

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

# Monthly Report

July 2015

## **Document details:**

Security classification	Public
Date of review of security classification	July 2015
Authority	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Author	Chief Executive Officer
Document status	Final
Version	1.0

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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 July 2015 Monthly Report – the 53rd report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority).

The Authority was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (the Act) following the unprecedented natural disasters which struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11. The role of the Authority has since been extended a number of times to cover historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland. In June 2015, a Bill was passed by Parliament to extend the Authority beyond 30 June 2015 to enable the Authority to continue the work of helping communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters that have devastated Queensland over recent times.

The Authority 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.

The Authority is managing a total program of works for events from 2009 through to 2015 with an estimated total cost of more than \$13 billion.

The Authority is currently assisting with the damage assessments from the recent 2015 events and progression of the 2014 and 2015 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases. With relevant works now completed, the Authority is also focused on gathering and assessing completion documentation to close out the 2013 event and other works completed by 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2016. To date, more than \$10.8 billion of the program has been acquitted in completed Commonwealth claims.

The July report provides an update on the progress of recovery. As at 30 June 2015:

- a cumulative value of \$18.4 billion in submissions have been received by the Authority
- a cumulative total of \$18.2 billion has been processed by the Authority
- a cumulative value of \$12.5 billion of the total works program (2009 to 2015) has been reported to the Authority as being in progress or delivered by delivery agents as at 31 May 2015.

On 30 June 2015, a key milestone in the State's reconstruction effort was reached with the deadline passing for councils and state agencies to complete close to \$2 billion of works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other 2013 events. Whilst formal reporting of completion will occur over the coming months, councils and state agencies have consistently indicated that all relevant works were completed on time other than a limited number of projects impacted by weather for which extension of time requests have been submitted to the Commonwealth. The July report profiles the completion of the 2013 event works, including works allocated Betterment funding to improve the resilience of damaged assets. The report also profiles the recent completion of two projects undertaken with special Category D NDRRA funding following the 2011 events— Brisbane's ferry terminals project, whereby seven commuter terminals were rebuilt with more resilient, permanent structures; and flood mitigation works on the Gowrie Creek catchment to ensure the city of Toowoomba is more resilient to future flooding events.

The July report also tracks the progress of recovery by the functional recovery groups established under the Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia Recovery Plan (the Recovery Plan). The Recovery Plan was adopted following Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia to guide the activities which will help ensure that impacted communities recover as quickly as possible from the disaster.

I commend the report to you and recommend its release to the Minister and the public pursuant to Section 41 of the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011*.

Yours sincerely



Frankie Carroll  
Chief Executive Officer  
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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



# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Queensland has been struck by a series of unprecedented natural disasters in recent years. Between November 2010 and April 2011, extensive flooding caused by periods of extremely heavy rainfall and destruction caused by a number of storm cells including Cyclones Tasha, Anthony and Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi and subsequent monsoonal flooding, resulted in all of Queensland being declared as disaster affected. Since 2011, the State has also repeatedly faced additional large scale natural disasters including a series of events through 2012, Tropical Cyclone Oswald in late January 2013, Tropical Cyclone Ita and other events in 2014 and most recently Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority) was established on 21 February 2011 under the *Queensland Reconstruction Act 2011* (the Act) to manage and coordinate the recovery effort for the disaster events of the summer of 2010-11. The Authority also administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and works closely with local governments to ensure the effective recovery of Queensland communities.

The Act as passed included a sunset clause to wrap up the Authority after two years, recognising that the focus of the Authority was to fast-track rebuilding efforts and get Queensland back on to a business-as-usual footing as quickly as possible. The Act was extended in 2012 and again in 2013 following Tropical Cyclone Oswald. In June 2015, the Authority's sunset clause of 30 June 2015 was repealed as part of the *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* enabling the Authority to continue the critical work of helping communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of continuing natural disasters that have devastated Queensland over recent times.

## 1.2 Purpose

The Authority's mission is **to reconnect, rebuild and improve Queensland communities and its economy.**

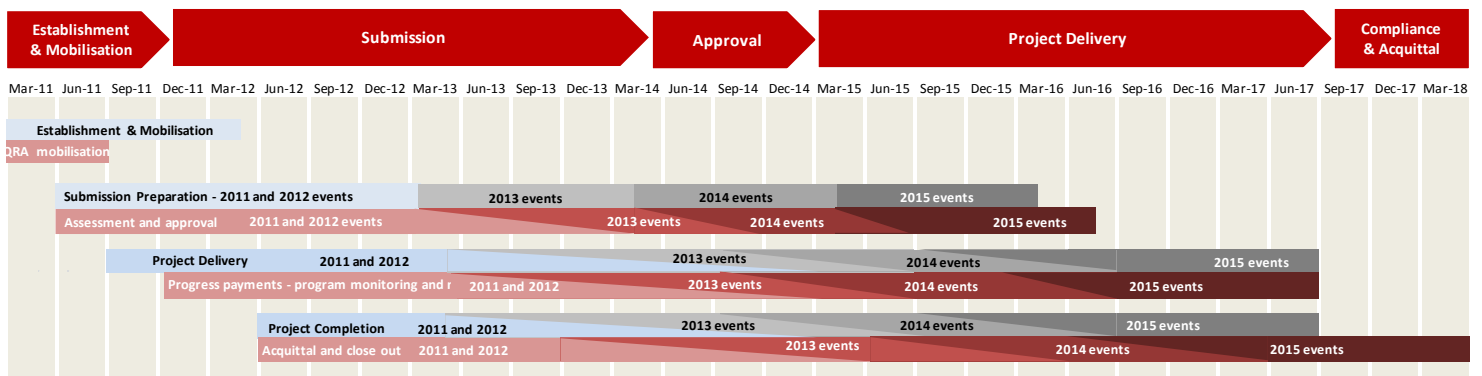
The Authority is charged with managing and coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our State and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.

The Authority operates with reference to recovery and reconstruction plans established by the State in response to the 2011 disaster events, Tropical Cyclone Oswald in 2013, Severe Tropical Cyclone Ita in 2014 and most recently Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015. An overview of the Tropical Cyclone Marcia Recovery Plan and status of recovery is provided in Section 4.1.

## 1.3 Timing

The Authority's priorities are currently assisting councils and State agencies to complete their reporting and progress through the close out and acquittal phase of their program of works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other events of 2013, with reconstruction and Betterment fund works having occurred prior to 30 June 2015.

The Authority is also assisting with the damage assessments from the recent 2015 events and progression of the 2014 and 2015 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases.



