

### 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.

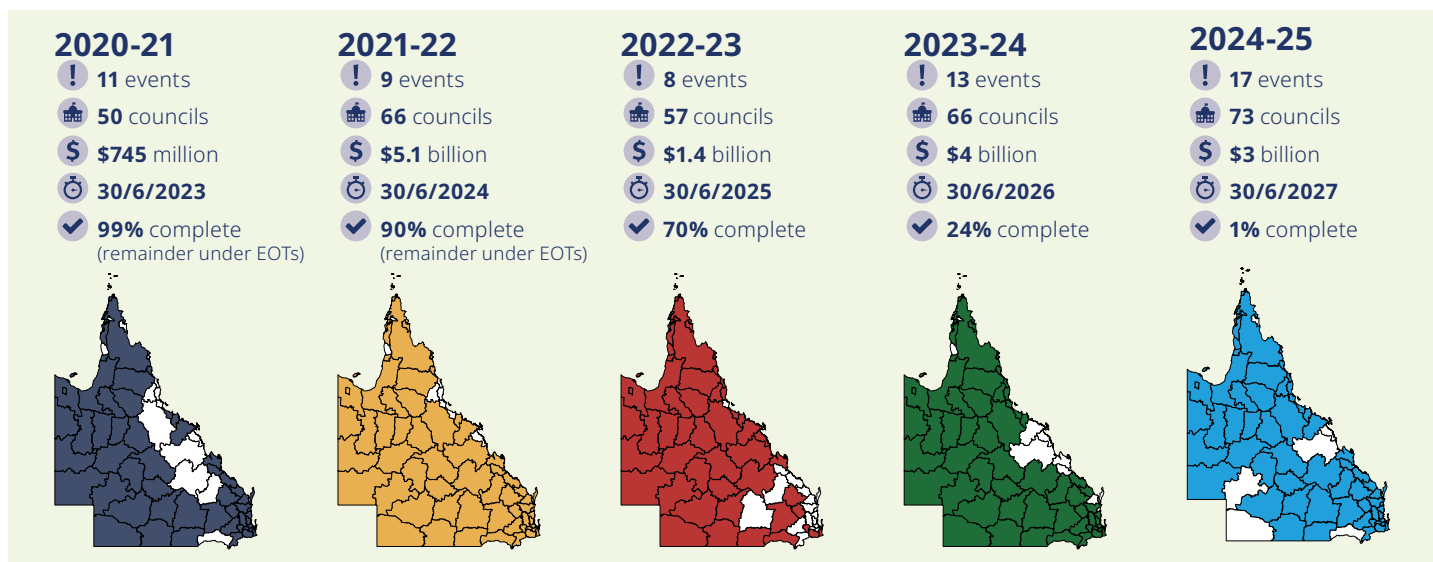
## Disaster assistance

### 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 **\$14.2 billion** arising from **58** events from the 2020-21 to 2024-25 disaster seasons in the assessment, delivery and/or acquittal phase.

### Current statewide program

**!** 58 events      **🏠** 76 councils with an active program      **\$** \$14.2 billion



The **2021** event year program has achieved 100% delivery, with the focus now on finalising program close-out.

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 \$69.5 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 2027.

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 \$13.5 million, a reconstruction program of approximately \$1.2 billion and extraordinary assistance packages of \$136.1 million that will be delivered through to December 2026.

The **2023-2024** event year program has a value of approximately **\$4 billion** from **13** events. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of \$405.8 million, resilience programs of \$443.8 million, a reconstruction program of approximately \$2.9 billion and extraordinary assistance packages worth \$455.7 million that will be delivered through to 30 September 2027.

The **2024-2025** event year program has an initial value of approximately **\$3 billion** from **17** events. The program includes immediate recovery assistance of \$207.3 million, resilience programs of \$31.3 million, reconstruction program of approximately \$2 billion and extraordinary assistance packages worth \$712.7 million. These estimates will increase as damage assessments are completed and recovery packages are developed.

## 2024-25 Disaster season activations

As of June 2025, the 2024-25 disaster season has triggered seventeen DRFA event activations across 73 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		
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	40	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	41	X	X	X	X
Lockhart River Rainfall and Flooding, 9–16 April 2025	1		X		

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

Where significant impacts are experienced because 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.

As of 30 June, more than \$712 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 : \$430,145,000	
<b>Community Relief Fund – \$8 million</b> 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 in other state-based funding sources.	<b>Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers – \$72.7 million</b> 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.
<b>Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Small Business and Not-for Profit Organisations – \$25 million</b> 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.	<b>Rural Landholder Recovery Grants – \$2.415 million</b> 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.
<b>Coordinated Emergency Fodder Support Package – \$1 million</b> Assists primary producers, and the Queensland government with the extraordinary costs of undertaking emergency livestock welfare activities.	<b>Community and Recreational Assets Recovery – \$20 million</b> Funding to repair and rebuild community and recreation facilities impacted by the event.
<b>Sport and Recreational Community Facilities Recovery – \$30 million</b> To repair and rebuild sport and recreation facilities impacted by the event.	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation – \$2 million</b> Evaluation to determine the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of the packages and incorporate design, process and outcome improvements into future package design.
<b>Environmental Recovery – \$2.1 million</b> Environmental clean up and local conservation	<b>Small Business and Tourism and Industry Support – \$26.23 million</b> Recovery programs and activities to support medium to long term recovery for small and family businesses, including support for the Tourism Industry.
<b>Primary Producer Industry Support – \$7.1 million</b> Tailored holistic support of primary producers, supporting recovery and resilience building in the areas of financial, production, personal, business and acute mental health.	<b>Community Health and Wellbeing – \$18.9 million</b> Provides individual support, community development and emotional wellbeing support, targeting vulnerable populations.
<b>Mental Health – \$9.7 million</b> Provides individual and family therapeutic interventions across the continuum of care for people that have been directly impacted by the event, mitigating mental health impacts.	<b>Betterment – \$205 million</b> The program will focus on improvements to the Bruce Highway, and key inland routes to make key arterial roads safe and secure to enable resupply to rural and regional communities.
Tropical Cyclone Alfred and Associated Severe Weather : \$95,850,000	
<b>Community Relief Fund – \$15 million</b> 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 in other state-based funding sources.	<b>Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers – \$52.5 million</b> 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.
<b>Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Small Business and Not-for Profit Organisations – \$26.25 million</b> 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.	<b>Rural Landholder Recovery Grants – \$2.1 million</b> 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.

