

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.

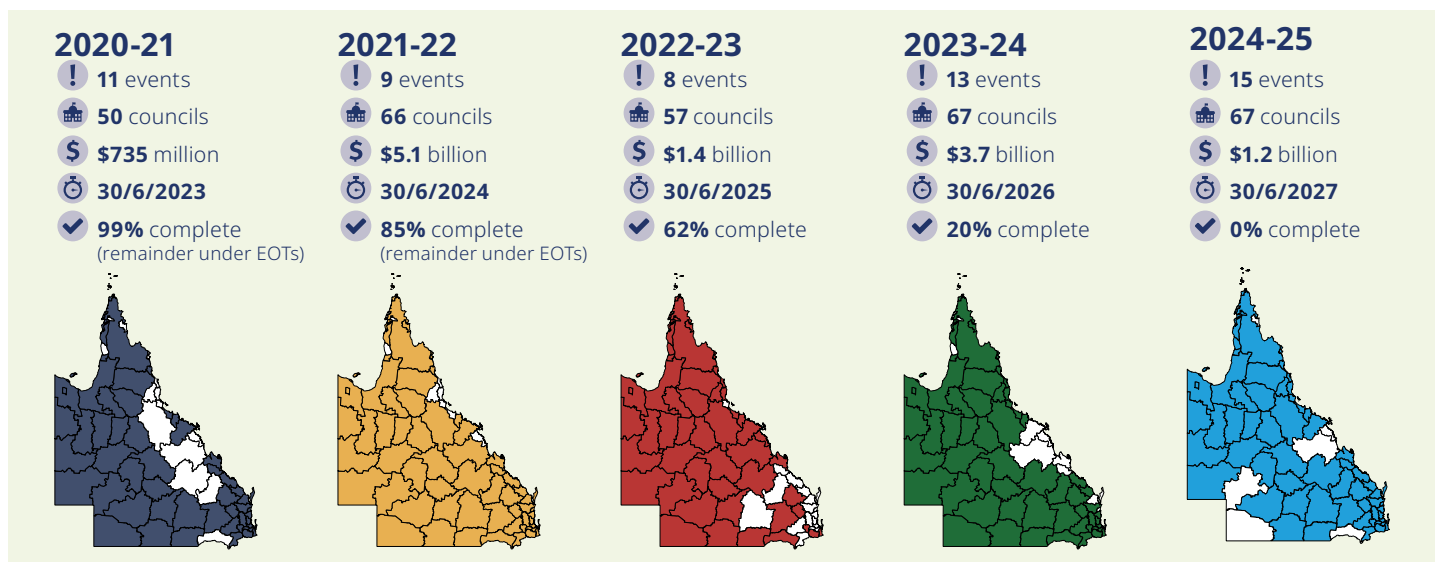
Disaster assistance

DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE GRANTS PROGRAM

QRA is currently administering a recovery and reconstruction program under the joint Commonwealth State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth **\$12.1 billion** arising from **56** events from the 2020-21 to 2024-25 disaster seasons in the assessment, delivery and/or acquittal phase.

Current statewide program

! 56 events **🏠** 76 councils with an active program **\$** \$12.1 billion



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 million (complete), resilience programs of \$11.7 million, 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 **\$3.7 billion** from **13** events. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of \$407 million, resilience programs of \$193 million, resilience and recovery programs funded from of \$151 million, a reconstruction program of approximately \$2.5 billion and extraordinary assistance packages worth \$457 million that will be delivered through to 30 September 2027.

The **2024-2025** event year program has an initial value of approximately **\$1.2 billion** from **15** events across immediate recovery assistance, resilience programs, reconstruction, and extraordinary assistance packages. These estimates will increase as damage assessments are completed and recovery packages are developed.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Record-breaking disaster season hits Queensland

The 2024-25 disaster season has seen the Sunshine State weather more natural disasters than ever before.

Given Queensland is widely acknowledged as the most disaster impacted place in Australia, this is a record of some significance.

Since the establishment of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) in 2011, Queensland has now battled through 134 disasters.

Since 1 July 2024 our state has experienced 16 separate events, with 70 of Queensland's 77 local government areas activated for support under the joint Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Making the impacts of this disaster season hit even harder is the fact last disaster season, 2023-24, was previously the largest disaster season in Queensland's history, with 13 events resulting in DRFA activation.

The first three months of 2025 have been particularly devastating for Queensland, with catastrophic flooding in the north and west, and south-east Queensland's first cyclone in 50 years.

More than a century of flood records have been broken in many regions, including the west and south-west that in late March received a year's worth of rain in less than a week.

Tens of thousands of Queensland residents, homes, businesses, and primary producers have been impacted by this disaster season, and hundreds of thousands more have lost power for days and sometimes weeks.

