

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

January 2014

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Major General Richard Wilson AO
Chairman
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Dear Major General Wilson

It is with pleasure that I present the January 2014 Monthly Report – the 35th report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority).

The Authority was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* following the unprecedented natural disasters which struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11. 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.

Following the widespread damage caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald in early 2013, the jurisdiction of the Authority was expanded by the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Amendment Bill 2013* to cover this and other disaster events which occurred in the 2013 disaster event period, provide the Authority with a stronger focus on community resilience and extend the term of the Authority until 30 June 2015.

The Authority continues to monitor the progress of reconstruction and provide the resourcing and support necessary to build the momentum of reconstruction and enhance the resilience of communities for potential disasters. Whilst maintaining focus on the entire program, the Authority's current priorities are on progressing the remaining program of works from the 2011 and 2012 disaster periods, fast-track the progress to reconstruction works from the 2013 events and assisting councils and State agencies close out their completed works for the 2010 disaster period.

The January report provides a review of the disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts during 2013 - the year opened with the response to another large scale natural disaster in the form of Tropical Cyclone Oswald; saw continued progress in delivering reconstruction works from this and earlier events across the State; and the introduction of the \$80 million jointly funded Betterment program.

This month's report also presents the final detailed update on the five functional recovery groups established in February 2013 in response to the damage impacts of Tropical Cyclone Oswald. The groups' tasks are now substantially progressed and the associated roles of the District Regional Coordinators to coordinate disaster recovery efforts within the regions most impacted by the event have concluded.

The January report also provides an update on the progress of the \$13.96 billion program of works managed by the Authority. As at 6 January 2014:

- an additional \$221 million in submissions have been received by the Authority since last month
- an additional \$436 million has been processed by the Authority since last month
- a cumulative value of \$10.26 billion of the \$13.96 billion works program has been reported to the Authority as being in progress or delivered by delivery agents as at 30 November 2013.

In addition, the report provides a separate update on the Betterment fund. To 31 December 2013, 217 projects with a Betterment component of \$74 million have been approved. The report profiles a recently approved Betterment project for Bundaberg Regional Council - Millbank Waste Water Plant, and reports on the progress of Betterment projects underway.

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



Graeme Newton
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Contents

1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background	2
1.2 Purpose	2
1.3 Timing	2
2.0 Disaster Assistance	3
2.1 Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework	4
2.2 Disaster assistance by event period	5
2.3 Additional assistance measures	6
2.3.1 Betterment fund	6
2.3.2 Other assistance measures	6
3.0 Framing the Challenge	7
3.1 Events managed by the Authority	8
3.2 Queensland 2013 Flood Recovery Plan	9
3.3 Functional Recovery Groups	10
3.3.1 Human and social	10
3.3.2 Economic	11
3.3.3 Environment	12
3.3.4 Building	13
3.3.5 Roads and transport	14
4.0 Program Status	15
4.1 Recent developments	16
4.2 Combined program status	16
4.3 Looking forward	16
4.4 State-wide pipeline of works	17
4.5 Program of works expenditure	18
4.6 Betterment fund status	19
4.7 Iconic projects in reconstructing Queensland	21
5.0 Progress Reports	24
5.1 2013 in review	25
5.2 Progress of LGAs & DTMR by region	26
5.2.1 Far North Queensland	26
5.2.2 North Queensland	27
5.2.3 Central Queensland	28
5.2.4 Southern Queensland	29
5.2.5 South East Queensland	30
5.3 Progress of State-controlled roads and highways	31
5.4 Communications	33
5.4.1 Communicating progress	33
5.4.2 Media reports	34
Appendices	
Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region	36
Appendix B: Disaster Recovery Coordinator Regions - Tropical Cyclone Oswald	37

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, 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.

On 21 February 2011 in response to the 2011 disaster events, the Queensland Government established the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority) under the *Queensland Reconstruction Act 2011*. The Authority's role was subsequently extended to cover historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland and, on 26 September 2012, the State Government announced the initial extension of the term of the Authority's operations to June 2014.

The Authority has since been given responsibility to administer Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) for the large scale natural disaster caused by Tropical Cyclone Oswald in late January 2013 and additional events which have occurred in the 2013 disaster event period. The *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Amendment Bill 2013* was passed on 14 February 2013 to expand the jurisdiction of the Authority to include these recent events, provide the Authority with a stronger focus on community resilience and extend the term of the Authority to 30 June 2015.

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.

