building the resilience of impacted community members and organisations
- Supported the planning and delivery of community celebration and reconnection events and activities through the Moreton Recovery Fund
- Facilitated appropriate recovery training initiatives eg recovery basics workshop, farm first aid and pillowcase program

### Scenic Rim

- Support provided for flood affected businesses and primary producers
- Council worked with Queensland Health and neighbouring councils to monitor mosquito activity within the region and surrounding areas
- Alternative waste service arrangements for 15 premises on The Shelf Road, Tamborine Mountain arrangements are in place until advised the road is safe
- Riverbank erosion sites identified for stabilisation have undergone assessment for engineering design were required

### Somerset

- Council Business Recovery Officer has connected directly with business and also provided various recovery events/training
- Work has commenced repairing several recreational sites impacted by the floods along the Brisbane River

## Mary River Region

- Fraser Coast
- Gympie
- Noosa

### Fraser Coast

- Majority of persons who were displaced through the floods have now been placed in suitable accommodation. There are still a small number of cases that are being case managed to permanently place them in suitable accommodation
- Council continues to deliver its Community Recovery and Resilience Officer Program

- Significant increase in encouraging community members to subscribe to the Fraser Coast Disaster Dashboard through social media
- Majority of businesses have either returned to operating from their pre-event sites or have relocated to alternative sites and are now operating
- Assistance to business is now provided as part of business as usual activities through Council's Economic Development Team
- Department of Transport and Main Roads has recently completed works on the replacement of the rails of the Lamington Bridge

### Gympie

- The Department of Housing continues to coordinate transitional housing for flood impacted residents
- The Gympie Recovery Accommodation Park provides temporary accommodation to flood affected families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Over the last 18 months, 31 households have successfully supported to exit the Gympie Recovery Accommodation Park into alternate longer-term accommodation
- The Gympie Accommodation Park has 34 units of accommodation (six cabins and eight new tiny houses)
- Three departmental staff provide onsite property and tenancy management with additional support services provided four days a week
- A total of 180 applications for funding were received in 2022/23 to the Community Grants program
- \$852,870 was recommended to 146 applications, including eight recovery, wellbeing and resilience grants totalling \$180,000 and 32 Get Local Community grants at \$42,586
- Birdie's Tree Training is continuing for disaster preparedness and recovery for children under five
- The Tourism Advisory Group meets to support the development of a Gympie Region Economic Strategy
- Gympie Council has partnered with Why Leave Town to implement a region wide Local Buy Gift Card program
- Several major events have been held including Wheels on Mary, Winter Lights and a celebration to support the Queensland BMX championships. The events focused on visitation, tourism and spend building a positive nature for Mary Street and the wider CBD
- New Planning Scheme is being prepared, which will address natural hazards, including bushfire, flooding, landslip, storm tide inundation and coastal erosion
- Betterment projects have been identified, mainly related to flood ways and bridge sites

### Noosa

- Working with Noosa Chamber of Commerce to include Disaster Resilience in an annual business forum to be held in Noosa in mid-November
- Enable local businesses to meet with Noosa council, state and federal experts in Disaster Resilience – to understand what assistance is available and how it can be accessed
- Community Recovery and Resilience Officer are running a series of workshops and programs across Noosa shire, particularly in the hinterland, geared towards fostering connection between established residents and newcomers
- Funding secured for Twin Hills Lookout; Boreen Point Foreshore now approved
- Grants to support smaller community programs such as fencing and embankment stabilisation for community sporting groups secured
- Betterment projects have been identified
- Landslip work continuing to progress





## Burnett and Fitzroy Region

- Gladstone
- North Burnett

### Gladstone

- Repairs to all services have occurred and all services established
- 50 grants, including Emergency hardship Assistance, Emergency Household Contents and Essential Services, safety and reconnection scheme grants provided to impacted community members
- Information regarding additional funding opportunities continue to be distributed
- Agencies continue to collaborate linking individuals to services
- Betterment projects identified – works to be completed through council's maintenance program

### North Burnett

- BIEDO Roadshow undertaken in October
- Get Ready funding incorporating small business dashboard opt-in feature to enable LDMG agencies to provide data on support available during and after an event specific
- Disaster Dashboard Communication Module upgrade will allow the development of a survey to collect impact data
- Rehabilitation of the Bon Accord Bridge is progressing well with the bridge contractor finalising project delivery plans
- Community Recovery and Resilience Officer currently coordinating training to better inform community on how to reduce weed spread
- Evacuation centre training scheduled for December
- Flood debris removal education at 2024 agriculture shows in each town

## Darling Downs and South-West Region

- Balonne
- Goondiwindi
- Toowoomba
- Western Downs

### Balonne

- Community resilience activities are continuing
- Fly High Billie, which focuses on mental health programs in schools will continue in 2024
- Grant Writing Workshops in November 2023
- Balonne Shire Council Biosecurity Advisory Committee meets to discuss opportunities for improvement and management of pest weeds across the Shire
- Farming Business Resilience and Flooding Mapping Workshop undertaken
- Business Continuity planning workshops being held in early 2024
- Stimulate tourism through identification and promotion of funding opportunities to impacted businesses
- Promotion of Balonne Shire Council Dashboard
- Sports clubs returned to active competitions

- Council continues to undertake mosquito surveillance programs which identified vectors carried by mosquitoes
- Community Recovery and Resilience Officer undertaking widespread community engagement and actively building to further enhance communities' ability to both gain greater resilience and envelope recovery strategies

### Goondiwindi

- LiDAR and flood modelling progressing
- Council have finalised communication plan which will focus on education and upskilling Disaster Management Officer
- Inglewood Assembly point redeveloped and tested
- Community Recovery and Resilience Officer coordinating ongoing support with community education and engagement
- Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers ensuring agricultural support is being provided to businesses and primary producers have access to support services to restore/rebuild businesses
- Social resilience initiatives have been identified and developed and will be managed by Community Recovery and Resilience Officer

### Toowoomba

- Community Recovery and Resilience Officer continues to assist community
- Establishment of Local Emergency Coordination sub groups in Yarraman following holding an Emergency Services Day under the CRRO program
- Weed and pest control have been rolled into business as usual
- Betterment projects developed and submitted
- Community engagement has been undertaken on a wide ranging scale and several projects have been identified
- Learnings from the floods have been implemented in current Operation Melaleuca bushfire recovery
- Community has recommenced recreational activities and attendance to events and gatherings
- Funding opportunities have been identified to stimulate tourism and recreation industries across the region

### Western Downs

- AWS messaging has been updated to include "Safe to Return" messaging
- Community and associated groups have returned to pre-event participation
- Council continuing to ongoing education and marketing/promotional process
- Flood modelling improvements are currently being undertaken which will provide more accurate data for insurance companies when assessing
- Community Recovery and Resilience Officer continues to ensure resilience building activities are underway

*Image (top): Following the flooding, pontoons from the Brisbane River were found along 300 kilometres of beaches, from Moreton Island north-east of Brisbane to K'Gari Fraser Island. Source: [ABC News](#).*

*Image (back cover): Flooding, Jindalee, 28 February 2022. Photographer: RAW.Exposed.*





[www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/2021-22-Southern-Queensland-Floods)