

WHAT WE DO:

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Government’s program of recovery and reconstruction works within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice administration of public reconstruction and resilience funds. QRA is also the state’s lead agency responsible for disaster recovery and resilience policy, working collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

OUR VISION:

Make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

OUR PURPOSE:

Enable recovery and build resilience to disaster events within our communities.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE GRANTS PROGRAM

QRA is currently administering a recovery and reconstruction program under the joint Commonwealth State DRFA worth \$11.8 billion arising from 54 events from the 2019–20 to 2024–25 disaster seasons in the assessment, delivery and/or acquittal phase.

CURRENT STATEWIDE PROGRAM



54 events



76 councils with an active program



\$11.8 billion

2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
! 5 events	! 11 events	! 9 events	! 8 events	! 13 events	! 8 events
🏠 53 councils	🏠 50 councils	🏠 66 councils	🏠 57 councils	🏠 67 councils	🏠 21 councils
💰 \$877 million	💰 \$750 million	💰 \$5.1 billion	💰 \$1.4 billion	💰 \$3.6 billion	💰 \$119 million
🕒 30/6/2022	🕒 30/6/2023	🕒 30/6/2024	🕒 30/6/2025	🕒 30/6/2026	🕒 30/6/2027
✓ 89% complete (remainder under EOTs)	✓ 99% complete (remainder under EOTs)	✓ 80% complete (remainder under EOTs)	✓ 53% complete	✓ 18% complete	✓ 1% complete

IN THE DECEMBER QUARTER

The 2019–20 event year program has completed delivery with the exception of DTMR’s Cunningham’s Gap reconstruction project which is progressing under an extension of time (EOT). The project has experienced significant geotechnical complexities and has been subject to a redesign process.

The 2020–21 event year program has completed delivery other than three reconstruction and resilience projects with EOTs to deliver through to 30 June 2025.

The 2021–22 event year program is the most significant currently being managed by QRA with a Program Value of \$5.1 billion across 66 council areas. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of \$318 million (complete), resilience programs of \$68 million, reconstruction program of \$2.7 billion being delivered through to 2025 and extraordinary assistance packages worth \$2 billion that will be delivered through to June 2026.

The 2022–2023 event year program has a Program Value of \$1.4 billion across 57 Council areas. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of \$79.2 million (complete), a reconstruction program of approximately \$1.2 billion and extraordinary assistance packages of \$136 million that will be delivered through to December 2026.

The 2023–2024 event year program has a value of approximately \$3.6 billion from 13 events. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of \$405 million, resilience programs of \$256 million, a reconstruction program of approximately \$2.5 billion and extraordinary assistance packages worth \$456 million that will be delivered through to 30 June 2026.

The 2024–25 event year program has an initial value of approximately \$119 million from 8 events. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of \$0.7 million with further funding to be administered for resilience, reconstruction, and extraordinary assistance packages pending assessment.

INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION

Integration and Coordination Division is committed to proactive collaborative engagement with our key stakeholders and partners, and leverages knowledge and shared understanding to effectively influence the reduction of risks and mitigate the impacts arising from future disaster events.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

QRA REPRESENTS AUSTRALIA AT ASIA PACIFIC DISASTER CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Australian Government’s Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) program, QRA’s CEO Jake Ellwood and General Manager Integration and Coordination Jimmy Scott travelled to Manila, Philippines to attend the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR 2024). The conference provided opportunity to listen to the lessons of leading-edge thinkers around the region, as well as contribute to the conversation, in support the conference aim of accelerating progress in reducing disaster risk.

QRA was honoured to receive an invitation and attend this special event and the international recognition of its thought leadership and experience was a credit to the work QRA delivers to Queenslanders.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND (LGAQ) CONFERENCE

In October 2024, representatives from QRA attended and held a conference booth at the Annual LGAQ Conference in Brisbane. With more than 1200 delegates attending the three-day event, the conference was an opportunity for QRA to foster connections to hear firsthand the issues affecting local governments and communities across Queensland. The LGAQ Conference theme was ‘Don’t Leave Local Communities Behind’ providing a strong platform to discuss disaster recovery and resilience.

CEO Jake Ellwood was invited to speak at the Rural and Remote Forum, advocating for establishing Hazard and Risk Assessments and feeding these into Local Resilience Action Plans, which in turn inform Regional Resilience Strategies. Jake also participated in a panel discussion ‘Cruel Summer – Lessons learned from the 2023/24 disaster management season’, alongside Cr Tom Tate (Mayor, City of Gold Coast), Brendan Moon (Coordinator-General, National Emergency Management Agency) and Kiley Hanslow (CEO, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council).

NORTHERN TERRITORY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

Integration and Coordination Division led a delegation of QRA personnel to the Northern Territory Emergency Management Symposium in Darwin from 26-28 November. Director I&C, Dianne Grey presented on the importance of locally led recovery and Queensland’s recovery experiences, including learnings from the 2023-24 disaster season. The group took part in a Practitioners’ Day where challenges common to both Queensland and the NT ‘Top End’ were discussed, and participants shared their solutions with recovery practitioners from WA and NT. The timing of the event held special significance in the lead up to the 50th anniversary of Severe Tropical Cyclone Tracy. The event was an opportunity to reflect on the stories told by survivors and the intergenerational lessons in resilience which have been passed to the next generation of Territorians. Dianne attended an art exhibition depicting the survival stories and came away with fresh appreciation of the role the arts play in healing after a disaster. The team worked with the Western Australian Recovery Coordinator, Assistant Commissioner Kate Vivian, and NT Recovery staff, Greg, Tyler and Chantelle and are looking forward to more collaboration on recovery methods specific to northern Australia.



PREPAREDNESS

QRA COLLABORATION WITH QUEENSLAND DISASTER MANAGEMENT EXERCISE GROUP (QDMEG)

QRA has recently become a member of the Queensland Disaster Management Exercise Group (QDMEG) and attended the inaugural meeting in October 2024. The QDMEG, under the leadership of Queensland Police Service (QPS), facilitates biannual collaborative sessions that convene a wide range of government agencies and address preparedness levels through exercising together. This engagement enhances Queensland’s preparedness for disasters through familiarising departments and agencies with response and recovery processes in a planned and controlled manner.



OPENING OF SUNCORP GROUP DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE (DMC)

In November 2024, Suncorp Group launched their new, state-of-the-art Disaster Management Centre (DMC) in Brisbane to help communities prepare for and recover from disasters faster.

Now in its fifth year, Suncorp’s annual sponsorship of QRA’s award winning Get Ready Queensland program is assisting in preparing our community for future disasters. QRA was proud to participate in the opening of the DMC, which allows Suncorp to monitor weather alerts and utilise modelling when severe weather is on its way and to predict who will be impacted and proactively warn the community, so they are better prepared.

Suncorp has also invested in five new mobile disaster response hubs, that will provide in-person customer support, Wi-Fi access, and even allow customers to power up their electronic devices.

Collaboration is essential to building disaster resilience in Queensland. That’s why DMC’s data and insights will be shared with us, emergency services, and other government agencies to enhance preparedness and response efforts.



AMAZON AUSTRALIA LAUNCHING A NEW NETWORK OF SIX DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLY POINTS

Amazon Australia launched a new network of six Disaster Relief Supply Points in Cairns, Wangetti, Townsville, Rockhampton, Dalby and St George, developed in partnership with Foodbank Queensland and Australian Red Cross.

These Disaster Relief Supply Points contain critical supplies that can be dispatched quickly to regional communities when a disaster hits. The sites store emergency packs featuring toiletries, tarps, first aid kits and non-perishable food.

Integration and Coordination General Manager Jimmy Scott and Regional Liaison Officer Scott North visited the Amazon Fulfilment Centre in Lytton to help prepare the packs ahead of the upcoming high-risk weather season.



RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY

QRA’s Resilience and Recovery Division provides leadership, direction and advice to agencies and stakeholders to ensure Queensland’s disaster recovery and resilience policies and programs reduce risk, increase resilience and improve preparedness for disasters.

POLICY AND PROGRAM DESIGN

QRA’s Policy and Program Design team are responsible for delivering actions to improve the resilience of Queensland communities and facilitate locally led disaster recovery, coordinate Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) extraordinary funding packages and resilience funding programs, and help communities prepare for and recover from disasters.