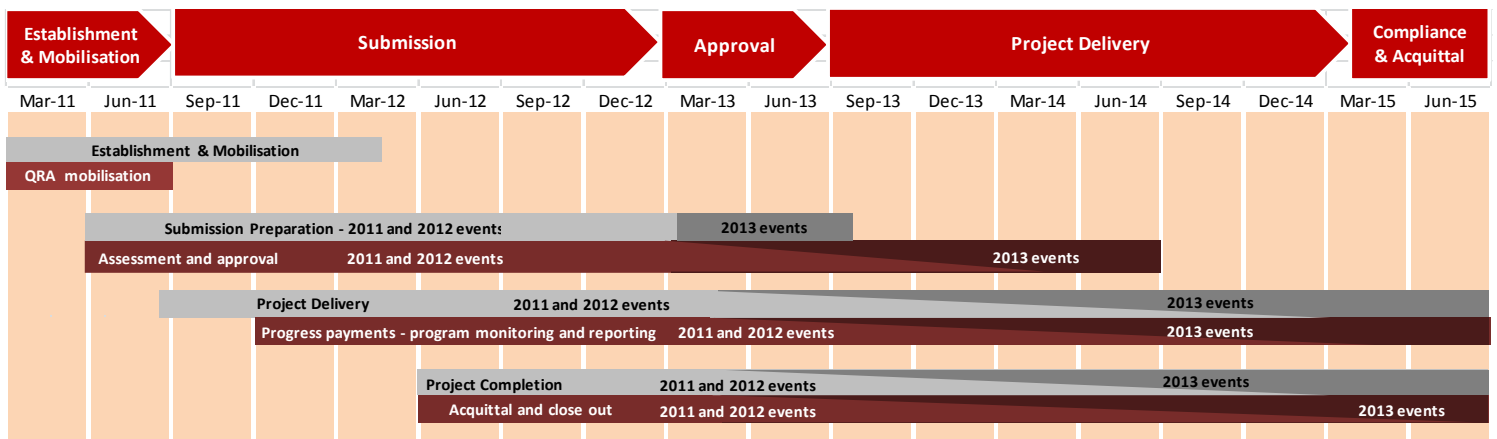
The Authority operates with reference to recovery and reconstruction plans established by the State in response to the 2011 disaster events and more recently following Tropical Cyclone Oswald. The Queensland 2013 Flood Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan), approved on 25 February 2013, provides strategic guidance for the coordination and management of recovery, reconstruction and community resilience activities undertaken across the State after Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

Five functional recovery groups have been established under the Recovery Plan to manage and coordinate recovery initiatives across impacted regions. The Authority provides support to, and reports on progress of the groups against their key tasks with decentralised responsibility for delivery across responsible agencies for each functional recovery group. The functional recovery groups follow from the lines of reconstruction established following the 2011 disaster events, the key tasks of which are now substantially complete.

1.3 Timing

The Authority's priorities are currently assisting councils and State agencies to progress their remaining program of works from the 2011 and 2012 disaster periods, with the bulk of the reconstruction work occurring prior to June 2014. Concurrently, the Authority is focused on accelerating the submission and application approval process for the recent 2013 events with a view to fast-tracking the 2013 program of works into project delivery phase as soon as practicable.

With the period to deliver works for the 2010 disaster period now complete (at 30 June 2013), the Authority is assisting delivery agents with the reporting of final expenditure and close out of the completed program of works for 2010 events.



Section two:
Disaster Assistance

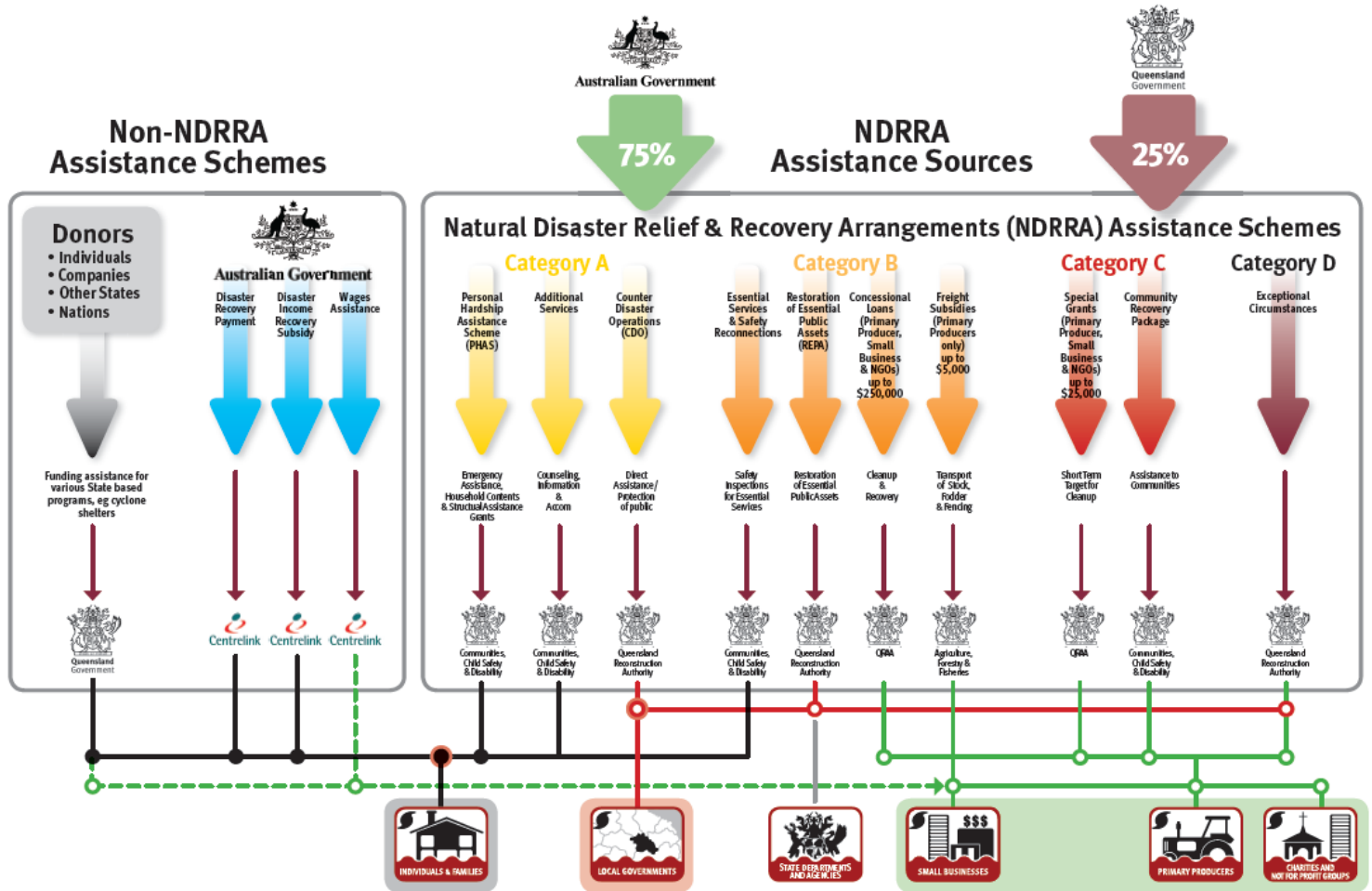


2.0 Disaster Assistance

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 3.1** and can also be found on www.disaster.qld.gov.au.