In the face of these challenges, QRA has moved swiftly to activate DRFA assistance in response to each disaster to ensure Queenslanders have the help they need for their recovery.

More than \$99.7 million in immediate hardship assistance has been distributed so far during the 2024-25 disaster season, benefitting more than 484,000 people.

Community Relief Funds totalling \$23 million have been established to provide the hardest hit LGAs with immediate funding for their clean-up and recovery activities.

More than \$180 million in Disaster Recovery Grants have been extended to impacted primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profits, and \$50 million more will help rebuild sport, recreation and community assets in the north.

The program is not only significant in dollars but in scale too, affecting an area roughly three times the size of France, with success depending on many delivery agents and the juggling of a vast number of projects in every corner of the state.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring disaster weary communities receive the assistance they need to not just endure but to thrive once more.

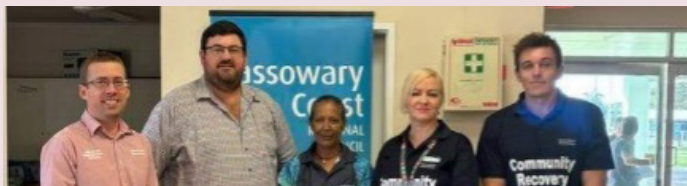
The Premier has appointed State Recovery Coordinators (SRC) and Deputy SRCs for each of the three most significant events.

- Andrew Cripps as SRC and Inspector Paul Algie (Deputy) in response to the north Queensland flood event
- Justin O'Connor (SRC) and Peter Matic (Deputy) to support recovery coordination from ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred in the South East
- Stuart Mackenzie OAM (SRC) and Chief Superintendent Troy Pukallus (Deputy) to support recovery coordination in Western Queensland.

QRA is working with the SRCs and key stakeholders across all councils and state agencies to ensure recovery efforts are informed by local needs and communities can rebuild and recover.



QRA, GM Jimmy Scott and SRC Andrew Cripps at Cassowary Coast Community Recovery Hub



Flooding in Diamantina turns the outback into an inland sea – March 2025 (supplied Diamantina Shire Council)



Stonehenge Saleyards in Barcoo swallowed by four metres of floodwater



Once Mile Creek, Cassowary Coast Regional Council



North Queensland copped a battering from the tropical low event of summer 2025



Coastal areas suffered severe erosion from TC Alfred



Access through the Gold Coast Hinterland was cut due to landslips caused by ex-TC Alfred

2024-25 Disaster season activations

As of March 2025, the 2024-25 disaster season has triggered sixteen DRFA event activations across 67 of the state's 77 local government areas.

Event	Impacted LGAs	DRFA Relief Measures Activated			
		Category A	Category B	Category C	Category D
Diamantina Rainfall and Flooding, 1–7 July 2024	1		X		
Central and Southern Rainfall and Flooding, 12–14 August 2024	7		X		
North Queensland Bushfires, 12 September – 15 November 2024	4		X		
Cook and Hope Vale Bushfires, 20 September – 9 October 2024	2		X		
Mount Tabor Bushfire, 22 September – 8 October 2024	2		X		
Cloncurry and Mount Isa Bushfires, 6–29 October 2024	2		X		
Dirranbandi Bushfires, 5–10 November 2024	1	X	X		
Scenic Rim and Ipswich Storms and Rainfall, 10–24 November 2024	2		X		
Silver Valley and Walsh Bluff Bushfires, 13–24 November 2024	2		X		
Southwest Queensland Flooding and Rainfall, 21 November – 10 December 2024	5		X		
Southern Summer Rainfall and Flooding, 9 December 2024 – 14 January 2025	12	X	X	X	X
North Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 19–14 December 2024	2		X		
Brisbane Microburst Event, 16 January 2025	1		X		
North and Far North Tropical Low, 29 January – 28 February 2025	39	X	X	X	X
Tropical Cyclone Alfred and Associated Severe Weather, 1–16 March 2025	18	X	X	X	X
Western Queensland Surface Trough and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, Commencing 21 March 2025	3		X		

2024-25 Events – DRFA Category C & D extraordinary assistance packages

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.

More than \$176 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 from the North and Far North Queensland Tropical Low and Tropical Cyclone Alfred events.

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 from these recent events.



