

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

# Monthly Report

May 2017

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## **Contact for Enquiries:**

*All enquiries regarding this document should be directed to:*

*Queensland Reconstruction Authority*

*Phone the call centre - **1800 110 841***

## **Mailing Address**

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

PO Box 15428

City East Q 4002

*Alternatively, contact the Queensland Reconstruction Authority by emailing [info@qldra.org.au](mailto:info@qldra.org.au)*

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*Message from the Chief Executive Officer*

Major General Richard Wilson AO (Ret'd)  
Chairman  
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Dear Major General Wilson

It is with pleasure that I present the May 2017 Monthly Report – the 75th report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

QRA was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (the Act) following the unprecedented natural disasters that struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11.

The Authority is charged with helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters through managing and coordinating the Queensland Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities and being the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy.

Since the last report, Queensland has continued with the recovery efforts following the devastating impacts of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in late March/April 2017. To date, 35 local government areas in Queensland have been activated for joint Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) assistance as a result of the event. The May report profiles how a number of NDRRA projects that have been made more resilient with funding from the 2015 Betterment fund withstood the severe weather unleashed by Cyclone Debbie and subsequent flooding. The report also highlights how the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is using innovative technology to fast-track damage collection from the event and how the cyclone impacted one of TMR's key reconstruction projects in delivery.

The May report incorporates updated NDRRA damage estimates for the 23 events from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 disaster periods that QRA is currently managing through the delivery phase, including preliminary estimates for Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and other 2017 events.

Of the estimated \$1.8 billion program of reconstruction works for the 23 events in the delivery phase, \$673 million has been approved by QRA and additional submissions worth \$125 million are being assessed by QRA or awaiting additional information. QRA is working with delivery agents to expedite the progress their preparation of submissions for the remaining program. In addition \$426 million (24%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 31 March as in progress or delivered.

The May report also provides an update on progress in other recovery, resilience and mitigation activities. The report profiles the recent launch of the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study, the most comprehensive flood study ever undertaken in Australia. The flood study maps the Brisbane River's behaviour across the four council areas of Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley in South East Queensland with outcomes expected to lead to better land use planning, mitigation and infrastructure works, community awareness and disaster response management.

I commend the report to you and recommend its release to the Minister and the public pursuant to Section 41 of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Brendan Moon  
Chief Executive Officer  
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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**Section one:**  
**Introduction**



# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) was established on 21 February 2011 under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (the Act) following the extensive series of natural disasters that impacted Queensland over the summer of 2010-11.

QRA’s mission is **to reconnect, rebuild and improve Queensland communities and its economy.**

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Government’s program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.

QRA is also the state’s lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. In this role QRA is working collaboratively with other agencies and key stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

Initially established for a two-year period, QRA was extended a number of times as its role expanded to cover historical and continuing disaster events. In June 2015, QRA was made permanent, enabling it to continue the critical work of helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

As part of its role, QRA administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works, Restoration of Essential Public Assets, Category C and Category D assistance to State Departments and Agencies (SDA) and Local Government Authorities (LGA). Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 64 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

## 1.2 Timing

The Commonwealth NDRRA Determination imposes time limits for the delivery and acquittal of works.

The Determination provides for a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works and a further nine months after the end of the financial year in which the works were completed in order to acquit the works. NDRRA funding is formally acquitted through the annual submission of a financial statement to the Commonwealth comprising claims for financial assistance in respect of state NDRRA expenditure incurred on eligible disasters in the preceding financial year (Commonwealth Claim). Lodgement of Commonwealth Claims is required to secure reimbursement of the Commonwealth’s share of eligible expenditure.

As QRA is managing a series of events that occurred across a number of financial years, QRA’s program is spread across various stages in the delivery and acquittal phases as follows:



Works for 32 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery and/or acquittal phases.

Subject to acceptance of the 2015-16 NDRRA Claim by the Commonwealth and other than a small number of projects that received extensions of time for drought-related impacts, QRA has now finalised the close out of all works up to and including the 2014 events.

On 23 March 2017, QRA submitted the 2015-16 NDRRA Claim to the Commonwealth for works completed to 30 June 2016. QRA is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to facilitate its assurance activities in order to progress the acquittal and reimbursement as soon as possible.

QRA is currently working with delivery agents to progress delivery of the 2015 and 2016 event programs and provide advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation for the more recent 2017 events, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

**Section two:**  
**Disaster Assistance**







## 2.2 Events and relief measures managed by QRA

QRA has responsibility to administer NDRRA relief measures for historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland.

Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 66 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, 34 events are complete, having been delivered, closed out and acquitted to the Commonwealth in audited claims.

Works for 23 events from the 2015 to 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery phase and completed works from a further 9 events from the 2014 event period are also in the acquittal phase<sup>1</sup>.

During April, an additional six councils were activated for *Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and associated rainfall and flooding, 28 March - 6 April 2017* event.

The figures opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2015 to 2017 event periods that are either still in delivery and/or acquittal phase.

A summary of previous events dating back to 2007 that have been managed through to acquittal by QRA is provided in Appendix B.

### 2017 events

*(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2019, with final acquittal due by March 2020)*

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and associated rainfall and flooding, 28 March - 6 April 2017
- Gulf Tropical Low, 15-24 February 2017
- Far North Queensland Low, 8-11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding, 13-20 September 2016
- Central Queensland Severe Weather, 15-20 July 2016

### 2016 events

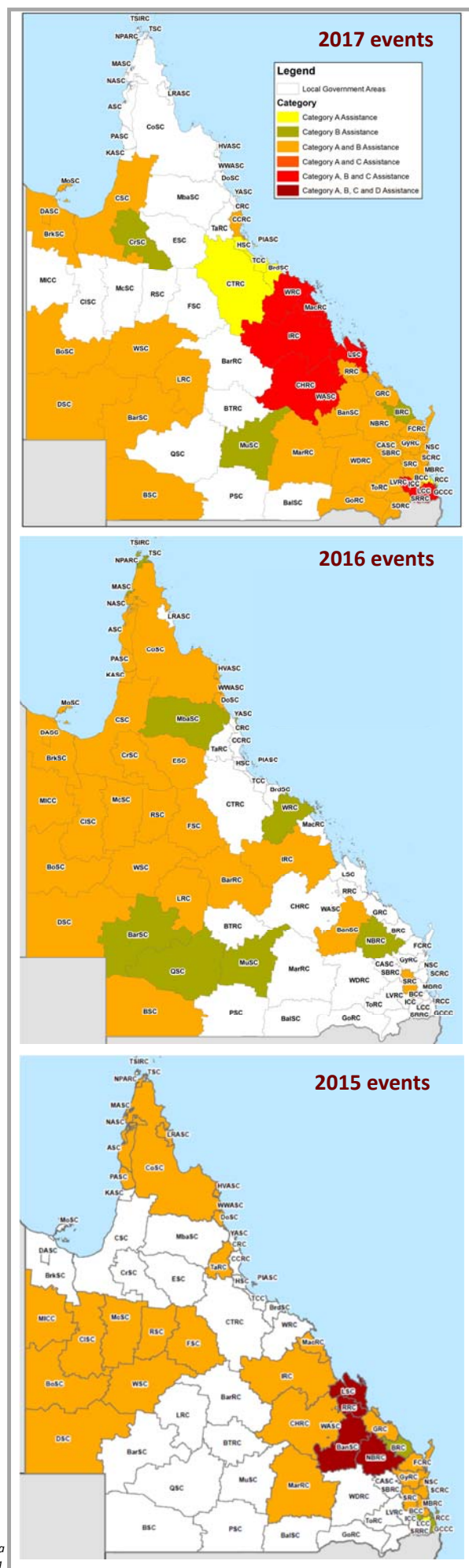
*(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2018, with final acquittal due by March 2019)*

- Central Western Queensland Flooding, 13-19 June 2016
- Far North Queensland Upper Level Trough, 21-23 May 2016
- South West Queensland Floods, 7-9 May 2016
- Far North and North West Queensland Tropical Low, 14-18 March 2016
- Western Queensland Trough, 7-11 March 2016
- Central Coast Surface Trough, 4-8 February 2016
- Central Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall & Flooding, 2-4 February 2016
- Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough – 20-31 December 2015
- Fernvale Severe Storm, 27 October 2015.

### 2015 events

*(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2017, with final acquittal due by March 2018)*

- South East Queensland Low, 30 April – 1 May 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Nathan and associated rainfall & flooding, 11-15 March 2015
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia and South East Queensland Trough - 19 to 22 February 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Lam, 15-18 February 2015
- North Queensland Severe Weather and Flooding - 8 to 15 February 2015
- Central Eastern Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding - 21 to 29 January 2015
- Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding - 5 to 18 January 2015
- Central Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding - 8 to 14 December 2014
- Brisbane Severe Thunderstorm - 27 December 2014.



1. The NDRRA Determination imposes a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works (delivery phase) and a further nine months to acquit completed works (acquittal phase) through lodgement of an annual claim to the Commonwealth. Following extension of time approvals, a number of projects from the 2013 and 2014 event period are still in delivery and acquittal phases.