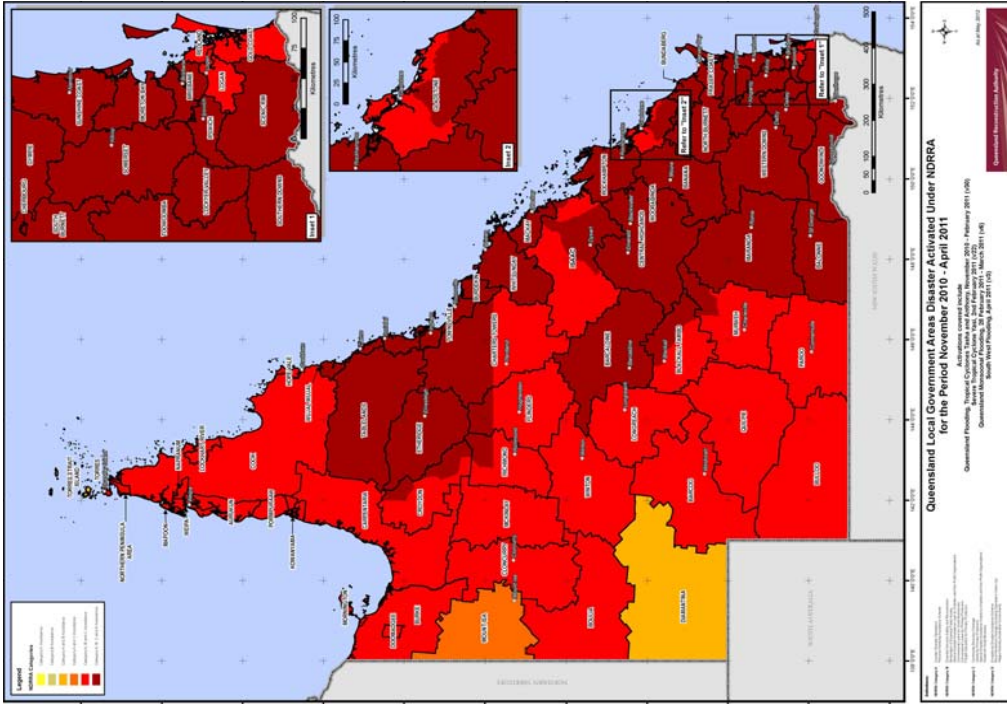
This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

- **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.

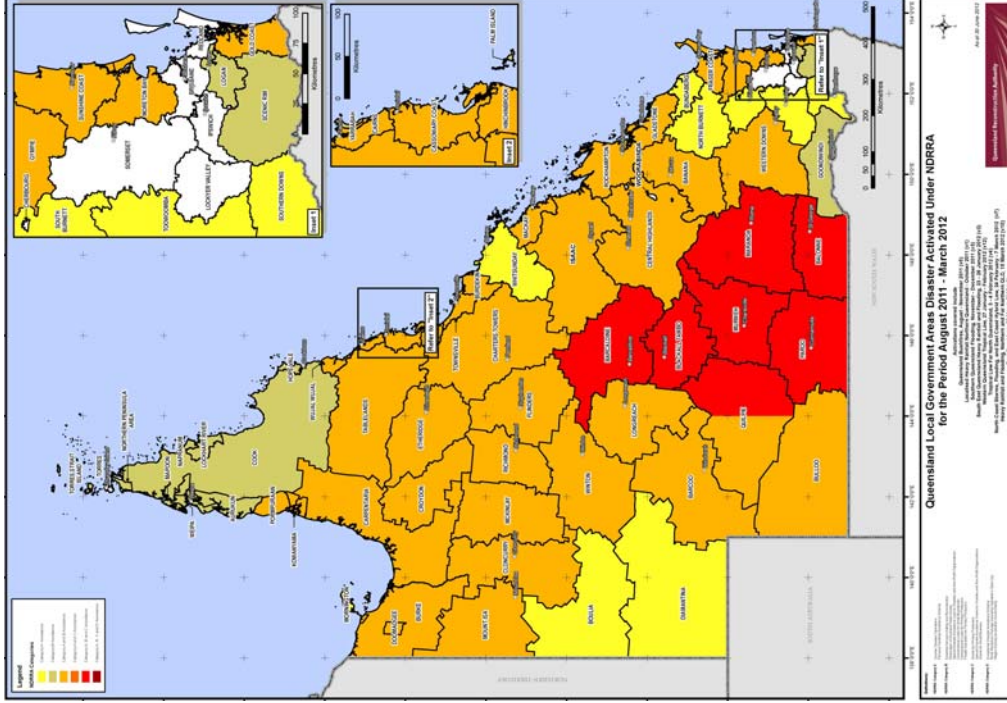
2.2 Disaster assistance by event period

The maps below show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for each event period managed by the Authority under the Queensland Disaster Assistance Framework.