## Western Queensland Surface Trough and Associated Rainfall and Flooding : \$186,750,000

### Community Relief Fund – \$12 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 in other state-based funding sources.

### Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Small Business and Not-for Profit Organisations – \$5.25 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.

### Coordinated Emergency Fodder Support Uplift Package – \$7 million

Uplift to the Phase 1 Category D Coordinated Emergency Fodder Support Package for Primary Producers.

### Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers – \$52.5 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.

### Coordinated Emergency Fodder Support Package – \$5 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.

### Primary Producer Exclusion Fencing program – \$105 million

Provides grants to primary producers to reinstate exclusion fencing damaged in the event.

QRA has also recently released its first Evaluation Strategy which defines roles and responsibilities for evaluation of DRFA Category C and D recovery packages and provides guidance on QRA's evaluation practices. It aims to embed a culture of evaluative thinking into package design and development.

The four Evaluation Reports completed in 2024 have been published on QRA's website and will soon be published on the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience knowledge hub website.



Reconstruction Monitoring briefing, Cairns – Operation Immanis I, June 2025

## Reconstruction monitoring

In June 2025, QRA officers conducted the final assessments on properties identified as still damaged from Tropical Cyclone (TC) Jasper, TC Kirrily and the Southern Queensland Severe Storms events of 2024. Initial assessments were also conducted on properties damaged by the 2025 summer flood event in North and Far North Queensland and SEQ residents impacted by TC Alfred.

- Between 9–13 June, assessments were undertaken for the TC Jasper and North and Far North Tropical Low events. Locations included Cairns, Mareeba, Kuranda, Port Douglas and Innisfail.
- Between 16–20 June, assessments were undertaken for the North and Far North Tropical Low events. Locations included Ingham, Cardwell and Townsville.
- Between 23–27 June, assessments were undertaken for the TC Alfred, TC Kirrily and Southern Queensland Severe Storms events. Locations include Hervey Bay and South-East Queensland.

Across the exercise, a total of 3,569 properties were visited by reconstruction monitoring teams, of which initial results indicate more than 40% have been recovered:

### TOTAL Reconstruction Monitoring conducted in June 2025

	#	%
Properties assessed	3,569	-
• no damage	1,407	41%
• minor/moderate damaged	1,801	49%
• uninhabitable	361	10%

Data specific to each event will be compiled and shared once reconstruction monitoring data is cleansed and verified.

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.

The Reconstruction Monitoring results will be 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.



QRA Reconstruction Monitoring and Hinchinbrook Community Support – Operation Immanis I, June 2025

## Recovery and 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) closed for applications on 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](mailto: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 NQRP 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>

### Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Program

The 2025-26 Queensland State Budget announced \$450 million of funding over three annual funding rounds for the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Program (QRRRP) to support high priority disaster resilience and mitigation projects, strengthening Queensland communities' resilience to natural disasters.

The QRRRP will deliver on the Government's commitment to allocate \$40 million a year towards the Queensland Betterment Fund, delivering high priority betterment infrastructure projects, including funding towards raising the Curzon Street Bridge in Rocklea and crucial flood mitigation measures in Laidley.

The QRRRP is funded jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments with \$330 million allocated from Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Efficiencies and \$120 million from the Queensland Betterment Fund.

## Hazard and Risk Funding Programs

### 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, QRA 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.

Progress on both activities continues in earnest with outcomes expected within the next 9-12 months.

### 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.

Tranches 5 and 6 are underway with delivery expected by Q2 25/26 FY. At its conclusion, well over 110,000 square kilometres of LiDAR will have been collected by this project, which is an area about half the size of the state of Victoria.

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. Over 200 projects will be delivered by this Work Package right across 39 Queensland Local Government areas impacted during the 2021/22 flood events. 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. Discussions are progressing between the Bureau of Meteorology and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority around how the project will be governed and delivered.

### 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.

As at June 2025 nearly 150 assets have been acquired by the Bureau with a further 200+ sites having their scope of works for acquisition confirmed.

## INDUSTRY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### Floodplain Management Australia Conference

QRA had a strong presence at Australia's National peak Floodplain Management Conference held in Melbourne in May. Two presentations were delivered by Vina Varsani (General Manager, Recovery and Resilience) and Jess Carey (Acting Director, Hazard and Risk) as well as a strong presence at the Trade Exhibition where discussions were held with members from Local Governments, other State/ Territory/ Federal representatives as well as those from the private consultancy and academic industries.

Vina Varsani General Manager R&R and Sam Bowstead (Department of Housing and Public Works) received a highly commended award for the 2025 Harold Sternbeck Medal from the 2025 FMA National Conference at Melbourne for their presentation entitled *Enduring Resilience for Queenslanders – The Resilient Homes Fund*.

The Harold Sternbeck Medal competition has been a longstanding tradition of the FMA Conference, recognising excellence in conference presentations. The Medal is awarded to the best presentation at the FMA Annual Conference in honour of past President Sternbeck's significant contributions to the organisation.

This prestigious competition, held annually at the FMA National Conference, aims to encourage excellence across all aspects of conference presentations. This year, Vina and Sam's presentation stood out in a field of 106 entries.



### QRA attends AFAC Lessons Management forum 2025

In May 2025, QRA attended the AFAC Lessons Management Forum event held in Wellington, New Zealand.

The forum was a hybrid event that focused on three key objectives: sharing lessons identified or learned, with priority given to lessons identified as outlined in the Lessons Management handbook; providing introductory training, workshops, and presentations to educate and empower those new to lessons management; and offering advanced sessions designed to challenge and enhance the knowledge and practices of experienced lessons management practitioners.