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

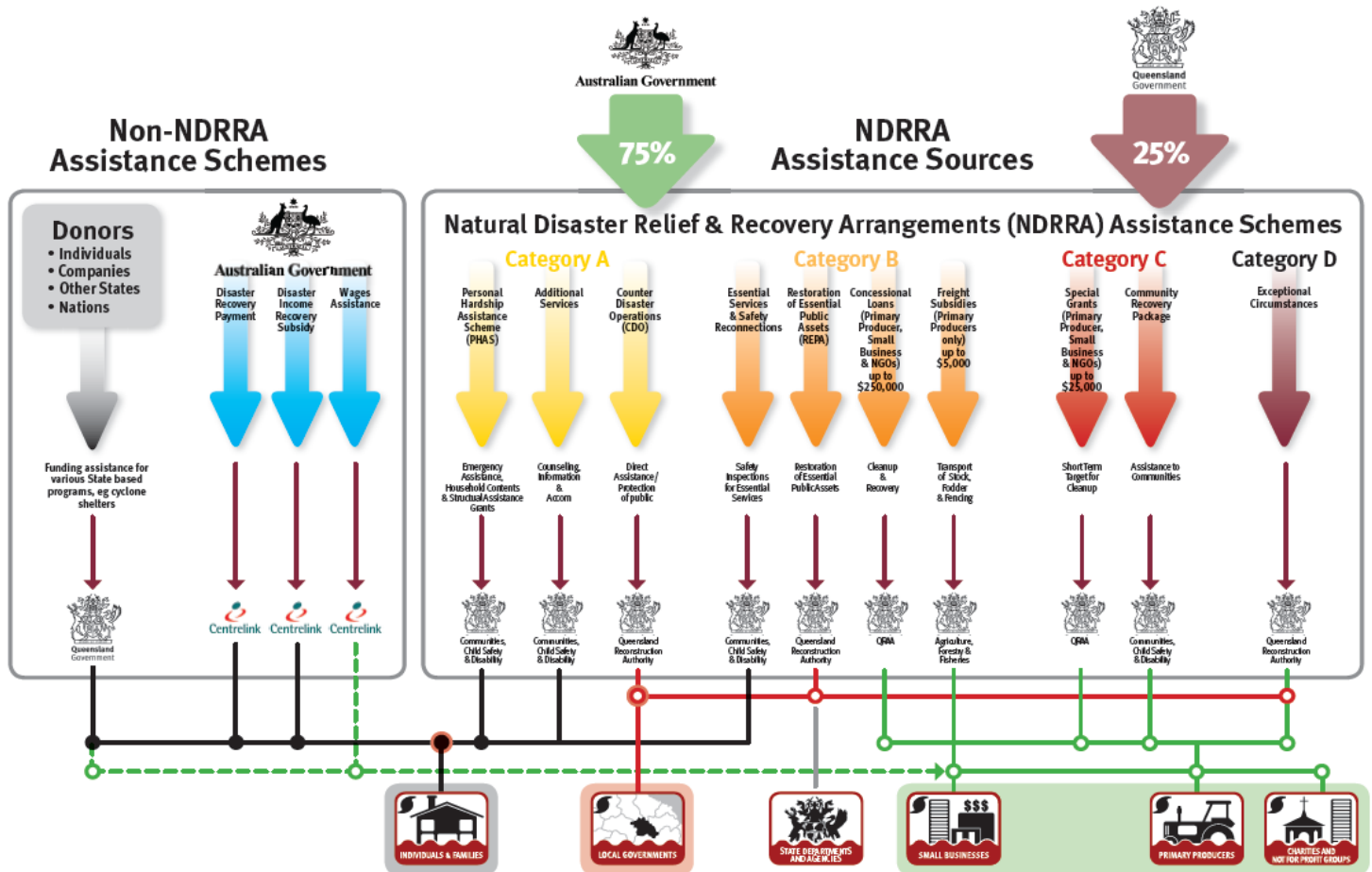


## 2.0 Disaster Assistance

### 2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework

The available Queensland Disaster Assistance schemes are separated between NDRRA (jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State governments) and Non-NDRRA funding schemes. The diagram below indicates the different elements of assistance available and how each element operates.

Figure 2.1.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework



Whilst elements of the assistance schemes are delivered by other State agencies, all of the NDRRA assistance sources (and elements of the non-NDRRA assistance schemes) are administered by the Authority for historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland.

#### Disaster events managed by the Authority

The list of the activated disaster events managed by the Authority are set out in **Section 2.2** and can also be found on [www.disaster.qld.gov.au](http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au).

The maps opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for each event period under the Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework.

This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

- **2015 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2015**
- **2014 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2014**
- **2013 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2013**, including Tropical Cyclone Oswald and associated rainfall and flooding (January 2013)
- **2012 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2012**
- **2011 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2011**, including Tropical Cyclone Yasi and Queensland flooding (November 2010 to February 2011)
- **2009-2010 events:** Activated disaster events managed by the Authority which occurred prior to 30 June 2010
- **Combined Program:** relates to all the activated disaster event programs managed by the Authority.



## 2.2 Events and relief measures managed by the Authority

The Authority has responsibility to administer NDRRA relief measures for historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland. The Authority currently manages and coordinates the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 34 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures since the Authority's establishment in February 2011 and the remaining program of works for an additional 16 disaster events which occurred prior to the Authority's establishment.

The maps opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2011 to 2015 event periods managed by the Authority under the Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework.

Since the last report, there has been additional NDRRA relief measures activated for *Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding - 5 to 18 January 2015*.

### 2015 events

- Tropical Cyclone Nathan and associated rainfall and flooding, 11 - 15 March 2015
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia and South East Queensland Trough - 19 to 22 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 November 2014.

### 2014 events

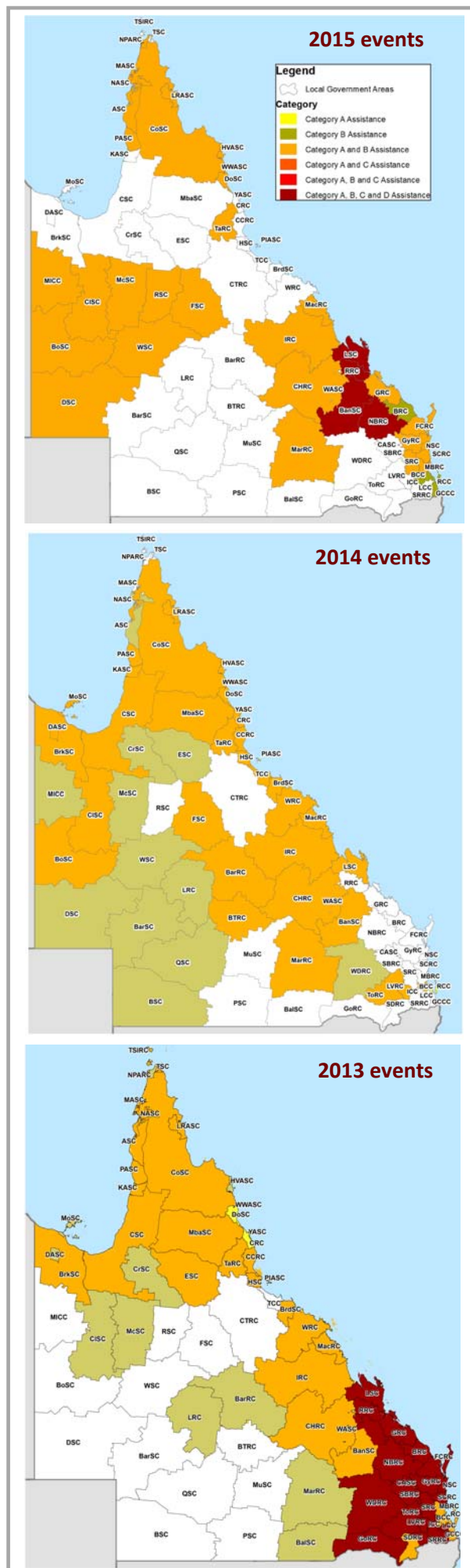
- Tropical Cyclone Ita & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 11-14 April 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Gillian - 10 to 11 March 2014
- Central Coast & Southern Queensland Trough, 26-30 March 2014
- Central & Western Queensland Flooding & Rainfall, 18-28 February 2014
- North East Queensland Monsoonal Rainfall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

### 2013 events

- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late October - December 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald and Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013 \*
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013 #
- Central & Southern Queensland Low, 25 February - 5 March 2013. #

\* Events covered under the National Partnership Agreement for Natural Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction (NPA) between the State and Commonwealth Government signed 8 February 2013 (NPA Events).

# Pending agreement to extend the NPA to include two additional 2013 events - Longreach Floods, 18 February 2013 and Central and Southern Queensland Low, 25 February - 5 March 2013.





## 2.3 Additional 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 the 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2011 events, summarised as follows:

### 2015 events (Tropical Cyclone Marcia)

- **Betterment fund - \$20 million** - available for the restoration or replacement of non-State owned assets to a more disaster resilient standard than their pre-disaster standard. The intent of betterment is to increase the resilience of communities to natural disasters, while at the same time reducing future expenditure on asset restoration, reducing incidents, injuries and fatalities and improving asset utility during and after disaster events.
- **Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets - \$6 million** - funding to clean-up and repair damaged community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities.
- **Green waste clean-up - \$1 million** - assist LGAs in the most heavily impacted areas of Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana and North Burnett with the costs of extensive green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses.
- **Industry Recovery Officers - \$750,000** - Placement of Industry Recovery Officers to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas.
- **Community Recovery Package (Category C) - \$5.1 million** - Funding to engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in the local government areas of Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone.

### 2014 events

- **\$1.6 million** funding for the additional costs incurred by Cook Shire Council for disaster reconstruction work on the Peninsula Road Network.