**Section three:**

# **Program Status**



## 3.0 Program Status

### 3.1 NDRRA program status

QRA is currently assisting councils and delivery agents with the response and initial recovery activities following the impacts of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the associated rainfall and flooding with 35 councils activated for NDRRA assistance to date.

QRA is assisting, as required, with the damage assessments from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in order to progress the reconstruction program into delivery as soon as possible. QRA is also monitoring and assisting delivery agents with progressing their remaining programs of work from the 2015 and 2016 events through delivery.

During April, a range of exceptional measures under the NDRRA were approved by the State and Commonwealth that recognise the significant impact that Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie has had on Queensland communities, including special disaster assistance grants for primary producers, small business and not-for-profit organisations in the hardest hit regions, and a \$14.7 million Community Recovery Fund. The Community Recovery Fund will deliver support programs to individuals, and community mental health and community development programs.

QRA is also progressing the development of a proposal to be submitted to the Commonwealth for a range of NDRRA Category D special assistance measures to assist with the recovery of the most impacted communities from the effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Following intense lobbying from the Queensland state and local governments, the Commonwealth announced on 31 March 2017 a retrospective exemption allowing councils' use of internal plant and equipment on reconstruction works to be eligible. The announcement also included an extension of the day labour exemption to 2018 Events.

In other areas relevant to NDRRA, QRA is currently facilitating the Commonwealth's assurance activities in relation to the 2015-16 Claim that QRA submitted on 23 March 2017. The claim will result in an estimated \$125 million NDRRA reimbursement to the State when accepted and acquitted by the Commonwealth.

QRA is also continuing to participate in consultations with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions in relation to potential natural disaster funding reforms. The Commonwealth is investigating a model to provide natural disaster recovery funding to states and territories based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs.

#### Active program

Since the last report, QRA has updated the NDRRA damage estimates for the 23 events from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 disaster periods that it is currently managing through the delivery phase, including preliminary estimates for Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and other 2017 events.

The value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by QRA since its establishment is now estimated to be \$14.4 billion. Of this, \$12.3 billion of works from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 events have been finalised (delivered and acquitted) with the remaining works for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 event years in the active delivery and/or acquittal phases.

The QRA is managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$1.8 billion for 23 events comprising the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events (**Delivery Program**) and an **Acquittal Program** worth \$1.7 billion, principally comprising the remaining works from the 2015 to 2017 Events that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth.



Damage to State road assets by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. From top: John Muntz Causeway, Gold Coast; Pine Creek Road; Sarina Range- (Marlborough-Sarina Rd) Granite Creek Bridge (Bruce Highway)

(Source: The Authority, 30 April 2017)

### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

#### Delivery Program status

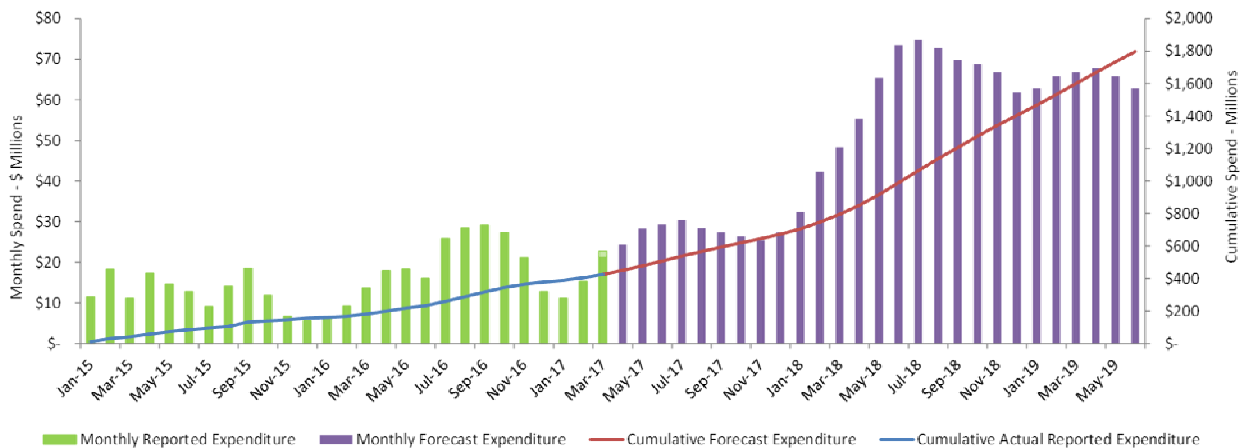
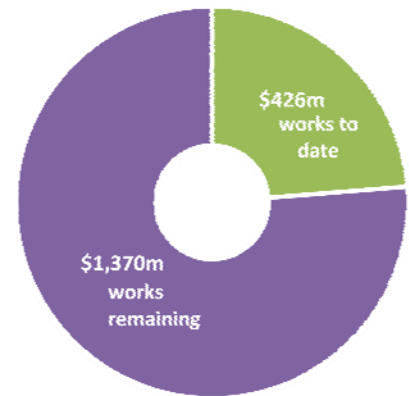
Since the last report, QRA's Delivery Program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$1.0 billion in submissions have been received, an increase of \$5 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$673 million has been approved, an increase of \$8 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$125 million are with QRA and under investigation or awaiting additional information.
- A cumulative value of \$426 million (24 per cent) of the \$1.8 billion Delivery Program has been reported to QRA at 31 March 2017 as in progress or delivered.

The graphs show monthly reported expenditure and forecast monthly costs to completion at 31 March 2017 on a combined basis for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events.

The 2015, 2016 and 2017 Event works are due for completion by 30 June 2017, 30 June 2018 and 30 June 2019 respectively.

#### Delivery Program (2015 to 2017 Events) progress

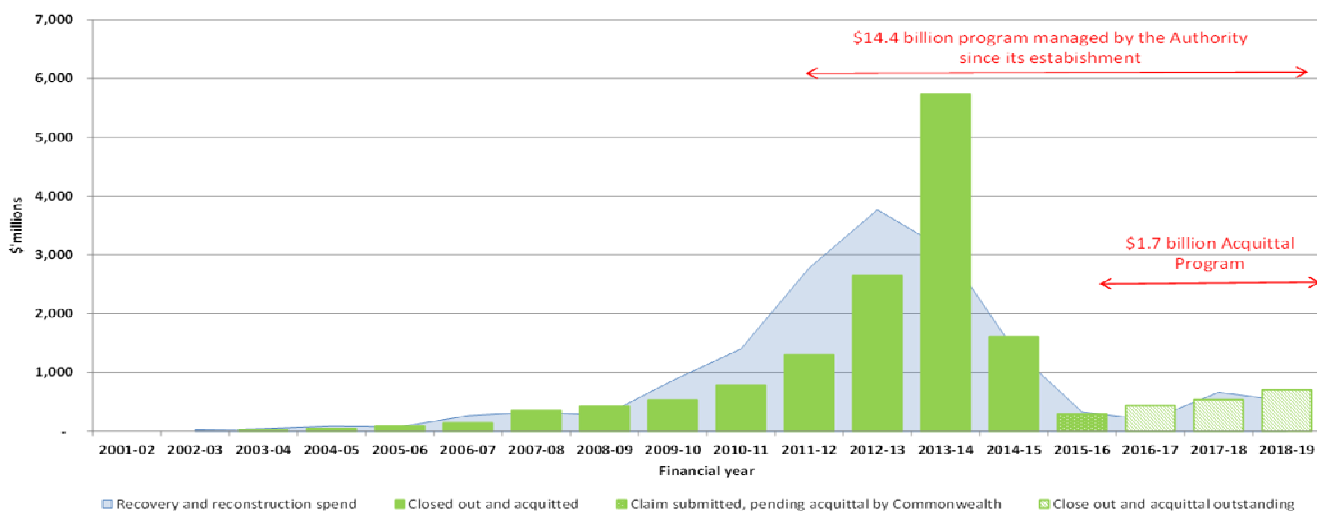


#### Acquittal Program status

The 2015-16 Commonwealth Claim, representing the State's NDRRA claim for works completed in the year to 30 June 2016 was submitted to the Commonwealth ahead of deadline on 23 March 2017. The claim includes final works from the 2014 events and components of 2015 and 2016 works completed by 30 June 2016. The claim, accompanied by an unqualified audit opinion, comprised \$292 million of State Expenditure and will result in an estimated \$125 million reimbursement when acquitted by the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth has advised that it will not pay amounts due on the 2015-16 Claim and future claims until it has completed its own assurance activities over the claim. The Commonwealth has commenced its assurance of the 2015-16 Claim but has not committed to a timeframe for completing the review. QRA is actively engaging with the Commonwealth to progress the review in order to expedite the acquittal of, and payment due on the claim.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2015-16 financial years and preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2016-17 to 2017-18 in order to finalise acquittal of the \$1.7 billion remaining in the Acquittal Program.



