**QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY** 

# Monthly Report March 2017

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#### Information security

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

Dear Major General Wilson

It is with pleasure that I present the March 2017 Monthly Report – the 73rd 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 role of QRA has since been extended a number of times to cover historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland. Since June 2015, QRA's operations have been permanent, enabling it to continue the work of helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

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 now 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.

The March report provides a snapshot of progress in the state's recovery and reconstruction from the disaster events of recent years and an update on progress in in recovery, resilience and mitigation activities.

Of the estimated \$702 million program of reconstruction works for 21 events from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 disaster periods that are in the delivery phase, \$640 million has been approved by QRA and additional submissions worth \$79 million are being assessed by QRA or awaiting additional information. QRA is working with delivery agents to progress their preparation of submissions for the remaining program. \$384 million (55%) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 31 January 2017 as in progress or delivered.

QRA is also managing the close out of an estimated \$868 million works from the 2013 to 2017 disaster periods that will be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth over the next four financial years. QRA has finalised the eligibility assessments of 2014 event and other works completed to 30 June 2016 for acquittal in the next disaster funding claim due to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2017.

The March report highlights completion of Betterment funded works to Emerys Bridge Road and Netherby Road in the Fraser Coast Regional Council. These two essential roads ensure rural properties relying on them are able to access local townships, services and essential supplies. This month's report also profiles the completion of Betterment works in Central Highlands Regional Council on Herbert Creek Bridge on Boolburra-Edungalba Road and the Dawson River Crossing on Aroona Road, giving reassurance to residents and primary producers in the area these essential rural access routes will now stand-up against future flood events. The March report also profiles the continuing works to replace the Burnett River Bridge by the Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads after the bridge was washed away following Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015. Additional State funding has been provided to improve the bridge's resilience to flood and to improve the visibility for motorists on the approaches.

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

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 disasteraffected 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 30 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery and acquittal phases. With the deadline now passed for completion of 2014 events works, QRA has finalised the close out of these and other event works completed by 30 June 2016 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2017. QRA is also 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.

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.

On 9 January 2017, the Commonwealth reimbursed approximately \$1 billion payable to Queensland since the 2014-15 NDRRA Claim was submitted in March 2016. This payment follows finalisation of the Commonwealth's assurance review over Queensland's seven claims for NDRRA assistance dating back to 2008-09 that it had not previously acquitted. QRA is currently finalising the next claim to the Commonwealth for works completed to 30 June 2016.



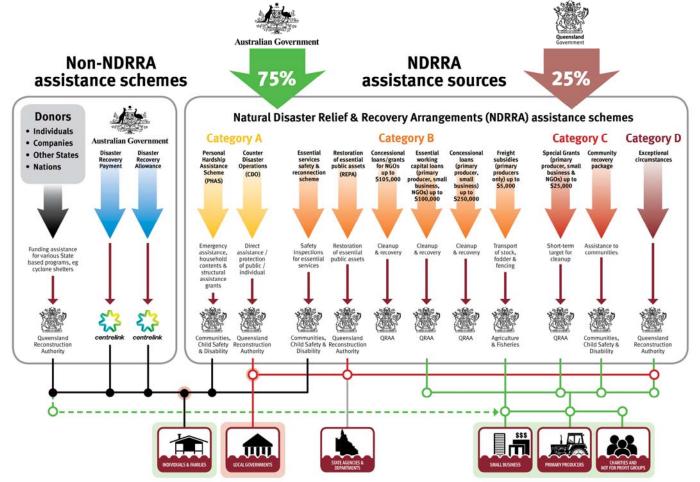
Section two: Disaster Assistance

### 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.





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

#### Disaster events managed by QRA

The list of the activated disaster events managed by QRA are set out in Section 2.2 and can also be found on www.disaster.qld.gov.au.

This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

- 2017 events: Activated disaster events managed by QRA occurring in the financial year ending 30 June 2017
- 2016 events: Activated disaster events managed by QRA occurring in the financial year ending 30 June 2016
- 2015 events: Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended 30 June 2015
- 2014 events: Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended 30 June 2014
- **2013 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA 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 QRA which occurred in the financial year ended 30 June 2012
- **2011 events:** Activated disaster events managed by QRA which occurred in the financial year ended **30 June 2011**, including Tropical Cyclone Yasi and Queensland flooding (December 2010 to February 2011).

#### 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 63 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 21 events from the 2015 to 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery phase<sup>1</sup> and completed works from a further 9 events from the 2014 event period are also in the acquittal phase<sup>1</sup>.

The figures opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2011 to 2017 event periods managed by QRA<sup>2</sup>.