### 2013 events

- **Betterment fund - \$80 million** - available for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than their pre-disaster standard. The status of the 2013 Events Betterment fund is set out in Section 3.6 of this report.
- **Community Recovery Package (Category C) - \$5 million** - Funding for community development officers in the hardest hit communities of Bundaberg and North Burnett, support for mental health services and a flexible fund that assists communities to implement engagement and development activities.
- **Clean Up and Recovery program - \$10 million** - Program to assist primary producers to clear debris and restore fencing in the worst affected areas; to maintain workers while income generating activities are reduced and to clear debris from watercourse that poses a hazard to downstream infrastructure and activities.
- **Industry Recovery Officers - \$1.5 million** - Placement of Industry Recovery Officers to assist business and primary producers recover from flooding.
- **Enhanced concessional loans and grants** - Loans of up to \$650,000 (with a grant component of up to \$50,000) are available to applicants that have suffered extreme damage such that the existing concessional loan and recovery grants under NDRRA category B and C are insufficient to support recovery.
- **Environmental Recovery program - \$10 million\*** - Program to fund existing programs to conduct flood specific clean up and soil conservation work following the 2013 flooding.
- **Rural Financial Counselling Services - \$1.5 million\*** - Provision of financial planning advice for rural businesses and primary producers to assist in the recovery of local economies following the disaster.
- **Other measures - \$11.9 million** to fund dredging works to restore Bundaberg Port to its pre-2013 flood clearance depths; and **\$900,000** to assist Bundaberg Regional Council meet the cost of recovery works for community parks and gardens.

### 2011 events

- **Queensland Local Council Package - \$315 million** - Funding to help local councils repair utilities and infrastructure, and support their efforts in recovering from the floods and Cyclone Yasi. The package comprises two components: \$265 million to fast-track the repair of damaged infrastructure, including the Strengthening Grantham project, Brisbane ferry terminals and Riverwalk; and \$50 million to contribute to regional and remote councils employing people to perform clean-up and repair work.
- **Cassowary Coast Support Package - \$15 million** - Funding to restore vital council infrastructure and restore natural vegetation and beach damage in the Cassowary Coast region. Specifically, the Support Package provides for the repair of Dunk Island Jetty, the repair of Clump Point Jetty and the restoration of Cardwell beach foreshore and its natural vegetation.
- **Exceptional Disaster Assistance Scheme** - Concessional interest loans of up to \$650,000, with grant component of up to \$50,000, to eligible businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations that suffered extreme damage.

In addition, the State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to an extended Day Labour Trial, which enables councils to deliver restoration works with their own workforce on condition that they provide evidence of savings in both time and cost.

\* Non-NDRRA measures funded 50% by the State and 50% by the Commonwealth; Commonwealth share is being delivered directly through existing Commonwealth programs.

**Section three:**

# **Program Status**



### 3.0 Program Status

#### 3.1 Recent developments

On 30 June 2015, a key milestone in the State’s reconstruction effort was reached with the deadline passing for councils and state agencies to complete close to \$2 billion of works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other events from 2012-13; and the final works from the massive 2011 and 2012 event periods that had received extensions of time. Whilst formal reporting of completion will occur over the coming months, councils and state agencies have consistently indicated that all relevant works were completed on time other than a limited number of projects impacted by weather for which extension of time requests have been submitted to the Commonwealth.

The Authority is now focused on gathering and assessing completion documentation to close out these and other works completed by 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2016. Following submission of the audited 2013-14 claim for NDRRA financial assistance to the Commonwealth worth \$5.7 billion in March 2015, approximately \$10.8 billion of the Authority’s program of works has now been acquitted. The Commonwealth’s reimbursement to the State of its share of NDRRA expenditure is dependent on lodgement of the audited claim.

The Authority is also assisting with the damage assessments from the recent 2015 events and progression of the 2014 and 2015 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases.

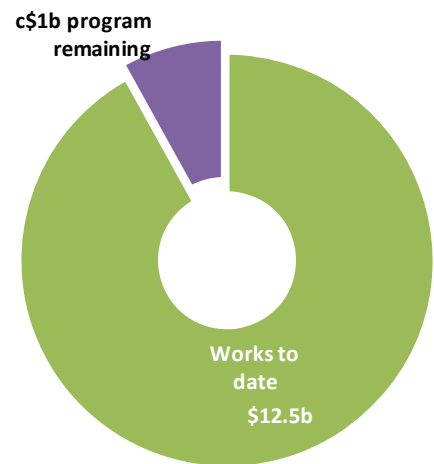
#### 3.2 Combined program status

The estimated program of works for all events actively managed by the Authority (2009 to 2015) is more than \$13 billion.

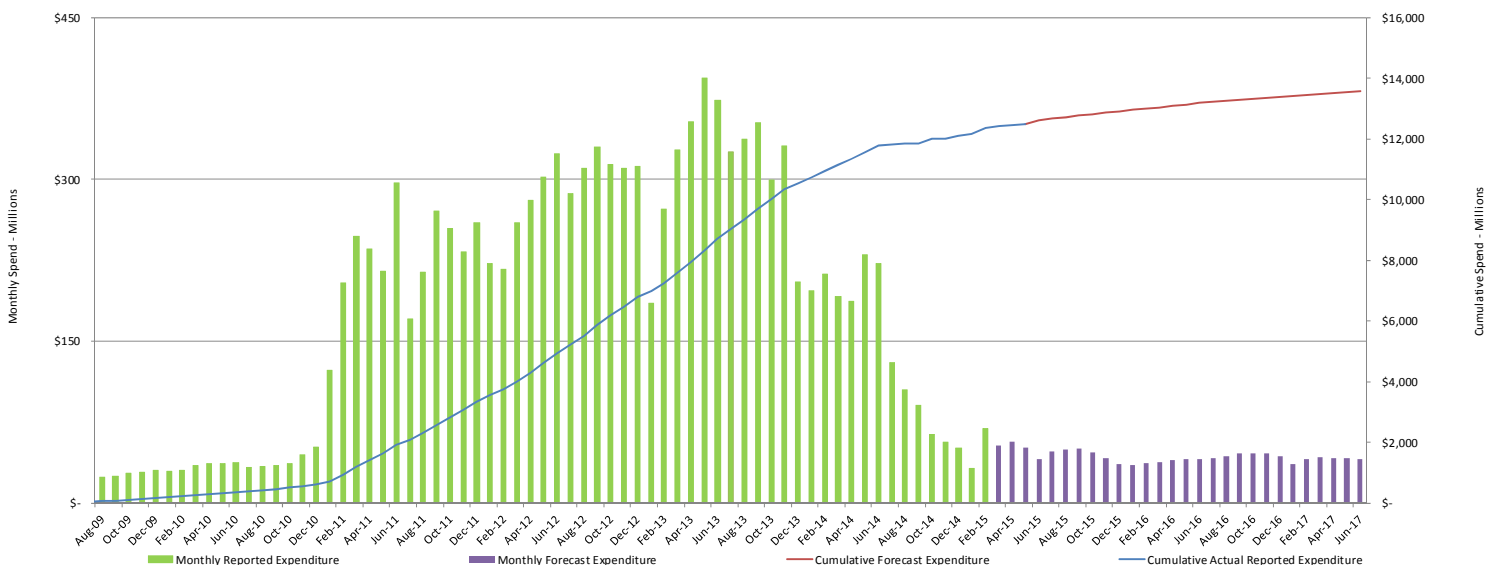
The estimated cost of the damage from the 2015 Events is approximately \$580 million, the damage from the 2014 and 2013 Events is estimated to be more than \$400 million and \$1.9 billion respectively and the preliminary final cost of the 2012 and 2011 Events is estimated to be \$1.5 billion and \$6.6 billion respectively. The cost of the 2009-10 Events managed by the Authority has been finalised at \$2.4 billion.

Since the last report, the combined program of works for all events managed by the Authority has progressed as follows:

- a cumulative value of \$18.4 billion in submissions have been received by the Authority to 30 June 2015
- a cumulative total of \$18.2 billion has been processed by the Authority to 30 June 2015
- a cumulative value of \$12.5 billion of the total works program (2009 to 2015) has been reported to the Authority as being in progress or delivered by delivery agents as at 31 May 2015.