Jundah, Barcoo Shire Council. Source: Queensland Police Service - Polair



Thargomindah, Bulloo Shire Council. Source: Bulloo Shire Council

North and Far North Queensland Tropical Low \$161,115,000	
Community Recovery Fund - \$8 million Provides immediate payments to councils to support the delivery of essential immediate recovery activities including clean-up activities to restore the function of the community that are not included other state-based funding sources.	Emergency Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers - \$72.7 million Provides grants to eligible primary producers that have suffered direct damage from the event. These grants will provide targeted assistance with clean up, restoration and recovery activities to eligible primary producers.
Emergency Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Small Business and Not-for Profit Organisations - \$25 million Provides funding directly to impacted small businesses and non-profit organisations to assist them to clean-up and repair/restore flood damaged assets, including damage to equipment, flooring and walls in premises and undertake immediate recovery related activities.	Rural Landholder Recovery Grants - \$2.415 million Provides grants to eligible rural landholders that have suffered direct damage from the event. These grants will provide targeted assistance with clean up, restoration and recovery activities to eligible landholders that contribute to primary production.
Coordinated Emergency Fodder Support Package - \$1 million Assists primary producers, and the Queensland government with the extraordinary costs of undertaking emergency livestock welfare activities.	Community and Recreational Assets - \$20 million Funding to repair and rebuild community and recreation facilities impacted by the event.
Sport and Recreational Assets - \$30 million To repair and rebuild sport and recreation facilities impacted by the event.	Monitoring and Evaluation - \$2 million Evaluation to determine the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of the packages and incorporate design, process and outcome improvements into future package design.
Tropical Cyclone Alfred and Associated Severe Weather \$15,000,000	
Community Relief Fund - \$15 million Provides immediate payments to councils to support the delivery of essential immediate recovery activities including clean-up activities to restore the function of the community that are not included other state-based funding sources.	



State Disaster Coordination Centre – 5 March 2025



State Disaster Coordination Group – 31 March 2025



State Disaster Coordination Centre – 31 March 2025

Reconstruction monitoring – 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 June 2025.

Establishment of QRA's Hazard and Risk Unit

QRA now leads the state-level hazard and risk function, which transitioned from the Queensland Fire Department (formally QFES) in July 2024. 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 to ensure an ability to mature and deliver this new state function.

The new DRM team's role includes:

- responsibility for **Queensland's new disaster risk management approach**. A refined disaster risk assessment process consisting of a new methodology, manual and supporting GIS-based tool will be available this year.
- coordinating and implementing **policies related to potential disaster risk** 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**, with emphasis on supporting local disaster risk management planning by providing fit-for-purpose products that are already tailored to their 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 with disaster management stakeholders is important for the development of the new QDRM (Queensland Disaster Risk Management) approach to ensure it is fit-for-purpose. The DRM team has held a series of stakeholder webinars and circulated draft documents for stakeholder feedback. More engagement is planned in the coming months, including demonstrations of the new approach and spatial tool in several regional council areas. If you would like to know more, please email the team: Hazard.Risk@qra.qld.gov.au

DRFA Resilience and Recovery Program updates

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.

Following closure of applications for the VHBB the program, 859 offers have been presented to homeowners with 685 accepted across the 12 local government areas approved to take part in the scheme. All 685 contracts have now settled with 572 of these properties since demolished and 372 rezoned to non-occupied use across 10 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. 40 of the 42 total homeowners within Mi Hi Grove have settled acquisition of their properties by Ipswich City Council. For the two homeowners that have not yet accepted, Ipswich City Council is progressing with the compulsory acquisition process.

Property Level Flood Information Portal

Delivery of the Property Level Flood Information Portal ("the Portal") continues to advance, with 33 councils formally participating in the QRA-led solution.

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.

QRA and QIT Plus are in the final design and testing stages for Version 1, incorporating extensive feedback from councils, industry experts, and technical partners. The project is on track to transition into the deployment phase, to be rolled out progressively at councils' discretion.

Current activities are focused on refining the platform's usability and clarity, with efforts directed at addressing feedback from round 2 usability testing and council engagement activities. This includes implementing key design improvements, enhancing terminology and definitions in collaboration with community, council, agency stakeholders and the broader Hazard and Risk Unit.

While core functionality for Version 1 is nearing completion, councils continue to have the opportunity to shape final definitions and data presentation to ensure consistency across the platform. Further council workshops are planned to continue collaborative development, support system readiness, and prepare for deployment.

QRA will also start to prepare for the next phase of development, Version 2 of the system that will introduce the integration of Land Use Planning information aligned with councils' planning schemes and relevant state legislations. This includes the development of a Planning Report component, designed to improve community awareness of flood-related planning provisions.

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. Tranche 4 (Banana, Blackall-Tambo, Carnarvon, Hughenden) is now complete. In addition, the LiDAR acquisition for targeted areas across Maranoa, as part of Tranche 5, has been finalised and we have confirmed that the point density requirement has been met. 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 has now escalated all contracts for execution, which are expected to be returned within the week to allow for formal notification to suppliers ahead of the second round of LiDAR capture as part of Tranche 6 which includes 18 LGAs.