#### 2017 events

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

- 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)

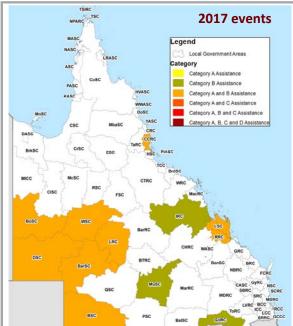
- South East Queensland Low, 30 April 1 May 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Nathan and associated rainfall & flooding, 11-15 March 2015
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia and South East Queensland Trough 19 to 22 February 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Lam, 15-18 February 2015
- North Queensland Severe Weather and Flooding 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.

#### 2014 events

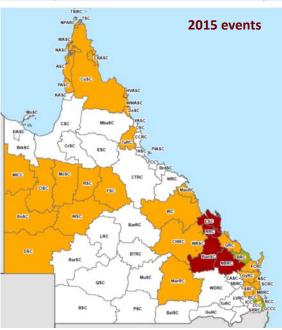
#### Delivery of works complete with final acquittal due by March 2017, other than three LGA programs that received extensions of time for delivery)

- 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 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

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.







#### 2.2 Events managed by QRA (cont.)

#### 2013 events

(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three projects that received extensions of time for delivery, with acquittal due by March 2017)

- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late October December 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013<sup>#</sup>
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013
- Central & Southern Queensland Low, 25 February 5 March 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 and flooding and East Coast Hybrid Low, 24 February 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 and Anthony, December 2010 to February 2011.

#### 2007-2010 events managed by QRA

#### (Delivery and acquittal of works complete)

- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul, January to April 2010
- Northern, Central and 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.

# Three 2013 Event Betterment projects received extensions of time for delivery, with final acquittal due by 31 March 2017. All other 2013 event s have completed delivery and acquittal phases.



2014 events





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Section three: Program Status



#### 3.0 Program Status

#### 3.1 NDRRA program status

QRA is currently focused on the preparation and audit of the 2015-16 Commonwealth Claim, which is due to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2017. QRA is also assisting with the damage assessments from the three recent 2017 events and progression of the program of works from the 2015 and 2016 events through delivery.

The value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by QRA since its establishment is estimated to be \$13.3 billion. Of this, \$12.3 billion of works from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012 and 2013 events have been finalised (delivered and acquitted) with the remaining works for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event years in the active delivery and/or acquittal phases.

#### Active program

QRA is managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$702 million for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events (**Delivery Program**) and an **Acquittal Program** worth \$868 million, comprising the remaining works from the 2013 to 2017 Events that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth.

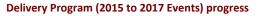
#### **Delivery Program status**

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

- A cumulative value of \$920 million in submissions have been received, an increase of \$28 million since last month
- A cumulative total of \$640 million has been approved, an increase of \$9 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$79 million are with QRA and under investigation or awaiting additional information
- A cumulative value of \$384 million (55 percent) of the Delivery Program has been reported to QRA at 31 January 2017 as in progress or delivered.

The graph below shows the monthly reported expenditure and forecast monthly costs to completion at 31 January 2017 on a combined basis for the 2015 and 2016 Events.

The 2015 and 2016 Event works are due for completion by 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018 respectively. The 2017 Events will have until 30 June 2019 to complete reconstruction works.







(Source: The Authority, 28 February 2017)

www.qldreconstruction.org.au



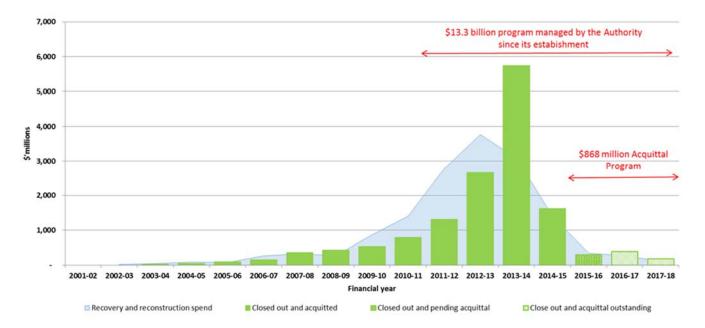
#### **Acquittal Program status**

The next Commonwealth Claim is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2017. Having closed-out all submissions due for inclusion in the claim, QRA is currently managing the audit review of the claim. The 2015-16 Commonwealth Claim includes final works from the 2014 events and components of 2015 and 2016 works completed by 30 June 2016.

The 2014-15 Commonwealth Claim was submitted to the Commonwealth on 24 March 2016. The claim acquitted \$1.6 billion of works completed in the year ended 30 June 2015. However, through the Federal Budget in May 2016, the Commonwealth indicated that it would defer payment of the funding due on the claim until it had undertaken assurance activities over it and the previous six annual claims dating back to 2008-09 that it had not previously acquitted.