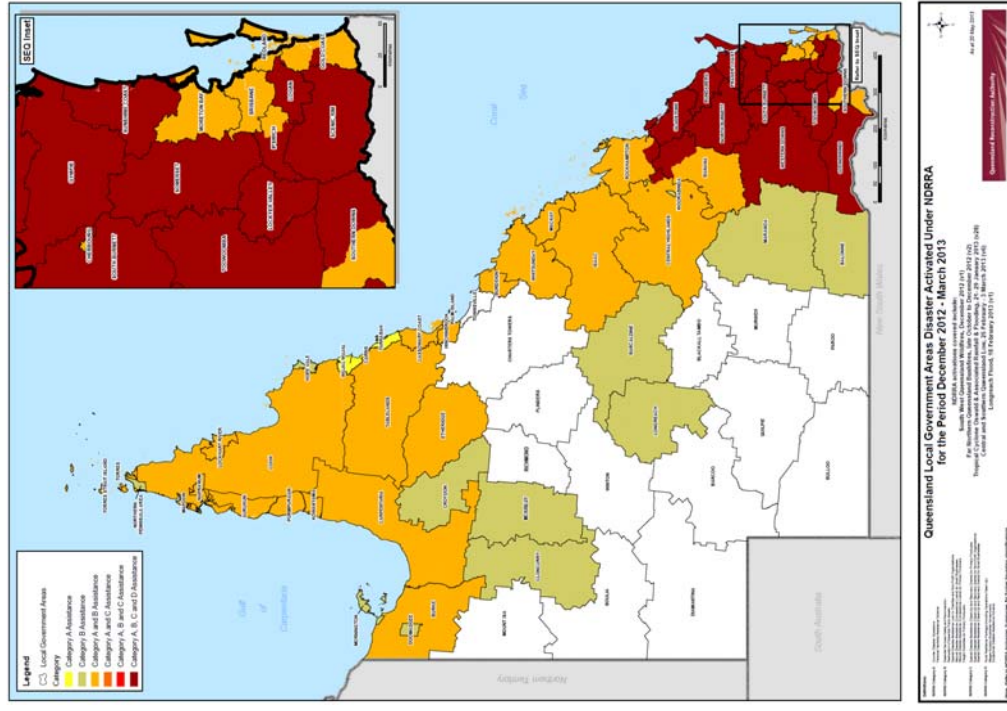
Map 1 - LGAs disaster activated under NDRRA for 2011 events



Map 2 - LGAs disaster activated under NDRRA for 2012 events



Map 3 - LGAs disaster activated under NDRRA for 2013 events



* Different funding periods exist for each Category type.

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 Tropical Cyclone Oswald and the 2011 events. The measures are summarised below:

2.3.1 Betterment fund

On 8 February 2013, the Queensland Government signed the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) with the Commonwealth Government which recognised the need for a more streamlined process for the approval of Betterment funding. The Queensland Government announced a \$40 million commitment to Betterment funding which will match the Commonwealth Government contribution, resulting in the establishment of the \$80 million Betterment Fund.

Correspondence was received from the Commonwealth in August 2013 agreeing to the extension of the Betterment fund beyond its original coverage of LGAs declared for NDRRA assistance for Tropical Cyclone Oswald to also cover LGAs declared for the two additional disaster events that occurred after Oswald through to June 2013 (Longreach Flood (18 February 2013) and Central and Southern Queensland Low (25 February to 5 March 2013)). The Betterment fund is available for the restoration or replacement of essential public 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 natural disasters.

Where a damaged asset is approved as a betterment project, the normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard will continue to be funded under Category B of NDRRA assistance and the incremental cost to 'better' the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard will be financed from the Betterment fund. The status of the Betterment fund and profiles of recent approved Betterment projects is set out in Section 4.6 of this report.

2.3.2 Other assistance measures

Tropical Cyclone Oswald

- **Community Recovery Package - \$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 - \$4.9 million** to fund dredging works to restore Bundaberg Port to its pre-2013 flood clearance depths.

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 important 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: Framing the Challenge



3.0 Framing the Challenge

3.1 Events 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 18 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.

2013 events:

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

2012 events:

- Queensland Bushfires, August to October 2011
- Localised Heavy Rainfall Northern Queensland, October 2011 *
- Southern Queensland Flooding, November to December 2011 *
- South East Queensland Heavy Rainfall and flooding, 23- 26 January 2012 *
- Western Queensland Tropical Low, 27 January to 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 and Far Northern Queensland Heavy Rainfall & flooding, 15 March 2012 *
- East Coast Low, 22 March 2012 *

2011 events:

- Queensland Flooding and Tropical Cyclones Tasha and Anthony, November 2010 to February 2011*
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on 2 February 2011*
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding Event, 8 February 2011*
- South West Flooding, April 2011*

2007-2010 natural disaster events managed by the Authority that have open submissions for damage:

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

Since the last report, there has been a new disaster event activation declared for NDRRA financial assistance - North Stradbroke Island Fires commencing 29 December 2013. Ministerial Declaration has also been granted in relation to this event.

* 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.