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 are well underway with the implementation 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 are expected to complete the installation and commissioning of their assets by 30 June 2024. NEMA have granted an Extension of Time (EOT) to January 2026 in case of wet season and procurement interruptions.

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

The Bureau has completed workshops with councils in the seven regions to gather local insights on 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 Funding Programs

Along with QRA's lead role in managing and coordinating Queensland's program of DRFA 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.

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

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.

Under Round 2 of the DRF (2024-25), 28 projects were approved in Queensland for more than \$29.3 million in Commonwealth funding to support disaster risk reduction initiatives, including 17 projects for councils, two for state agencies, seven for non-government organisations and two for universities. The formal funding agreement under the Federation Funding Agreement – Environment has been executed, and QRA is working with successful applicants to finalise implementation plans for each successful project. Following Commonwealth approval of the implementation plans, project funding schedules between QRA and the delivery agencies will be established, and projects can formally commence.

Round 3 of the DRF (2025-26) is now open for applications, closing 5:00pm Wednesday 16 April 2025. This incorporates a two-week extension granted by NEMA in direct response to feedback received from impacted local government areas following the significant disruption caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, as well as other significant weather events across the nation. For all enquiries regarding the application process, please contact your Resilience and Recovery Officer (RRO) or info@qra.qld.gov.au

North Queensland Resilience Program

On 17 February 2025, the Commonwealth announced the 77 projects approved for funding under the \$84.8 million North Queensland Resilience Program (NQRP). This program supports local and regional disaster resilience activities across 18 local government areas in northern, Far North and north-west Queensland communities. Funded projects range from major infrastructure upgrades and critical transport hubs to flood mitigation infrastructure, emergency shelters, community generators, and the sealing of roads frequently washed away.

The NDRP is funded by the Australian Government and administered by QRA, with projects to be completed by June 2027. A list of successful projects is published on NEMA's website: <https://www.nema.gov.au/our-work/disaster-recovery/north-queensland-recovery-and-resilience-package>

INDUSTRY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Resilient Building Codes Community of Practice

On 24th March 2025, key stakeholders gathered for the inaugural meeting of the Resilient Building Codes Community of Practice (CoP) in Brisbane, bringing together a range of government agencies within the Australian, Queensland and New South Wales Governments committed to enhancing the resilience of our built environment.

During this meeting, the group heard from experts across state and Australian government agencies, recognising that while increasing the resilience of Australia's built environment necessitates a multidisciplinary approach, the National Construction Code (NCC) and respective state building regulations play an important part.

The group also discussed historical amendments to the NCC concerning bushfire and cyclonic events that have yielded benefits. In particular, improvements in building stability and integrity witnessed in recent decades during cyclonic conditions attest to the effectiveness of the 1981 update to the NCC.

The group agreed to a number of key actions from the meeting, including continued collaboration, engaging leadership and decision makers, and continuing to collect an evidence base to support future changes to the NCC.

The CoP is intended to unite key stakeholders to collaboratively support the integration of resilience measures into the NCC by sharing expertise and coordinating efforts. Though the initial emphasis will be on improving flood resilience, given flood being Queensland's highest risk, the group may expand its focus to other hazards.



Resilient Building Codes Community of Practice – 24 March 2025

QRA attends Red Cross Disaster and the Law National Symposium

In March 2025, QRA attended the Australian Red Cross Disasters and the Law Symposium.

With increasingly severe and frequent disaster events, the symposium provided an opportunity to explore the role that the legal profession can play in supporting community preparedness, as well as timely post disaster recovery of impacted communities.

The Symposium:

- Examined the role of law in managing climate-induced disasters.
- Explored access to justice in the context of disasters.
- Shared experiences related to legal issues emerging from disasters in Australia.
- Discussed the importance and impact of legal frameworks during emergencies.
- Addressed the preparation, response, and recovery processes in disaster zones and the associated legal needs.
- Engaged in discussions about Disaster Risk Reduction and the legal needs connected to it.

The symposium emphasised the need for laws to protect vulnerable populations and highlighted the significance of preparing for future legal needs. These outcomes support effective community preparedness by ensuring that legal frameworks are robust and inclusive, and they facilitate timely post-disaster recovery by providing clear guidelines and protections for impacted communities.



QRA Jimmy Scott, Morgan Spencer and Jessica Kotis at Australian Red Cross Disasters and the Law Symposium

State Recovery and Resilience Group

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

Building Codes
and Land Use
Planning

Crucial Linkages
/ Infrastructure

Support for the
Vulnerable

Data Sharing

Environmental
Protection

Research

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)

GRQ is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The program integrates a state-wide research driven awareness campaign led by QRA, alongside a grass roots grants program providing \$2 million across Queensland's 77 councils and the Weipa Town Authority to deliver locally-led disaster preparedness initiatives.