Source: the Authority, February 2017 NDRRA Estimates Review and 30 April 2017

### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

#### Additional NDRRA assistance measures

The State Government in conjunction with the Commonwealth have activated a range of jointly-funded Category C, Category D and other relief measures to alleviate distress due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015:

Package	Purpose	Status
<b>2015 Events Betterment Fund (\$20 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster.</li> <li>The normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard is funded under Category B NDRRA and the incremental cost to 'better' the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard is funded by a capped allocation from the Betterment fund and Council contributions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received for 190 projects across eight LGAs eligible for funding. The proposals principally comprised works to increase the resilience of damaged roads, culverts and floodways.</li> <li>To 30 April 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63 submissions with a total project value of over \$40 million, including \$20 million in Betterment funding have been approved</li> <li>54 projects with a total project value of \$21.4 million, including \$14 million Betterment funding have been reported as complete.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Key 2015 Event Betterment projects completed to date include 18 projects for NBRC, 12 projects for Somerset Regional Council and 9 projects for Rockhampton Regional Council, including Pilbeam Drive.</li> <li>Should the betterment component of a project be delivered for a cost below the capped allocation, then the savings will be returned to the Betterment fund for allocation to other eligible projects, where possible.</li> <li>Delivery of 2015 betterment works is required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements, unless any requested Extensions of Time are approved by the Commonwealth prior.</li> </ul>
<b>Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (\$6 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRA received EOIs from seven applicants for more than \$16 million</li> <li>Nine submissions worth \$6 million have been approved across the seven applicants, fully allocating the program funding.</li> <li>Key projects allocated funding include the clean-up and restoration of Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton which was severely damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia.</li> <li>Delivery of works is anticipated by 30 June 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRA received EOIs for more than \$1.7 million from three of the four LGAs eligible for funding allocation.</li> <li>Five submissions worth \$1 million have since been approved, delivered and closed out across the three applicants, fully allocating the program funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IRO program was managed by the Queensland Farmers Federation on behalf of Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)</li> <li>IRO officers are located with Growcom, Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation, AgForce and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland</li> <li>IROs have now completed delivery of a range of support activities delivered including workshops, field visits, soil testing and feed sample analysis work.</li> </ul>
<b>Category C Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone LGAs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS)</li> <li>Community wellbeing and resilience building projects undertaken by Uniting-Care at Rockhampton, Gladstone and Livingstone.</li> <li>Homesafe, self-care and domestic and family violence training held. A number of preparedness activities has been undertaken at Yeppoon Cyclone Shelter, Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village Social Group and Oak Tree Retirement Village Seniors Fair.</li> <li>Counselling services continually being offered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and those from a culturally linguistically diverse background.</li> <li>The final payment has been made on this program, which exhausts the Category C Community Recovery Package.</li> </ul>

(Source: QRA, DCCSDS and DAF; 30 April 2017)

#### Other active Category D measures

- The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to continue the **Day Labour** exemption for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 events, which enables councils to deliver restoration works with their own workforce on condition that they provide evidence of savings in both time and cost. On 31 March 2017, the Commonwealth agreed to further extend the day labour exemption to 2018 Events.

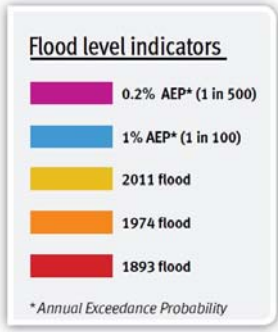
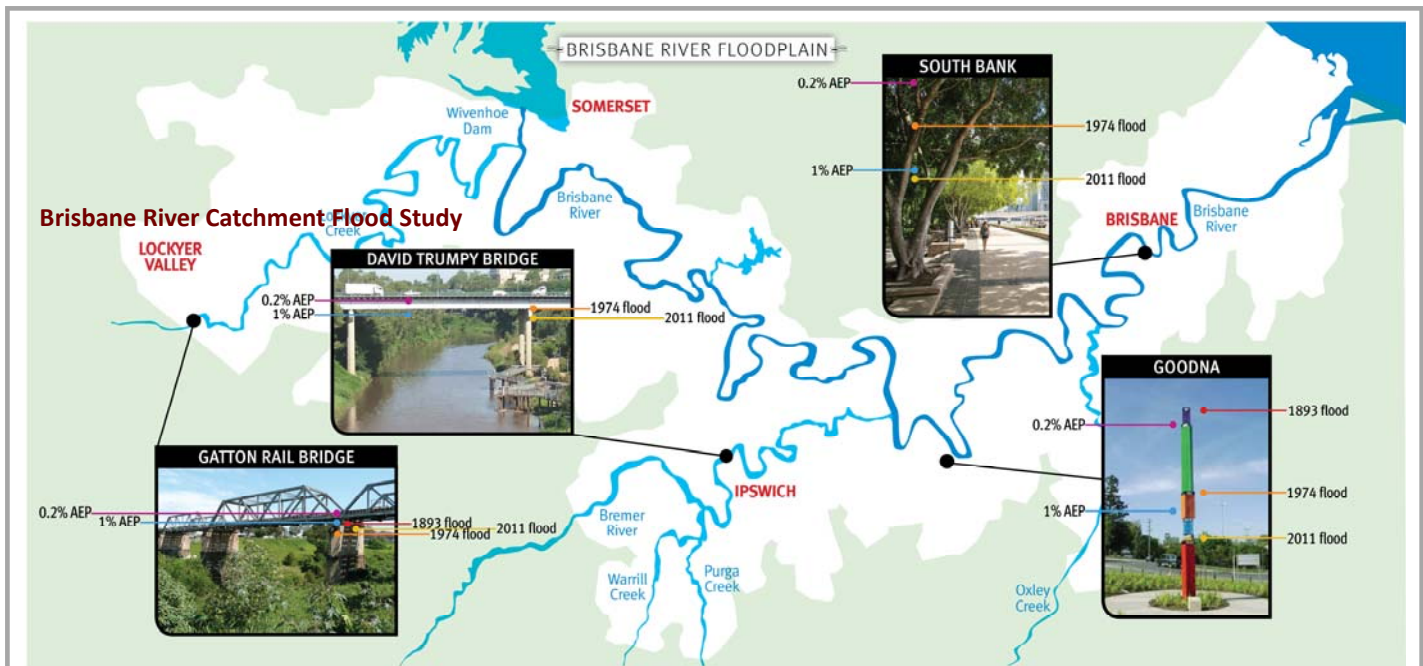
### 3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities

QRA is leading disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. A summary of recent progress is set out below:

Activity	Purpose	Status
<b>Interim Queensland Recovery Plan</b>	The Interim Queensland Recovery Plan applies to Queensland Government agencies, and informs local governments, government-owned corporations, statutory bodies representing the state, non-government organisations and other disaster recovery stakeholders of the procedures and processes employed by the state during recovery operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan was approved by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee in March 2017 and released on the Queensland Disaster Management website.</li> <li>The plan will be reviewed to incorporate learnings following the 2016-17 event year, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.</li> </ul>
<b>Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) Guide</b>	The DRC Guide provides information and guidance on the roles, responsibilities, training and induction requirements, management arrangements and operational issues relating to DRCs in Queensland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The guide is available online via the QRA and Queensland Disaster Management websites.</li> <li>QRA will maintain the DRC Register commensurate with the role of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRPPC).</li> <li>Note a State Recovery Coordinator and two Deputy Recovery Coordinators have been appointed in response to STC Debbie.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Policy Framework for Riverine Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience</b>	The policy framework is a key recommendation from the Disaster Management Reviews conducted in 2015 and will support a state-wide best practice approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft policy framework will be submitted to the Queensland Disaster Management Committee for out of session endorsement.</li> </ul>
<b>Disaster Management Reviews</b>	<p>In 2015, a series of reviews were conducted into disaster management operations following Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia.</p> <p>An Interdepartmental Committee was established to review 160 recommendations from these reviews, including KPMG's operational review of QRA.</p> <p>The QRA review identified 14 recommendations relating to operational and policy-related matters, including the need for clarity in the disaster management framework on the roles and responsibilities of the QRA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at 1 May 2017, 11 of the 14 recommendations have been completed.</li> <li>The three remaining recommendations are progressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical leadership in Commonwealth funding negotiations</li> <li>Greater role in prioritisation of disaster recovery funding</li> <li>The QRA assume stewardship for a central repository for the collection and storage of whole-of-government disaster management data.</li> </ul> </li> <li>An additional review to be conducted by IGEM on aspects of response and recovery to STC Debbie has been announced by Minister Police and Emergency Services</li> </ul>
<b>Floodplain Management</b>	QRA is developing the Queensland Flood Resilience Program (QFRP) to support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The QFRP is a proposed program to facilitate delivery of improved flood risk management solutions across Queensland through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the development of catchment-scale flood risk management strategies; and</li> <li>approaches for capturing critical infrastructure and building data across Queensland.</li> </ul> </li> <li>It is proposed to undertake a Pilot Program in the Burnett River catchment to test technical methodologies and assess the suitability of the program for full state-wide rollout. Project planning and scoping is underway, including how the QFRP may support other initiatives and projects.</li> <li>Preliminary officer-level discussions have occurred with Bundaberg Regional Council to provide feedback on the proposed approach.</li> <li>The pilot is on track to be rolled out with a 6 to 8 month timeframe.</li> <li>Options for the program will be developed in conjunction with the Queensland Flood Resilience Coordination Committee, which includes LGAQ.</li> <li>Further consultation is also proposed with the Wide Bay Burnett Organisation of Councils as the representative body for the catchment.</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities (continued)