The Lessons Management Forum 2025 focused on:

- Lessons from the frontlines: real-world case studies in emergency management.
- From insight to action: embedding lessons management in strategic decision-making.
- Learning from failure: real-world applications of lessons learned in crisis situations.
- Leveraging AI in lessons management.
- Lessons without borders: adapting knowledge across cultures and/or borders.
- What's next? Trends shaping the future of lessons management.

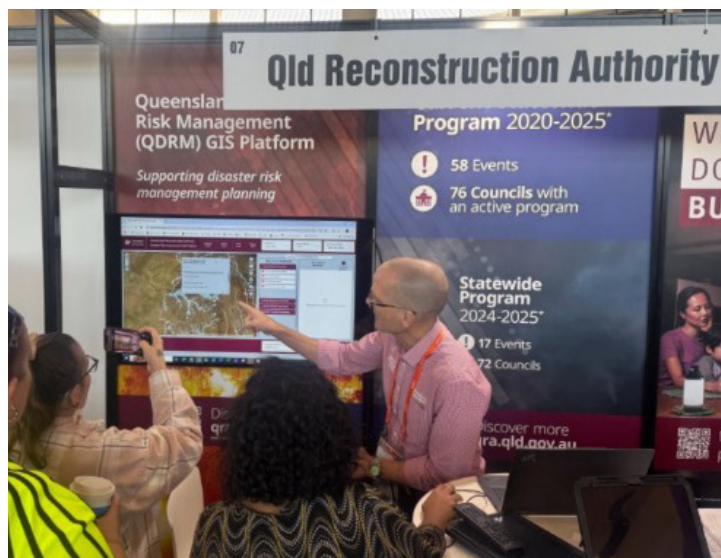
The forum walked through great examples of how to integrate lessons management in disaster management organisations, deliberately capturing observations, insights and lessons from past events. This work assists QRA ensure continuous improvement by embedding lessons learned into future operations, improving our collective preparedness and resilience for future disasters.



QRA Jimmy Scott and Georgia Mansfield, joined by Alistair Dawson, Inspection-General of Emergency Management in Wellington for the 2025 Lessons Management Forum.

## Local Government Association of Queensland, Disaster Management Conference

Officers from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority had a strong presence at the Local Government Association of Queensland, Disaster Management Conference held between the 27-29 May 2025.



Officers from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority engaging with delegates at the LGAQ Disaster Management Conference 27-29 May 2025.

QRA's presentation on "Enhancing Hazard and Risk Management for local communities", focused on the new Queensland Disaster Risk Management risk assessment methodology and tool - which aligned seamlessly with the team's display at QRA's conference booth. The presentation also covered the 2024-25 disaster season, QRA's shift from recovery efforts to resilience, as well as various initiatives including the Flood Risk Management Program, and Portals project.



QRA Jimmy Scott presenting at the LGAQ Disaster Management Conference 2025.



QRA DRM team consulting at the QRA booth at the LGAQ Disaster Management Conference 2025.

## Biosecurity Qld – Exercise Safeguard

In May, QRA attended Biosecurity Queensland's one-day multi-agency workshop and scenario training, that brought together disaster management professionals across government, NGOs, and private sector. QRA sent 3 representatives to participate in this important exercise.

Biosecurity Qld presented sessions on the threat of biohazards, including Fire Ants; Avian Influenza; Veroa Destructa; Foot and Mouth Disease and Tomato Virus. Also covered potential impacts, many of which would devastate our economy and communities, including activity restriction (tourism), removal of carcasses, animal welfare and euthanasia, human health risks, enhanced surveillance, and social impacts. The framework for biosecurity response in Queensland was also presented.

The workshop ran two scenarios, which enabled disaster management professionals to provide feedback and insight to Biosecurity Qld. Key insights included:

- Critical need for fast, coordinated, multi-agency response and funding flows
- Need to map roles and responsibilities, particularly since QDMA is bottom up and Biosecurity Qld framework is top down
- Vital need for a coordinated funding framework – DRFA is not available for biosecurity incidents, no matter the scale
- Industry/gov coordination to address supply chain
- Strong messaging to communities as well as psychosocial support
- Need for small business and tourism support, including tourism campaigns once outbreak contained

## Resilient Ready project on social capital and disaster management

Resilient Ready is a social enterprise that is leading a DRF-funded project to develop a national framework on social capital and social infrastructure (project page here.) The project lead, Professor Daniel Aldrich visited Brisbane in early June 2025 for consultations with key stakeholders, including disaster management professionals, to discuss and refine early findings from the project. One research finding is that social connectedness, rather than personal health or socio-economic status, is the stronger predictor of survival during a disaster (such as a tsunami) and of people returning to their home after a disaster.

At a workshop in early June facilitated by NEMA, Professor Aldrich (and Resilient Ready) presented the following guidance on integrating social capital into disaster management:

Generally

- Focus on connectedness when responding to disasters
- Measure social capital in recovery and resilience programming
- Build partnerships between practitioners, experts, responders

For philanthropic organisations

- Fund social infrastructure projects
- Support community-led initiatives
- Invest in relationship-building program

For not-for-profits

- Map and leverage existing social networks
- Create spaces for community connection
- Build bridging programs across diverse groups

For charitable sector leaders

- Advocate for social capital in policy discussions
- Share success stories of network-driven recovery
- Collaborate across sectors to strengthen community ties

## Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience and Queensland Recovery Plan

QRA is conducting an interim review of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2022-27 (QSDR) and an interim review of the Queensland Recovery Plan (QRP).

The focus of the reviews is:

- to reflect current machinery of government and Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements following the Inspector-General of Emergency Management's Review into the QDMA,
- to make minor amendments to simplify and clarify the intent of some actions in the QSDR, and
- to seek agency views on processes, themes or language that would benefit from review or further consideration.