QRA actively engaged with the Commonwealth to progress the review and, during November 2016, received notification that the Commonwealth had completed its review of the seven claims with no significant adjustment to claimed expenditure.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2014-15 financial years and Commonwealth Claims preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2015-16 to 2017-18 in order to finalise acquittal of the \$868 million remaining in the Acquittal Program.



#### 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 S	Status
<ul> <li>2015 Events Betterment Fund (\$20 million)</li> <li>For the restoration or replace- ment 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 incre- mental 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> <li>eligible for funding. The proposals principally comprised works to increase the resilience of damaged roads, culverts and floodways.</li> <li>To 28 February 2017: <ul> <li>63 submissions with a total project value of over \$40 million, including \$20 million in Betterment funding have been approved</li> <li>45 projects with a total project value of \$16.4 million, including \$10 million Betterment funding have been reported as complete.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Key 2015 Event Betterment projects completed to date include 16 projects for NBRC, 12 projects for Somerset Regional Council and 8 projects for Rockhampton Regional Council.</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> </ul>

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**3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)** 

Package	Purpose	Status
Clean-up and restora- tion of national parks, beaches and recrea- tional assets (\$6 million)	<ul> <li>To clean-up and repair communi- ty infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associ- ated amenities</li> </ul>	<ul> <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>
Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)	• To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses	<ul> <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>
Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)	• For placement of industry recov- ery officers (IRO) to provide re- covery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas	<ul> <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>
Category C Communi- ty Recovery Package (\$5.1 million)	• To engage community develop- ment officers and personal sup- port managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in Rock- hampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Glad- stone LGAs.	<ul> <li>Package is being managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS)</li> <li>Livingstone, Gladstone, North Burnett and Banana councils and Rockhampton Uniting Care Community are delivering Community Development and Personal Support &amp; General Counselling programs across each of the five affected communities.</li> <li>Relationships Australia and Uniting Care Community are delivering Personal Support and General Counselling services.</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; 28 February 2017)

#### **Other active Category D measures**

• The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to continue the **Day Labour** extension for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 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.



Above: Rockhampton Regional Council's Pilbeam Drive Betterment project during repair and upgrade works and at completion



### 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
Disaster Management Reviews	In 2015, a series of reviews were conducted into disaster management operations fol- lowing Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia. An Interdepartmental Committee was estab- lished to review 160 recommendations from these reviews, including KPMG's operational review of QRA. The QRA review identified 14 recommenda- tions relating to operational and policy- related matters, including the need for clari- ty in the disaster management framework on the roles and responsibilities of the QRA.	<ul> <li>As at 1 March 2017, 11 of the 14 recommendations have been completed.</li> <li>The three remaining recommendations are progressing:         <ul> <li>Technical leadership in Commonwealth funding negotiations</li> <li>Greater role in the 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> </ul>
Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) Guide	The DRC Guide provides information and guidance on the roles, responsibilities, train- ing and induction requirements, manage- ment arrangements and operational issues relating to DRCs in Queensland.	<ul> <li>A draft guide for the role of the DRC has been finalised and will be distributed to local and district disaster management groups.</li> <li>QRA will maintain the DRC Register commensurate with the role of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRPPC).</li> </ul>
Strategic Policy Framework for Riverine Flood Risk Manage- ment and Community Resili- ence	The policy framework is a key recommenda- tion from the Disaster Management Reviews conducted in 2015 and will support a state- wide best practice approach.	• The draft policy framework will be submitted to the Queensland Disaster Management Committee for endorsement in the coming months.
Floodplain management	QRA is developing the Queensland Flood Risk Management Implementation and Ca- pacity Building Program to support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans.	• Work has commenced and options for the develop- ment and delivery of this program are being developed in conjunction with the Queensland Flood Resilience Coordination Committee, which includes LGAQ.
Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies	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 resili- ence in the Brisbane River floodplain. The project includes development of a Flood Study followed by a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan that will guide a coordi- nated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the flood- plain.	<ul> <li>The Flood Study is nearing completion and in the final stages of review by the Technical Working Group.</li> <li>The Flood Study will support the development of a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan, which is scheduled for completion in December 2017.</li> </ul>
Flood warning	QRA continues to support Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the Bu- reau of Meteorology (BoM) to engage with LGAs to review the adequacy and appropri- ateness of the flood warning networks that provide data to the BoM.	<ul> <li>In February, QRA commenced work with BoM to undertake an audit of the Queensland Flood Warning Network asset register to identify infrastructure where the ownership and responsibility of the asset is not clearly identified. The audit is expected to take approximately three months to complete.</li> <li>Draft Flood Gauge Network Investment Plans have been developed for 37 priority LGAs in 2016 and 2017. The QRA is working with these councils and the BoM to finalise the draft plans over the coming months.</li> <li>Initial plans are now being developed to prioritise the remaining LGAs that were considered as having a medium to low threat flood hazard. This work is expected to be completed in 2017 and will support LGAs in prioritising new and upgraded flood gauge infrastructure.</li> </ul>

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#### 3.3 Program spotlights

#### Fraser Coast Regional Council Fraser Coast completes betterment works to increase resilience

Fraser Coast Regional Council has completed vital infrastructure upgrades on two essential roads, helping regional communities stay connected to critical services during and after heavy rainfall and flooding.