Activity	Purpose	Status
<b>Brisbane River Catchment Studies</b>	<p>The Queensland Government and local councils are working together on a long-term plan to manage the impact of future floods and enhance community safety and resilience in the Brisbane River floodplain.</p> <p>The project includes development of a Flood Study followed by a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan that will guide a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Flood Study is complete and is now available to the public following its launch on 5 May 2017.</li> <li>• The Flood Study supports the development of a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan, which is underway and scheduled for completion in December 2017.</li> <li>• A profile of the recent public launch of the Flood Study is provided on the following page.</li> </ul>
<b>Flood Warning Gauge Network Project</b>	<p>QRA continues to ensure that the Bureau of Meteorology (the BOM) has the best available information for providing flood warnings and forecasts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The QRA continues to implement collaborative approaches to support Local Councils ensure that flood warning infrastructure is appropriate, by engaging with Local Councils, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the BOM and gauge owners across the state.</li> <li>• Draft Flood Gauge Network Investment Plans have been developed for 38 priority LGAs identified in an initial statewide review as having high priority communities requiring a more detailed review of flood warning infrastructure. The QRA is working with these councils and the BOM to finalise the draft plans by mid 2017.</li> <li>• Draft plans are planned to be developed with the remaining LGAs during 2017.</li> </ul>



Above: Map of the Brisbane River floodplain highlighting the peak levels for a variety of AEP floods as compared to the 1893, 1974 and 2011 flood events. The Flood Study shows that for a 1% AEP flood event, some areas throughout the floodplain may experience higher or lower flood levels than experienced in 2011 and 1974.

### 3.3 Program spotlights

#### Queensland Reconstruction Authority Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study Public Release

On Friday 5 May 2017, Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning Jackie Trad publicly released the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study.

Speaking at the Ecosciences Precinct at Dutton Park, Deputy Premier Trad said the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study was the most comprehensive study ever undertaken in Australia.

“The Flood Study incorporates 170 years of historical rainfall data, investigated 11,340 scenarios that influence flooding and 50,000 computer simulations,” Ms Trad said. “It covers more than 13,500 square kilometres and provides us with a greater understanding of the Brisbane River’s behaviour across the four council areas of Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley in South East Queensland.

“Prior to this study, there was no single flood model that provided a common and consistent basis for land-use planning, disaster management and building community resilience in Queensland.

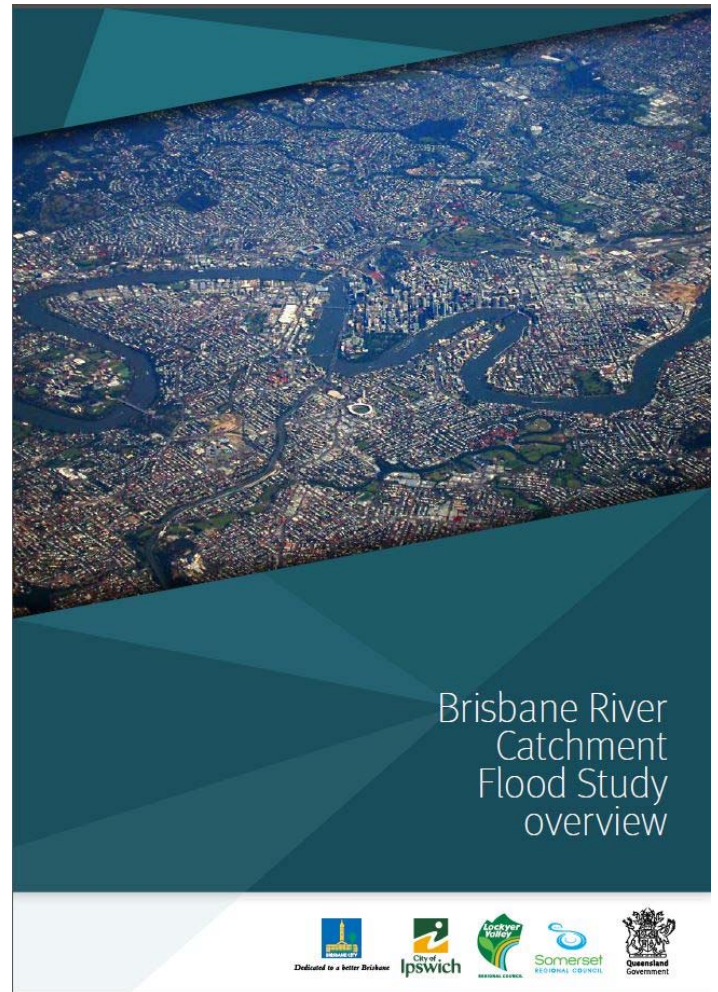
“The Flood Study provides the Queensland Government and local governments with reliable information about flood behaviour and will be used to prepare and respond to a variety of flood events that may occur in the future,” she said.

The Flood Study was recommended by the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry and focuses on ‘regional’ scale riverine flooding, rather than local creek flooding. The flood models developed as a result of the study have been verified against five historical flood events in 1974, 1996, 1999, 2011 and 2013 and endorsed by an independent panel of experts.

Development of the Flood Study and modelling was undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) acting as overall program manager. QRA Chief Executive Officer Brendan Moon said the release of the Flood Study marked a significant milestone for the organisation.

“I’d like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study team, who have worked tirelessly to deliver this landmark project,” Mr Moon said. “Information from the Flood Study will now be used in the development of a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan that will focus on how we can prepare for, and manage, a range of possible flood events with greater efficiency and coordination across the Brisbane River floodplain,” he said.

Outcomes from the Flood Study will lead to better land use planning, mitigation and infrastructure works, community awareness and disaster response management.



From left to right: Mark Babister from the Independent Panel of Experts, Somerset Regional Council Mayor Graeme Lehmann, Lockyer Valley Regional Council Mayor Tanya Milligan, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, Ipswich City Council Mayor Paul Pisasale and Queensland Reconstruction Authority CEO Brendan Moon



### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### 2015 Betterment Projects Withstand Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie

The \$20 million 2015 Queensland Betterment Fund has undergone its first test with Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

The fund, which was established after Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015, allows impacted local governments to rebuild their damaged essential public assets with the resilience to withstand future natural disasters. The Betterment Fund is jointly funded by the state and federal governments under NDRRA Category D for extraordinary disaster assistance. Prior to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in late March and early April 2017, 47 of the 63 projects were complete.

These projects principally comprised works to increase the resilience of roads, culverts and floodways, as well as a water treatment plant damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

Overall, the 2015 Betterment projects stood up well to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Inspections to assess the impacts on these projects are ongoing but early reports indicate 39 of the delivered projects have completely withstood the effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

While it's not unreasonable to expect some level of damage, only a few of the projects, such as Rockhampton Regional Council's Pilbeam Drive, have suffered some minor damage.

However, thanks to the Betterment project that saw the road rebuilt in 2016 with upgraded drainage infrastructure and widened shoulders, the damage this time is easily repaired and the road is open. After Tropical Cyclone Marcia, the road was closed for six days and access was restricted for nearly two years.

Other projects, such as Gladstone Regional Council's project for Norton Bridge in the Boyne Valley have emerged without a scratch, with only a small amount of debris caught in the guardrails.

QRA is working closely with impacted local governments to assess damage from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and develop comprehensive Local Recovery Plans to provide a road-map to recovery. The resilience of projects already improved by Betterment makes this mammoth task a little bit easier.

QRA is currently preparing a new proposal for a Betterment Fund to be established in the wake of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. It is hoped the lessons learned from Tropical Cyclone Marcia will continue the important work of making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.



Above: damage to Pilbeam Drive following Cyclone Marcia in 2015 (top); following Betterment works to make the road more resilient (middle); and following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, the site has suffered minor landslip damage only (bottom).

Left: Damage to the approaches of Gladstone's Norton Bridge after Cyclone Marcia in 2015 (far left); and following Betterment works, the bridge and its approaches are unaffected by Cyclone Debbie (right).

### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### TMR

#### Radar App provides real-time disaster reports in TMR first

More than 1900 reports have been uploaded in the Recording Asset Damage and Restoration (RADAR) damage capture application since the onset of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, providing Transport and Main Roads (TMR) with real-time information about disaster damage to the state-controlled road network for the first time.

The RADAR app was developed to enable TMR to collect mandatory photo evidence with GPS data, which is required to prove the eligibility of disaster recovery works under the NDRRA.

Deputy Director-General (Infrastructure Management and Delivery) Miles Vass said TMR was embracing innovation in disaster management in order to expedite the collection of damage evidence, ultimately speeding the recovery process for the community.