Get Ready Queensland helping SEQ prepare in the face of TC Alfred

During the first two weeks of March, South-East Queensland braced for its first cyclone in over 50 years. Get Ready Queensland was there, supporting the community by assisting households to prepare through the implementation of a strategic and agile crisis communications campaign.

The strategy involved high frequency preparedness messaging boosted to geographical regions – for example “What do Category 1 and 2 cyclones look like” and “How to get ready for cyclones”.

Closer to landfall GRQ spoke to evacuation, sheltering in place and preparing for flooding. We also asked Queenslanders to “Share how you have prepared”, playing on social norms which is a significant influencer as to why people take action.

Content was shared by key stakeholders including LGAs, Department of Premier and Cabinet, NEMA, Queensland Fire Department, RSPCA Qld, Queensland Health, QPS, QFD and Energex.

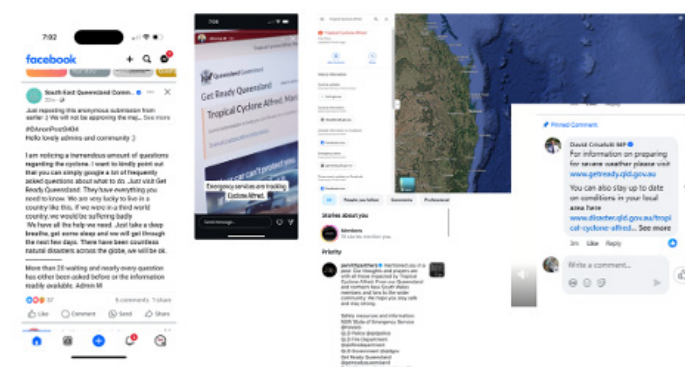
The Bureau of Meteorology added Get Ready Queensland as a key contact in their weather app, potentially reaching their extensive audience.

Unexpected but notable shares came from the Prime Minister, the Governor of Queensland, a TikTok influencer, and the Penrith Panthers!



Some results from the Get Ready Queensland crisis communications campaign during Ex-TC Alfred

Due to high awareness in the community, the GRQ message was a trusted source of disaster preparedness information. GRQ maintained a consistent presence on social media platforms, with posts tailored to the needs and concerns of the community, addressing emerging issues in real time. The campaign used Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn to deliver timely, relevant and actionable content with tips and hints on how to get ready.

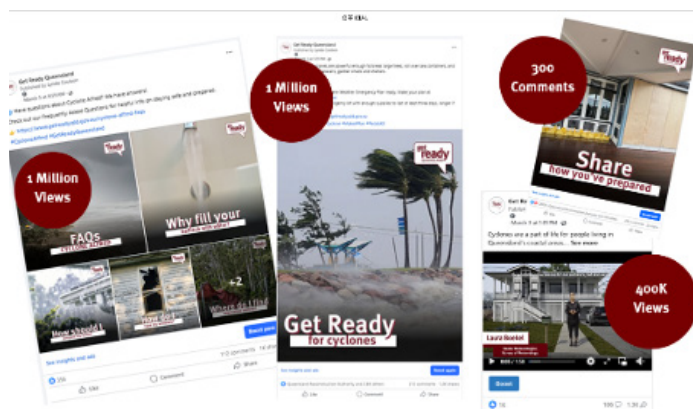


A snapshot of some of the Get Ready Queensland content shared during ex-TC Alfred.

The campaign was supported by dedicated website content including a landing page for Ex-TC Alfred and a detailed Frequently Asked Questions page which was updated daily to ensure current information.



Website Statistics for the Get Ready Queensland website during the Ex-TC Alfred period.



Examples of Get Ready Queensland posts during Ex-TC Alfred.

Get Ready Queensland campaign results

The GRQ campaign ran in market from **8 October to 16 November 2024**. The post campaign survey showed that the campaign effectively engaged Queenslanders, with 71% of the primary target audience (24–40-year-olds with dependents) recognising it.

Those who recalled the campaign responded positively, with 93% finding the message easy to understand, 89% considering it memorable, and 76% feeling it was personally relevant.

This strong connection drove increased engagement across multiple channels, and increases in website traffic to getready.qld.gov.au

The campaign was also shown to have significantly influenced preparedness behaviours across Queensland. Among the target audience, when compared to the 2023 campaign, 79% had made a plan (+6% increase), 77% had considered household risks (+5% increase), and 77% had prepared an emergency kit (+4% increase). These statistically significant improvements demonstrate the campaign's success in driving real action. By reinforcing the importance of readiness, the campaign helped more Queenslanders take meaningful steps to protect their households in emergencies.