The works to Emerys Bridge Road and Netherby Road were funded through the \$20 million Queensland Betterment Fund, established in 2015 in response to Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia under Category D of the NDRRA.

The roads service a large agricultural and pastoral area in the Gundiah region south of Maryborough, with rural properties relying on them to access local townships, services and essential supplies. The roads are also used by a significant number of commercial vehicles to transport livestock and produce to market.

Both Emerys Bridge Road and Netherby Road have a history of flood damage, with access repeatedly cut for residents and primary producers until waters recede, often restricting full access for months after an event. In February 2015, Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia saw a high volume of water flood the region, causing creeks to break their banks and the regional road network to be inundated.

High-velocity floodwaters stripped the pavement from the Gutchy Creek Crossing on Emerys Bridge Road and caused extensive scouring to the embankment. Netherby Road suffered similar damage from an overflow channel adjacent to the road. This damage caused both roads to be closed for two days until Fraser Coast Regional Council was able to undertake emergency repairs.

Council commenced upgrade works in November 2016 on both roads to increase their resilience to future natural disasters. The Emerys Bridge Road project saw Council construct a seven-metre-wide reinforced concrete floodway with reinforced concrete batters and increased rock protection that replaced the old, damaged and narrow bitumen floodway.

Netherby Road works included constructing a new eight-metre-wide reinforced concrete floodway with reinforced concrete batters to increase the road's protection from future natural disasters. Fraser Coast Regional Council Mayor Chris Loft said the upgrades were a boost for the community that relied on the roads to transport their stock and produce to market and to receive supplies.

"Betterment funding has given us the opportunity to build stronger, more resilient floodways, ensuring the surrounding communities stay connected to critical services following flooding events," Councillor Loft said.

"Council would like to thank the community for their patience while works were carried out. Council would also like to thank the Australian and Queensland Governments for providing this betterment funding to enable us to build these assets back better and stronger and allowing the community to get back to normal soon after flooding events," he said.

Initially approved for more than \$1.8 million in NDRRA funding for the two projects, including more than \$1.5 million from the joint Australian-Queensland Governments' \$20 million Betterment Fund, Council advised savings achieved during delivery meant the final estimated cost for the two projects was approximately \$670,000, including approximately \$625,000 provided from the Betterment Fund.

The projects were completed in January 2017.





Above: Netherby Road before and after



Above: Emerys Bridge Road before and after

#### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### Central Highlands Regional Council Central Highlands Betterment projects complete

Central Highlands Regional Council has completed betterment works on Herbert Creek Bridge on Boolburra-Edungalba Road and the Dawson River Crossing on Aroona Road.

The completion of \$2.4 million in upgrades to the two roads provides reassurance to the community of residents and primary producers who live in and around the districts of Boolburra and Duaringa that these essential rural access routes will now stand-up against future flood events.

The two projects were approved for funding through the \$80 million 2013 Queensland Betterment Fund, which was established in response to Tropical Cyclone Oswald under Category D of the jointly-funded Commonwealth and State NDRRA.

Persistent ongoing heavy rainfall and flooding throughout 2014 and 2015 restricted access to the sites and Council was unable to complete the Boolburra-Edungalba Road and Aroona Road projects by the Commonwealth Government's allowable time limit of 30 June 2015. Further flooding in 2016 also prevented progress at the sites.

Due to Council's extenuating circumstances, QRA secured an extension of time from Emergency Management Australia until 31 December 2016 to complete the projects and help make the region stronger and more disaster resilient.



The flooded Aroona Road crossing in2013



The former Herbert Creek Bridge on Boolburra-Edungalba Road - 2013

Works on Herbert Creek Bridge on Boolburra-Edungalba Road included removing the old timber bridge and replacing it with a new concrete bridge, as well as re-establishing the road's original alignment.

The Aroona Road project at the Dawson River Crossing saw the old unsealed crossing replaced with a new concrete floodway with reinforced concrete box culverts with rock protection added to the approaches to increase protection from scouring.

Central Highlands Regional Council Mayor Cr Kerry Hayes said the upgrades were a boost for the community that relied on safe access to these roads during times of flooding.