In the recovery space, QRA works extensively on recovery planning with communities impacted by major disaster events, increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support for local recovery governance.

The Queensland Recovery Plan is driving a collaborative approach across functions of recovery, all levels of government and the whole community to ensure recovery operations are appropriate to the scale of the disaster event.

2024–25 DISASTER SEASON

As of December 2024, the 2024–25 disaster season commenced with eight DRFA activations, which has included storms, extraordinary rainfall, flooding, and bushfires.

Event	Impacted LGA	DRFA Relief Measure
Diamantina Rainfall and Flooding 1 – 7 July 2024	Diamantina Shire Council	REPA
Central and Southern Rainfall and Flooding 12 -14 August 2024	Banana Shire Council, Bundaberg Regional Council, Central Highlands Regional Council, Gladstone Regional Council, Livingstone Shire Council, Rockhampton Shire Council, North Burnett Regional Council	CDO REPA
Mount Tabor Bushfire 22 September – 8 October 2024	Central Highlands Regional Council, Maranoa Regional Council	CDO
North Queensland Bushfires, commencing 4 November 2024	Etheridge Shire Council, Flinders Shire Council	CDO REPA
Dirranbandi Bushfires commencing 5 November 2024	Balonne Shire Council	CDO REPA ESSRS PHAS
Scenic Rim Storms and Rainfall commencing 10 November 2024	Scenic Rim Regional Council	CDO REPA
Southwest Queensland Flooding and Rainfall, 21 November – 10 December 2024	Balonne Shire Council, Maranoa Regional Council, Paroo Shire Council, Quilpie Shire Council	CDO REPA
Burnett and Wide Bay Rainfall and Flooding commencing 9 December	Fraser Coast Regional Council, Gympie Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council, Somerset Regional Council, South Burnett Regional Council	CDO REPA

PROGRESS OF RECOVERY FROM THE 2023—2024 DISASTER SEASON

QRA officers assessed properties in Far North Queensland, north Queensland and the south-east Queensland during August and September 2024, conducting Reconstruction Monitoring (RM) of homes and businesses damaged following recent summer disaster events. Over 2,300 properties were targeted across eleven local government areas.

RM was conducted on properties impacted by ex-Tropical Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily, and the South Queensland Christmas storms. QRA officers collected information on property damage, progress of repairs, insurance matters, and residents’ ability to access financial and personal support where required. Referrals were made to Community Recovery in circumstances where residents required additional support.

Results indicated that of the 2302 properties assessed in August and September 2024, 693 are no longer damaged. 1609 properties remain damaged; however, work has commenced on 548 properties (34%). Almost half of properties damaged by the severe events of 2023-2024 are no longer damaged (49%).

The Reconstruction Monitoring results have been shared with councils, relevant state agencies, and other stakeholders to improve their understanding of the recovery needs and priorities of impacted Queenslanders and Queensland communities.

This was the second follow-up RM operation carried out by QRA since initial damage assessments were conducted by the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) with support from QRA in the immediate aftermath of the disasters.

QRA will revisit the remaining damaged properties again during the next RM operation to be held in March 2025.

DRFA CATEGORY C & D EXTRAORDINARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE 2023—2024 EVENTS

QRA continues to work alongside councils, State Agencies and Non-Government Organisations to support recovery efforts across the impacted regions. Where significant impacts are experienced as a result of a disaster event, QRA works with state partners to develop extraordinary recovery and resilience packages to support short, medium and longer term recovery needs.

QRA activated immediate assistance under standard DRFA measures and close to \$250 million of Category C and D extraordinary assistance packages have been developed and approved to date to provide short and medium-term targeted assistance for relief, emerging recovery needs and resilience building activities.

QRA is continuing to work with NEMA, State Agencies and Functional Resilience and Recovery Groups to develop additional assistance packages tailored to meet the longer-term recovery needs to assist community recovery across those areas most severely impacted in Queensland.

A summary of the approved packages is listed in the table below.

Southern Queensland Fires \$18.106 million	
<p>Local Resilience and Recovery Grants \$1 million grant for Western Downs Regional Council to support relief, recovery and resilience activities with the community by the Queensland bushfires.</p>	<p>Exceptional Circumstance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers \$5 million in grants of up to \$75,000 to provide targeted assistance with clean up, restoration and recovery activities to eligible primary producers who have suffered direct damage.</p>
<p>Mental Health \$2.2 million to provide funding for mental health support services, focusing on uplifting already existing mental health support programs to support locally led long term recovery within the impacted areas.</p>	<p>Community Health and Wellbeing \$6.24 million to conduct community health and wellbeing activities through internal service delivery, grants programs and working closely with partner agencies to support the recovery of communities.</p>
<p>Agricultural Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers \$1.865 million to support primary producers for medium and longer-term recovery needs including the development of industry-specific on-farm business resilience plans and assist primary producers identify other services to support recovery.</p>	<p>Rural Landholder Recovery Grants \$1.5 million to assist rural landholders with the extraordinary clean up and reinstatement of rural landholder properties and to support targets uninsured, lower income (income tested) primary producers (“hobby farmers”) who are unable to access alternative primary producer or small business grants and require support for clean-up.</p>
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation \$0.3 million to monitor and review the extraordinary recovery package and assess its success in supporting disaster affected communities.</p>	

South Queensland Storms \$9.3 million	
<p>Local Resilience and Recovery Grants \$3 million in grants to support relief, recovery and resilience activities in areas impacted by the South Queensland Storms.</p>	<p>Sport and Recreational Community Facilities \$6.3 million to undertake rebuilding and repair to sport and recreation facilities impacted by the event. Assistance measures will include support for initial scoping of repair and rebuilding works, program administration support for clients, and delivery of the funding assistance within a robust grant program framework.</p>
Tropical Cyclone Jasper \$257 million	
<p>Local Resilience and Recovery Grants \$9 million in grants to support relief, recovery and resilience activities in areas impacted Tropical Cyclone Jasper.</p>	<p>Tourism Recovery \$5 million to support severely impacted local government areas that rely heavily on tourism with immediate support to recover from the significant impacts of TC Jasper through targeted relief and recovery activities such as a visitor incentive initiative, immediate hardship assistance and business support to assist the tourism sector directly.</p>
<p>Tourism Recovery and Resilience Program \$24.25 million program to undertake targeted relief and recovery activities such as exceptional financial assistance to isolated businesses that were inaccessible or a building resilience infrastructure grant for tourism operators and funding for a marketing, events and travel incentive.</p>	<p>Cyclone Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers \$2.25 million to engage Cyclone Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers to support primary producers for medium and longerterm recovery needs including the development of industry-specific on-farm business resilience plans and the provision of technical advice on Cyclone recovery.</p>
<p>Sport and Recreational Community Facilities \$8.505 million to undertake rebuilding and repair to sport and recreation facilities impacted by the event. Assistance measures will include support for initial scoping of repair and rebuilding works, program administration support for clients; and delivery of the funding assistance within a robust grant program framework.</p>	<p>Rural Landholder Recovery Grants \$3 million to assist with the extraordinary expenditure for the clean-up and reinstatement of eligible rural residential and lifestyle properties and help to alleviate the distress to residents and animals, repair damage and reduce hazards/risks to eligible properties not covered by insurance or eligible for other DRFA funding programs.</p>
<p>Water and Sewerage Package \$61.215 million to restore essential water and sewerage infrastructure that was damaged by the event and ensure essential services are delivered to the community, accelerating recovery and relieving distress.</p>	<p>Wujal Wujal Targeted Assistance Package \$13.931 million in funding to Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council who require extraordinary assistance to repair and where economical, improve the resilience of community and recreational assets damaged as a direct result of the Tropical Cyclone Jasper.</p>
<p>Betterment \$130 million of funding for state agencies and local governments to improve the resilience of essential public assets that were damaged as a direct result of the event.</p>	