QRA has been conducting engagement with relevant agencies to inform the reviews, with valuable feedback being provided to inform the mid-term and interim reviews, as well as feedback to be considered during the comprehensive review of both documents commencing in 2026. QRA is currently undertaking the final round of consultation on the proposed changes.

The documents are expected to be finalised prior to the start of the higher risk weather season.

## Update on National Committees

QRA continues to engage with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions through national committees on matters relating to resilience and recovery.

The Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) met virtually on 1 April 2025 to discuss key disaster management initiatives, with the aim to strengthen disaster resilience and response across Australia and New Zealand. Queensland's members from QRA, Queensland Police Service, and the Department of Premier and Cabinet attended.

- Members reflected on the 2024-25 Higher Risk Weather Season, focusing on cross-border challenges and lessons for future preparedness.
- NEMA provided updates on the Hazard Insurance Partnership (HIP), including the National Resilience Action Library and insights from recent disasters.
- NEMA reported on progress on the National Natural Hazards Disaster Risk Profile (the Profile).
- A Time-Limited Working Group was established to address barriers in post-disaster accommodation.
- Members recommended transitioning 16 Royal Commission recommendations into ongoing work programs.
- Strategic issues around lithium-ion battery safety and regulation were reviewed, and the National Strategic Business Case for Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) was endorsed, with a draft intergovernmental agreement to be developed by October 2025.

QRA continues to contribute to national resilience and recovery efforts through active participation in the Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-Committee (CORS), which supports ANZEMC by informing national community outcomes and recovery policies and capabilities.

CORS convened virtually on 13 May 2025, with representation from all jurisdictions, including Queensland's delegates from QRA, Queensland Police Service, and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

- Members reflected on the 2024-25 Higher Risk Weather Season, with Queensland reporting on the activation of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for the severe weather events, including three under exceptional circumstances. Cross-border resource sharing and the role of the Australian Defence Force in disaster response were key themes.
- The Social Recovery Reference Group (SRRG) provided updates on its recent meeting in Lismore, including a new research partnership on post-disaster temporary housing. Queensland supported the SRRG's review of the National Principles for Disaster Recovery and requested involvement in the working group.
- Queensland integrated the Anticipated Recovery Needs Assessment Template (ARNAT) into its existing reporting tools for the 2025 season. Feedback on the pilot is being considered by the National Emergency Management Agency.
- The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) shared updates on its strategic direction, including a review of the Community Recovery Handbook and upcoming conferences. QRA participated in the Lessons Management Forum held in Wellington and intends to attend the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference in Perth.

ANZEMC met again in Melbourne on 20 June 2025. Queensland's members from QRA, Queensland Police Service, and the Department of Premier and Cabinet attended.

- Members received updates on the HIP's consideration of the benefits of risk reduction efforts to be reflected in downwards pressure on insurance premiums.
- Members discussed establishing the National Disaster Mental Health and Wellbeing Senior Officials' Group to implement relevant frameworks.
- NEMA presented the final methodology and product for the Profile, noting state and territory calibration had finalised.

- Local government capacity building was highlighted, emphasising a collaborative national approach to strengthening emergency management capabilities.
- Members were briefed on the 2025 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, which explored best practices and the strategic landscape beyond the Sendai Framework, and on NEMA's participation in a fire management delegation to California.
- Members also discussed New Zealand's Catastrophic Planning Programme, focusing on shared impacts, resourcing, and the importance of joint planning and exercises to enhance crisis response.

## GET READY QUEENSLAND (GRQ)

Get Ready Queensland (GRQ) is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The comprehensive GRQ program includes crisis communications, campaigns, capability-building and community engagement, research, partnerships and \$2 Million funding for locally-led initiatives across Queensland's 77 councils and the Weipa Town Authority.

The GRQ vision is for a disaster-resilient Queensland where every person, community and organisation feels ready, is well-prepared, and has what they need to feel confident in the face of disasters.

## Engaging Queenslanders in preparedness, outside of disaster season

Through the severe weather events of 2024-25, Get Ready Queensland (GRQ) achieved record-breaking engagement and audience growth on their social media channels and website. GRQ has developed a new content strategy to build connections with audiences year-round, as well as enhance crisis communications messaging during severe weather events.

A key focus for the strategy is to increase awareness and preparedness during the quieter months, to encourage being prepared as being synonymous with being a Queenslanders.

The GRQ socials team have been trialling new content, including creative campaigns:

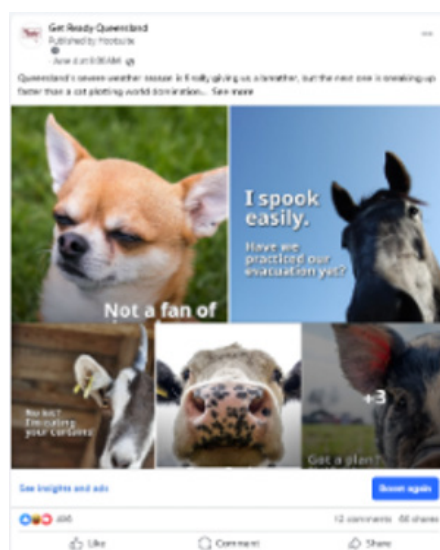
- *The Crisis Crew*, a light-hearted series giving emergency kit items personalities and cartoon-like features.
- Reminders from our pets and animals encouraging owners to include them in their household planning.
- Targeted posts at specific audiences, like renters and small businesses.

The results have been significant.

*"Jerry the Jerry Can," from the Crisis Crew, reached 17,593 users, with 910 likes.*

*A pet carousel reminding followers how they can best be prepared for severe weather reached 75,050 users.*

*A post targeting renters and property owners (after consulted with the Residential Tenancies Association), reached 26,362 users, and was shared 154 times.*



These posts not only delivered strong engagement but reinforced key preparedness behaviours, some utilising humour, whereas others were targeting specific vulnerable audience segments.

Insights from this trial will be used to inform the next phase of the GRQ content strategy and build on the content calendar for the next 18 months.