By upgrading these roads we will help keep the community road network moving during floods," Cr Hayes said.

"Given that both sites have a history of repeated failure in flooding events, the funding is of great value because the sites are built to a better standard to make them resilient to future damage and therefore we not only avoid the cost of future rectification works, but also the inconvenience to the people that use the roads.

"We would like to thank the Australian and Queensland governments for providing this betterment funding," he said.

In total, Central Highlands Regional Council delivered 13 other projects under the 2013 Betterment Program with total combined costs of approximately \$5.9 million, with \$1.1 million in Category B restoration funding, \$4.1 million under Category D Betterment and \$700,000 contributed by Council.



The new and upgraded Herbert Creek Bridge – December 2016



The new resilient Aroona Road crossing - February 2017

#### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### TMR Works progress on Burnett River Bridge replacement



Above: Burnett River Bridge – bridge sub-structure (columns and headstocks)



Above: Burnett River Bridge – alignment of western approach

Works to replace the Burnett River Bridge are continuing, with construction of the bridge sub-structures completed in January.

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

The township of Monto is situated about 40km to the north and Eidsvold about 45km to the south.

Eligible works will be funded under the NDRRA with additional complementary state funding allocated to ensure value for the community by improving flood immunity.

To improve safety for motorists, the road and new bridge have also been realigned to reduce the curvature of the bridge approaches and improve visibility for motorists.

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

A temporary platform was also installed across the Burnett River to provide a flat, stable surface from which construction machinery can operate.

Following construction of the bridge sub-structures, the precast concrete deck units are scheduled to be installed in February, after which the bridge will start to take form. Works are continuing on the road approaches.

Once works are completed, the temporary construction platform and temporary river crossing will be removed. The Burnett River Bridge replacement is scheduled for completion in the first half of 2017, within the NDRRA funding timeframe.



Left: Burnett River Bridge – alignment of eastern approach

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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 has been a total of 266 media items in February 2017 (82 print – 31%, 35 TV – 13%, 83 radio – 31%, 66 online – 24%), which reached a cumulative audience of approximately 9.2 million people.

There were media mentions for regions recovering from recent and previous natural disaster events including articles in The Age, Albert and Logan News, Bundaberg Guardian, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Queensland News, Central Telegraph, The Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Warwick Daily News, Eumundi Green, Fassifern Guardian, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gladstone Observer, Glasshouse Country News, Gympie Times, Hervey Bay City Independent, Innisfail Advocate, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Noosa Today, Charters Towers Northern Miner, Northside Chronicle, Oakey Champion, Queensland Times, Redland City Bulletin, South-West News, Southern Free Times, Stanthorpe Border Post, Sunshine Coast Daily, Sydney Morning Herald, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin, Weekend Australian and the Whitsunday Times; Internet coverage at blackwaterherald.com.au, couriermail.com.au, cairnspost.com.au, dailymercury.com.au, frasercoastchronicle.com.au, gladstoneobserver.com.au, themorningbulletin.com.au, news-mail.com.au, queenslandtimes.com.au, sunshinecoastdaily.com.au and theaustralian.com.au; TV coverage on ABC News 24, Sky News, Channels Seven, Nine, WIN and Ten networks throughout the State; and radio mentions on ABC Radio Queensland, 4BC Brisbane, 4BU Bundaberg, 4WK Toowoomba,

Triple M Darling Downs and Zinc 101.9.

Making news in February 2017 were the anniversaries of Cyclone Yasi in 2011 and Cyclone Marcia in 2015, with articles appearing in the Capricorn Coast Mirror, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Cairns Post and the Townsville Bulletin. Also making news was the activation of the NDRRA for Cassowary Coast as a result of flooding in January, with media mentions in the Innisfail Advocate and on ABC Far North radio.

#### **Engagement Activities**

On 1 February 2017, **Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk** and **Deputy Premier Jackie Trad** visited Yeppoon in Livingstone Shire and inspected works to Council's Betterment project for the Scenic Highway at Statue Bay.

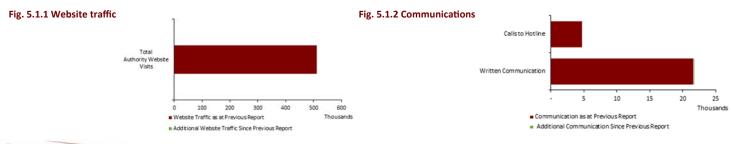
From 6 to 9 February 2017 **Chief Executive Officer Mr Brendan Moon** and Director-General of the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Mr Frankie Carroll visited Mount Isa, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Richmond, Flinders and Charters Towers council areas, discussing each councils' current NDRRA programs, funding reform, the Flood Warning Gauge Network review and options for increasing the resilience of their communities.