Tropical Cyclone Jasper and South Queensland Storms Shared Packages: \$171.2 million	
<p>Extraordinary Recovery Grants for Primary Producers \$25 million in grants shared between the TC Jasper, associated Rainfall and Flooding and the South Queensland Storms events to support targeted assistance with clean up, restoration and recovery activities to eligible primary producers who have suffered direct damage.</p>	<p>Extraordinary Recovery Grants for Small Businesses and not-for-profits \$25 million in grants shared between the TC Jasper, associated Rainfall and Flooding and the South Queensland Storms events to support eligible small business and not for profit organisations that have suffered direct damage and provide targeted assistance with clean up, restoration and recovery activities to assist these businesses/organisations return to business operations.</p>
<p>Recovery Project Managers \$1 million shared package between the TC Jasper, associated Rainfall and Flooding and the South Queensland Storms events to engage project managers and other skilled workers to design, coordinate and manage extraordinary recovery efforts.</p>	<p>Clean Up Program \$20 million shared between the TC Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding and the South Queensland Storms events clean-up program to support Local Governments and State Agencies to undertake assessments and conduct extraordinary clean-up activities of rivers, waterways, beaches, national parks, communities and recreational assets including removal and disposal of disaster related debris.</p>
<p>Community Health and Wellbeing \$22.935 million to conduct community health and wellbeing activities through internal service delivery, grants programs and working closely with partner agencies to support the recovery of communities.</p>	<p>Mental Health Program \$9.564 million to provide individual and family therapeutic interventions across the continuum of care for people impacted by TC Jasper 2023 and the SQ storms 2023. Particular attention will be paid to vulnerable individuals displaced from their home, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</p>
<p>Small Business Support \$13.4 million to provide support through small businesses through Exceptional Disaster Hardship Assistance Grants, a Small Business Support Network providing free, independent, one-on-one case management with a strong focus on mental health support and financial security and a Resilience Partnership Program which will focus on business resilience and disaster preparedness and leverage the heightened awareness of business operators severely impacted, or concerned about their own preparedness.</p>	<p>Environmental Recovery \$51.3 million to undertake an investigations program to identify environmental impacts from the event, clean up flood debris along the coastlines and within environmentally sensitive areas inland, manage contamination concerns accordingly, rehabilitate riverine, wetland and riparian environments, provide the tools to support project identification and prioritisation, funding to Natural Resource Management bodies, Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers, state agencies and Local councils to address weed and pest management issues and instilling stewardship practices for Queensland’s environmental and cultural assets.</p>
<p>Legal Assistance Disaster Relief Package \$1.501 million to provide efficient and effective legal assistance services to vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders impacted by TC Jasper and the SQ Storms.</p>	<p>Monitoring and Evaluation \$1.5 million to monitor and review the extraordinary recovery package and assess its success in supporting disaster affected communities.</p>

DRFA CATEGORY C & D EXTRAORDINARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE – 2021–22 EVENTS



Resilient Homes Fund

The Resilient Homes Fund aims to help Queenslanders whose homes were affected by flooding in the 2021-22 disaster season to make their homes more resilient to future flooding or buy them back to remove residents from harm's way.

The Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works is delivering the Resilient Retrofit and House-raising component of the Resilient Homes Fund, whilst QRA is managing the Voluntary Home Buyback (VHBB) program together with local governments.

As at end of December 2024, 876 valuation inspections have been undertaken across the 12 local government areas approved to take part in the scheme and 859 offers have been presented to homeowners with 685 accepted. To date, 685 contracts have settled, which is a significant program milestone as this number represents all properties to be purchased voluntarily via the program. Of these properties, 572 properties have been demolished and 372 have been rezoned to non-occupied use across a total of ten local government areas.

QRA continues to work collaboratively with Ipswich City Council and NEMA to help the Mi Hi Grove Body Corporate Committee address the complexities of voluntary home buy-back, and compulsory acquisition, within a community title scheme. By the end of December 2024, 40 of the 42 total homeowners have settled acquisition of their properties by Ipswich City Council. For the two homeowners that have not yet accepted, Ipswich City Council is now progressing with the compulsory acquisition process.

Property Level Flood Information Portal

Delivery of the Property Level Flood Information Portal ("the Portal") continues, with 33 councils having formally confirmed their participation in the QRA-led portals solution. QRA is working closely with QIT Plus and eligible councils to develop the portals solution through the Discovery phase of the project.

QRA hosted an information session for Councils on 1 August 2024, focusing on current development progress, how Councils' feedback has influenced this development, and the next steps for further usability testing. Key themes from the discussion included terminology improvements and ongoing efforts to simplify the platform. Another series of Council workshops will be held in February for Councils to share further feedback on changes and the developments that have been made to-date.

The Portals initiative has the principal aim of helping residents understand, be more informed and better prepared for future flooding events by giving them access to flood risk information specific to their property. Delivery of the Portals will enable any member of the public in an eligible local government area to enter their address into a locally hosted platform and obtain key information about flooding on their property and surrounding neighbourhood. Where data is limited, the system will still be implemented using existing datasets and allow for updates as new data becomes available.

DRFA CATEGORY C AND D MONITORING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

Evaluation activities 2024

Four evaluations of packages implemented in response to the 2021–22 Southern Queensland Floods were completed by QRA’s evaluation team in 2024:

2021–22	Medium to Large Business Recovery Loans Scheme
2021–22	Rural Landholder Recovery Grant
2021–22	Tourism Recovery and Resilience Package
2021–22	Sport and Recreation Recovery Grant

These reports are currently undergoing internal approvals and will be available on the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub in early 2025. The insights from these reports will be used to inform future package design and service delivery improvements.

EVALUATION ACTIVITIES 2025

Evaluation reports

Six evaluations are planned in 2025 – three under the 2021–22 Southern Queensland Floods event and three under the 2022–23 Northern and Central Monsoon and Flooding event. Frameworks, plans and supporting documents are currently in development to support these evaluations. QRA’s evaluation team will ensure lessons learned from 2024 evaluations are embedded in monitoring and evaluation tools, templates and practices to support continuous improvement and growth of the evaluation function within QRA.

QRA Evaluation Strategy 2024–27

QRA’s first evaluation strategy was developed in 2024 and is expected to be publicly available on QRA’s website in early 2025. It outlines guiding principles, measurement expectations and roles and responsibilities for monitoring and evaluation wise-practice within QRA.

HAZARD AND RISK UNIT

Since 01 July 2024, QRA now leads the state-level hazard and risk function, which transitioned from the QFD (formally QFES). As a result, QRA is continuing the enhancement of its internal Hazard and Risk Unit capability, combining their well-established Flood Risk Management and Geographic Information System (GIS) teams, with the addition of the new Disaster Risk Management (DRM) team, onboarded late last year, to ensure an ability to mature and deliver this new state function.

This new responsibility includes:

- Responsibility for **Queensland’s disaster risk management approach**. A refined disaster risk assessment process, suitable for pilot testing with local disaster management practitioners – including delivery of an updated Guideline and tool, will be available in the coming months.
- Coordinating and implementing **policies related to potential disaster risk assessments** across Queensland.
- Maintaining **disaster risk management reporting and assessment functions**, such as the State Disaster Risk Report and other State-level risk assessments.
- **Supporting state and local stakeholders to develop and implement disaster risk assessments**, emphasis will be on supporting local disaster management stakeholders in disaster risk management planning by providing fit-for-purpose risk products that are already tailored to their local needs, minimising additional resourcing effort at the local scale.
- **Coordinating state-level relationships and collaborations for specific hazards or products**, including with other state agencies.

Engagement and input from disaster management stakeholders, remains a priority in finalising this new approach, with engagement planned over the coming months regarding the newly developed QDRM (Queensland Disaster Risk Management) approach. Specifically, in December the DRM team held a series of webinars detailing their approach to all relevant stakeholders, with a manual draft review and tool user testing occurring in the coming months. If you would like to know more please email the team: Hazard.Risk@gra.qld.gov.au

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Following the recent approval of an additional \$18 million in funding, the Flood Risk Management Program Team has now approved the second round of funding applications available to 39 eligible councils. Councils impacted by the 2021-22 floods will now be sharing \$26.05 million to improve flood resilience through flood studies, risk assessments and special projects. All 39 eligible councils have received funding through either Round 1 or Round 2 for 200 projects (comprising of 177 individual projects and six regional projects) through the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to undertake key activities to manage their river, creek and overland flood risks.

This new funding raises the total allocation for the program from \$31 million to \$49 million, with an additional \$6 million allocated to Work Package 2, and \$12 million allocated to Work Package 3. The Flood Risk Management Program provides funding to undertake key activities to support evidence-based response, mitigation and resilience strategies to manage river, creek and overland flood risk.