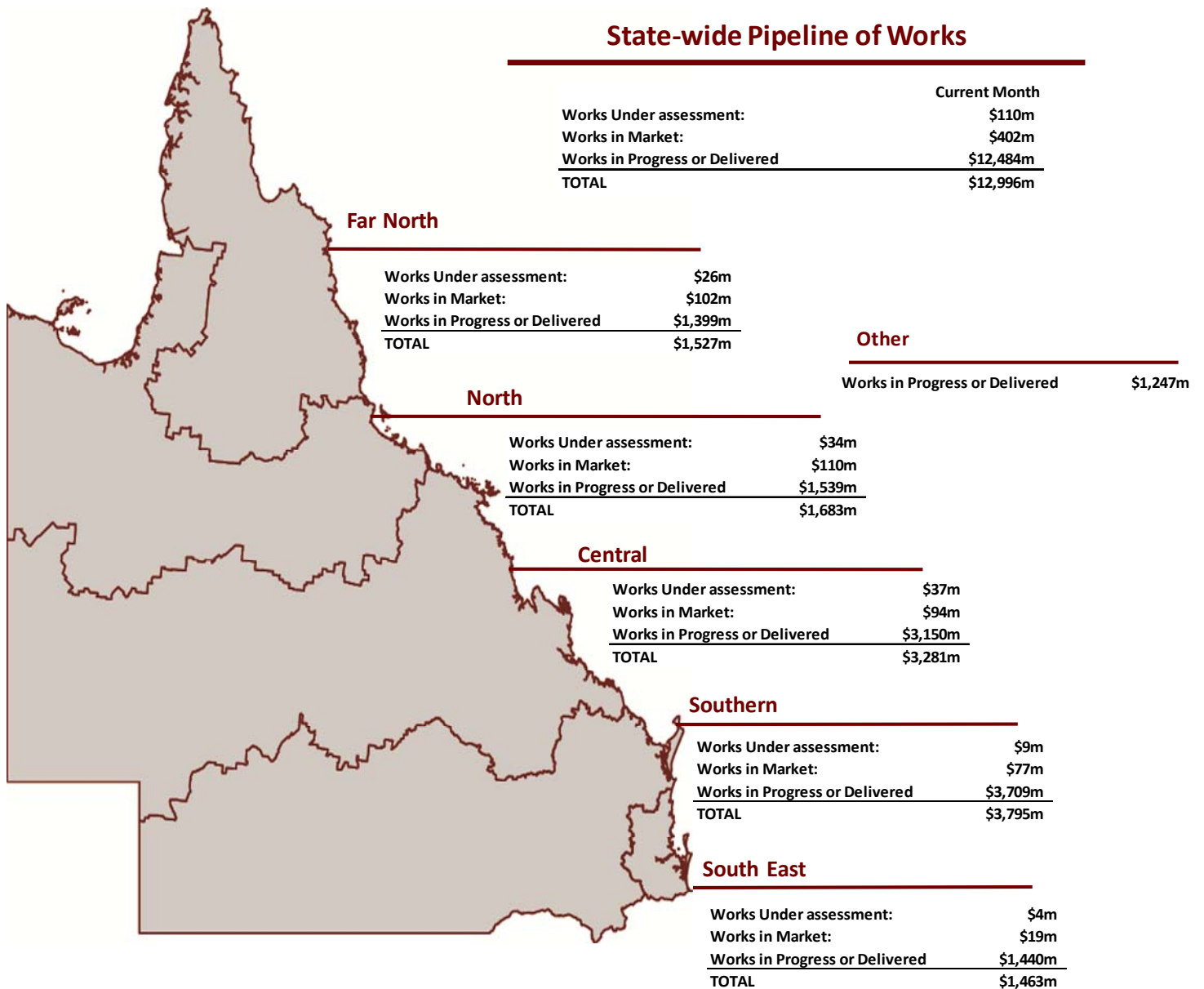
#### 3.3 Program of works expenditure



Source: the Authority - February 2015 NDRRA Estimates Review & 30 June 2015

### 3.4 State-wide pipeline of works

The status of the pipeline of works for all events actively managed by the Authority (2009 to 2015) is set out below.



**Note:**

1. Works Under Assessment and Works in Market represents data as at 31 May 2015 (DTMR) and 30 June 2015 (LGAs and Other). Works in Progress or Delivered represents spend by delivery agents to 31 May 2015 as reported to the Authority at 30 June 2015. Additional works have been conducted but are yet to be reported to the Authority
2. Other encompasses SDAs other than DTMR as well as the 2011 and 2013 Other Assistance.

**Pipeline of Works Definitions**

Stage	Description
Works under Assessment	Applications for packages which are currently under assessment by the Authority or are awaiting additional information from the applicant.
Works In Market	Estimate of spend remaining on works in progress and packages which have been approved by the Authority and are in the tender or contract process.
Works in Progress or Delivered	Expenditure as reported to the Authority on packages in progress or delivered.

Source: DTMR at 31 May 2015; and the Authority at 30 June 2015

### 3.5 State-controlled roads and highways

DTMR set up its Transport Network Reconstruction Program (TNRP) to manage the recovery and reconstruction of Queensland's integrated transport system following the damage from natural disaster events in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. For the 2014 events, DTMR is managing the recovery and reconstruction works through its Program Delivery and Operations Branch. The reconstruction program required as a result of 2015 event damage to the State's transport network has not yet been scoped.

To 31 May 2015, DTMR has spent more than \$6.4 billion on recovery and reconstruction of the transport network across the State arising from the natural disaster events that occurred between 2010 and 2015. The transport system includes state-controlled roads, ports, navigation aids and the rail network.

#### Status

- All Queensland Rail lines affected by disaster events have been recovered.
- All ports, navigation aids, jetties and other boating infrastructure damaged by natural disaster events have been recovered.
- DTMR has completed its entire 8,741km road reconstruction works arising from the 2010 to 2013 disaster events
- DTMR is currently undertaking its 2014 event reconstruction program. Of the 214km of roads forecast to be reconstructed following damage from the 2014 events, 200km of works have been completed and the remaining 14km is under construction on active works contracts as at 31 May 2015.
- During May 2015, DTMR completed works on 43km of roads including works on the Burke Developmental Road in its North West district, and the Mulligan Highway and Mossman–Mt Molloy Road in the Far North district.
- DTMR is currently scoping its reconstruction program for the 2015 events.



*Gregory Developmental Road following completion of reconstruction works after 2014 event damage*



#### DTMR Key heavy vehicle route reconstruction completed

Millaa Millaa–Malanda Road is a 23 kilometre-long road between Millaa Millaa and Malanda on the Atherton Tablelands. It links directly to the Palmerston Highway, which is the designated B-double route for freight travelling to the northern tablelands and beyond to Cape York Peninsula. As a result, Millaa Millaa–Malanda Road caters for about 375 heavy vehicle trips per day.

Damage to the road network as a result of Severe Tropical Cyclone Ita in April 2014 included areas of seal and pavement failures, longitudinal ruts, potholing, shoving, depressions, crocodile cracking and accelerated deterioration of the road due to pavement and subgrade saturation.

Restoration works undertaken by DTMR involved removing failed pavement material, treating unsuitable subgrade where required and undertaking resurfacing works.

Works to restore the key heavy vehicle route were completed in February 2015.

*Top: Crocodile cracking on Millaa Millaa–Malanda Road*

*Bottom: Completed pavement resurfacing on Millaa Millaa–Malanda Road*

(Source: DTMR, 31 May 2015)

### 3.6 Betterment fund status

The \$80 million 2013 Event Betterment fund and \$20 million 2015 Event Betterment fund are Category D relief measures available to those LGAs declared for NDRRA assistance as a result of the 2013 cyclone and flood events and for Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015 respectively. Betterment funding is available for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster.

Where a damaged asset is approved for betterment, 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 relevant Betterment fund and Council contributions.

Betterment funding is allocated on the basis of the estimated cost of the approved projects. 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.

#### 2013 Event Betterment Fund

- Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received by the Authority from 48 councils with approximately \$1 billion worth of Betterment projects to improve the resilience of infrastructure to natural disasters following the 2013 events.
- The 2013 Event Betterment Fund was allocated to 232 approved projects across 35 LGAs. Betterment projects include improved bridges, floodways, culverts, levees, water treatment plants and numerous roads across Queensland.
- The deadline for completion of works from the 2013 events, including betterment projects, passed on 30 June 2015. Whilst formal reporting will occur over coming months, councils have indicated that the 2013 Event Betterment projects were completed on time other than three projects impacted by excessive rainfall in 2014 and 2015. Requests for extension of time for delivery of the impacted projects have been submitted for consideration by the Commonwealth and remain under consideration. Completion of the projects has been delayed pending the Commonwealth's response to the extension requests.
- Recognising the considerable savings realised on final delivery of betterment works, it is expected that approximately \$75 million funding will be allocated from the 2013 Event Betterment fund on final reporting of completed works.

#### 2015 Event Betterment Fund

- In late May 2015, the Commonwealth Government agreed to contribute funding towards an additional \$20 million Betterment fund to restore or replace essential public assets that were damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia to a more disaster resilient standard.
- The Authority is currently engaging with relevant councils to identify projects for consideration for 2015 Event Betterment funding.