On 20 February 2017, Mr Moon visited Warwick in the Southern Downs to attend a QRA workshop on Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, which was also attended by representatives of Southern Downs, Western Downs and Goondiwindi councils. On 24 February 2017, Mr Moon attended the Chief Executive Officers of Western Shires (COWS) conference to provide an update on priorities including plant and equipment, day labour, natural disaster funding reform and the Flood Warning Gauge Network review. Attendees at the conference were the CEOs of Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall-Tambo Boulia, Diamantine, Longreach, Murweh and Winton council areas.

#### Communications

We keep our stakeholders and the community informed and ensure access to the latest information regarding the reconstruction effort through QRA's website, phone hotline and management of correspondence.

Our 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 28 February 2017, total website visits amounted to 513,802. *(See Figure 5.1.1)* In February, QRA received an additional 19 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 130 pieces of written correspondence (*See Figure 5.1.2*)



Source: QRA at 28 February 2017

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#### 4.0 Communications (Cont.)

Central and North Burnett Times 23 February

#### 4.2 Media reports

Director-general gets local tour CHARTERS Towers Regional Council has received positive feedback on its operations fol-lowing avaintly the Infrastruc-ture, Local Government and Planning dopartment directo-general Prankie Carroll, relief on this viti to Charters Towers by chief executive offi-ers of the Queensland Recor-struction Authority, Brendan Moren.

oon. The two senior Queensland

Government bureaucrats were briefed on council's recent in-frastructure improvements and provided with an outline of future infrastructure plan-

of thirtee infrastructure plan-ning. Mayor Liz Schmidt said the visit by MC carroll was import-ant for council. "As the Director-General of the Dipartment of Infrastruc-ture, Local Georemment and portant figure in the State Government's decision mak-ing process," Cr Schmidt said. "My fellow councillors and 1, together with CEO Mark Crawley and three of our di-rectors provided a comprehen-ter backtown KMC Carroll and

redors provided a comprehen-sive briefing to Mr Carroll and Mr Moon. "The director-general spoke about council engaging with the department to work through issues of concern. From time to time we find hur-dies when working with other government departments. "The director-general has offered to assist when we find

ourselves in these positions. "Council also had an oppor tunity to showcase some of th Server Council also has ally to showcase some of the rviously funded projects and ojects in the planning stages. "Mr Carroll and Mr Moon "wroting and how "enting and how that the department has no problems with Charters Tow-ers Regional Council and the department is working to-wards being more of a facilita-tor rather than regulator. "We consider this good

services and access to the com-multy 'C -Schmidt aid. The recently installed infor-mation buckets on Towers Hill batwee funded through the Queenlah different term Fund were also helpfalghted. Attacks the importance de-veloping mee tourism products attacks the importance of replacing They imported the new water main that was recently commissioned, funded by the commissioned, funded by the commissioned funded by the

rassets. "We were pleased to hear

news." Following the boardroom briefing, the visitors inspected the new lift installed during

the new lift installed during 2016 at the Excelsion Library. Funding for the long-awail-ed lift was part-provided under the Local Covernment Gransh and Subsidies Program. We were able to explain that the funding for the library lift provided an coportanity to further develop areas within our library and to delow more services and access to the com-

Over the next fortnight, flood restoration works will be concentrated in the following locations:

Eidsvold Area - Old Rawbelle Rd, Bukali Scrub Rd, Erics Rd, Galloways Lane Gayndah Area - Sunday Creek Rd, Bon Accord Wetheron Rd, Ginoondan Wetheron Rd, The Limits Rd, Bania Rd, Redvale Rd Mount Perry - Sunday Creek Rd Monto Area - Monal Rd, Telebang Rd, Cattle Creek Rd, Twin Creeks Rd, Branch Creek Rd Mundubbera Area - Skeates Rd, Boondooma Rd, Briggs Rd No 1, Philpott Rd

mmissioned, funded by the valies for Regions program. A drive through inspection Dalrymple Saleyards high-tied the importance of the ility to the Charters Towers jon including the ongoing

mic centrefit, and infrastruc-her council infrastruc-her bighlighted included Central and North Burnett Times a lighting upper pro-the Get Reddel by the work Reddel by the the council infrastruc-ter of the council

FLOOD RESTORATION UPDATE

Lochaber Access Rd, Eidsvold 'under construction Council acknowledges the Natural Disaster Relie and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding is a joint Commonwealth and State Government



Authority CEO Brendan Moon, council CEO Mark Crawley, Infrastructure, Local G al Frankie Carroll and Mayor Liz Schmidt during an inspection of the Charters Tow

## Looking Back

Message from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure Jackie Trad

Queenslanders are resilient and none more so than the people of the Livingstone Shire.