“Collecting damage evidence is a critical part of the NDRRA process, as it is used to substantiate our claims for funding the repairs,” Miles said. “We have approximately 100 users from TMR and local councils currently taking photos and collecting other damage evidence, with another 350 users ready to join the task.

“Feedback from users so far is that the RADAR mobile app is helping them collect information more quickly and easily in the field. Having photos and other data automatically saved in the damage capture platform has eliminated the previous process of having to travel back to the office, manually enter data into a spreadsheet and download photos from a camera.” The RADAR desktop component enables damage evidence to be downloaded instantly and progressively assessed for eligibility back in the office.

“This enables our staff to store, manage and report photos in a submission-ready format, which will result in significant time savings,” Miles said. “We anticipate this will expedite the submission preparation, review and lodgement process, ultimately allowing works to commence earlier to restore the road network, and reducing the risk of ineligible works.”



*TMR crew pothole patching and updating RADAR in Fitzroy District*

#### TMR

#### Progress update - Burnett River Bridge replacement



Works to replace the Burnett River Bridge between Monto and Eidsvold are continuing despite impacts from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

The bridge, previously located on Monto–Mount Perry Road about 6km south-east of the Burnett Highway, was washed away by floodwaters associated with Tropical Cyclone Marcia in February 2015.

Eligible works will be funded under the NDRRA with additional complementary state funding allocated to improving flood immunity and safety for motorists, with the road and new bridge realigned to reduce the curvature of the bridge approaches and improve visibility for motorists.

Construction activities at the project site commenced in September 2016 with a temporary river crossing constructed to maintain access across the Burnett River until the bridge is opened to traffic.

Rainfall from ex-Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie caused the sidetrack to be inundated with water for several days and Monto–Mount Perry Road was closed as a result. The Burnett River rose to about two metres below the new bridge deck, however the new bridge structure has not incurred any physical damage.

Construction works recommenced on 3 April 2017 with the placement of bridge kerbing, rail installation and deck preparation for surfacing. The western approaches have been sealed and crews are working on the eastern approaches.

The Burnett River Bridge replacement remains scheduled for completion in the first half of 2017, within the NDRRA funding timeframe.



*Above: Burnett River Bridge – ex-STC Debbie flooding of sidetrack and in Burnett River*

## **Section four: Communications**



## 4.0 Communications

QRA is focused on building stakeholder confidence in the reconstruction by ensuring consistent and regular communication of public information.

### 4.1 Communicating progress

#### Media analysis

There was extensive media coverage for regions impacted by Tropical Cyclone Debbie including articles in The Age, Albert and Logan News, Atherton Tablelander, The Australian, Australian Financial Review, Barcoo Independent, Bayside Star, Beaudesert Times, Bowen Independent, Bribe Weekly, Bundaberg Guardian, Burdekin Advocate, Bush Telegraph Biloela, Caboolture News, Cairns Post, Canungra Times, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Queensland News, Central Telegraph, Chinchilla News and Murilla Advertiser, Clifton Courier, Coolum Advertiser, The Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Warwick Daily News, Fassifern Guardian, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone News Weekly, Gladstone Observer, Glasshouse Country News, Gold Coast Bulletin, Gold Coast Sun, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, Hervey Bay City Independent, High Country Herald, Hinterland Times, Innisfail Advocate, Ipswich Advertiser, Jimboomba Times, Laidley Plainland Leader, Longreach Leader, MacIntyre Gazette, Maryborough Herald, Mackay and Sarina Midweek, Moreton Border News, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Noosa News, Noosa Today, North Queensland Register, North West Star, Charters Towers Northern Miner, On Our Selection News, Pine Rivers Press, Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette, Queensland Country Life, Queensland Times, Redcliffe and Bayside Herald, Redland City Bulletin, Rural Weekly, South Burnett Times, South East Advertiser, Southern Free Times, Stanthorpe Border Post, Sun Herald, Sunday Age, Sunday Mail, Sunshine Coast Daily, Sydney Morning Herald, Tablelands Advertiser, Tamborine Mountain News, Tamborine Times, The Saturday Age, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin, Weekend Australian, Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, Weekend Post, Western cape Bulletin, Western Star, Whitsunday Guardian, Whitsunday Times and the Wynnum Herald; Internet coverage at ABC Online, balonnebeacon.com.au, blackwaterherald.com.au, brisbanetimes.com.au, couriermail.com.au, cairnspost.com.au, dailymercury.com.au, frasercoastchronicle.com.au, gladstoneobserver.com.au, goldcoastbulletin.com.au, gympietimes.com.au, themorningbulletin.com.au, news-mail.com.au, queenslandtimes.com.au, sunshinecoastdaily.com.au, theaustralian.com.au, toowoombachronicle.com.au, townesvillbulletin.com.au and warwickdailynews.com.au; TV coverage on ABC News 24, Sky News, Channels Seven, Nine, WIN and Ten networks throughout the State as well as nationally; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, ABC Radio National, Sunshine FM, 2DAY FM Sydney, 97.3 Brisbane, 4BC Brisbane, 4BU Bundaberg, Gold FM Gold Coast, hit FM (Cairns, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Gold Coast), Hot FM (Maroochydore, Sunshine Coast) MIX FM Sunshine Coast, NOVA Brisbane, River FM Ipswich, SEA FM Sunshine Coast, 4TO Townsville, 4WK Toowoomba, Triple M (Brisbane, Sydney, Darling Downs, Mackay, and Zinc FM Sunshine Coast.

Making news in April 2017 was activation of NDRRA relief measures as a result of the devastating impact of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. There was extensive ongoing coverage across all media of the cyclone's impact on communities throughout the state and the response from all levels of government.

Also making news in April was the Commonwealth Government's decision to allow local governments the use of their own plant and equipment and day labour for reconstruction works, with mentions on ABC radio and in the Longreach Leader.

There has been a total of 1,449 media items in March 2017 (511 print – 35%, 373 TV – 26%, 498 radio – 34%, 67 online – 4%), which reached a cumulative audience of approximately 91.9 million people.

#### Engagement Activities

On 3 April 2017, **Deputy Premier Jackie Trad** joined State Recovery Coordinator **Brigadier Christopher Field AM CSC** in the Whitsundays to inspect the damage from STC Debbie and visit the Community Recovery Hubs at Cannonvale and Airlie Beach.

On 4 April 2017, Deputy Premier Trad and Brigadier Field inspected flood damage in Logan and the Scenic Rim.

On 14 April 2017, **Minister for Rural Economic Development Bill Byrne** announced exceptional circumstances grants of up to \$25,000 under Category C of the NDRRA for primary producers and small businesses in the local government areas of Logan, Mackay, Scenic Rim and Whitsunday, and parts of Central Highlands, Gold Coast, Isaac, Livingstone, and Wooralinda to assist with their clean-up and recovery costs.

On 27 April 2017, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Queensland **Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk** announced additional disaster assistance for communities affected by STC Debbie with a \$14.7 million Community Recovery Fund to be established under Category C of the NDRRA.

## 4.1 Communicating progress (Cont.)

### Communications

QRA keeps its stakeholders and the community informed and ensures access to the latest information regarding the reconstruction effort through its website, phone hotline and management of correspondence.

QRA's website is regularly updated, including information about progress on Betterment projects and current recovery efforts. There has been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 30 April 2017, total website visits amounted to 523,666 (See Figure 5.1.1). In April, QRA received an additional 218 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 133 pieces of written correspondence (See Figure 5.1.2).

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

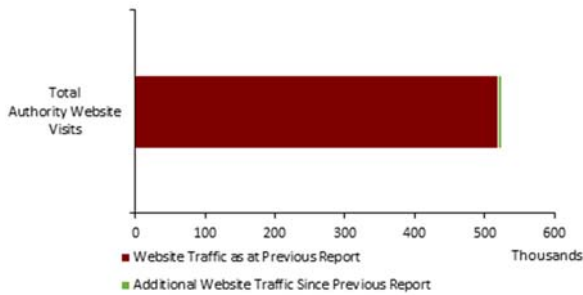
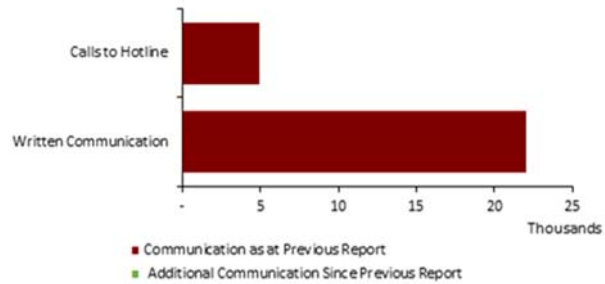


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



## 4.2 Media reports

17 April—Morning Bulletin

### Support for inland towns after TC Debbie

DEPUTY Premier Jackie Trad gained a first-hand understanding of the Central Highlands' Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA)-funded projects while touring the region last week.

Ms Trad joined Assistant Minister for Transport Glenn Butcher, Central Highlands Mayor Kerry Hayes and other senior government representatives in Emerald on Thursday to visit NDRRA-funded flood-mitigation work sites on the Nogoa River.

Cr Hayes said he was grateful the ministers were

able to visit the region following the TC Debbie disaster and discuss the current disaster recovery coordination effort.