Projects undertaken with Betterment funding — event damage (top) and post completion of works (bottom) - (left to right): Cherry Tree Road (Fraser Coast Regional Council), One Mile Bridge (Ipswich City Council), Richmond Road (Croydon Shire Council)



## **Section four: Progress Reports**



## 4.1 Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia Recovery Plan

The Recovery Plan has been prepared to guide the activities which will help ensure that impacted communities recover as quickly as possible from the devastating and widespread effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

The Recovery Plan provides strategic guidance for the coordination and management of recovery, reconstruction and disaster resilience activities and initiatives undertaken by the Queensland Government, local governments, industry and other stakeholders after the event. It also provides strategies to work with affected communities in their recovery process.

The Recovery Plan identifies key recovery tasks, recovery milestones and estimated completion dates of the projects to be undertaken by Queensland Government lead and support agencies over the recovery and reconstruction phase.

### Recovery phases

The recovery activities will be undertaken across three broad phases.

Phase one is already complete with post-impact recovery activities deployed immediately after the cyclone crossed the coast. Phase Two Recovery and Reconstruction is now underway and will conclude on 30 June 2017 when NDRRA funding timelines expire for this event, while Phase Three will see any outstanding recovery initiatives transition to agencies to be managed.



### Disaster Recovery Coordinators

On 23 February 2015, Acting Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services was appointed as the interim Disaster Recovery Coordinator for two weeks before Acting Assistant Commissioner Brian Codd, Queensland Police Service took over the rebuilding task. The Disaster Recovery Coordinator coordinates the recovery process for affected areas, and the recovery and reconstruction efforts of government and non-government agencies.

### Functional lines of recovery

Functional Recovery Groups (FRG) have been established to lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of State whole-of-government recovery across five lines of recovery. The roles and responsibilities of the FRGs are set out in the Recovery Plan and are summarised below. The following tables also set out the status of the progress of recovery for each FRG as reported by the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILP) as at 10 June 2015.

#### Human & Social

Role	Key responsibilities
To lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of human and social recovery activities in line with the Recovery Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of strategic advice on human and social recovery issues and services</li> <li>Coordination of human and social services to support the recovery effort delivered by state, local and Australian Government agencies, non government organisations (NGOs) and other relevant service providers</li> <li>Coordination of financial assistance to eligible applicants for the Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) and Essential Services Safety and Reconstruction (ESSR) Scheme under NDRRA or State Disaster Recovery Arrangements</li> <li>Coordination of the provision of personal support, counselling and specialised mental health services and facilitation of the redevelopment of social networks and community infrastructure to strengthen and build resilience.</li> </ul>

#### Progress of recovery

- NDRRA financial assistance of \$15.63 million has been provided to individuals and families under the PHAS and ESSRS - *refer opposite*
- Of \$5.1 million NDRRA Category C Community Recovery funding approved over two years, \$3.3 million has been allocated for personal support and counselling and \$1.8 million has been allocated for community development in Rockhampton, Livingstone, Gladstone, North Burnett and Banana. Services are expected to be procured and operating late July 2015.
- Outreach continues from Rockhampton. To date, 4,966 people have been seen on 3,847 outreach visits. There has been 2,937 face to face contact hours and 6,156 referrals to non-government organisations
- Queensland Health is progressing recruitment of mental health staff to deliver services to those severely affected by the event for a two year period.

#### NDRRA financial assistance to individuals and families

	Paid (\$'000)	People assisted	Applications approved	Under assessment
Immediate Hardship Assistance	\$5,067k	28,148	12,568	-
Essential Household Content Grants	\$1,247k	3,092	1,252	-
Structural Assistance Grants <sup>1,2</sup>	\$554k	277	137 paid 29 pending payment	10
ESSR Scheme Grants <sup>1,2</sup>	\$60k	65	37	9
Red Cross Food Vouchers	\$8,700k	41,094	40,605 vouchers	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,628k</b>			

- Payments may be delayed due to clients deferring payment until completion of relevant contractor works.
- Applications may be delayed due to outstanding documentation required to support application.

(Source: DILP, 10 June 2015)

## 4.1 Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia Recovery Plan (continued)

### Economic

Role	Key responsibilities
To advise the Government on economic impacts and provide information on needs of local government and industry getting the economy back to full production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of strategic advice on economic recovery issue and services</li> <li>Identification of economic impacts and key issue that inform recovery efforts</li> <li>Coordinate activities to assist in restoring the economy including assistance business, industry and regional recovery and renewal through targeted support and assistance.</li> </ul>

### Progress of recovery

NDRRA financial assistance to primary producers, small business & not for profits (NFPs) of \$2.3 million paid as follows:

		Paid (\$'000)	Applications paid	Under assessment
Primary producers	Freight subsidies	\$0.2k	1	-
	Natural Disaster loans	-	-	7
	Category C Grants	\$1,680k	269	95
Small business/ NFPs	Natural Disaster loans	-	-	6
	Category C Grants	\$649k	102	32

### Building

Role	Key responsibilities
To lead, coordinate and action temporary accommodation solutions for displaced people; repair and reconstruct state building assets; and provide building advisory services to support community recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitation of solutions to address immediate and longer-term temporary accommodation needs of community members and the recovery workforce</li> <li>Assessment and coordination of the repair and restoration of State public buildings</li> <li>Support and provide advice to the recovery supply chain including contractors, subcontractors and material suppliers.</li> </ul>

### Progress of recovery

#### Recovery complete

- All 99 emergency housing assistance requests have been finalised
- All 1,403 units of damaged social housing accommodation are operational
- All 147 damaged government assets have been restored to service
- All schools and other government facilities have been made safe and operational.
- The Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC), the Insurance Council of Australia and Industry Groups continue to support the recovery of impacted communities through facilitation of advice and dissemination of information.

### Environment

Role	Key responsibilities
To guide the Government in achieving sustainable and resilient environmental recovery and coordinate activities which the make best use of resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification and monitoring of impacts on the environment and the provision of strategic advice to inform recovery efforts</li> <li>Coordinate and prioritise the rehabilitation of impacted ecosystems, wildlife, natural resources, cultural heritage values and heritage places</li> <li>Consideration of strategies to reduce future impacts on the environment.</li> </ul>

### Progress of recovery

- All 77 national parks affected by Tropical Cyclone Marcia have since been fully re-opened. During May, the final three parks that had previously been partly reopened were fully opened.
- 350km of fire lines have been repaired and reinstated, 100 hectares burnt near communities and infrastructure to reduce fire risk and 469 piles of timber and debris burnt to reduce fuel load.
- Minor repairs have been completed to a groundwater monitoring site in the Don and Dee Rivers ahead of full restoration. Repairs to damaged surface water gauging station scheduled during July.
- Water quality data for sampling taken during the event is currently being analysed and quality assured.

### Roads and Transport

Role	Key responsibilities
Coordinates the efficient and effective delivery of road and transport recovery activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver the state-controlled roads and transport response and reconstruction, including assessing damage, prioritising and delivering recovery and reconstruction activities and considering resilience and disaster mitigation measures as part of the works.</li> </ul>

### Progress of recovery

- DTMR districts are currently responding with emergent repairs and detours where necessary
- All damaged roads have reopened or have alternative access routes in place
- DTMR responded with emergent repairs and detours where necessary during the 60-day emergent works period
- The majority of reconstruction works arising from the 2015 events are expected to planned, designed and let to market by late 2015
- Options to replace and realign the Burnett River Bridge and its approaches are currently being investigated. A consultant has been appointed to finalise the options analysis, business case and undertake design by the end of December 2015.

(Source: DILP, 10 June 2015)

## 4.2 Program spotlights

### 2013 events Completion of \$1.9 billion program

Queensland has reached another significant milestone in its recovery from major natural disasters with more than \$1.9 billion of works related to the 2013 disaster events now completed.

The State was impacted by five cyclone, flooding and bushfire disaster events in 2013, with Tropical Cyclone Oswald and its associated rainfall causing the most widespread and significant damage.

Tropical Cyclone Oswald crossed the western coast of Cape York Peninsula on 22 January 2013. Weakening to a low pressure system, ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald moved inland and down the coast over the following seven days producing damaging winds, including mini-tornados, extreme rainfall, and flooding across the State. Tragically, six deaths occurred related to the event.

The cyclone and its associated rainfall and flooding closed more than 5,800km of State controlled roads, impacted close to 40% of the State's rail network and caused damage as far north as Torres Strait Island, west to Cloncurry and all the way through central and south-east Queensland. The Wide Bay Burnett region - in particular Bundaberg, North Burnett and South Burnett - was severely impacted by the event.

For many of the 59 Councils affected by the 2013 events it's been back-to-back reconstruction programs for more than four years. When Tropical Cyclone Oswald hit, the State was already dealing with the \$8 billion+ recovery from the series of cyclone and flooding events that ravaged communities in 2011 and 2012.