When Cyclone Marcia crossed the coast two years ago today, destroying hundreds of homes, flooding businesses and closing major roadways, it must have seemed like an insurmountable challenge to recover.

.....

But today, the evidence of that recovery is all around us. Livingstone Shire Council has forged ahead with a program of more than \$20 million for repairs to vital public infrastructure, supported by the Queensland and Australian Governments through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

With their reconstruction program about 80 per cent complete, Livingstone Shire Council is also delivering stronger, more disaster resilient infrastructure with six projects funded through the Commonwealth and Queensland Government's Betterment Fund. On my recent visit to inspect the works on the Scenic Highway at Statue Bay, it was apparent how important it is to the community that this work is progressing and that this iconic part of the region will be rebuilt stronger, safer and better able to withstand future disastrous weather.

On the two-year anniversary of Cyclone Marcia, Livingstone Shire Council and the entire community should be proud of its hard work, determination and community spirit as it has overcome the hardship delivered in 2015.

Capricorn Coast Mirror—15 February

## New bridge taking shape

THE new Burnett River Bridge on Monto-Mount Perry Rd is taking shape after being washed away floodwaters during Cyclone

Marice during Cyclone Marcia in 2015. Main Roads and Road Safety Minister Mark Bailey said he SLS Buillon project was on track and the bridge deck units were currently being installed. "The deck units provide the platform for the road surface that motorists will be driving on when the bridge is complete," Mr Bailey said. "It's really quite

being lifted into place and to see the bridge starting to take its final form." Mr Bailey said the works were on track for completion by mid-2017, weather

by mid-2017, weather permitting. "The \$11.525 million project is supporting an average of 36 direct jobs during construction, which is a great boost for the area," he said. "The new bridge will be built wider to accommodate two lanes of traffic and the

built wider to accommodat two lanes of traffic and the reinforced concrete structure will help to protect the bridge from future extreme weather. higher than the previous bridge, with a better road alignment to give motoris "Warning signs have been sstalled at the Kerwee Road nd Burnett Highway atersections and flash when

alignment to give motor greater visibility on Monto-Mount Perry Rd. "We're working to get this bridge replaced as soon as we can because we know this is an important piece of infrastructure for the local intersections and faish whe water levels rise to an unsafe level. "This allows motorists to change their route of travel and avoid dangerous Goodwater.

ea." Mr Bailey said that flood Mr baney suot mat noo monitoring systems will remain in place on Monto-Mount Perry Rd throughout the wet seaso "The flood monitoring system warns motorists when water levels on Monto-Mount Perry Rd

and avoid dangerous floodwaters, "I remind motorists to never drive on flooded roads – if it's flooded, forget it." The Burnett River Bridge is being flunded by the State Government with additional funding through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.



Works progressing on the Burnett River Bridge washed away during Cyclone Marcia

## 430 new CQ jobs from \$13m govt spend on major projects

Yeppoon Homemakers Centre gets big boost as Statue Bay works inspected

#### Michelle Cately

The project is set to be completed in stages over five years. Along with \$3 million for the Homemaker Centre, \$500,000 will go towards upgrading rur al floodways. Deputy Premier Jackie Trad said it was good to see

tatue Bay yesterda The road was des uring Cyclone Mar specied to be com as economic opportunities. "All of these projects are geared towards getting off the ground as quickly as possible and getting people into work," Ms Trad said. possible and gifting people into work, "A Trad said into work and the said of the said into work and the said of the said and the said of the said of the said of the Rockhamgton Regional Council limitally to work on several projects funded by construction for the work. A number of other jobs will be crucied through constructs for the work. Those to see more people childrogic on the said the Works However, in a media release the State Government said the Works

Mi Palaszerak reflected the destruction she witness in Central Queensland following the natural disast "Through work with the local council, state and fede (governments)...we have been rebuilding this community," she said. Cr Ludwig said the Scenir Hwy reconstruction would prove more resilient in the future. prove more remains future. The road has been widened to helude a 2.5m shared

release the State Government said the Works for Queenskind program was expected to "support up to 430 jobs in the Rockhampton, Mount Rockhampton, Mount Morgan and Capricorn Coast regions<sup>2</sup>. A spokespersion for the Deputy Premer's office yeater day said the advice from councils was the fands would create 120 jobs in Rockhampton and 120 in Howkhampton and 200 in Livingstone, including both construction and ongoing positions. constructions. positions. While on the Capricorn Coast, Premier Annastaci

nid-year. Ma Palaszczuk reflected on

Rockhampton Morning Bulletin

2 Februarv



## Council gains money for flood clean-up

#### **Bev Story**

DISASTER relief funds will help Cassowary Coast Re-gional Council pay for the clean-up after flooding in

A Cassowary Coast Re-gional Council spokesman welcomed a commitment of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery (NDRRA) funding from the Federal and State

governments. The council has undertaken more than \$200,000 worth of works on its road network to date and expected the final cost to be about \$25 million. The productments roid Reserve

cost to be about \$25 million. The spokesman said Recov-ery funding levels for the Cassowary Coast had not yet been finalised. "Council is continuing its inspection of all infrastruc-ture," he said.