"It's important that the government understands the needs of the inland councils following the TC Debbie disaster," Cr Hayes said. "We were able to provide a comprehensive update on the situation in the east of our region post-flood. "I was able to give assurance that we'd flown over the area; visited property owners to conduct welfare checks; and appointed Glenn Bell as the disaster recovery

coordinator." The visit comes after Central Highlands Regional Council early last week voted not to proceed with levees in Emerald.

"We were able to discuss and demonstrate the flood mitigation works council has completed, what it intends to do and what funding we will be seeking — all while actually standing next to the Nogoa River and looking at the Vince Lester bridge. It was certainly easy to visualise the Capricorn Highway as a major evacuation route given a flood situation," Cr Hayes said.



PROGRESS UPDATE: Cr Megan Daniels, Cr Paul Bell, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, Assistant Minister Glenn Butcher and Mayor Kerry Hayes inspect the completed Nogoa River excavation works. PHOTO: HAYDEN THOMSON CHRC

### In brief

#### HARDSHIP PAYMENTS

More than 60,000 grants have been paid out to Queenslanders in need following Tropical Cyclone Debbie, totalling more than \$24.2 million, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said on Wednesday. The payments — under the joint Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) — help cover the cost of essential items such as food, clothing, medicine and accommodation. The Immediate Hardship Payments are \$180 per person, or up to \$900 for a family of five or more.

28 April – Bowen Independent

### RAPAD councils to recoup nearly \$4 million with changes to NDRRA rules

CYCLONE Debbie had brought a ray of sunshine to western Queensland councils with the federal government reversing its stand on councils using their own plant to clean up after natural disasters.

The decision had left 35 Queensland councils out of pocket to the tune of \$7.5 million after rebuilding public assets following the floods and storms of 2013 and 2014.

Some of those same councils are currently cleaning up in the aftermath of Cyclone Debbie.

On March 31 Justice Minister Michael Keenan announced that in the wake of Cyclone Debbie the government had agreed to reimburse eligible councils for use of their own plant and equipment when rebuilding damaged public assets such as roads, including graders, bulldozers and excavators.

Music to the ears of western councils that local governments are now able to claim the plant and equipment ownership cost for past National Disaster and Relief Arrangements (NDRRA) declared events dating back to 2013-14 as well as for events declared in the 2017-18 financial year.

"Barcoo Shire was owed \$1.1million from the 2013-14 floods, which imposed a huge financial burden on council finances and its ability to replace plant and equipment as it reached the end of its useful life," mayor Bruce Scott said.

Winton chief executive officer Alan Rayment said, there was "in excess of \$1 million that we couldn't recoup on plant hire," he said.

"It's always been council's objective to sustain its own workforce."

Diamantina Shire Council would be

able to claim \$780,000 from the last flood in 2015-16, mayor Geoff Morton said.

"This will make a huge difference to our budget," he said.

"We won't have to find \$780,000.

"It will go in as revenue so our bottom line will look better."

Longreach mayor Ed Warren said council could claim \$43,000 while Barcoo CEO Des Howard said he "wouldn't like to guess but council is owed some".

Mark Jamieson, president of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), said the decision had taken two years of advocacy with the councils and the LGAQ.

"I am very pleased that the government has seen sense on this issue and thrown its support behind councils using a cost-effective solution to undertake vital reconstruction work within Queensland communities," Mr Jamieson said.

Some of the state's smallest councils stood to benefit most from the decision.

"I pay tribute to councils like Barcoo Shire and Mayor Bruce Scott as well as organisations like Central West Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) who stood shoulder to shoulder with us during this process," he said.

Mr Scott said he would be writing to tell Minister Keenan the huge benefits his decision would have for Barcoo Shire and other remote communities.

He thanked the State government for continuing to pay its 25 percent share of the NDRRA direct to local councils.

"Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, in particular, as well as her department, has been solid in their support of Local Government in this issue," he said.

7 April—Longreach Leader

## Govt flood assistance

South Burnett eligible for disaster relief

Katherine Morris

FLOOD recovery assistance is now available to South Burnett residents.

The Natural Disaster and Relief and Recovery Arrangements have been extended to include the South Burnett region to assist communities impacted by flooding in the wake of ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud said he had been in contact with his colleagues to make sure impacted communities in Maranoa are able to access support.

"Justice Minister Michael Keenan has just announced additional disaster assistance, in response to Tropical Cyclone Debbie, has been further extended to

the South Burnett," Mr Littleproud said.

"Funding to assist the South Burnett Regional Council to undertake counter disaster operations, clean-up assistance and assistance to restore damaged community infrastructure is now available.

"Widespread flooding has caused damage to our roads and agricultural sector and the NDRRA is an important mechanism to help affected communities get back on their feet.

"If you, or someone you know, needs assistance, please reach out and ask for help. You're not on your

own."

The NDRRA assistance is jointly-funded by the Federal and Queensland governments.

The Federal and Queensland governments are continuing to work together to ensure that communities and their local councils receive the support and assistance they need to recover.

For more disaster assistance go to [disasterassist.gov.au](http://disasterassist.gov.au) or [disaster.qld.gov.au](http://disaster.qld.gov.au).

7 April – South Burnett Times

Source: QRA at 30 April 2017

4.2 Media reports

# Ross gets a Premier farm visit

Category C help a must

**Joel Gould**  
joel.gould@qld.com.au

HARRISVILLE dairy farmer Ross McInnes has shown Premier Anastasia Palaszczuk up to \$80,000 worth of damage to his property due to the April floods.

The Scenic Rim primary producer is one of many eligible for up to \$25,000 in recovery grants under Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) Category C assistance.

Agriculture Minister Bill Byrne also toured Mr McInnes' property on Wednesday.

Mr Byrne said on Thursday that the State Government had provided required business cases for recovery grants to the Commonwealth Government on behalf of eligible, impacted flood-impacted primary producers throughout the state that were impacted by Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

"It was the third major flood for us in six years but not as bad as the damage in 2011 and 2013," Mr McInnes said.

"The levels weren't up as high – but we lost some levee banks and soy beans, lucerne and corn crops. Between electric and barbed wire fencing, we have to repair 6-km worth of fencing to make it cattle proof again.

"I have conservatively estimated that we probably lost \$60,000 to \$80,000 in the flood. The Premier believes the Commonwealth is dragging the chain and there is certainly an impasse between the State and Federal governments about the progress of the disaster relief applications.

"It was good to see her and the Agriculture Minister Bill Byrne and show them the damage first-hand and thank them for their support in pursuing our case for Category C disaster relief for impacted primary producers.

"Category B (assistance) has come through, but I urge all sections of government to facilitate and fast track the progress of the (Category C) applications.

Mr Byrne has urged the Federal Government to not let the Category C grants get bogged down in red tape.

"The Commonwealth's current approach risks

Category C assistance locations announced

GRANTS

GOVERNMENT assistance has been opened up for primary producers impacted by tropical cyclone Debbie, and her aftermath.

Category C assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) to affected communities within the local government areas of Logan, Mackay, Scenic Rim and Whitsunday, and parts of Central Highlands, Gold Coast, Isaac, Livingstone, and Winton.

The Category C allows for recovery grants of up to \$25,000 for impacted landholders.

Queensland Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Mark Ryan said he hoped to see the grants utilised.

"Not only is it a terrifying experience to have to live through a cyclone or significant flooding, then there is the devastation of seeing your community torn apart," Mr Ryan said.

"This assistance will ensure affected primary producers can get back on their feet as quickly as possible."

Information about the grants can be found on the Australian Government's Disaster Assist website and the Queensland Government's Disaster Management website.

leaving vulnerable communities, still taking stock, behind," he said.

"However, despite the request just two days ago to relax its restrictions in this instance, the Turnbull Government prefers to leave our farmers and small business operators waiting while we jump through their hoops and reams of paperwork to tick its boxes."

**"I thank them for their support in pursuing our case for Category C disaster relief"**

— Ross McInnes



Mr Byrne and Agriculture Minister Bill Byrne visit the property of Ross McInnes in Scenic Rim.

BUSINESSES, organisations, and farmers affected by Cyclone Debbie have a number of disaster relief assistance available to help get them back up on their feet.

These include:

- Natural Disaster Assistance (Concessional Loans) for Small Business**

- Loans are available for re-establishing the viable operation of the business including by repairing or replacing damaged plant and equipment, repairing or replacing buildings, supplying stock for up to one month to replace lost stock and maintaining the liquidity of the business.
- A small business is a business that employs less than 20 full-time equivalent staff.
- The maximum loan amount is \$250,000 for any one eligible disaster for which the NDRRA has been activated.
- A maximum initial repayment term of seven years applies.

- Essential Working Capital Loans Scheme for Small Business**

- Concessional loans to small businesses who have suffered a significant loss of income as a consequence of an eligible disaster.
- The purpose of assistance under this scheme is to assist in meeting the needs of small businesses that have suffered a significant loss of income as a consequence of an eligible disaster, by providing the essential working capital required to continue operations.
- The loan must be used

for essential working capital, being the amount required to continue small business operations for the next 12 months or until the next major income is received.