The campaign's strong call-to-action to "Make your emergency plan today" directly links to the Online Household Emergency Plan via URLs, search instructions and QR Codes. This enables GRQ to directly measure behavioural change. More than 45,000 households have undertaken planning via the Online Household Emergency Plan since it launched in October 2024.



Social media and campaign images from the 2024 Get Ready Queensland advertising campaign

Accessible and inclusive community education resources for natural hazards

The GRQ team is working on a project funded under the Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) package from National Emergency Management Australia (NEMA). The objective of the grant is to build Australian communities' disaster resilience by improving accessibility and inclusivity of key disaster information.

To support this, QRA is creating accessible and inclusive community education resources for natural hazards targeted at culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. The resources will include a series of natural hazard information videos, factsheets and complementary Easy English resources catering for people with low literacy. The resources will be developed for use across Australia and focus on seven natural hazards: bushfires, floods, cyclones, storms, heatwaves, earthquakes and tsunamis. The videos and resources will be translated into up to 8 CALD languages.

QRA has completed the procurement process to support project delivery. 30 suppliers responded to the EOI and 15 responded to the RFT. After a rigorous process, QRA secured Ethnolink as the preferred supplier. Ethnolink has agreed to all deadlines that meet the requirements of the project.

On 5 March, the team held the first kick off meeting which was attended by their key staff. To provide required background, QRA shared critical project resources. QRA has since received a first draft of the Needs Assessment which looks at demographics and vulnerability to determine the languages, communities and locations for the next phase of the project, which moves into engagement.

Resources will be available in early-2026.

Get Ready Queensland introduces captivating 'If It's Flooded, Forget It' video series

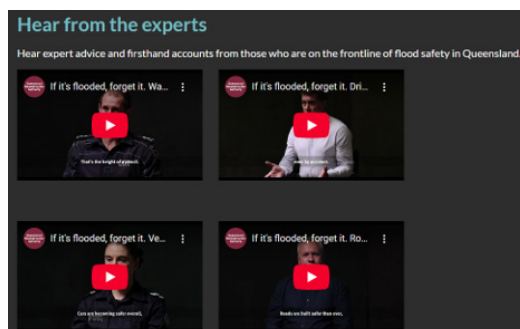
This March, the 'If It's Flooded, Forget It' campaign unveiled a new video series aimed at educating Queenslanders about the key risk factors associated with driving through floodwater. Titled 'In a Flash,' the series combines real-life footage with commentary from industry experts, sharing their first-hand experience, dispelling long-held myths and providing lifesaving advice.

While the risks associated with driving into floodwater are complex and multifaceted, research points to four broad factors: the driver, the road, the car and the floodwater. Each of the videos in the series explores one of these risk factors.

Launching the series was the 'In a Flash: Roads,' video, featuring insights from QRA Technical Director Jade Christensen. This episode explores how floodwater damages roads, why road closure signs are non-negotiable, and how you can never outsmart floodwater. Shared on social media in the lead up to TC Alfred, the video hit home with audiences, sparking conversations on social media amassing nearly 200,000 views.

Three quarters of Queenslanders have experienced driving in and around floodwaters in the past two years. Most drivers are prepared to stay off the road if there is a chance of flooding, however, there are still many who believe they can 'assess' the water and make a call if it's safe to proceed or not.

When it comes to staying safe on the road during a flood, Queenslanders told us that they want practical advice about what can happen, why it happens, and what they need to do, and these videos have delivered. Through this video series, we aim to provide the practical advice they're seeking and streamline the decision-making process to prioritise safety.



Frontline experts share their first-hand experience, dispelling-held myths and provide lifesaving advice in the new "If it's flooded, forget it" video series.

Road safety is everyone's responsibility. It's critical that community, all levels of government and industry work together. QRA recognises the input of the Queensland Fire Department, the Queensland Police Service, and the Australian Road Safety Foundation in developing this important new video series.

Watch all four videos at www.qld.gov.au/FloodedForgetIt

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Barwon Highway built back better

A key southern Queensland highway has been made more resilient to future severe weather events, with betterment works on the Barwon Highway (Goondiwindi–Talwood) now complete.

The Barwon Highway links the Leichhardt Highway at the rural town of Goondiwindi on the Queensland/New South Wales border with the Carnarvon Highway at Nindigully, south of St George. It runs north of and roughly parallel to the Barwon River, after which it is named.