"One major recovery pro-ject will be the stormwater damage to Fitzgerald Espla-nade in Innisfail near the ten-

nis courts. "Council closed a section of the esplanade road after the heavy rain and flooding and has since excavated this section to reduce the risk of further damage in storm events while it works on final repair plans and prepares a separate

NDRRA funding application. "Another larger project that had been identified is a land-slip on Tully Gorge Rd." Queensland Reconstruc-

tion Authority officers inspect-ed these sites and others. Federal Senator Ian Mac-donald welcomed the funding.

"The Cassowary Coast has been hit by a number of major natural calamities over the last

decade and the recovery does

come at a cost to the local council," he said. "The Cassowary Coast Council are always there on the spot doing essential work but this is a cost that the rate-neares, einely cannot been payers simply cannot bear

alone. That's why I am de-lighted that the Australian and Queensland government have come to the party ... to help the Council with the clean up and recovery costs.



Innisfail Advocate 4 February

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that the Cassowary Coast will receive disaster rec very funds

Source: QRA at 28 February 2017



## **Appendices**

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## Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

Region	Local G	overnment Areas (LGAs)			1
Far North Queensland (FNQ)	CRC         Ca           CCRC         Ca           CoSC         CoSC           CSC         DC           DSC         DO           ESC         Ett           HVASC         HO           KASC         KO           MASC         MA           NASC         NA           NASC         NA           NASC         Ta           TSC         To           TSIRC         To           TSIRC         To           TSIRC         WWASC	rukun Shire Council irns Regional Council ssowary Coast Regional Council ok Shire Council oydon Shire Council eridge Shire Council meridge Shire Council ge Vale Aboriginal Shire Council apoon Aboriginal Shire Council apoon Aboriginal Shire Council areeba Shire Council pranum Aboriginal Shire Council rithern Peninsula Area Regional Council rithern Peninsula Area Regional Council rres Shire Council rres Shire Council rres Shire Council ujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council ujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	Guild		Cent
North Queensland (NQ)	BrdSC Bu BrkSC Bu CSC Ca CTRC Ch CISC ClC DASC Do FSC Flii HSC Hili McSC MM MiSC MM MiSC MM PIASC Pa RSC Rid	rdekin Shire Council rke Shire Council grentaria Shire Council arters Towers Regional Council norwry Shire Council norwry Shire Council shire Council chinbrook Shire Council ckinlay Shire Council chinbrook Shire Council burt Isa City Council Im Island Aboriginal Shire Council chmond Shire Council whou Shire Council mostal Aboriginal Shire Council chmond Shire Council		Far North under the second	
Central Queensland (CQ)	BarRC Ba BarSC Ba BTRC Bi BTRC Bi BoSC Bo CHRC Ce DSC Dic GSC Gi IRC Isa LSC Liv LRC Lo MacRC Ma RRC Ro WRC WI	nana Shire Council rcaldine Regional Council rcoo Shire Council excall-Tambo Regional Council ulia Shire Council antral Highlands Regional Council adstone Regional Council adstone Regional Council ingstone Shire Council ngreach Regional Council ackay Regional Council ackay Regional Council hitsunday Regional Council nitsunday Regional Council nitsunday Regional Council inton Shire Council	Northern		
Southern Queensland (SQ)	BSC Bu BRC Bu CASC Ch FCRC Frz GORC GO GRC GO MarRC MI MUSC MI NBRC NO PSC Pa QSC QU SBRC So SDRC So TORC To	Ionne Shire Council Iloo Shire Council ndaberg Regional Council erbourg Aboriginal Shire Council aser Coast Regional Council mpie Regional Council aranoa Regional Council urweh Shire Council orth Burnett Regional Council th Burnett Regional Council uth Burnett Regional Council uth Burnett Regional Council uthern Downs Regional Council setern Downs Regional Council	South Australie		
South East Queensland (SEQ)	GCCC Go ICC Ips LVRC Loi LCC Loi MBRC Mo NSC No RCC Re SRRC Sci SRC So	isbane City Council id Coast City Council wich City Council ckyer Valley Regional Council gan City Council oreton Bay Regional Council osa Shire Council diand City Council enic Rim Regional Council merset Regional Council nshine Coast Regional Council	Forms The search of the form of the search of the search the search of the search of the search of the search of the search the search of the search of the search of the search of the search the search of the	Local Governm and QidRA Report	ting Regions

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