Inclusive of the 2013 events, councils and state agencies have now managed and completed major reconstruction programs over the past four years worth more than \$10 billion.

The 2013 event program was not only delivered on time but also with innovation and efficiencies. Of note, North Burnett Regional Council was presented with the Local Buy State Procurement Award for Collaboration at The Government Procurement Professional Awards in March 2014, recognising the significant contribution that staff made towards procurement and project delivery of its event program.

The 2013 events also marked the establishment of the \$80 million Betterment fund. The funding was allocated to 232 projects impacted by the events across the State to improve the resilience of infrastructure. The benefits of the betterment works have already been realised with a number of completed projects withstanding serious impacts with little damage or disruption when put to the test by the cyclone and flooding events of 2014 and 2015.



*Aerial view of Bundaberg under flood, January 2013*



*Damage to Capricorn Highway at Neerkol Creek, January 2013  
(Courtesy [www.themorningbulletin.com.au](http://www.themorningbulletin.com.au)).*



*Damage to Don Tallon Bridge, Bundaberg following 2013 flood event, which was recovered within two weeks of the event, restoring a crucial cross-river link for the Bundaberg community.*



*A section of Browns Road (North Burnett Regional Council) washed away following the 2013 floods (above); and the completed realigned road (right)*



*Landslips and damage to the Burnett Highway (Mount Morgan Range) following Tropical Cyclone Oswald (left); and following reconstruction works (right)*

## 4.2 Program spotlights (continued)

### Brisbane City Council Completion of Ferry Terminals project



The upgraded Holman Street ferry terminal at Kangaroo Point was officially opened on 23 June 2015, marking the end of Brisbane City Council's ferry terminal replacement program.

The January 2011 floods damaged all of Brisbane City Council's CityCat and City Ferry terminals. To return service as soon as possible, Council replaced the seriously damaged terminals with temporary terminals.

Seven temporary terminals were built to pre-flood standards meaning that in the event of another major flood, it was likely it would need to be rebuilt again.

Works to replace the seven terminals with more resilient, permanent structures were delivered as part of a Category D (exceptional circumstances) funding package.

The new terminals are designed to withstand a one-in-500-year flood event with the designs incorporating robust piers engineered with the capacity to deflect heavy objects in flood waters, and gangways that detach at the shore end in the event of a flood, allowing it to swing behind the pontoon and avoid being struck by debris.

The Holman Street and the Maritime Museum ferry terminal at Southbank were the final two ferry terminals in the program to be completed, being re-opened and returned to normal services on 23 June. Earlier in June, the North Quay terminal in the Brisbane CBD had also been completed and reopened.

Other ferry terminals replaced under the program at The University of Queensland (St Lucia), Regatta (Toowong), QUT Gardens Point (CBD) and Sydney Street (New Farm) were progressively opened in April and May 2015.

The works were delivered by McConnell Dowell Constructors.



*(Left to right): Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, Brisbane Councillor Peter Matic and Authority Chair Maj-Gen Richard Wilson at the Holman Street ferry terminal*



*The completed QUT Gardens Point ferry terminal*



*Sydney Street terminal opened*

## 4.2 Program spotlights (continued)

### Toowoomba Regional Council Completion of 2011 event Category D works on Gowrie Creek

Toowoomba Regional Council has completed \$25 million worth of flood mitigation projects that will ensure the city is more resilient to future flooding events.

Images of devastating flash flooding through the Toowoomba central business district became one of the iconic memories of the devastating floods in Queensland in January 2011.

Council Infrastructure Service Committee Chair Cr Carol Taylor said after the 2011 floods it became clear that Council needed to bring forward some flood mitigation projects that would have been delivered over a longer period of time.

“The Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry clearly stated in its final report that councils had a responsibility to mitigate future flood impacts,” Cr Taylor said.

The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments approved \$20 million in NDRRA exceptional circumstances Category D funding while Council contributed \$5 million to the flood mitigation projects.



*Toowoomba under flood - January 2011*



*Completed works - Garnet Lehman detention basin*



Without the Category D funding, Council would not have been able to fast-track the projects which formed part of Toowoomba’s overall Gowrie Creek Catchment Management Strategy. Council’s original Strategy was to complete the series of flood mitigation works by 2023.

The delivered projects help improve public safety and provide increased property protection in future flooding events to the residential, commercial and industrial areas in and around the Toowoomba CBD.

Some of the key projects delivered with the NDRRA funding include new detention basins at Ballin Drive Park and Garnet Lehman Park and East Creek channel works to increase capacity between James Street and Creek Street by upgrading the Mary Street culvert.

All work on the program was completed in June 2015.

*Left: Completed works at Ballin Drive detention basin (top) and Mary Street culvert, East Creek channel works (bottom)*

## **Section five: Communications**



## 5.0 Communications

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

### 5.1 Communicating progress

#### Media analysis

There has been a total of 264 media items in June 2015 (134 print – 41%, 27 TV – 11%, 103 radio – 48%), which reached a cumulative audience of over 5.5 million people, with the focus this month being on the completion of 2013 reconstruction works, ongoing recovery efforts from Tropical Cyclone Marcia and the announcement of the day labour exemption.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from the current and previous natural disaster events, including articles in The Ayr Advocate, The Balonne Beacon, Cairns Post, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Telegraph, Clifton Courier, Herbert River Express, High Country Herald, Kilcoy Sentinel, Mareeba Express, North Queensland Register, North West Star, Oakey Champion, Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette, Queensland Country Life, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, The Somerset, Toowoomba Chronicle, and the Townsville Bulletin; TV coverage on the ABC, Channel 10, Nine, WIN, and Seven networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4GR, River FM, 4WK Toowoomba, 4BC, 4CA Cairns, 4KZ Innisfail and Zinc FM.

Making news this month was the approval of the \$27.8 million NDRRA Category D package for Cyclone Marcia recovery, and the announcement of the exemption to allow councils to use their own internal day labour forces on reconstruction works for 2015, 2016 and 2017 event works.

Also making news this month was the completion of Brisbane City Council's ferry terminal replacement program with the opening of the Sydney Street terminal at New Farm, the Holman Street terminal in Kangaroo Point and the Maritime Museum terminal at Southbank; and the completion of Somerset Regional Council's 2013 betterment and restoration program, with coverage of these events in The Village News, The Somerset and the Kilcoy Sentinel.

#### Engagement activities

On 9 June 2015, **Authority Chair Major-General Richard Wilson** and **Chief Executive Officer Frankie Carroll** travelled to Somerset to attend ribbon-cutting ceremonies at the Tooolawah Pedestrian Bridge and Kropps Bridge and celebrate the completion of Council's betterment program and the 2013 flood recovery works. They met with Somerset Regional Council Mayor Graeme Lehmann and were joined at the opening by Senator for Queensland Barry O'Sullivan, State Member for Ipswich West Jim Madden MP, and Federal Member for Blair Shayne Neumann MP.

**Maj-Gen Richard Wilson** also joined Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk at the opening of the new Holman Street ferry terminal in Kangaroo Point on 23 June 2015.

#### Communications

The Authority's website provides information to the public and continues to be enhanced with ongoing updates, including information about Betterment projects and current recovery efforts. There have been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 30 June 2015, total website visits amounted to 468,773- a 1% increase since last month. *(See Figure 5.1.1)*

In June, the Authority received an additional 35 calls to its dedicated hotline and 232 additional pieces of written correspondence were received. *(See Figure 5.1.2)*

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

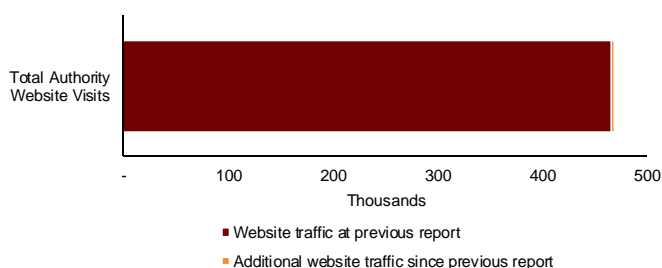
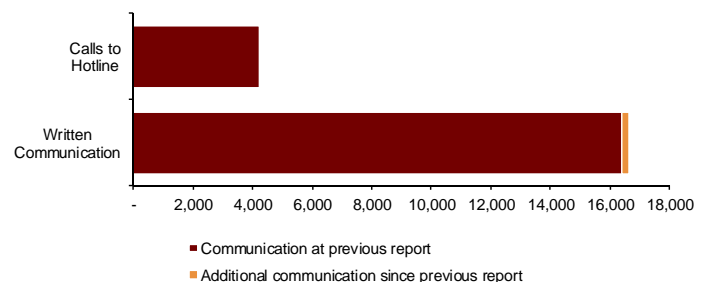


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



(Source: the Authority at 31 May 2015)



## 5.2 Media reports

# CQ picks up \$30m recovery package

**C**ENTRAL Queensland is in line for nearly \$30 million with the federal government's category D cyclone recovery package, member for Capricornia Michelle Landry and member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd announced on Monday.