3.2 Queensland 2013 Flood Recovery Plan

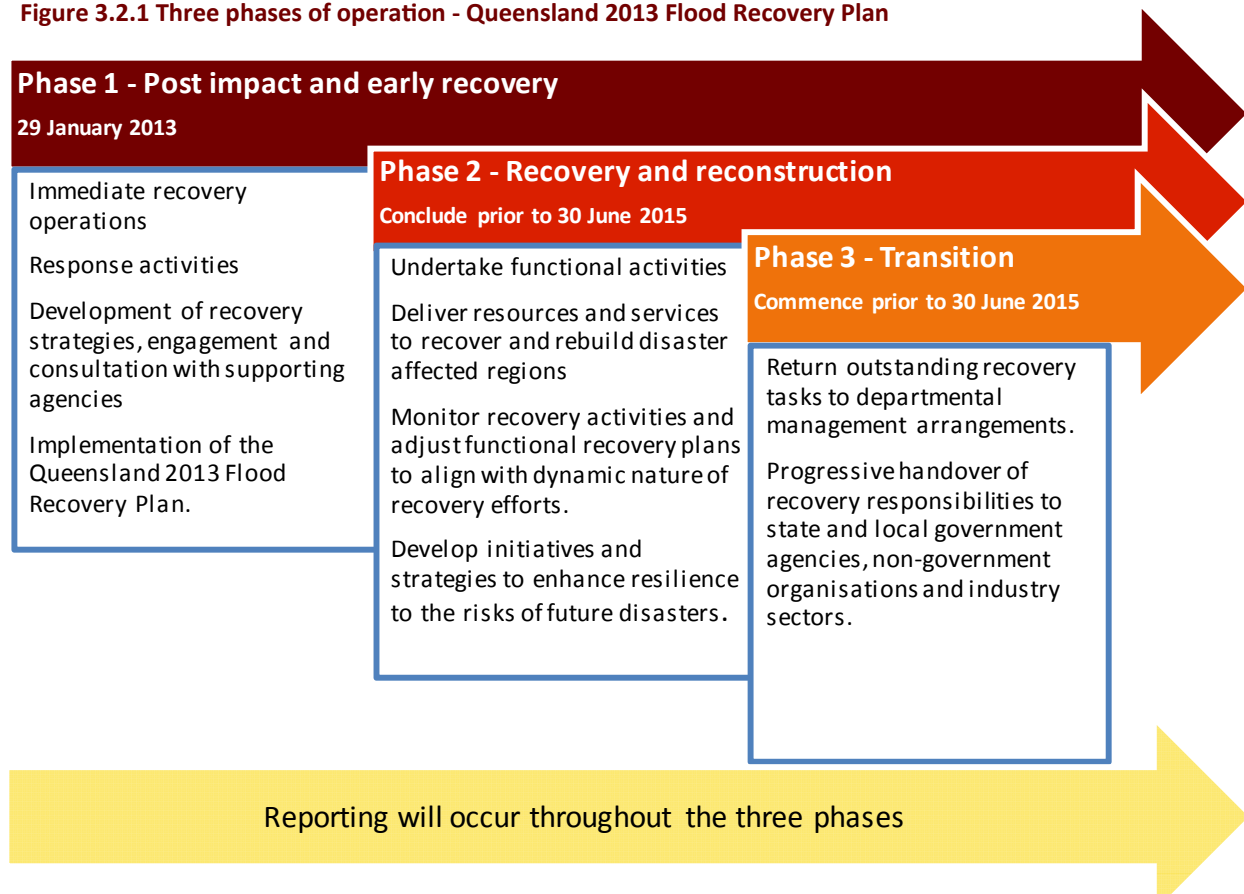
The Recovery Plan sets the framework for the recovery from the flood and damage impacts of Tropical Cyclone Oswald. The aim of the plan is to assist affected communities to get back on their feet as quickly as possible while ensuring the effective and efficient employment of limited resources.

The Recovery Plan establishes the context for recovery at the State and local levels of government through setting the governance framework and providing strategic guidance for the coordination and management of recovery, reconstruction and community resilience activities of those areas impacted by Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

The Recovery Plan also sets the context for improved enhancement of resilience and aims to improve the State's ability to withstand, and bounce back from, future natural disaster events.

The plan coordinates the prioritisation and alignment of resources from multiple sources to support the broad range of recovery activities. These activities are being undertaken across three phases as set out in **Figure 3.2.1**.

Figure 3.2.1 Three phases of operation - Queensland 2013 Flood Recovery Plan



The Recovery Plan established the structure for recovery activities from Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

Disaster Recovery Coordinators (DRC) were appointed to coordinate disaster recovery efforts within the regions most impacted by Tropical Cyclone Oswald:

- Bundaberg/North Burnett Region - Deputy Commissioner Brett Pointing APM (February to October 2013); Kevin Guteridge (October to December 2013)
- Northern Queensland Region - Don Cousins (February to December 2013)
- Southern Queensland Region - Bill Mellor (February to October 2013); Don Cousins (October to December 2013).

The three DRCs concluded their roles in December 2013.

The composition of the three regions is set out in **Appendix B**.

Functional recovery groups, led by relevant State agencies, were also established to effectively manage and coordinate recovery initiatives across impacted regions. The roles and responsibilities of each functional recovery group, together with the key performance metrics used to measure the rate of recovery progress, are set out in the Recovery Plan and summarised in **Section 3.3**.

The Authority has provided support to the DRCs and reports on progress of the functional recovery groups against their key tasks.

3.3 Functional Recovery Groups

The Recovery Plan provides a broad overview of each functional recovery group's roles and responsibilities and sets out the key performance metrics used to measure each group's progress.

An update on the progress of the functional recovery group against their key performance metrics is set out in this section of the report. As the groups' roles and responsibilities are now substantially progressed, this update contains the final detailed progress reports to be presented. The groups will continue until their responsibilities are discharged and updates will be provided as key milestones are met.