### Get Ready @Work - Helping government employees prepare for severe weather

The *Get Ready @Work* initiative is a new engagement project aimed at strengthening disaster preparedness within Queensland's public sector workforce.

The project kicked off in June with state and local government stakeholder meetings to explore how agencies can support employees to prepare for severe weather by promoting the Household Emergency Plan tool.

The online tool, launched in late 2024, has already helped over 45,000 Queensland households to *make a plan*. *Get Ready @Work* builds on this momentum by encouraging government employees to complete their own plans and share the initiative with family, friends and colleagues.

Promoting a culture of preparedness in the workplace contributes to individual wellbeing, improves response and recovery outcomes, and supports business continuity across government. The program was successfully piloted with QRA employees last year and is now being expanded with targeted outreach underway to human resource and internal communications teams across government.

Promotional resources, including workplace activation packs and internal competition tools to help organisations drive uptake, will be distributed to various Queensland Government Departments in advance of Get Ready Week in October 2025.



*Get Ready Queensland 'Weather doesn't plan, but you can' campaign image*

### Accessible and inclusive community education resources for natural hazards

The GRQ team is delivering a national project funded under the Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) package from the Commonwealth Government. The objective of the grant is to build Australian communities' disaster resilience by improving accessibility and inclusivity of key disaster information.

GRQ is creating a suite of 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.

Resources, available from early 2026, are being developed for national use across seven natural hazards: bushfires, floods, cyclones, storms, heatwaves, earthquakes, and tsunamis. A thorough and rigorous needs assessment gathered data from various sources and identified Thai, Korean, Cantonese, Arabic, Dari, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Punjabi as priority languages. Target communities were identified to inform resource formats and styles.

In May and June 16 community engagement workshops were held across Australia in Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Cairns and Melbourne with target communities. The workshops were held with all language groups, and it was consistently relayed by all communities that communication must be clear and to the point and use plain language that is easy to understand. The key take away was that the CALD community need to access to this information earlier in their immigrant journey.

The project includes a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy. The first meeting of the project Government and Sector Advisory Group was held in June and brought together more than 40 stakeholders from disaster management and multicultural programs across Australia, to discuss various topics including the promotion and distribution of the resources. At the next meeting in August we will present the first iteration of the resources.

### Get Ready Queensland's *If It's Flooded, Forget It* campaign performs strongly

*Your Car Can't Protect You From Floodwater* wrapped up at the end of March, after almost five months in market. In its second year, the campaign highlights what can happen to your car in floodwater and reminds Queenslanders that flooding can take anyone by surprise.

Post campaign research of 1000 Queensland drivers showed that the campaign continues to perform strongly in 2025 - connecting with audiences and influencing behaviour. Of note, 72% recalled at least one message from the campaign and 93% recall the initiative 'If it's flooded, forget it' (a significant increase from 2024). Eight out of ten drivers who saw the campaign reported that they now appreciate the dangers of floodwater more and are less likely to drive through flooded roads. Furthermore, most drivers have considered what they would do in a similar situation and almost two thirds have discussed the topic of driving in floodwater with their family or friends.

At a broader level, research revealed notable improvements in self-reported driving behaviour around flooded roads when compared with previous flooding events. 15% of drivers admitted driving through floodwater either intentionally or unintentionally in 24/25; a drop from 22% after 22/23 floods. Results also highlighted a decrease in social acceptance for driving through floodwater and agreement there was enough information in times of heavy rain for people to make decisions and avoid driving during times of flooding also resonated.

*Your Car Can't Protect You From Floodwater* will run for its third and final time from this November, with a new campaign scheduled for production in 2026.

### Get Ready Queensland celebrates industry recognition

The GRQ program continues to make headlines - not just in Queensland, but across the Asia-Pacific.

Get Ready's commitment to excellence in disaster communication was recognised at this year's **EMPA Australia Awards**, with the team taking home multiple accolades for their great work. The team secured first place for the State of Preparedness Report, and a *highly commended* in the Readiness and Resilience category for the *Your Car Can't Protect You From Floodwater* campaign.

And the accolades don't stop there. In May 2025, the *If It's Flooded Forget It* campaign *Your Car Can't Protect You From Floodwater* was shortlisted for the **2025 WARC Awards, Cultural Impact** category – a prestigious global recognition celebrating campaigns that shift societal norms and influence behaviour.

Ruby Sudoyo, Chief Strategy Officer at Ogilvy Indonesia and WARC Asia Pacific judge, praised the campaign for its bold approach:

*"Achieving cultural impact requires a willingness to challenge societal norms and disrupt conventional thinking. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority's If It's flooded, forget it campaign is a powerful example of this. By subverting the common perception of vehicular safety and highlighting the dangers of driving through floodwaters, the campaign challenged a deeply ingrained belief - and helped reduce risky driving behaviour."*

These awards are another nod to GRQ's life-saving impact across Queensland and position as industry leaders.



Joe Buffone, Deputy Coordinator-General NEMA congratulating Janet England, GM Strategy and Engagement and Kasey Donald, Director Marketing, Communication and Engagement at the EMPA Awards for Excellence in Communications.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### QRA broadens digital reach to help more Queenslanders

The record-breaking 2024-25 disaster season left Queenslanders reeling from more natural disasters than ever before.

From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, 17 separate natural disaster events saw 73 of Queensland's 77 local government areas activated for support under the joint Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Millions of Queenslanders were affected, particularly by the three most severe disasters: the north Queensland floods, Tropical Cyclone Alfred, and the western Queensland floods, which have left a reconstruction bill in excess of \$2.37 billion.

Adding to the burden, these three events all hit within a two-month window, impacting every corner of our state, and stretching the capacity of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to the absolute limit.

In the face of these challenges, QRA moved swiftly to activate DRFA assistance for each disaster to ensure Queenslanders received the help they needed.

This has included DRFA extraordinary assistance packages that so far total \$712 million and cover things like clean-up, Betterment, mental health, and industry support, and over \$146 million in Personal Hardship Assistance that's helped over 680,000 Queenslanders.