Community engagement and education material (WP1)

Under Work Package 1, QRA has \$2.2 million in funding to design a targeted Get Ready campaign. The campaign development is now complete and live along with communication and engagement resources for councils and community groups to increase community engagement and awareness of flood risks and available flood warning information. Additional context of the project is provided in the Get Ready Queensland update below. The Department of Communities has also received a \$150,000 grant for person-centred emergency planning, responsible donation management education program and business continuity for community organisations/service providers.

LiDAR Capture (WP2)

Under Work Package 2 (WP2) of the Flood Risk Management Program, \$12.4 million funding is available for QRA to work with the Department of Resources and eligible local councils to capture required Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data and the creation of a floor level database.

To date over 73,000 square kilometres of LiDAR has been collected and distributed to eligible councils under the program. The final project in Tranche 4 is now underway with LiDAR acquisition for targeted areas across Maranoa commenced. The additional \$6 million in funding allocated to WP2 will be delivered through a second round of LiDAR capture. Areas identified for LiDAR were identified with input from eligible Councils and the Department of Resources. Department of Resources have now released the Request for Quote for the second round of LiDAR capture.

Flood studies, risk assessment and management strategies and intelligence systems (WP3)

Under Work Package 3, now funded at \$34.25 million, \$26.05 million is available to 39 councils for projects and \$8.2 million is allocated to priority state projects.

QRA recently finalised approval of the second round of grant applications for Councils, with an additional 62 projects approved (made up of 54 individual and 1 regional). QRA continues providing support to councils in the delivery of their approved flood risk management projects through the established Peer Review and Technical Advisory Panels, along with QRA flood team assistance where required.

South East Queensland Flood Forecasting and Warning System (WP3)

The Bureau of Meteorology has now delivered the Southeast Queensland Flood Forecast & Warning System Project Delivery Plan. The delivery plan outlines next steps for system delivery across South East Queensland over the next 10 years. The first pilot identified is to develop a production ready forecasting and warning system for the Brisbane River Catchment. The additional \$4.2 million in funding has been allocated for the delivery of the Brisbane River Flood Forecasting and Warning System.

The Bureau of Meteorology has advised they can extend components of the pilot delivery to include the remaining South East Queensland councils to ensure co-designed products have broader stakeholder input and commence development of other components to facilitate future system development. The remaining eight Councils were successful in their applications in round two of WP3 Council grant applications to continue their involvement in the South East Flood Forecasting and Warning System development.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND - FLOOD WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK PROGRAM (ERF FWIN)

The ERF FWIN program consists of \$7 million made available through the \$75 million Emergency Response Fund to improve Queensland's Flood Warning Infrastructure across 23 councils impacted by the 2022 South East Queensland flooding event. All elements of Flood Warning Systems are eligible for funding under this program.

All 23 eligible Councils submitted applications for ERF FWIN funding for amounts of up to \$235,000 to enhance their flood warning infrastructure assets. Nine Councils have received additional funding to deliver rain and river gauges identified by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) through the National Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Program. Those gauges will become BOM assets once commissioned.

The majority of the 23 councils have commenced procurement with a small number projected to complete their installations before Christmas 2024. Final deadline for project completion is 30 June 2025.

THE BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY - NATIONAL FLOOD WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK PROGRAM

Since the May 2023 Australian Government budget allocation of \$236 million to remediate high priority flood warning infrastructure and address critical reliability risks, the BOM has made notable progress to upgrade and acquire identified local and state government-owned rain and river gauges into its flood warning asset base.

Queensland is prioritised in the national roll-out due to the Queensland Government’s agreement with the Australian Government for a 50% maintenance cost-share up to the value of \$5 million per year for 10 years. The Bureau has segmented Queensland into seven regions for the purpose of program delivery:

- Southeast Region
- Northwest Region
- South Region
- Southwest Region
- Far North
- Townsville to Mackay
- Rockhampton to Bundaberg

As of September 2024, workshops have been completed for all seven regions. These workshops aim to gather local insights about the value of flood warning infrastructure and verify the desktop assessments.

Approximately 1000 assets have been identified for acquisition and remediation across Queensland over a five-year timeframe as part of the program. Approximately 200 assets are planned for acquisition in 2024/2025. The Bureau is currently establishing panel arrangements to streamline their procurement processes.

RESILIENCE

QRA is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for disaster recovery, managing flood risks and improving the disaster resilience of communities.

The QRA has been involved in the following key activities during the final quarter of 2022.

Resilience Funding Programs

Along with QRA’s lead role in managing and coordinating Queensland’s program of recovery and reconstruction funding within disaster-impacted communities, QRA also administers a range of disaster resilience funding programs on behalf of the State. A number of resilience funding programs are currently in delivery, helping to strengthen the disaster resilience and preparedness of Queensland communities.

Disaster Ready Fund (DRF)

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government’s flagship disaster risk reduction initiative which will fund a diverse set of projects in partnership with states and territories to deliver medium-term and long-term national outcomes, investing up to \$1 billion over the next five years.

Under Round 1 of the DRF (2023—24), 50 projects were approved in Queensland for more than \$84 million in Commonwealth funding to support disaster risk reduction initiatives, including 40 projects for councils, three for state agencies, five for non-government organisations and two for universities.

Program	Approved amount
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2019—20)	\$13.1M
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2020—21) and Managing Disaster Risk (2020-21)	\$19.1M
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2021—22) and Managing Disaster Risk	\$19.1M
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2022—23)	\$11.6M
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (2023—24)	\$14.7M
North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program (2021—22)	\$10M
Recovery and Resilience Grants – Stream 1 (2020—21)	\$11.5M
National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (2020—21)	\$9.9M
National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (2021—22)	\$0.9M
\$75m Queensland Flood Recovery and Resilience Package (2022—22)	\$75M
Protecting our Communities Program (2022)	\$5.3M
Disaster Ready Fund 2023-24 – Round 1	\$84M
Disaster Ready Fund 2024-25 – Round 2	\$29.3M
North Queensland Resilience Program	\$84.8 M

Under Round 2 of the DRF (2024—25), 29 projects were approved in Queensland for more than \$30 million in Commonwealth funding to support disaster risk reduction initiatives, including 14 projects for councils, two for state agencies, seven for non-government organisations and two for universities. QRA will now work with NEMA to establish a funding agreement and then work with successful applicants to finalise implementation plans. NEMA is finalising the design of Round 3 of the DRF (2025—26), although it is expected that the guidelines will be released towards the end of January 2025.

DRFA EFFICIENCIES

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Efficiencies Program is funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through efficiencies realised during the delivery of the state’s DRFA reconstruction program.

The DRFA Efficiencies program is designed to fund strategic disaster mitigation and risk reduction activities that will create stronger, safer and more resilient Queensland Communities. QRA runs an annual efficiencies program round in accordance with the DRFA High Level Disaster Mitigation Principles, which states that mitigation activities should:

- complement existing state mitigation programs or contribute to new initiatives
- address the state’s assessed natural hazard risks
- focus on reducing the requirement for future funding
- align with the priorities under the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

DRFA Efficiencies Program 2023-24 (Round One)

\$192 million was approved through previous Queensland Budgets for the allocation of efficiencies realised in the 2018–19 reconstruction program. This included two \$20 million Betterment programs over the past two Queensland Budgets.

[Please see the QRA webpage for a list of projects.](#)

DRFA Efficiencies Program 2024-25 (Round Two)

The 2024–25 Queensland Budget approved \$100 million over three years from the DRFA Efficiencies to support three high priority disaster resilience and mitigation projects:

Program	Allocation	Lead Agency	Project Intent and Outcomes
Shaping SEQ Resilience Policy Maturity Framework	\$3.111 million	Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (DHLGPPW)	Integrate natural hazard risk management and climate adaptation processes at the regional scale to provide a consistent regionwide understanding of climate and disaster risk for land use planning, and the resilience or adaptation interventions required over time for the existing and future built environment.
Research Framework	\$1.5 million	QRA/QPS/ IGEM	Establish a QDMA research capability through a partnership between QRA, Queensland Police Service and IGEM to identify and deliver on research priorities.
Supporting Crucial Access Links and Upgrades to Rural and Remote Access Points	\$95.389 million	QRA	Deliver several high priority projects identified by councils through local resilience action plans and regional resilience strategies that target improvements to strengthening and maintaining crucial linkages and access routes during and after disaster events.