3.3.1 Human and social

The Human and Social functional recovery group coordinates the efficient and effective delivery of human and social recovery activities. These activities include the provision of financial assistance and personal support services for individuals, families and communities.

The status of the key metrics being monitored by the Human and Social Recovery Group in relation to the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Oswald has been reported by the group at 31 December 2013 as follows:

Human and social	Metric	Status
1. All Essential Household Contents Grant (EHCG) applications assessed and paid when eligible	Number of grant applications	4,625
	Number of grant applications assessed	4,625
	Number of grant applications assessed as payable and paid	3,541
2. All Structural Assistance Grant (SAG) applications assessed	Number of grant applications	726
	Number of grant applications under assessment or awaiting additional information	8
	Number of grant applications assessed as payable and paid	375
3. All Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme Grant (ESSRSG) applications paid when eligible	Number of grant applications	416
	Number of grant applications under assessment or awaiting additional information	8
	Number of grant applications assessed as payable	266
4. Communities are supported by additional 'counselling, other' services	Number of grants paid	266
	Number of new clients receiving support from NDRRA funded services	41
5. All displaced households seeking housing assistance are assessed for housing need and referred to appropriate housing services.	Number of hours of service provision by NDRRA funded services	907
	Number of displaced households seeking housing assistance	652
	Number of households assisted	652
	Number of applications under assessment	0

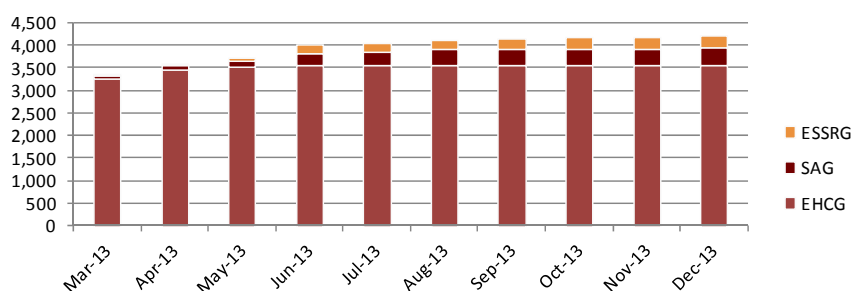
Personal Hardship Assistance Schemes (PHAS)

PHAS comprises EHCG, SAG and ESSRG. At 31 December 2013, 5,767 applications have been received across the three categories of PHAS. Of these, 4,190 have been assessed as payable and paid (refer **Figure 3.3.1.1**) and 16 are under assessment or unable to be processed until supporting documentation is received from the applicant.

All EHCG applications received have been assessed and finalised ahead of the expected completion date of the program in May 2014.

During December 2013, 24 SAG and ESSRG applications were finalised and paid through works coordinated by the Bundaberg and North Burnett Community Rebuild Groups. The 16 outstanding applications are expected to be processed in the first quarter of 2014 on receipt of outstanding information from applicants.

Figure 3.3.1.1 Number of PHAS applications assessed as payable



Counselling and other services

The Personal Support and Community Development programs, part of the \$5 million Community Recovery Package, commenced in July 2013. Since that time, 2547 hours of service has been delivered to 374 clients. Of this, 41 new clients were seen and 907 hours of service was provided in December 2013.

Displaced households

Housing service centres have now returned to normal business activities following completion of this recovery initiative.

As part of the initiative, 652 displaced households were provided with housing assistance, of which 280 households were assisted into temporary accommodation and the remaining 372 requests were met through other means (alternate housing solution found, returned to own home, insurance company assisting). No requests are outstanding.

(Source: DLGCR at 31 December 2013)

3.3.2 Economic

The Economic recovery group coordinates the efficient and effective planning and implementation of economic recovery activities. These activities include advice on the economic impacts of current disaster events and the group also provides information on the needs of local government and industry in responding to the events and getting the economy back to full production.

The status of the key metrics being monitored by the Economic Recovery Group in relation to the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Oswald has been reported by the group at 31 December 2013 as follows:

Economic	Metric	Status
1. Coal exports (Coal Export Tonnage)	Data is sourced from the monthly Queensland Coal Transport Report. This report provides an overview of Queensland coal exports and coal transport system performance.	Queensland coal export for the 5 months to November 2013 totalled 86.1Mt, an increase of 21.2% over the same period in 2012. To 30 June 2013, 2012-13 coal exports totalled 180.2Mt, a 9% increase on the same period in 2011-12. This is a state-wide measure and so can only be used as a broad indicator of overall health of the economy, rather than reflecting the recovery of specific regional industries. However, the current figures can be considered to represent a solid recovery.
2. NDRRA Financial assistance	Categories and amount of funding approved	Range of Category C and Category D measures activated to alleviate distress due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Oswald - see Section 2.3 . - Cat B loan approvals: \$3.89m to 41 primary producers; and \$0.41m to 6 small business - Cat C grant approvals: \$10.9m to 859 small businesses; \$63.4m to 4259 primary producers; and \$2.05m to 140 non-profit organisations - Cat D loan-grant approvals: \$11.82m to 41 primary producers; \$2.27m to 4 businesses; and \$1.66m to 4 small businesses. See Figure 3.3.2.1

Economic Recovery Initiatives

The Local Government Traineeship Strategy, being delivered by the Local Government Association of Queensland, is underway with 25 affected councils allocated 120 traineeship positions. To date, 109 trainees are undertaking the program across 24 councils, an increase of 66 trainees during December. Refer **Figure 3.3.2.2** below. The remaining 11 positions are expected to be recruited in January 2014. A profile of the Local Government Traineeship Strategy was provided in the December 2013 Monthly Report.