The scale, extent and timing of overlapping major disasters proved incredibly challenging.

Never had Queensland experienced three disasters of such magnitude in a two-month window, and with each event impacting a unique region they all resulted in differing response and recovery needs.

Keeping Queenslanders informed of the support measures available to them in response to these events was a top priority for QRA's Media team.

Success in communicating that QRA was leading the charge gave Queenslanders confidence in their preparedness actions and peace of mind that help was on the way.

As the events snowballed and support packages and announcements grew, the team drafted more than 40 unique joint DRFA media releases issued by the Queensland and Australian Governments.

Digital media, however, often proved more crucial, with Queenslanders demanding real-time, rolling advice and updates during disaster events.

QRA maintained a consistent presence on its social platforms before, during and after each disaster, and posts were tailored to the evolving needs and concerns of communities.

The intensity and activeness of the 2024-25 disaster season saw QRA and Get Ready Queensland social media and web sites breaking just as many records as the weather events themselves.

During the first quarter of 2025, QRA and Get Ready Queensland digital channels generated a combined 30.1 million views on social media and 110,000 impressions, reaching 4.2 million Queenslanders and accruing 20,000 new followers, while 1.6 million individuals visited our two websites, accounting for 6.1 million website hits.

All these numbers reflect significant spikes for QRA, with content supporting Tropical Cyclone Alfred preparedness and recovery efforts proving especially popular.

What the data also tells us is there is no such thing as being too prepared when it comes to disaster recovery communications.

Pre-drafting and approving content for both social and traditional media allowed QRA Media and Get Ready Queensland to post and make announcements at speed, in line with the fluid nature of the events and needs of community.

QRA's regional liaison officers and resilience and recovery officers were also a vital source of images, videos and on-ground intel that led to more timely and localised content, while government-generated community sentiment reporting took the guessing game out of response and recovery priorities.

Combined this saw QRA build greater recognition and trust among Queenslanders. Ultimately, more people were listening and taking action, and making better decisions because they were informed, improving overall community safety.

Just as working together in emergency management is critical for all levels of government, so too is it invaluable when it comes to disaster messaging for the public.

Working collaboratively with fellow frontline agencies, councils, and non-government stakeholders, QRA was able to raise its collective voice to talk to more Queenslanders than ever before.



QRA social media posts (such as this one featuring Get Ready Queensland Ambassador Johnathan Thurston) reached a record number of Queenslanders.



*Flooding in western Queensland saw 41 LGAs activated for DRFA*



*The North and Far North Tropical Low swamped a region that is no stranger to monsoons.*



*Tropical Cyclone Alfred brought down many trees and powerlines, leaving 500,000 customers without power.*



*The 2024-25 disaster season has left Queensland with a damage bill in excess of \$2.37 billion.*

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

**More hands make light work of flood damage at iconic Fraser Coast location**

Sunday 9 March 2025. The effects of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred are being felt throughout south-east Queensland.

Alfred crossed the Queensland coast as a tropical low just north of Brisbane, bringing with it torrential rain and damaging winds.

While the state's capital battled large-scale power outages, destructive storms were also unleashing their fury on the tourist town of Hervey Bay, about 290 kilometres north of the capital.

More than 300 millimetres of rain lashed the region in just six hours, resulting in flash flooding that swept cars off roads and forced many emergency rescues of residents trapped in their homes.

Swamped within the floodwater was Hervey Bay's Riviera Resort, a popular holiday destination and wedding venue since its arrival in 1994 as the city's first six-storey address.

All seven of the resort's buildings and its underground carpark, housing vital infrastructure, were inundated.

Without power for almost a week, the resort's 45 permanent residents, many of them retirees, were suddenly in crisis.

Fire pumps, the electrical switchboard and solar panel inverters all needed replacing, and with the elevator out of action everyone had to use the fire escapes to access their units – a difficult task for Riviera's elderly residents.

Riviera Managers Tor and Yumei acted quickly to keep residents comfortable and connected, and the resort open.

They organised power boards, torches and rechargeable LED lights for common property and fire escapes, spare batteries and a charger for the fire control panel, and a small generator to power a makeshift cafe set-up in the lobby.

They also sourced a large 25KVa generator to provide electricity to the resort's apartments and common areas.

However, with a \$10,000 weekly bill to pay for the generator, and mains power still 12 weeks away, an urgent solution was needed.

When South-East Queensland State Recovery Coordinators (SRCs) Justin O'Connor and Peter Matic visited Riviera Resort they were shocked by the damage.

SRCs assist disaster affected communities with their specific recovery needs, working with councils, businesses, industry and non-government organisations to address gaps in support and advocate for targeted recovery packages and local solutions.

"We felt compelled to help Riviera residents as soon as we saw their dire circumstances," said Justin.

The SRCs immediately called Energy Queensland CEO Peter Scott seeking urgent assistance.

Around a week later, a temporary switchboard was installed, restoring mains electricity and avoiding generator costs that could have snowballed dramatically.

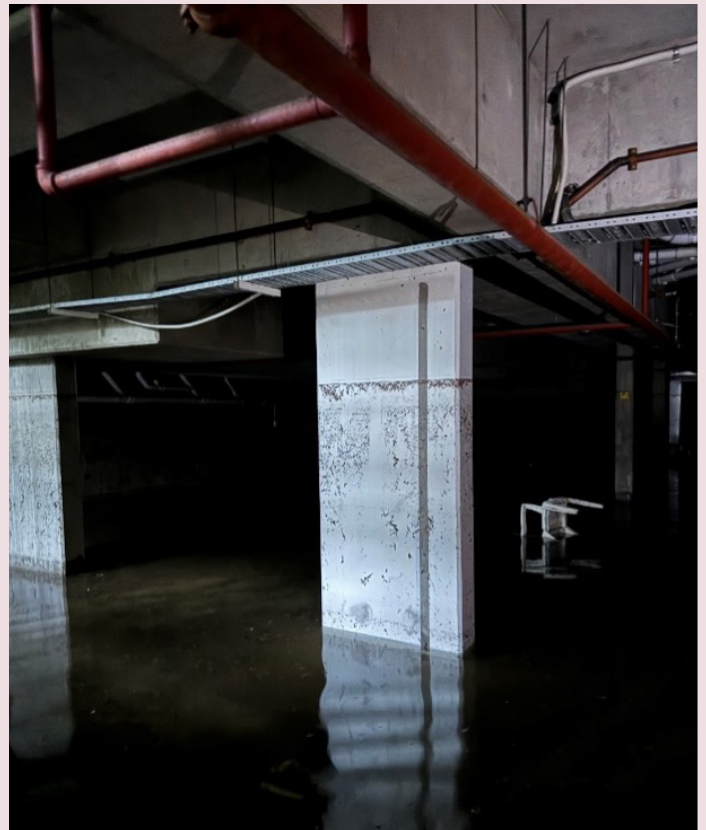
Riviera Resort Manager Tor said the quick actions of the SRCs likely saved them tens of thousands of dollars.