The DRFA Efficiencies funded Research Framework Project has commenced, with a Project Research Steering Committee (PRSC) established between QRA, Queensland Police Service and IGEM to guide the project. The PRSC is currently in the final stages of project planning to finalise and seek endorsement of the project deliverables, and are exploring opportunities to deliver research projects at a state and national level.

NATIONAL REVIEWS

On 25 October 2024, the Commonwealth Government published the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (Colvin Review), and the Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (Glasser Review) final reports. These Reviews are being addressed through the National Emergency Management Ministers’ Meeting (NEMMM), and Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC). The Colvin Review examines how the Australian Government spends money on disasters so that we: reduce risks, are ready for disasters, better respond when they happen, help people recover and make communities stronger. The Review also examined state, territory and local government roles and responsibilities. The Glasser Review focuses on ways to improve Australia’s national disaster committees to support effective nationwide decision making.

QRA, through ANZEMC, is actively engaging with the Commonwealth on the release of the Colvin and Glasser Review final reports, focusing on how the Reviews intersect and how their recommendations could be addressed.

QRA JOINS INFORMATION EXCHANGE WITH THAI GOVERNMENT

QRA’s General Manager of Resilience and Recovery, Vina Varsani, and Director Policy and Program Design, Rebecca Zeller, participated in the ‘Strengthening disaster and climate resilient transport infrastructure processes and planning’ study tour hosted by Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) Australia-Thailand in November 2024. The information exchange saw QRA, and the Thai Ministry of Transport discuss disaster risk reduction frameworks and share Queensland’s experience in developing disaster resilience, prevention, preparedness and recovery policies and practices. Staff from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology joined the group and travelled to Chaiyaphum, Nakhon Ratchasima and Phuket to meet local authorities, visit flood impacted sites and share learnings and insights from similar disaster events that have impacted Queensland. There was a lot of interest from the Thai Government to learn more about natural hazard and risk assessments, build capability through use of GIS, refine governance to fast track approvals and learn how to measure the social impacts of investment in the disaster sector. QRA looks forward to ongoing engagement with P4I and working with the Thai Ministry of Transport to share experiences, knowledge and ideas.



STATE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE GROUP

QRA continues to support the strategic priorities of the State Recovery and Resilience Group.



SRRG Strategic Priorities

QRA was pleased to see the inclusion of building resilience as a specific objective of the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) from 2025. This allows future updates of the National Construction Code to consider requirements that new homes are built to be more resilient extreme weather events.

GET READY QUEENSLAND (GRQ)

Get Ready Queensland (GRQ) is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The program integrates state-wide research driven, behaviour change campaigns 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.

QRA INSPIRING QUEENSLANDERS TO GET READY

Get Ready Queensland (GRQ) Week 2024 ran from 7 to 13 October, with 19 community events across Queensland connecting locals to information about how to prepare for severe weather. The week included simultaneous launch events in Brisbane and Cairns to kick off the state-wide campaign. GRQ Week is QRA’s flagship community event, inspiring Queenslanders to take three steps to prepare: Understand your risk, Make a plan and Pack a kit.

STRENGTHENING BONDS ACROSS THE STATE THROUGH A REGIONAL FOCUS TO GET READY WEEK

GRQ Week 2024 achieved a new milestone in regional engagement and fostering stronger community connections across Queensland. Building on the success of the 2023 regional approach, Get Ready amplified its efforts in 2024 to deepen engagement across Queensland’s semi-rural and regional areas and included events in Central, West, South East, and Far North Queensland, including Get Ready Queensland’s ambassador, Jonathan Thurston’s visit to Wujal Wujal. The enhanced regional focus empowered local councils to boost their disaster resilience capabilities and inspired greater commitment using their Get Ready Queensland funding for impactful disaster preparedness engagement initiatives.



GRQ WEEK MEDIA COVERAGE, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND “THE JT EFFECT”

Once again, Jonathan Thurston (JT) played a pivotal role in the successful execution of the week. JT participated in the Brisbane launch event, engaging in media press conferences and radio interviews and activities with students at Corinda State High School. Additionally, he travelled to Far North Queensland to connect with the Wujal Wujal community, assisting them in fostering a positive relationship with disaster preparedness after experiencing an extremely challenging disaster season last summer.

JT’s involvement was strategically planned to maximise campaign exposure and increase social and media impact. By arranging placements and activities where JT was truly in his element, communities gained more value and engagement through his genuine approach.

GRQ Week 2024 achieved outstanding media results with extensive and prolonged coverage that featured on almost all major Queensland media outlets, cut-through in the middle of an election cycle, and provided significant value for QRA.



Social media reach for GRQ Week 2024 significantly increased year-on-year. During GRQ Week 2024 there were:

- almost 150,000 impressions on social media
- 4843 engagements with social media
- an audience reach of 112,752
- 55,000 combined video views.

In 2024, stakeholder support through social media posts saw a remarkable increase, with a total of 243 posts compared with just 70 in 2023. This represents a significant surge in engagement, reflecting the growing enthusiasm and commitment from our partners and stakeholders.

The “JT Effect” continued to reap rewards on social media during GRQ Week!

- The Wujal Wujal event recap post had the highest reach on Instagram at 22,900 due to JT sharing on his story.
- The campaign video was also very successful with over 11,000 views on Instagram due to JT sharing the video on his story.
- JT posted the GRQ Week 2024 loading video on Instagram with over 11.5k views.

[WIN News report: Click to watch](#)



*period 23 Sep - 1 Nov 2024

Media Statistics for GRQ Week 2024 Launch (left) and the full period to 1 November 2024 (right).

LIVESTOCK PLAN LAUNCHED DURING GRQ WEEK 2024

During GRQ Week 2024 the Blackall-Tambo Cattle Sales was an event to remember. With key partners Mayor Andrew Martin, Blackall-Tambo and Longreach Regional Council, and various emergency services agencies, QRA proudly launched the Severe Weather Livestock Plan. A videographer captured the event, which featured the official introduction of the Livestock Plan, complemented by QRA’s knowledge map to enhance community preparedness.

Multiple stakeholders and residents attended, helping strengthen QRA’s relationships across the central region.

Media coverage included a substantial piece on WIN News and an interview on Country Hour Radio, amplifying the event’s message.

The plan has information, guidance and prompts on:

- Designing an individualised severe weather emergency plan
- Understanding risk, preparing a property, and packing an emergency kit
- Emergency contacts, alerts, and what to do during and after severe weather.



QRA team members Lynda Coulson, Greg Scoopce and Kasey Donald with Mayor Andrew Martin, Blackall-Tambo and Longreach Regional Council at the Blackall-Tambo Cattle Sales.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT KEY TO GET READY QUEENSLAND SUCCESS

The GRQ team collaborates with a range of key stakeholders throughout the year, and especially during GRQ Week. 2024 GRQ Week partners included the following organisations:

- Queensland Local Government Authorities
- Suncorp
- Bunnings Warehouse
- RSPCA
- Australian Red Cross
- Department of Energy and Public Works
- Transport and Main Roads
- Department of Education
- Emergency Services (SES, QFD, QPS and RFB), and
- ABC.

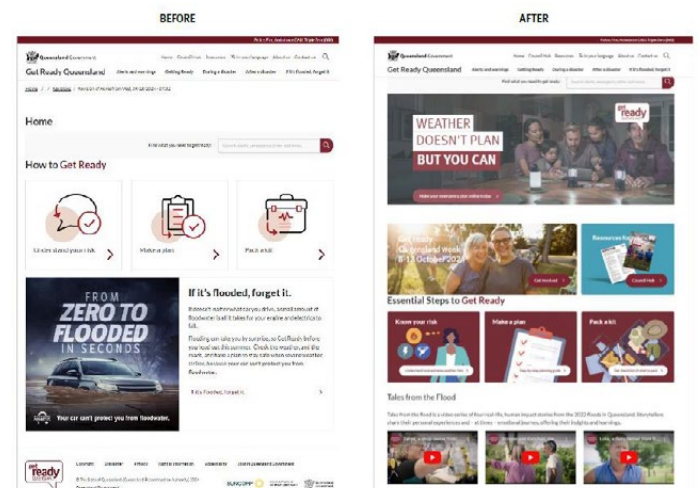
GET READY QUEENSLAND WEBSITE GIVEN A TARGETED REFRESH

Ahead of GRQ Week 2024, the team updated the GRQ website to support the launch of the new Online Household Emergency Plan and “Weather Doesn’t Plan, But You Can” campaign.