The highway suffered compounding damage from multiple heavy rainfall and flooding events between late 2021 and late 2022, with prolonged inundation causing deep ruts, shoving, large potholes and crocodile cracking on many areas along the Goondiwindi to Talwood section.

Emergency works were undertaken after each disaster event to ensure the road could continue to be safely used until full reconstruction works could be completed.

Commencing in January 2024, reconstruction works were undertaken to address extensive pavement, culvert and concrete batter damage. These works were completed in December 2024.

The Barwon Highway was also identified as a priority site for resilience works to mitigate against the impacts of future flooding. Works commenced in July 2024 to replace a bitumen floodway with a cement modified surface to improve the resilience of the road. Works were undertaken to strengthen the subgrade, to improve its resilience during periods of inundation. These betterment works were completed in January 2025.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Betterment works were delivered through the 2021–22 Betterment Program, with extraordinary assistance provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State DRFA.



Barwon Highway (Goondiwindi–Talwood) – completed emergency works (February 2023)



Barwon Highway (Goondiwindi–Talwood) – pavement damage (March 2022)



Barwon Highway (Goondiwindi–Talwood) – damage at floodway due to prolonged inundation (March 2022)



Barwon Highway (Goondiwindi–Talwood) – completed pavement works (October 2024)



Barwon Highway (Goondiwindi–Talwood) – subgrade works at Beryl's Crossing floodway (July 2024)



Barwon Highway (Goondiwindi–Talwood) – pavement damage (March 2022)



Barwon Highway (Goondiwindi–Talwood) – pavement damage from prolonged saturation (August 2022)



Barwon Highway (Goondiwindi–Talwood) – completed works at Beryl's Crossing (December 2024)



Barwon Highway (Goondiwindi–Talwood) – completed pavement works (October 2024)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Betterment works completed at Barambah Creek

One of the South Burnett region's key road links has been made more resilient, with concrete batter protection works on the Burnett Highway at Barambah Creek now complete.

A major tributary of the Burnett River, Barambah Creek crosses the Burnett Highway between the rural town of Nanango and Goomeri, home of the Great Australian Pumpkin Roll at the annual produce festival. In addition to providing an important link for the agricultural industry, the Burnett Highway is part of the Country Way inland tourist route.

The Burnett Highway (Nanango to Goomeri) was impacted by multiple heavy rainfall events in late 2021 and 2022, with significant damage at Barambah Creek as a result of rainfall and flooding associated with Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth in January 2022.

Immediately after the event, debris was cleared to safely reopen the road. In addition to reconstruction works to restore areas of

damaged pavement and batters, the Barambah Creek crossing was identified as a priority site for resilience works to mitigate against the impacts of future flooding events.

Commencing in September 2024, earthworks were undertaken to prepare the site, with more than 150 tonnes of soil fill installed to strengthen the embankment. To further protect the road from high-velocity flows during severe weather, almost 300 metres of concrete batters were installed. Works were completed in November 2024.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Betterment works were delivered through the 2021-22 Betterment Program, with extraordinary assistance provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State DRFA.



Burnett Highway (Nanango-Goomeri) – severe scouring caused by flooding associated with Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth (January 2022)



Burnett Highway (Nanango-Goomeri) – scouring at Barambah Creek Bridge caused by flooding associated with Tropical Cyclone Seth (January 2022)



Burnett Highway (Nanango-Goomeri) – damage caused by flooding associated with Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth (January 2022)



Burnett Highway (Nanango-Goomeri) – completed betterment works at Barambah Creek (November)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Ed Kratzmann Bridge at Ollera Creek reopened in eight days

After unprecedented flooding washed away a section of the Ed Kratzmann Bridge at Mutarnee – over Ollera Creek on the Bruce Highway 45 minutes north of Townsville – Transport and Main Roads (TMR) prioritised emergency works to reopen this crucial link to heavy vehicles just eight days later.

As a result of the North and Far North Tropical Low, 2149 millimetres of rainfall was recorded at Mutarnee during the first 12 days of February 2025, of which almost 1500mm fell in the first three days. The average rainfall for the entire month of February at that location is 514mm.

As a result of severe scouring to the bridge abutment, part of the Ed Kratzmann Bridge approaches at Ollera Creek fell into floodwaters on the afternoon of 2 February 2025. This disrupted essential supply including fuel and food to the north of Townsville, as the alternative inland road freight route was also cut off by floodwaters, sparking deep concern from locals.

Once floodwaters receded to safe levels, the temporary repair of the bridge approaches was made a top priority. On 3 February 2025, urgent inspections were undertaken to assess damage to the bridge embankment and plan emergency repairs.