"Our appreciation for their magnificent efforts is enormous," said Tor.

With that major hurdle behind them, Tor and Yumei can fully focus on their road to recovery, and Riviera residents can again feel safe at home.



*More than 300 millimetres of rain in just six hours during Tropical Cyclone Alfred saw flash flooding swamp Riviera Resort in Hervey Bay*



*Floodwater that had filled the underground carpark was removed following non-stop pumping over three days and nights*



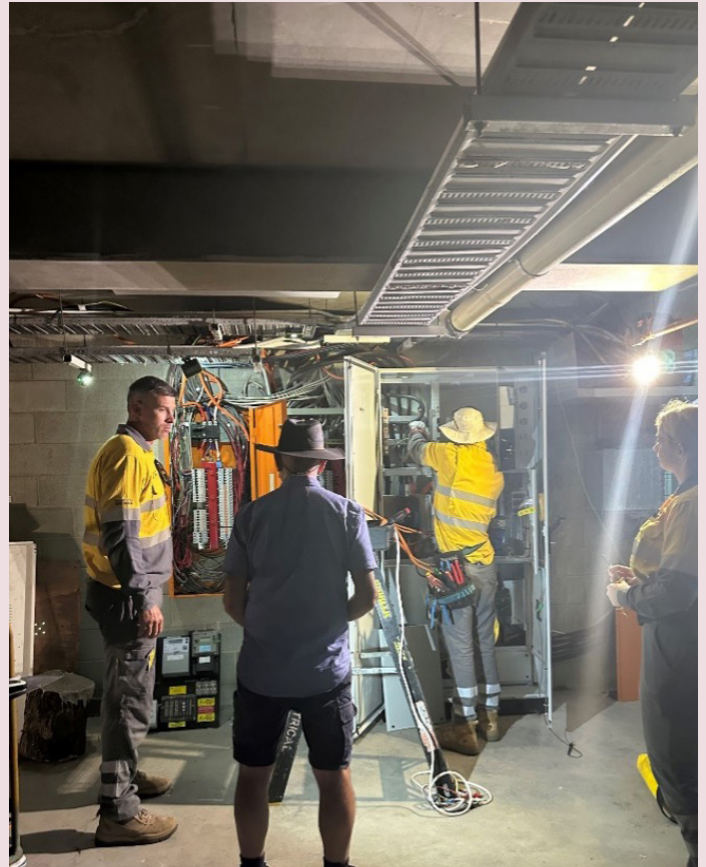
*Tor hired a small pump to remove water from the resort's elevator pit then cleaned it*



*Several alternative power supplies were also organised to light common property and fire escapes, and keep the fire control panel energised*



*SEQ State Recovery Coordinators Justin O'Connor (R) and Peter Matic (L) with Riviera Resort Managers Tor and Yumei and the 25KVa generator that provided electricity to the resort's apartments and common areas in the immediate aftermath of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.*



*Following call from the SRC to Energy Queensland, mains electricity was restored to the property after electricians installed a temporary switchboard, saving Riviera Resort tens of thousands in generator costs.*

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### Somerset's new flood resilient bridge over troubled water

The Somerset region west of Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast is one of south-east Queensland's rural gems, offering many attractions for residents and visitors alike.

Whether it's fishing, camping, bushwalking, historical sites, music festivals or more, there is plenty to do in this scenic and vibrant part of the state.

Home to major parts of the Brisbane and Stanley River catchments, Somerset is billed as a place of lakes and landscapes, but due to this topography it's also vulnerable to flooding.

From 2019 to 2025 alone, Somerset Regional Council was activated for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) support following flood events on no less than nine occasions, most recently in March 2025 in response to Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Undoubtedly the worst of these events occurred in February 2022 as part of the wide-reaching Queensland floods that inundated the south-east.

Major flooding across Somerset damaged homes, infrastructure and the environment, disrupted businesses and local agriculture operations, and tragically claimed lives.

Families in the small locality of Scrub Creek to the east of Braemore were cut off after floodwaters destroyed a 10-metre section of the low-lying concrete causeway.

Another section of the causeway was left suspended in mid-air after floodwaters washed away the material beneath it.

When it came to isolating the residents of Scrub Creek, the causeway was a serial offender.

A mere 50mm of rain in Brisbane River's upper catchment was enough to submerge the crossing.

Recognising the need to rebuild the bridge to a stronger, more resilient standard, Somerset Regional Council worked closely with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to secure Betterment funding for the new bridge.

Emergency roadworks kept Scrub Creek's residents connected while preparations were made for the new flood resilient bridge.

Construction works commenced in March 2024 and were completed in September 2024, supported by \$5.1 million in joint DRFA assistance from the Queensland and Australian Governments, and \$186,000 from council.

Raised 0.8 metres above the original causeway, the new 30-metre-long concrete bridge has improved flood resilience and reduced the time and resources needed to restore access after severe weather, offering long-term benefits for local communities and the wider region.

Already the bridge has proven a game-changer for nearby residents, remaining accessible and maintaining connectivity during heavy rains in December 2024.