Following a user experience workshop, the team developed a detailed wireframe, conducted consultation with key stakeholders, and implemented a series of updates. After user acceptance testing, the site went live with a targeted promotional banner and dedicated home page to drive engagement and highlight GRQ Week 2024 activities.

The website update has delivered an enhanced user experience and increased traffic. It saw a surge in activity, with over 25,000 Queenslanders visiting the site, a 270% increase in traffic compared with our usual user numbers.

To put it in perspective, QRA achieved a month’s worth of traffic in just one week!



The old Get Ready Queensland website home page (left) and the new and improved home page (right).

Suncorp, as the proud sponsor of GRQ, plays a pivotal role in supporting GRQ Week with both financial and in-kind contributions, helping to amplify disaster preparedness messages across the state during the week-long series of events.

In 2024, Suncorp was actively involved in key activities, demonstrating their commitment to community resilience. Their presence spanned multiple regions, including Brisbane, Logan, and Far North Queensland, covering a wide geographic reach and engaging with diverse communities. By fostering awareness, dialogue, and action toward disaster resilience across the state, Suncorp’s significant contributions ensured that the GRQ reach with local communities was extensive and meaningful.

GET READY QUEENSLAND ENCOURAGING QUEENSLANDERS' TO "MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY"!

The GRQ statewide advertising campaign featuring Ambassador Johnathan Thurston launched on 8 October 2024 to coincide with GRQ Week. The campaign, titled "Weather Doesn't Plan, But You Can" ran for six weeks until 16 November 2024. It utilised television, radio, print, and digital platforms to reach Queenslanders.

The campaign featured Get Ready Queensland Ambassador Johnathan Thurston, with JT encouraging Queenslanders to think about different ways they can *plan ahead* to protect themselves from the impacts of severe weather. Media was strategically bought across channels including television, radio, digital, socials and programmable out of home, the latter with campaign imagery selected and timed to target audience presence (school pick up times, weekends). Radio and social media messaging also included translations into four languages: Cantonese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Korean.

The media buy combined DRFA Work Package 1 funds for the 2022 South East Queensland flood impacted LGAs, with sponsorship from Suncorp to cover the remaining LGAs. This delivered over 2.1 million completed advertisement views online, 1.25 million advertisement views on TV and over 150,000 active web site visitors.

Post campaign research completed in December 2024 demonstrated that of those people who remember the campaign, 89% thought it worth remembering and 79% had or would be making a plan as a result of the campaign.

The campaign was further promoted by key stakeholders, including Local Governments and the Department of Transport and Main Roads, which featured the digital planning tool on websites and variable message signs across Queensland's state-controlled roads and advertising screens in Brisbane's King George Square and the Queen Street Mall.

QRA can use analytics to track the number of families who engage with the online plan on the GRQ website. The campaign has a strong call-to-action to "Make your emergency plan today" and directly links to the online plan via URLs, search instructions and QR Codes. This enables GRQ to directly measure actual behavioural change. Quantifying behaviours is a challenge that is often faced when delivering behaviour change campaigns. In this leading-edge approach, the "Weather Doesn't Plan, But You Can" campaign is setting a benchmark for tracking and quantifying behaviours. The campaign showcases the power of collaboration, data and innovative outreach in building community resilience.

Brisbane, Gold Coast, Moreton Bay, Logan, Sunshine Coast, Ipswich, Townsville, Cairns, Redland Bay and Bundaberg were the local government areas that completed the most plans. These collectively accounted for more than 8,500 plans undertaken.

But even smaller regional councils like Doomadgee and Mount Isa, got involved and over 30 households in these areas embraced the tool to enhance their disaster preparedness.



IF IT'S FLOODED, FORGET IT CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The successful "If It's Flooded, Forget It" (IIFFI) campaign re-run went to air on 18 November 2024. The campaign is focussed on equipping drivers with the information they need to make safe choices. Vehicle-related road trauma a leading cause of flood-related deaths, with more lives lost in Queensland than anywhere else in Australia. Driving into floodwaters is highly dangerous. Floodwater is deceptively fast and can wash people or cars into waterways or stormwater systems. It's important that all Queenslanders are aware of the risks and have a plan to stay safe. Some powerful statistics referenced in campaign communications include:

- Almost half of fatal flood crashes happened within 20kms of home.
- 65% of Queenslanders have experienced road damage/closures/traffic delays related to the weather in the last 2 years.
- 25% of Queensland drivers have driven into floodwater unintentionally.
- 78% of Queensland drivers have been impacted by flood related road closures.
- 88% of drivers know of roads that flood in their local area.

During November and December 2024, the "If It's Flooded, Forget It" campaign performed competitively, resulting in more than 500,000 completed views of the advertisement and almost 8,000 clicks through to the website.

The campaign will run until 31 March 2025 at which time a detailed campaign evaluation will be undertaken.

IIFFI is funded by the Queensland Government's Camera Detected Offence Program, which funds road safety education and awareness, road accident injury rehabilitation, and improvements to the safety of state-controlled roads.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

RANGE ROAD REPAIRS REQUIRED COMPLEX ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL ALEXANDRA RANGE

Complex engineering solutions have helped repair a spectacular section of road through the Daintree National Park following extensive damage caused by ex-Tropical cyclone Jasper.

On a good day, the drive along the Cape Tribulation Road is, to say the least, simply stunning.

Regarded as one of Australia’s most scenic drives, the 38-kilometre road winds its way through the spectacular World Heritage listed Wet Tropics region offering breath taking views and experiences.

Pristine rainforest, waterfalls, natural creek crossings, steep ranges, and the chance to see cassowaries and crocodiles make it a drive to be cherished.

But that’s on a good day and 13 December 2023 was anything but that.

It was on that day that Australia’s wettest tropical cyclone on record, Jasper, made landfall not far from Cape Tribulation dumping 3.2 metres of rain in less than a week.

Across the Douglas Shire, 95 council-controlled roads, including the Cape Tribulation Road network, sustained significant damage forcing their closure.

Flooding, fallen trees, and landslides impacted the Cape Tribulation Road including a five kilometre stretch at Alexandra Range.

On 21 December 2023, Douglas Shire Council repair crews swung into action, working at multiple sites including at Alexandra Range which suffered damage at no fewer than 26 sites.

Emergency works at 13 sites allowed the road to reopen in early-2024, albeit with restrictions on the type of vehicles allowed on the road and overnight travel curtailed for safety reasons.

Assistance provided under the jointly-funded Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) saw roadworks at seven more sites completed by the end of 2024.

Completing the roadworks is no easy task.

The area’s environmental significance rightly demands extra care be taken to protect both the rainforest and the culturally significant sites.

Access is extremely challenging with narrow corners limiting the size of vehicles, plant, and equipment that can be used on the sites.

Further complicating the repair efforts was continued wet weather which saw four metres of rain recorded at Alexandra Range by the end of August 2024.

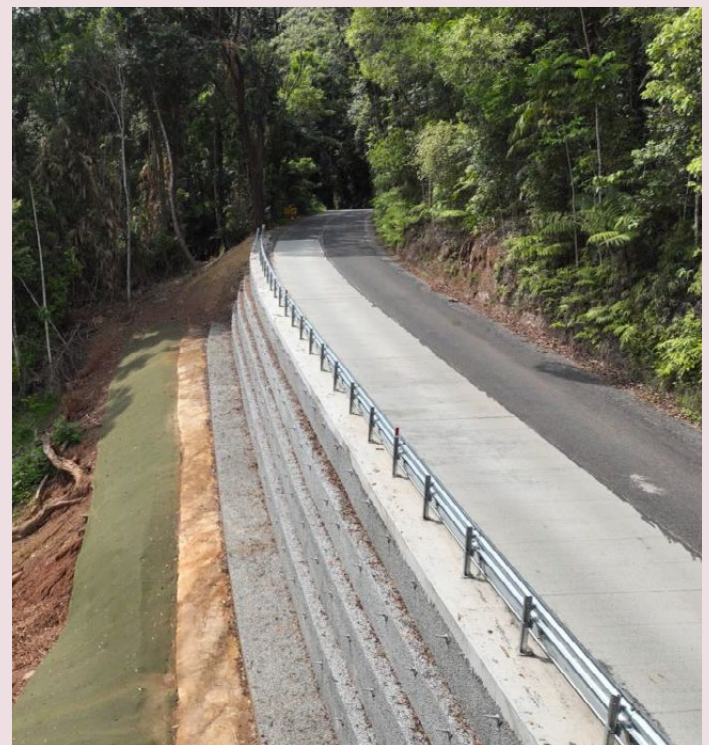
Complex engineering to repair the Alexandra Range Road included excavation to a suitable base, installing soil nails under the remaining roadway, installing micropiles at the base of the excavation, building a new embankment, and installing a new road surface and guardrail.