- The maximum loan amount is \$100,000 for any one eligible disaster for which the NDRRA were activated.

- A maximum initial repayment term of seven years applies.

- ORGANISATIONS: Natural Disaster Assistance (Concessional Loan and Grant Packages) for Non-Profit Organisations**

- Concessional loan/grant packages to non-profit organisations which have suffered direct damage caused by an eligible disaster.
- The maximum amount of the grant and loan package is \$105,000.
- A maximum repayment term of seven years applies.

- Essential Working Capital Loans Scheme for Non-Profit Organisations**

- The purpose of assistance under this scheme is to assist in meeting the needs of non-profit organisations that have suffered a significant loss of income as a consequence of an eligible disaster, by providing the essential working capital required to continue operations.
- The loan must be used for essential working capital, being the amount required to continue non-profit organisation operations for the next 12 months or until the next major income is received.
- The maximum loan

amount is \$100,000 for any one eligible disaster for which the NDRRA were activated.

- A maximum initial repayment term of seven years applies.

- RACQ Foundation Community Grants**

- Community groups can access funding up to \$50,000, and up to \$200,000 in exceptional circumstances, to repair and reconstruct damage sustained during the storm.
- Any project supported by the funding must be completed within 12 months and organisation which have applied in the past year are not eligible.
- Applications close June 13, 2017.
- More information can be accessed by calling 07 3872 8603.

- FARMERS: Natural Disaster Assistance (Concessional Loans) for Primary Producers**

- The purpose of the assistance is to provide concessional loans to primary producers whose assets (including fodder) have been significantly damaged as a direct result of an eligible disaster and who are unable to repair or replace the damaged assets or return to viable operations from their own resources but demonstrate reasonable prospects of re-establishing on a viable basis with the assistance given.
- Loans are available for restocking and/or carry-on requirements including re-planting, restoring or re-establishing areas affected by a disaster.
- The maximum loan

amount is \$250,000 for any one eligible disaster for which the NDRRA were activated.

- A maximum initial repayment term of seven years applies.

- Essential Working Capital Loans Scheme for Primary Producers**

- The purpose of assistance under this scheme is to assist in meeting the needs of primary producers who have suffered a significant loss of income as a consequence of an eligible disaster by providing the essential working capital required to continue business operations.
- The loan must be used for essential working capital, being the amount required to continue primary producer operations for the next 12 months or until the next major income is received.
- The maximum loan amount is \$100,000 for any one eligible disaster for which the NDRRA were activated.
- A maximum initial repayment term of seven years applies.

- Freight Subsidies to Primary Producers**

- Activated to assist primary producers with movement of feed, building/fencing materials, stock, fodder, water, machinery/equipment and fuels.
- Except in exceptional circumstances, the rate will not exceed 50% of costs. For road transport, a maximum rate per kilometre may also apply.
- A maximum subsidy ceiling of \$5000 will apply to each recipient per NDRRA

15 April – Queensland Times

# HEAVY LOAD OF DEBBIE'S FURY

Treasurer's cost tally hits \$3.5b and he's still counting

**SARAH VOGLER**

TREASURER Curtis Pitt estimates \$2 billion in economic losses to the state from Cyclone Debbie, while the damage bill from the cyclone is expected to top \$1.5 billion.

The state is still tallying the costs, but Mr Pitt (pictured) yesterday revealed the latest estimates ahead of the final cost being revealed in the Budget, due to be handed down on June 13.

He said that the damage bill from the cyclone would probably be similar to that from Cyclone Oswald in 2013.

Of the estimated \$1.5 billion damage bill, Mr Pitt said he hoped the state would recoup up to \$1 billion from the Commonwealth under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. But that cash would still need to be paid up-front by Queensland taxpayers.

"In comparison with the total cost of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements in terms of spending that was against Tropical Cyclone Oswald, well that was around \$1.5

billion and Cyclone Debbie is likely to be on a similar scale," he said. "This is the potential total cost. Once NDRRA arrangements with the Commonwealth are taken into account, the net cost to Queensland could be around \$500 million."

"The June State Budget is also going to contain an estimate of Cyclone Debbie's impact on forecast economic growth resulting in economic losses estimated at approximately \$2 billion."

Mr Pitt said those losses included coal, tourism and agricultural sector losses.

"Estimated economic losses include coal exports with the loss of net tonnage contributing to a loss of around \$1.5 billion," he said. "Other economic impacts include losses for Whitsunday tourism, equivalent to two to three months of activity with an estimated value of between \$120 million and \$180 million. Cane growers' preliminary estimate is for losses of around \$150 million; horticulture and crop losses could be around \$120 million."

But Mr Pitt said his

promised surplus in the June Budget would be delivered.



Mr Pitt said he hoped the state would recoup up to \$1 billion from the Commonwealth under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. But that cash would still need to be paid up-front by Queensland taxpayers.



INUNDATED: The rebuild will begin in the battered and bruised town of Proserpine following Cyclone Debbie. PHOTO: TH3RD DIMENSION MEDIA

4 April – Daily Mercury

## Flood-recovery works will take time and money

THE damage bill from flooding caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie is expected to exceed \$40 million in the Scenic Rim.

Mayor Greg Christensen said the council was carrying out urgent repairs on critical road infrastructure. Large areas of the Scenic Rim were affected by flooding, with farmers also experiencing massive crop losses.

"This disaster event caused significant damage to parts of our road and bridge network, particularly our gravel roads and the shoulders of our sealed roads," Cr Christensen said.

"Initial estimates are the damage bill will exceed \$40 million and it will take us some time to rebuild."

"To put this into a

financial context, our budget for road and bridge maintenance and improvement in 2016-17 was \$31.4 million.

"I'm asking the Scenic Rim community for its patience and understanding as council undertakes urgent restoration works to key road infrastructure and as we roll out a longer term program of reconstruction across the region."

Parts of the Scenic Rim have been officially disaster declared, making the region eligible for reconstruction assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

Cr Christensen said while all roads and bridges would be repaired, the process would take at least 18 months.

"All identified reconstruction projects need to be assessed and documented to ensure these meet the NDRRA funding criteria which is designed to deliver transparency and value for money for taxpayers," he said.

"The good news is that council has the experience of several years of restoration projects delivered under the NDRRA framework following the disaster events of 2010-11, 2012 and 2013."



HIT HARD: Scenic Rim SES local controller Jeff McConnell, Cr Rick Stanfield and Fire and Rescue station officer Peter Gyory at the Teviot Brook crossing at Coulson. PHOTO: DAVID NIELSEN