On 5 February 2025, work commenced with the assistance of the Australian Defence Force to build a temporary bridge structure at Ollera Creek to enable authorities to get critical emergency services and supplies into isolated areas north of Townsville, including Ingham and Hinchinbrook. The single-lane bridge opened on 6 February 2025 for emergency vehicles only and operated during the day, with emergency works undertaken at night.

TMR fast-tracked repairs on the bridge and the road was reopened to heavy vehicles on 10 February 2025. Following additional works, it reopened to general traffic on 11 February 2025, just nine days after it was cut.

TMR crews worked a cumulative total of about 1200 hours (the equivalent of working 24/7 for nearly two months) in ongoing heavy rainfall to reopen the bridge, using approximately 50 full-size dump trucks of rock, sand and concrete.

Works are continuing on the Ed Kratzmann Bridge, including upstream rock placements to protect the previously completed temporary works that reinstated the approach embankment. Once this is completed, works will focus on addressing severe scouring around pier eight to allow the bridge to return to 100km/hr. Works will then focus on the area immediately downstream of abutment B where rock placements are required to prevent further scouring.

In addition to repairs, TMR is working with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to seek extraordinary assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to enable the Ed Kratzmann Bridge at Ollera Creek and other priority sites damaged by the recent flooding to be built back better. The focus of the package is to increase the resilience of the Bruce Highway as a critical freight route and increase the resilience of key inland routes critical for resupply and connectivity for rural and regional communities in north Queensland.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the DRFA.



Bruce Highway (Townsville–Ingham) – severe scouring on the Ed Kratzmann Bridge at Ollera Creek



Bruce Highway (Townsville–Ingham) – temporary bridge in place at the Ed Kratzmann Bridge at Ollera Creek



Bruce Highway (Townsville–Ingham) – temporary bridge in place at the Ed Kratzmann Bridge at Ollera Creek



Bruce Highway (Townsville–Ingham) – emergency works to the Ed Kratzmann Bridge at Ollera Creek



Bruce Highway (Townsville–Ingham) – road open as works continue



Bruce Highway (Townsville–Ingham) – rock protection works

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Castlereagh Highway (St George–Hebel) betterment works completed

Work to improve flood resilience at eight priority sites on the Castlereagh Highway has been completed.

The Castlereagh Highway is a major south-west Queensland transport link intersecting with the Carnarvon Highway south of St George and running to the New South Wales border and is part of the Great Inland Way linking Cairns and Sydney.

The highway experienced extensive flood damage from three protracted heavy rainfall events between November 2021 and May 2022. The section between 11.5km and 38km south of Dirranbandi was particularly hard hit, with severe pavement damage on low-lying areas, scouring to road shoulders and culvert damage.

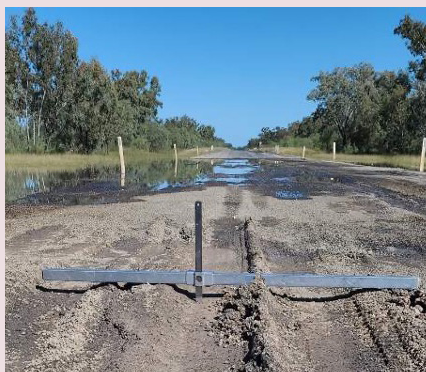
Emergency repairs were completed immediately after the disaster events, so the highway could reopen safely while a substantial program of flood recovery works was planned across southern Queensland.

In addition to reconstruction works, eight priority sites were identified on the Castlereagh Highway between Noondoo and Hebel for betterment works to reduce the impacts of future floods on communities and road users.

Works to build the road back better included altering road levels, installing concrete batter protection, replacing culverts, and constructing resilient road pavement. Detailed design was completed in late 2023, preconstruction activities started in June 2024 and construction works started in August 2024. Betterment works were completed in February 2025.

In addition to the betterment works, pavement repairs were undertaken on various sections between 3km east and 38.13km south of Dirranbandi.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Betterment works were delivered through the 2021–22 Betterment Program, with extraordinary assistance provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State DRFA.



Castlereagh Highway (St George–Hebel) – pavement damage (May 2022)



Castlereagh Highway (St George–Hebel) – shoulder scouring at floodway (May 2022)



Castlereagh Highway (St George–Hebel) – pavement damage at floodway (June 2022)



Castlereagh Highway (St George–Hebel) – pavement damage at floodway (November 2022)



Castlereagh Highway (St George–Hebel) – betterment works in progress (September 2024)



Castlereagh Highway (St George–Hebel) – betterment works in progress (November 2024)



Castlereagh Highway (St George–Hebel) – completed betterment works (January 2025)



Castlereagh Highway (St George–Hebel) – water over road following Southern Queensland Flooding event (May 2022)



Castlereagh Highway (St George–Hebel) – completed betterment works (February 2025)