Materials used in the work already completed include 269 soil nails, 680 micropiles and approximately 1,700 cubic metres of concrete while more than 1,900 cubic metres of material has been excavated.

Restoring Cape Tribulation Road across Alexandra Range has been a massive undertaking and, with a further five sites still to be repairs, work is expected to continue until the end of May 2025.



Massive landslips on Alexander Range Road made it unsafe for traffic



Completed works on Alexander Range Road

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

OVER \$200 MILLION IN FRESH FUNDING FOR FNQ AND SEQ RECOVERY

More than a century of Far North Queensland flood records were smashed in mid-December 2023 after Tropical Cyclone Jasper crossed the coast north of Cairns.

All facets of the community were impacted, with heavy rainfall and flooding severely effecting homes and businesses, roads and bridges, the environment, and industries critical to the region’s economy like tourism and agriculture.

Just two weeks later, while the state was still reeling from Jasper, Queensland’s disaster response was forced to doubled down when a series of powerful storms devastated south-east Queensland on Christmas evening.

Destructive winds, rains and flash flooding closed roads, caused landslips and cut off many households, with an enormous number of trees felled and large parts of the local electricity network destroyed.

Recovery efforts over the past 12 since these twin disaster events have been extensive and ongoing

The scale of impacts from both disasters combined with the remoteness of many affected areas have created a herculean challenge for support agencies, councils and communities.



The SEQ storms caused an incredible amount of damage to the road network



The destruction from Jasper closed roads and isolated communities

To ensure the strong recovery progress can continue, the Queensland and Australian Governments have established a new \$208 million support package for further community recovery in the Far North and south-east.

The funding injection is the fourth round of exceptional circumstances measures (Category C/D) delivered through Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to ensure comprehensive recovery from Jasper and the SEQ Christmas storms. This latest DRFA investment takes total exceptional circumstances assistance provided to Queensland communities following the 2023-24 disaster season to more than \$455 million.

The new support includes:

- \$130 million Betterment Fund to rebuild infrastructure to a more resilient standard (FNQ only)
- \$61.2 million Water and Sewerage Infrastructure Package to reestablish and upgrade services across Cook, Douglas and Mareeba LGAs
- \$13.9 million Wujal Wujal Targeted Assistance Package
- \$1.5 million for disaster-related legal assistance (FNQ and SEQ)
- \$1.5 million for monitoring and evaluation of support packages.

These initiatives and others still in delivery will help disaster affected families, farmers, businesses, councils and community groups across the state pick up the pieces and get back on track.

Exceptional circumstances assistance builds on the immediate DRFA support provided to communities directly after a disaster event.

For Jasper and the SEQ storms this included more than \$61 million in Personal Hardship Assistance that helped around 275,000 people. Queenslanders can rest assured that wherever and whenever disaster strikes, QRA will be there to drive recovery and help those in need.



Tropical Cyclone Jasper broke more than a century of flood records

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

CONTRACTORS ANNOUNCED FOR LONG-TERM CYCLONE JASPER RECOVERY WORKS



Captain Cook Highway – major landslide site (September 2024)

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has engaged four contractors to begin the massive task of long-term reconstruction works on Far North Queensland roads damaged by Tropical Cyclone Jasper.

TMR has carried out emergency works across the damaged road network and critical stabilisation at major landslide sites to ensure roads can be safely used until full reconstruction is completed. The reconstruction phase of works will begin in the coming months.

Due to the specialised nature of the works, TMR selected contractors qualified and experienced in delivering the complex geotechnical repairs required. Each contractor will be responsible for a different geographic area, on roads identified as requiring the highest priority reconstruction works across the region:

- Kuranda Range Road – SEE Civil Pty Ltd
- Palmerston Highway – John Holland Queensland Pty Ltd
- Captain Cook Highway – Georgiou Pty Ltd and Koppens Developments Pty Ltd Joint Venture
- Mossman–Mount Molloy Road and Mossman–Daintree Road – Albem Operations Pty Ltd and Highway Constructions Pty Ltd Joint Venture.

As part of the tender process, contractors were required to demonstrate a commitment to engaging local employees and businesses to deliver the reconstruction works.

The roads are located in World Heritage Areas, further contributing to the complexity of the works and underscoring the need for thorough planning and development of appropriate construction methodologies.

Challenges are expected on these major routes due to their crucial role in connecting regional communities, however TMR will work with the contractors to ensure works are coordinated to minimise impacts on the community as much as possible.

Once this next phase of works is completed, the major landslide sites that have required single-lane traffic control will be returned to two lanes.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Palmerston Highway – emergency works (February 2024)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

GILLIES RANGE ROAD RESTORED TO TWO LANES

Gillies Range Road has been restored to two lanes ahead of schedule — the first range road near Cairns to be fully reopened in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Jasper and associated flooding.

The 56-kilometre highway, which runs from Gordonvale south of Cairns to Atherton in the Tablelands region, is a popular tourist drive. A winding route through World Heritage Area rainforest on the Gillies Range, it is known for its picturesque lookouts and steep sections.

Following heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Jasper in December 2023, a number of landslips occurred along the road. These were cleared and the road reopened in late December 2023. The area was also subject to further monsoonal rainfall over summer and autumn 2024.

In April 2024, inspections revealed pavement damage due to slope failures in two locations on Gillies Range Road about 12.6km and 13.6km from Gordonvale. The downhill traffic lane was closed due to the slope failure and to prevent any further loss to the road embankment.

Following the completion of geotechnical investigations and design, reconstruction works commenced in early July 2024 and included soil nailing, installing concrete walls to stabilise road embankments and repairs to the road pavement. The road's location in a World Heritage Area further increased the complexity of the works and the need for thorough planning and appropriate construction methodologies.

Repairs were completed in two stages and allowed for a gradual reduction of traffic control measures, with the first section of works reopening in late August 2024, reducing queueing delays for motorists.

The road was fully reopened in early October 2024.

Reopening the Gillies Range Road to two lanes is an important step in Far North Queensland's disaster recovery process as it will be a vital link for Cairns and Tableland communities when future repairs get underway on other roads.

More reconstruction works will be undertaken at other damage sites along Gillies Range Road as detailed designs are completed and road construction contractors are mobilised.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Landslip following TC Jasper (December 2023)



Stabilisation works in progress (July 2024)



Pavement cracks (May 2024)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

LANDSLIP REPAIRS COMPLETED ON KILCOY–BEERWAH ROAD

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has completed works to repair a significant landslip on Kilcoy–Beerwah Road, Cedarton, with the road fully reopened on 18 November 2024.

Kilcoy–Beerwah Road is a regional and tourist route approximately 30 kilometres long, linking Beerwah in the Sunshine Coast hinterland with the rural communities of Woodford and Kilcoy to the south-west.

Heavy rainfall was recorded across the region during the South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event, including 834mm in five days in February 2022 at nearby Peachester, with a further 433mm in four days during the Southern Queensland Flooding event in May 2022.

As a result, more than 200 slopes and embankments incurred landslips across North Coast Region, including at 13 locations on Kilcoy–Beerwah Road. Immediately after the rain events, TMR undertook emergency works to clear landslip debris. At the major landslip site, the road was reopened under single-lane restrictions for safety.

Following extensive work to complete geotechnical investigations and detailed design, reconstruction works commenced at the main slip site in April 2024. Works included clearing loose rocks and debris, installing micro piles along the slope to support the road embankment and installing gabions (rock-filled wire baskets) to restore slope stability. Other works along Kilcoy–Beerwah Road included soil nailing, shotcreting, hydromulching and cleaning table drains.