Stage three of dredging at the Bundaberg Port in the inner reach, departure channel and swing basin was completed in December 2013 allowing the largest of the bulk haulage vessels to enter the port.

Primary producers, rural and small businesses

NDRRA Category B, C and D grants and loans worth \$96.4 million have been provided to 4341 primary producers, 873 business and small businesses and 140 non-profit organisations. Of this, \$11.3 million was paid in December to 241 applicants. Refer **Figure 3.3.2.1**.

Under NDRRA Category D measures, 18 full-time Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) are operating as the primary point of contact for farmers and small businesses to access government assistance programs and services.

As at 2 January 2014, year to date spend for on-farm productivity and environmental recovery contracts has been \$5.9 million and \$2.9 million respectively, including:

- advice and assistance on soil conservation to 172 properties
- 2.5km of streambank has been stabilised through engineering works and debris removed from 52.3ha in the Bundaberg and Burnett area
- 2.2km of stream bank stabilised in the Lockyer Fassifern area
- 1874kg of debris removed from 11.2ha of riparian areas in the Darling Downs
- 4.4km of stream bank fenced in the Callide area to protect native vegetation.

Figure 3.3.2.1 NDRRA grants and loans approved –Tropical Cyclone Oswald

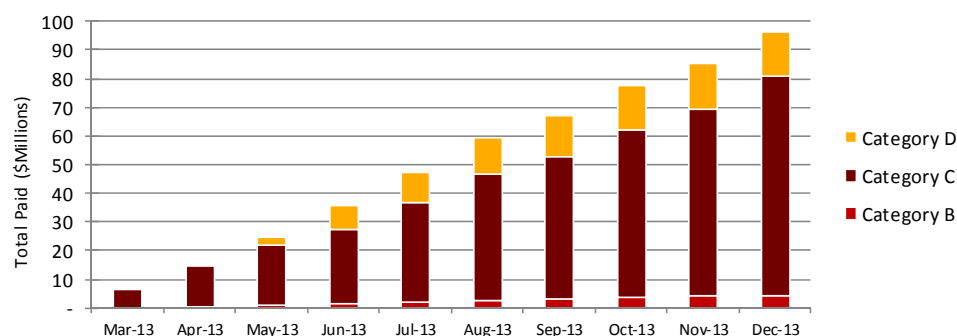


Figure 3.3.2.2 Local Government Traineeship Strategy - trainee placements

Council	Trainees
Banana Shire Council	7
Brisbane City Council	10
Bundaberg Regional Council	4
Carpentaria Shire Council	3
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	4
Etheridge Shire Council	1
Fraser Coast Regional Council	3
Gympie Regional Council	2
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	1
Ipswich City Council	7
Isaac Regional Council	1
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	6
Logan City Council	20
Mackay Regional Council	8
Mapoon Aboriginal Council	1
Moreton Bay Regional Council	4
North Burnett Regional Council	3
Porpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council	2
Redlands City Council	10
South Burnett Regional Council	4
Southern Downs Regional Council	1
Sunshine Coast Regional Council	4
Toowoomba Regional Council	2
Western Downs Regional Council	1
Positions recruited	109
Not yet recruited	11
Total positions	120

(Source: DLGCR at 31 December 2013)

3.3.3 Environment

The Environment recovery group coordinates the efficient and effective planning and implementation of environment recovery activities. These activities include advice on the measures required to achieve environmental recovery and to monitor and provide advice on current and potential environmental and cultural heritage issues. It also facilitates information exchange and maximises efficient allocation of resources towards recovery. A key focus is to progress strategies to reduce future impacts on the natural environment, in both urban and rural landscapes, focussing on long term resilience and sustainability.

The status of the key metrics being monitored by the Environment Recovery Group in relation to the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Oswald has been reported by the group at 31 December 2013 as follows:

Environment	Metric	Status
1. National parks	National parks affected by this event to re-open for conservation management	266 (45%) affected 266 (100%) recovered or partially opened
2. Sewage treatment and water supply	Sewage treatment plants (STP) and water treatment plants (WTP) affected by this event return to compliance with their relevant environmental authorities	Recovery complete 122 affected 122 recovered
3. Mining operations	Mining operations affected by this event return to compliance with their relevant environmental authorities.	Recovery complete 35 have conducted mine water releases 35 have returned to compliance*

* returned to compliance with their relevant environmental authority regarding water releases.

1. National parks

266 (45%) of Queensland's national parks, conservation parks, state forests and resource reserves have been affected by the Tropical Cyclone Oswald event. Of these, 124 were subject to closure.

Of the 266 protected areas affected by the event, 262 (98%) have been recovered and the remaining four (2%) protected areas have been partially opened. Refer **Figure 3.3.3.1**

During December 2014, four parks previously classified as partially opened have been fully recovered. Of note, Tamborine National Park has now fully recovered from the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

Glen Rock State Forest is open but access to the area via an external local government road remains affected. NPRSR are continuing to liaise with the Lockyer Valley Regional Council to determine the completion time for permanent road repairs (anticipated to occur in early 2014). In the interim, some access was granted in October 2013, with park rangers constructing a temporary diversion around flood damaged sections of the public road.

Two conservation parks (Broadwater and Mouth of Baffle Creek) have been reopened, although vehicle access into the areas is limited due to beach erosion and land tenure issues. Gladstone Regional Council is exploring options to reinstate public access.