The funding will include help for the shires of Rockhampton, Livingstone and Banana, and other local government areas which were affected when Cyclone Marcia struck in February.

"This is a significant package - one for which both myself and Ken - have been fighting hard for over the past few months," Ms Landry said.

"Despite the challenges, we have not let up on this issue and have lobbied as high as the Prime Minister."



Member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd stands in the wreckage after Cyclone Marcia.

Both MPs say they have been fighting hard behind closed doors in Canberra for the category D support.

Many small business and agricultural industries were wiped out by Cyclone Marcia, which devastated Byfield, Yeppoon, Rockhampton and parts of the Banana Shire.

Mr O'Dowd described the package as a "very pleasing result".

"Our government is committed to ensuring that people in regional areas are looked after, especially when so much of rural Queensland was devastated by a natural disaster, and I think we have

well and truly demonstrated that," Mr O'Dowd said.

In total, the category D funding package is worth \$27.75m and includes funding for four recovery initiatives:

- \$20m for an Infrastructure Betterment Fund to rebuild damaged local government assets to a more resilient standard.
- \$6m for the clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets.
- \$1m to assist councils in the worst affected areas with green waste clean-up and removal activities.

- \$750,000 to engage industry recovery officers to support cyclone-affected primary producers and small businesses.
- The funding will be delivered under the joint Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), under which the federal government funds up to 75 per cent of Queensland's disaster recovery costs.
- The recovery funding package comes in addition to comprehensive disaster assistance that has already been made available to help affected Queenslanders under

the NDRRA, including:

- Emergency and recovery support for affected individuals.
- Concessional loans and clean-up grants for small businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit bodies.
- Funding for local council and state agencies to rebuild damaged infrastructure.
- A \$5.1m Community Recovery Fund to restore social networks and build community resilience throughout the recovery process.
- Visit the Queensland government's Disaster Management site or the federal government's Disaster Assist website.

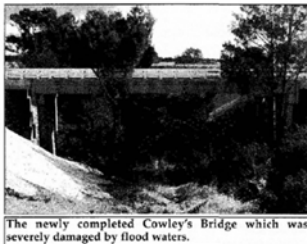
North Queensland Register, 4 June 2015

## Talgai bridge reopens after devastating floods

Cowley's Bridge at Mullins Road, Talgai, recently reopened to traffic after the destructive 2011 floods forced its closure.

The bridge was severely damaged in 2011 and then again in 2013 by the floods that devastated parts of the Southern Downs.

A project was undertaken by Southern Downs Council with ProBuild Civil and GHF Engineers to replace the 20 metre bridge's damaged abutments and repair its approaches.



The newly completed Cowley's Bridge which was severely damaged by flood waters.

The \$800,000 project has been funded by the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), a joint funding initiative of Commonwealth and State Governments set up to assist communities affected by natural disasters.

"Fortunately this will be at no cost to ratepayers," SDRC Director Engineering Services, Mr Peter See said.

Until last month when the bridge was reopened, motorists had been diverted via Dalrymple Creek Road and Talgai West Road.

Clifton Courier, 17 June 2015

## Councils to be paid back

RURAL and remote councils in the Maranoa will be eligible to claim day labour under Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), after an agreement was reached between the Federal and Queensland governments.



CLAIM TODAY: Bruce Scott PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Federal Member for Maranoa Bruce Scott said an interim day labour solution to enable councils to seek reimbursement for the use of local workers if they can adequately demonstrate it is better value for money than contract labour.

"This is great news for many councils in the

"It will introduce more competition into the contract labour market and ensure very remote councils are not disadvantaged by the tyranny of distance."

Mr Scott said the L2-1 National Coalition has put forward a long term solution to ensure day labour is sustainable.

"In 2017-18, the Federal Government is proposing to move to an upfront day disaster funding model which would give state local governments greater autonomy to undertake disaster reconstruction works in the most off-way, including the use of day labour," he said.

Maranoa which indicated their workers will become unemployable if they cannot claim day labour," Mr Scott said

Balonne Beacon, 25 June 2015

## Road repairs starting soon

DOUGLAS Shire Council has awarded two contracts valued at over \$10 million to repair roads damaged in flood and cyclone events early last year.

The good news is that the \$10 million is not coming from ratepayers; rather it is part of the \$16.8 million Douglas Shire Council has already secured through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

Mayor Julia Leu said Council's success in securing NDRRA funds will make a huge difference in the Shire.

Road repairs are scheduled to start later this month for completion in November, well before the onset of the wet season.

## Local workers aid disaster recovery

QUEENSLAND councils will be allowed to use their own workers rather than contractors to recover and rebuild their communities after natural disasters.

The Local Government Association of Queensland struck the deal on Monday night following a long campaign to convince successive federal governments that day labour often saved taxpayers money.

LGQA president Margaret de Wit said yesterday the resolution of the issue would be a big relief for councils anxious to ensure their communities recovered quickly from natural disasters.

Sunshine Coast Daily, 17 June 2015

Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette, 4 June 2015

## Upgrade for Palm Island road

A VITAL road on Palm Island will get a \$400,000 upgrade.

Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland Coralee O'Rourke (pictured) said the community relied on



that are most at risk of serious damage will be more resilient to future natural disasters."

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said the latest round of the Government's Betterment Fund would improve a fourth vulnerable site on the Mount Bentley access road. The work will be completed by 30 June.

Townsville Bulletin, 5 June 2015

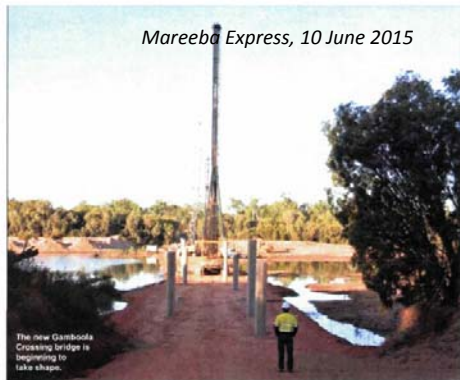
## Gamboola Crossing

THE Gamboola Crossing (over the Mitchell River on Strathleven Road) consists of a short concrete bridge structure, followed by an extensive gravel crossing of the river at river bed level.

During the dry season - the crossing is able to be accessed by vehicles - however in the wet season, the gravel crossing becomes washed out and becomes impassable.

The damage to the gravel crossing is then repaired post-wet season with yearly maintenance costs.

The then Tabularia Regional Council made a submission for funding to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority through their Betterment Program to upgrade the crossing given the construction costs involved in its yearly upkeep.



Mareeba Express, 10 June 2015

The new Gamboola Crossing bridge is beginning to take shape.

## Kingsthorpe's new \$3.7m bridge open to traffic

The new bridge was constructed to Q20 flood standards, which means that it was expected to be inundated in just one in every 20 flood events.

The Kingsthorpe Haden Road is becoming an important arterial road with a substantial traffic count including significant truck traffic, and an extension of the road in the future across the Warego Highway at Zimmas

Corner to Cecil Plains Road would provide direct access to the front gate of the Wellcamp Airport.

The construction was performed by engineering company CMC with engineers Accom playing a supervisory role which they have done with all flood relief work in Toowoomba Region.

Council contributed \$1.2 million to the cost of the

bridge, with the State and Federal governments paying for the remainder under the NDRRA scheme.

The bridge was built off-line so traffic could continue to use the old crossing during construction.

RIGHT: Cr Chris Tall, Mayor Paul Antonio and Cr Carol Taylor inspect the new Kingsthorpe Bridge.



High Country Herald, 16 June 2015

## Council win on labour issue

Adam Davies

QUEENSLAND councils will be allowed to use their own workers rather than contractors to recover and rebuild their communities following natural disasters.

The Local Government Association of Queensland struck the deal on Monday night following a long campaign to convince successive federal governments that day labour often saved taxpayers money.

LGQA president Margaret de Wit said the resolution of the issue would be a big relief for local councils anxious to ensure their communities recovered quickly from natural disasters.