That severe weather event was real-time validation of comprehensive flood modelling carried out during the bridge's design phase.

Those models showed the new bridge would ensure Scrub Creek Road remained open during rain events that previously would have cut access for days or sometimes weeks.



*This flood-prone concrete causeway over Scrub Creek in south-east Queensland's Somerset region was regularly cut in wet weather.*



*Severe flooding in February 2022 destroyed a 10-metre section of the causeway*



*The floodwaters also washed away material beneath a section of the causeway, leaving it suspended in mid-air.*



*Emergency roadworks kept Scrub Creek residents connected while preparations were made for a new flood resilient bridge to be built.*



*The new 30-metre-long concrete bridge has proven a game-changer for the local community and passed its first big test in December 2024, remaining open during heavy rains.*



*Minister for Disaster Recovery Ann Leahy was joined at the official opening of Scrub Creek Bridge on 25 February 2025 by (L to R) Federal Member for Blair Shayne Neumann, Mayor of Somerset Cr Jason Wendt, and Attorney-General and Member for Nanango Deb Frecklington*

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

**TMR overcomes challenges to upgrade Stanthorpe–Inglewood Road floodway**

Flood recovery works on Stanthorpe–Inglewood Road are now complete, after Transport and Main Roads (TMR) identified an opportunity to build resilience into the repair solution for this important southern Queensland connection route.

This road runs between the Cunningham Highway and Stanthorpe–Texas Road, connecting the small townships of Inglewood, Stanthorpe and Texas, near the Queensland/New South Wales border.

Sections of Stanthorpe–Inglewood Road suffered pavement damage, erosion and debris from the Central, Southern and Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding event in November and December 2021, and again during the Southern Queensland Severe Weather event in October and November 2022.

Between April and May 2024, pavement repairs were completed on the road at either side of the Treverton Creek culvert, while planning and design continued for repairs at the floodway site.

The reconstruction component of the works included replacing the culvert structure and 10 metres of pavement reconstruction on each side. Given the extent of culvert deterioration and frequent severe weather impacts at this site, TMR completed an options analysis to secure additional state funding to complement the flood recovery works with resilience measures.

Before reconstruction of the culverts could commence, TMR had to manage multiple challenges impacting project delivery. One of these was the requirement to accommodate fish passages. This can lead to substantial restrictions on how works are undertaken, potentially impacting construction timelines.

To add to the complexity of works in this area, a threatened vegetation community of white box-yellow box grassy woodland was discovered, plus culturally significant Indigenous scar trees and rock pitching necessitated careful planning of the temporary sidetrack, to ensure that a quarantined area would not be disturbed during works.

Throughout planning and construction, TMR engineers worked closely with cultural heritage and environmental officers to ensure that correct procedures were followed and that works accommodated any special requirements, including the installation of fish baffles – specialised structures to provide shelter and passage as fish move along the creek when flowing – to ensure the new structure met fish passage design requirements.

TMR's Cultural Heritage Officer worked closely with representatives from the Githabul people, the Traditional Owners of the area, for on-site inspections, inductions and monitoring, prior to and during the works.

Construction of a creek sidetrack commenced in July 2024 so works to the culvert could get underway. The culvert works included installing concrete batters on the slope, repairing the road embankment and replacing the existing concrete pavement with new concrete pavement. The floodway was extended from 6.4 metres to 9.6 metres in length to improve resilience by better protecting the road from water damage during flooding events.

Works at the Treverton Creek site were completed in late January 2025.

The recovery works are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). The additional resilience works were funded by the Queensland Government through TMR's Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC) program.



*Stanthorpe–Inglewood Road – inlet damage to the culvert (October 2023)*



*Representatives from the Githabul people monitoring on-site during works (July 2024)*



*Stanthorpe-Inglewood Road – culvert works in progress, with side track and barricaded environmental area (October 2024)*



*Stanthorpe-Inglewood Road – completed culvert works (January 2025)*



*Stanthorpe-Inglewood Road – facing west over Treverton Creek, prior to culvert works (August 2023)*



*Stanthorpe-Inglewood Road – pavement repair works in progress (April 2024)*



*Stanthorpe-Inglewood Road – completed pavement repair works, ready for final line marking (December 2024)*



*Stanthorpe-Inglewood Road – completed works (January 2025)*

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

**Case study – Kuranda Range Road frog monitoring uncovers two recovering species**

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is managing some of Queensland's recovering nocturnal creatures while undertaking reconstruction works on the Kennedy Highway, running from Cairns to Mareeba, known locally as Kuranda Range Road.

Kuranda Range Road is a critical link in the transportation network in Far North Queensland. The 11.5-kilometre section connects the northern Tablelands with the outskirts of the city of Cairns.

Sections of the range road were damaged by heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Jasper in December 2023. Emergency works were undertaken to maintain access, with multiple single lane closures for safety at major damage sites.

Following the completion of detailed design, reconstruction works to repair more than 30 critical upslope and downslope slips began in November 2024.

Targeted survey efforts at Streets Creek revealed two recovering frog species, *Litoria serrata* (Tapping Green-eyed Frog) listed as vulnerable and *Litoria rheocola* (Common Mist Frog) listed as endangered.

The discovery triggered the development of a Species Management Plan to ensure the reconstruction project's potential impacts are avoided or, where unavoidable, minimised. The plan has been approved by the Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

Mitigation strategies include implementing high-risk erosion and sediment control devices such as in-stream coffer-dams to prevent sedimentation or water-quality impacts, certified wash down of all machinery prior to access to site, amphibian hygiene protocols and weekly environmental audits and water quality testing.

All clearing is complete and has been restricted to the absolute minimum required to undertake the works. The timing of the works also avoids the breeding season of the Tapping Green-eyed Frog.

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



*Common Mist Frog (Source: Jack Hawkins/4 Elements)*



*Kuranda Range Road – targeted threatened frog species surveys as part of reconstruction works*



*Kuranda Range Road – targeted threatened frog species surveys as part of reconstruction works (December 2024)*