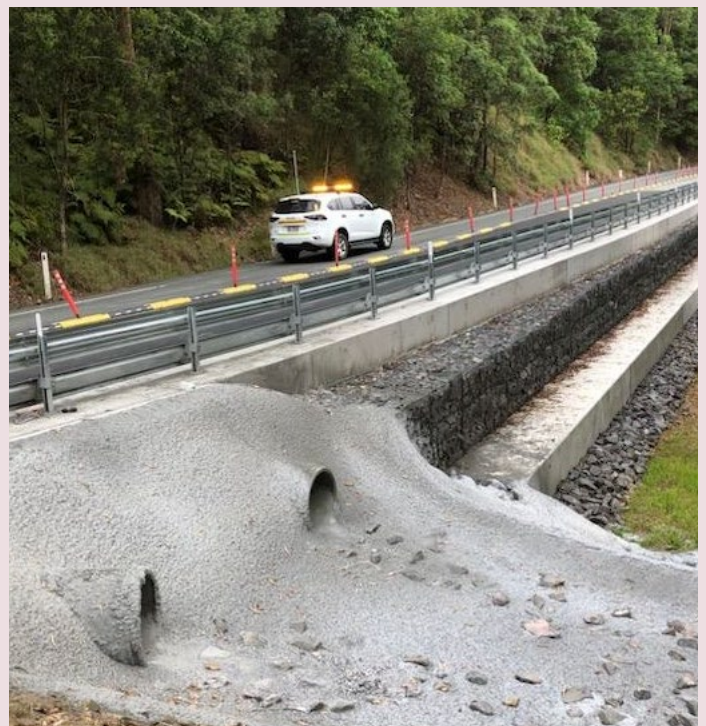
The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Raked pile driving in progress (May 2024)



Landslip caused by SEQ Rainfall and Flooding event (March 2022)



Completed reconstruction works (November 2024)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

MAJOR CULVERT REPAIRS COMPLETED AT GWAMBEGWINE CREEK

Reconstruction works on a flood-damaged section of the Fitzroy Developmental Road have been completed, including a major culvert replacement at Gwambegwine Creek.

Fitzroy Developmental Road is a rural road in central Queensland, with the southern section linking the Leichhardt Highway north of Taroom with the Dawson Highway east of Bauhinia. The road is an important connection for regional communities in Banana Shire.

This section was severely damaged by the Central, Southern and Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding event in late 2021, with 167mm in a week recorded at Taroom in November 2021. This resulted in deep washouts, scouring, damaged concrete batters and seal delamination on Fitzroy Developmental Road.

Immediately after the event, Transport and Main Roads undertook emergency works to ensure safe access while reconstruction works were scoped and designed. This included excavating the damaged steel pipe culvert at Gwambegwine Creek, north of Taroom, and installing temporary rock fill to reopen the road to two lanes of traffic.

Commencing in mid-February 2024, the reconstruction project repaired four locations along a 51.5-kilometre section of Fitzroy Developmental Road, north of the Leichhardt Highway intersection.

Works included replacing the damaged culvert at Gwambegwine Creek, as well as reconstructing slopes and batters. To maintain community access during reconstruction works, a sidetrack was constructed near the work site in May 2024.

Roadsides were also cleared of silt, debris and vegetation around culverts to ensure unobstructed water flow under the road.



Culvert damage at Gwambegwine Creek (Dec 2021)



Completed emergency works at Gwambegwine Creek (Dec 2021)



Completed works (November 2024)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

DALBY–CECIL PLAINS ROAD BETTERMENT WORKS UNDERWAY

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has commenced works to improve the resilience of a key rural transport route on the Darling Downs.

Located on the Condamine Floodplain, Dalby–Cecil Plains Road runs south-west from the Warrego Highway at Dalby to Cecil Plains, about 40 kilometres away. Sections of the road were damaged by heavy rainfall in late 2021, with subsequent record-breaking rainfall events in 2022 causing further damage to the road surface and drainage, including severe damage at the Ashall Creek bridge.

Where required, emergency works were undertaken to maintain access following each event. Reconstruction works were completed on various flood damaged sections of the road between November 2023 and October 2024.

In addition to repairs, TMR has been planning and designing solutions to meet the challenges of this flood-prone road. The Ashall Creek bridge section will be strengthened through the 2021–22 Betterment Program, with additional works underway to improve flood resilience.

These betterment works will include pavement and drainage improvements, increased batter and drainage protection and installation of new guardrail. Works commenced in late October 2024 and are due to be completed in March 2025, weather and construction conditions permitting.

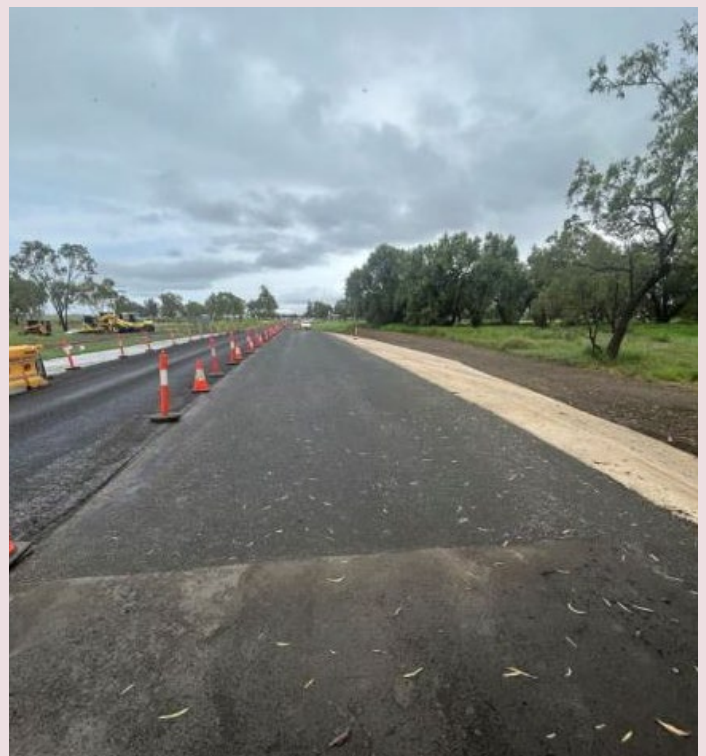
The extraordinary disaster assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Damage from SEQ Rainfall and Flooding (April 2022)



Betterment works in progress at Ashall Creek (December 2024)



Foamed bitumen on the northern side of Ashall Creek (Dec 2024)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

RESTORATION WORKS COMPLETED ON MACKAY–EUNGELLA ROAD AT EUNGELLA RANGE



Multiple landslips caused by heavy rainfall (January 2023)

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has completed restoration works including landslip repairs at 17 sites along Mackay–Eungella Road west of Mackay, damaged by record-breaking rainfall in 2023. Mackay–Eungella Road is the main link between Mackay, the rural townships of the Pioneer Valley and the tourist area of Eungella Range.

Heavy rainfall and flooding were recorded across the region during the Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding event in early 2023, including 668mm in two days at Mount Charlton and more than 1000mm in a week reported at Finch Hatton. This resulted in a series of landslips that temporarily closed the road from 16 January 2023.

Immediately following the event, TMR fast-tracked emergency works including removing large rocks and debris, to reopen the road under restricted access within just eight days.

Further clearing and stabilisation works were undertaken to enable 24-hour access to be restored from 25 February 2023. This included debris removal and stabilising embankments above the roadway by securing and removing loose boulders, vegetation and other material to reduce the risk of further slips. Crews also repaired damaged bitumen, drainage, scours, headwalls and kerbs.



Landslip site (January 2023)

Geotechnical investigations were undertaken to determine where further works were required, followed by detailed design for major sites. In June 2024, TMR commenced minor pavement and drainage repairs along Mackay–Eungella Road.

Further significant repairs started in July 2024 on the Eungella Range section of Mackay–Eungella Road, including construction of a 62-metre-long, 2.4-metre-high concrete sleeper wall at the base of the slope to provide protection from rock falls.

High-tensile mesh and soil nails were installed over two areas, and shotcrete applied to the water flow route to stabilise the slope face beside the road. Other works included clearing and scaling slope faces, removing scoured material and revegetation of slopes.

Works were completed in December 2024.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Completed works (December 2024)