"I am grateful to the government for putting commonsense before bureaucratic rigidity," she said. "But I particularly thank Queensland councils who held their resolve and never gave up the fight over day labour throughout what was a long campaign."

State Government figures show the use of council day labour rather than contract labour to clean up after floods and cyclones over the summer of 2011 and 2012 saved taxpayers \$160 million.

- APN NEWSDESK

Central and North Burnett Times, 18 June 2015

## Category D package \$27.75 million

**I**N TOTAL the Category D funding package is worth \$27.75 million and includes funding for four recovery initiatives:

- \$20 million for an Infrastructure Betterment Fund to rebuild damaged local government assets to a more resilient standard (the state

government requested \$80 million).

- \$6 million for the clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (the state government requested \$15 million).
- \$1 million to assist councils in

the worst-affected areas with green waste clean-up and removal.

- \$750,000 to engage industry recovery officers to support cyclone-affected primary producers and small businesses (the state government requested \$21 million).

## MAJOR BRIDGE OPENING IN SOMERSET

A major bridge opening in Somerset has recognised a huge milestone in the restoration work completed by Somerset Regional Council following the 2013 floods.

Eleven bridges linking the regional rural communities were opened by Senator for Queensland Barry O'Sullivan, on Tuesday, June 9.

More than \$10 million in funding from the Queensland and Australian governments made the upgrades possible, and Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Jackie Trad, said the ageing timber bridges in the Somerset Regional Council area provided crucial access for primary production communities.

"These new flood resilient concrete bridges have been made possible thanks to the joint state and federal Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and the Queensland Betterment Fund," Ms Trad said.

"Bridges including Kropp Bridge over Gregors Creek have been replaced to suit the Toowoomba Pedestrian Bridge which provides safe access for residents to walk to and from the township to the nearby high school and popular amenities.

"The Betterment Fund was established to allow Councils to build vital infrastructure in more disaster resilient way and there are no better examples of the need for this than in Somerset."

"Time and time again Somerset residents have seen their roads and bridges repaired only to be damaged again in the next flood. In some cases the bridges have been completely washed away."

"Thanks to the Betterment Fund, Somerset Regional Council has been able to replace its old timber bridges with new purpose-built concrete bridges that have higher flood immunity, giving the community peace of mind," she said.

Somerset Regional Council Mayor Graeme Lehmann was joined by Senator for Queensland Barry O'Sullivan, and Chairman of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Mayor-General Richard Wilson AO (ret'd) at a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion of Council's 2013 flood recovery works.

Cr Lehmann said in addition to the new bridges, works also included upgrades to culverts, the restoration and sealing of approaches to bridges and the installation of rock protection. In some cases:

"Somerset Regional Council has committed almost \$2 million towards these projects and we are grateful to our state and federal counterparts for the opportunity to

strengthen these vital links in our community," Cr Lehmann said.

"Reliable bridges and road networks are vital but they are even more important when you have farmers and families relying on the road network which is the basis of the local economy and employment."

"The completion of these bridge projects brings to a close Council's betterment and restoration program to repair the extensive damage caused by the 2013 floods and I commend our contractors and staff for getting the job done on time."

Senator O'Sullivan said Council was approved for 30 Betterment projects to upgrade bridges, crossings and floodways that were damaged in 2011 and 2013 with an estimated total project cost of \$14 million, including about \$7.2 from the Betterment Fund.

"It is wonderful to see these bridges built back better thanks to Betterment and NDRRA funding," Senator O'Sullivan said. Other bridges completed in Somerset and celebrated at the major bridge opening ceremony include Ted Sloner Bridge on Eak-Crows Nest Road, George Bell Bridge on Jorub Creek Road, Wunulla Lane Bridge on Wunulla Lane, Scrub Creek Road Bridge on Scrub Creek Road, Jones Bridge on Gregors Creek Road, and Gerald Ryan Bridge on Mt Stanley Road, which all received betterment funding. Ted Sloner Bridge on Manonih Creek Road, Glenmaurie Road Bridge on Glenmaurie Road, and Dunning's Bridge on O'Leary's Lane were funded under standard Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

The \$80 million betterment fund is a Queensland Government initiative, jointly funded by the State and Federal governments as part of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

The Somerset, 24 June 2015

Queensland Country Life, 4 June 2015

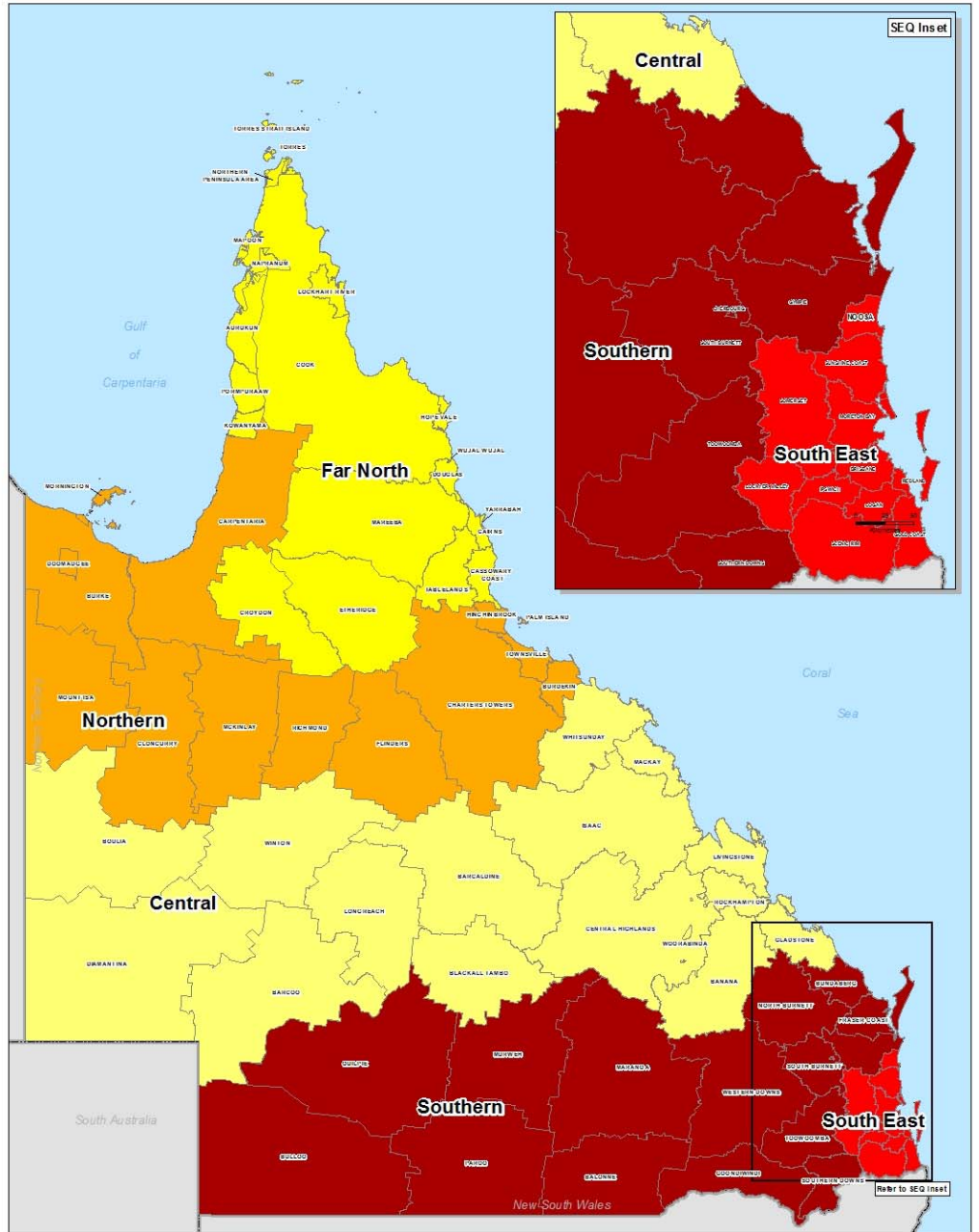


Queensland Country Life, 4 June 2015

# Appendices

# Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

Region	Local Government Areas (LGA's)	
<b>Far North Queensland (FNQ)</b>	ASC Aurukun Shire Council	
	CRC Cairns Regional Council	
	CCRC Cassowary Coast Regional Council	
	CoSC Cook Shire Council	
	CfSC 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 Mornington 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 Banana Shire Council
		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	
	WDRC 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		



**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

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