20 April – Queensland Times

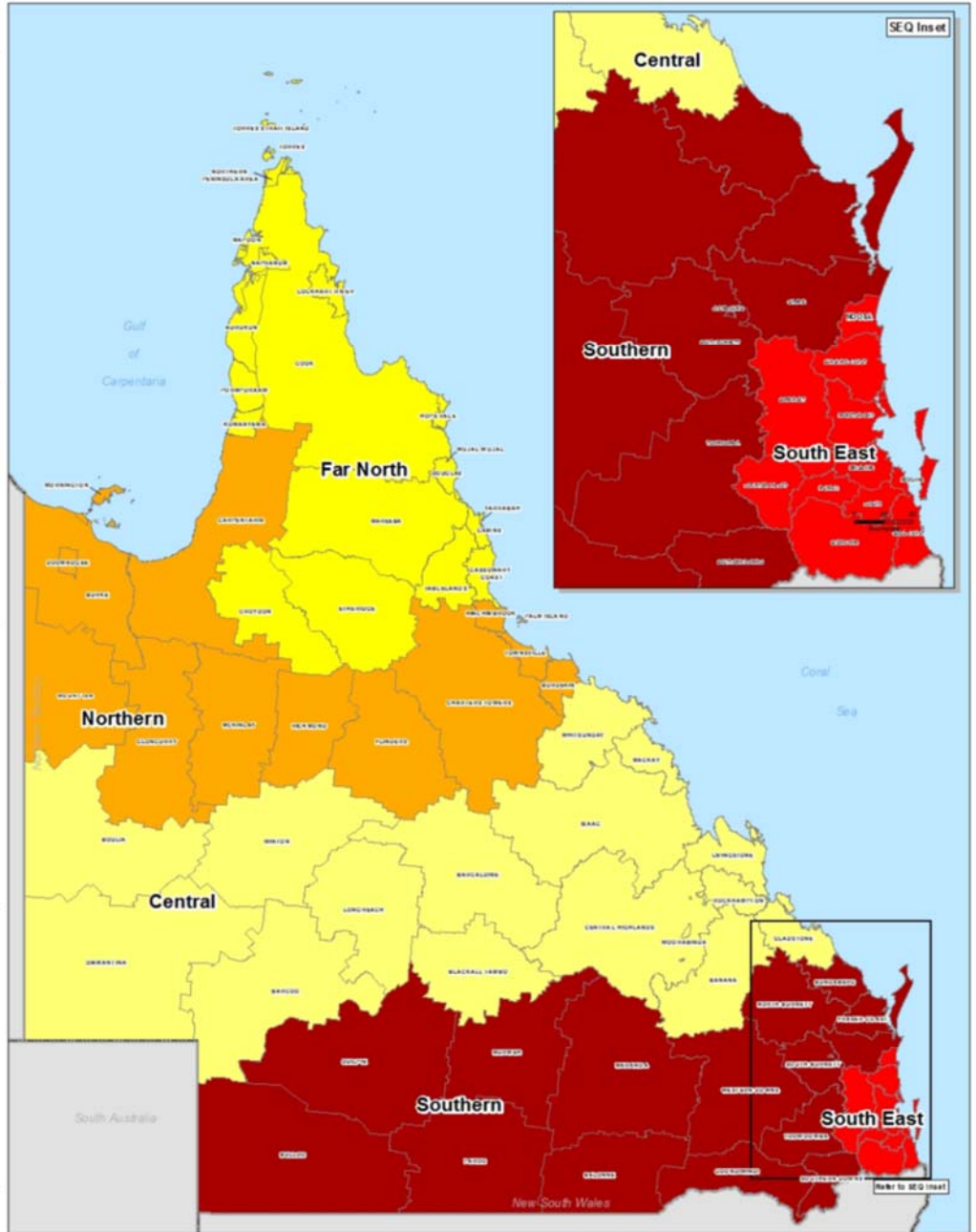
25 April - The Courier-Mail

Source: QRA at 30 April 2017

# Appendices

# Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

Region	Local Government Areas (LGAs)	
<b>Far North Queensland (FNQ)</b>	ASC	Aurukun Shire Council
	CRG	Cairns Regional Council
	CCRC	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	CoSC	Cook Shire Council
	CrSC	Croydon Shire Council
	DSC	Douglas Shire Council
	ESC	Etheridge Shire Council
	HVASC	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
	KASC	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
	LRASC	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
	MASC	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
	MbaSC	Mareeba Shire Council
	NASC	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
	NPARC	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
	PASC	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
	TRC	Tablelands Regional Council
	TSC	Torres Shire Council
	TSIRC	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
WWASC	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	
YASC	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	
<b>North Queensland (NQ)</b>	BrdSC	Burdekin Shire Council
	BrkSC	Burke Shire Council
	CSC	Carpentaria Shire Council
	CTRC	Charters Towers Regional Council
	CISC	Cloncurry Shire Council
	DASC	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council
	FSC	Flinders Shire Council
	HSC	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	McSC	McKinlay Shire Council
	MoSC	Morrington Shire Council
	MICC	Mount Isa City Council
	PIASC	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
	RSC	Richmond Shire Council
	TCC	Townsville City Council
	<b>Central Queensland (CQ)</b>	BanSC
BarRC		Barcaldine Regional Council
BarSC		Barcoo Shire Council
BTRC		Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
BOSC		Boulia Shire Council
CHRC		Central Highlands Regional Council
DSC		Diamantina Shire Council
GSC		Gladstone Regional Council
IRC		Isaac Regional Council
LSC		Livingstone Shire Council
LRC		Longreach Regional Council
MacRC		Mackay Regional Council
RRC		Rockhampton Regional Council
WRC		Whitsunday Regional Council
WSC		Winton Shire Council
WASC	Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council	
<b>Southern Queensland (SQ)</b>	BaSC	Balonne Shire Council
	BSC	Bulloo Shire Council
	BRC	Bundaberg Regional Council
	CASC	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council
	FCRC	Fraser Coast Regional Council
	GoRC	Goondiwindi Regional Council
	GRC	Gympie Regional Council
	MarRC	Maranoa Regional Council
	MuSC	Murweh Shire Council
	NBRC	North Burnett Regional Council
	PSC	Paroo Shire Council
	QSC	Quilpie Shire Council
	SBRC	South Burnett Regional Council
	SDRC	Southern Downs Regional Council
	ToRC	Toowoomba Regional Council
WDR	Western Downs Regional Council	
<b>South East Queensland (SEQ)</b>	BCC	Brisbane City Council
	GCCC	Gold Coast City Council
	ICC	Ipswich City Council
	LVRC	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
	LCC	Logan City Council
	MBRC	Moreton Bay Regional Council
	NSC	Noosa Shire Council
	RCC	Redland City Council
SRRC	Scenic Rim Regional Council	
SRC	Somerset Regional Council	
SCRC	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	



Disclaimer:  
This map has been prepared by the Dept. of Queensland, Energy,  
Water and Environmental Protection for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information provided on this map. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information provided on this map.

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

**Local Government Areas  
and QldRA Reporting Regions**

Scale at A4: 1:6,700,000

**Legend**

- Far North Queensland
- North Queensland
- Central Queensland
- Southern Queensland
- South East Queensland
- Local Government Areas

As at 5/02/2014

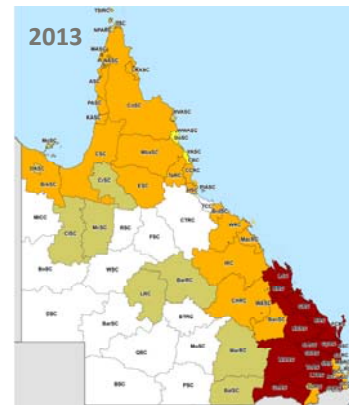
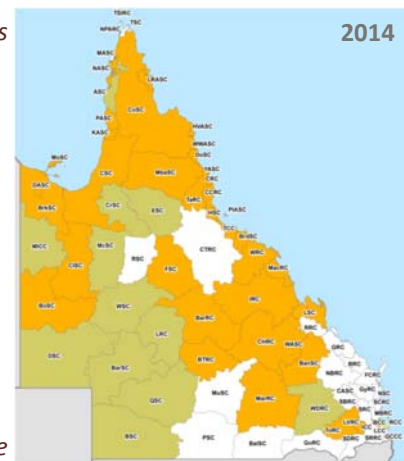


## Appendix B: NDRRA activations managed by QRA - 2007 to 2014 Events

### 2014 events

*Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three LGA programs that received extensions of time for delivery)*

- Tropical Cyclone Ita & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 11-14 April 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Gillian - 10 to 11 March 2014
- Central Coast & Southern Queensland Trough, 26-30 Mar 2014
- Central & Western Queensland Flooding & Rainfall, 18-28 February 2014
- North East Queensland Monsoonal Rainfall & Flooding - 7 to 9 February 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Fletcher, commencing 2 February 2014
- Far North Queensland Peninsula Flooding (27-31 Jan 2014)
- Tropical Cyclone Dylan, 31 January 2014
- North Stradbroke Island Fires, commencing 29 Dec 2013



### 2013 events

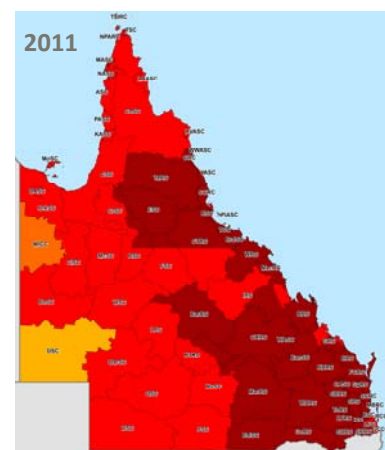
*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three projects that received extensions of time for delivery)*

- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late Oct - Dec 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013<sup>#</sup>
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013
- Central & Southern Queensland Low, 25 Feb - 5 Mar 2013.

### 2012 events

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)*

- Queensland Bushfires, August to October 2011
- Localised Heavy Rainfall Northern Queensland, October 2011
- Southern Queensland Flooding, December to December 2011
- South East Queensland Heavy Rainfall and flooding, 23- 26 January 2012
- Western Queensland Tropical Low, January - February 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Tropical Low, 3-4 February 2012
- North Coast Queensland Storms & flooding & East Coast Hybrid Low, 24 Feb - 7 March 2012
- Northern & Far Northern Queensland Heavy Rainfall & flooding, 15 Mar 2012
- East Coast Low, 22 March 2012.



### 2011 events

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)*

- South West Flooding, April 2011
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding Event, 28 February 2011
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on 2 February 2011
- Queensland Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Tasha & Anthony, Dec-2010 to February 2011.

### 2007-2010 events managed by QRA

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)*

- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul, Jan to Apr 2010
- Northern, Central & South West Queensland Flooding, 22 December 2009 to 8 January 2010
- South West Flooding, 20 – 25 December 2009
- 2010 South East Queensland Flooding, 9-12 October 2010.
- Queensland Bushfires, September – October 2009
- South West Queensland Low and Associated Flooding, September 2010
- South East Queensland Low, May 2009
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding and Tropical Cyclone Charlotte and Ellie, January - February 2009
- Queensland storms and associated flooding, 16-22 December 2008
- South West Queensland flooding, June 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, February March 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, January 2008
- South East Queensland East Coast Low, 27 December 2007 - 7 January 2008
- Central Western Queensland storms and flooding, 22-30 December 2007
- South West Queensland storms and flooding, 23-30 November 2007
- South East and North Coast Queensland East Coast Low, August 2007.