Damage recovery is continuing at the remaining four parks partially closed subject to geotechnical and engineering assessments, and weather conditions.

2. Sewage treatment and water supply

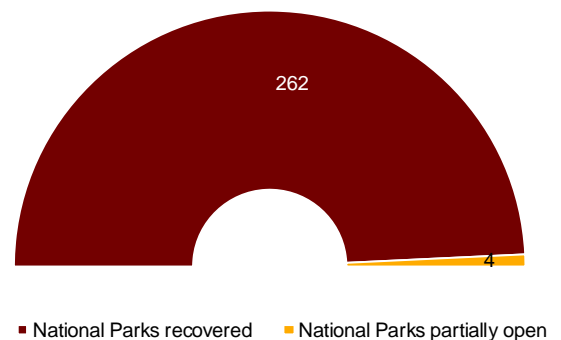
All 122 sewage treatment plants, water treatment plants and sewage pump stations affected by the Tropical Cyclone Oswald event have now been recovered.

3. Mining operations

35 Queensland mines conducted mine water releases as a result of the Tropical Cyclone Oswald event, comprising 28 of the 45 coal mines in the Fitzroy Basin, one mine in the Burdekin and six mines in southern Queensland.

All mining operations have reverted back to operating under their environmental authorities.

Figure 3.3.3.1 Affected national parks



(Source: DLGCR at 31 December 2013)

3.3.4 Building

The Building recovery group coordinates the efficient and effective information exchange, issues identification and resolution between government agencies, building industry and insurance providers to ensure the efficient and prioritised use of available resources.

The status of the key metrics being monitored by the Building Recovery Group in relation to the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Oswald has been reported by the group at 31 December 2013 as follows:

Building	Metric	Status
1. Provision of immediate and longer-term temporary accommodation	Timely procurement of adequate numbers of accommodation units	On track see below
	Number of displaced households seeking housing assistance	On track see below
	Number of households assisted into temporary accommodation	On track see below
2. Provision of assistance and advice to building client agencies to support the repair and restoration of State public buildings	Number of significantly affected State public buildings and extent of damage ¹	99
	Number of significantly affected State public buildings repaired/restored to service ²	99
	Significantly affected State public buildings with repairs in progress	4
3. Provision of building advice and information to support the community in its recovery	Building Services Authority (BSA) website updated with factsheets relevant to natural disaster recovery	On track see below
	Regular status updates by Industry Associations to Building Recovery Group (BRG) Sub Committee	Complete. No further activity required
4. Provision of advice to the recovery supply chain including contractors, subcontractors and material suppliers	Regular status updates by Industry Associations to BRG Sub Committee	Complete. No further activity required
5. Participation in future planning forums and discussion panels	Regular status updates by Industry Associations to BRG Sub Committee	Complete. No further activity required

¹ Significantly affected is defined as water 100mm over the floor level or serious structural damage and loss to related assets.

² Data provided refers to significantly affected public buildings which include schools and early childhood centres; ambulance, police and fire stations; hospitals; government employee accommodation and social housing.

Provision of immediate and longer-term temporary accommodation

As set out in Section 3.3.1, 652 displaced households were provided with housing assistance. Housing service centres have returned to normal business activities following completion of this initiative.

Immediate accommodation provided consisted of two fully serviced camps (340 beds) established in January 2013. Both camps were closed by 13 March 2013.

Longer term temporary accommodation (approximately 6 to 12 months) was established in the first weeks of the flood event in Bundaberg (77 beds), Mundubbera (58 beds) and Gayndah (22 beds).

As at 31 December 2013:

- all residents temporarily housed at Bundaberg have now been rehoused and modular units removed
- 19 buildings (41 beds) have been removed from Mundubbera and the last remaining department owned building will be removed in January 2014
- all buildings have been removed from the Gayndah showgrounds and the site returned to original condition. Three remaining units at the Riverview Caravan Park will be required until January 2014 to support the completion of exit plans.

All remaining households in temporary housing in the North Burnett area have an exit strategy in place, which may include returning to a private home, returning to private rentals, or working with RentConnect to find rental accommodation.

Provision of assistance and advice to building client agencies

There were 99 State public buildings significantly affected by Tropical Cyclone Oswald and all were restored to service (are operational or operating from temporary accommodation) by March 2013.

Four remaining public buildings, all Queensland Health, continue to have repairs in progress or are awaiting repair. One building had repairs completed in December 2013.

Provision of building and other advice to the community and recovery supply chain

The BRG Sub-Committee has been stood down following substantial completion of its key tasks. Activities of the BSA have largely returned to business as usual with requests for information, guidance or support now channelled to relevant staff members within BSA for action.

The Community Rebuild Project, which assists vulnerable residents in the Bundaberg/North Burnett region to repair their flood damaged homes to a safe and habitable state, has finalised the rebuild of 36 clients, an increase of three during the month.

(Source: DLGCRR at 31 December 2013)

3.3.5 Roads and transport

The Roads and Transport recovery group coordinates the efficient and effective delivery of road and transport recovery activities. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) is responsible for delivering the state-controlled roads and transport response, recovery and reconstruction and is engaging directly with industry and the community on the reconstruction phases following the natural disaster.

The status of the key metrics being monitored by the Roads and Transport Recovery Group in relation to the recovery from the events of early 2013 has been reported by the group at 30 November 2013 as follows:

Roads and Transport	Metric	Status
1. Damaged state-controlled roads to be reconstructed (kms)	Total length of damaged roads (kms)	630 km
	Total length of damaged roads reconstructed (kms)	99 km
	Total length of damaged roads under reconstruction (kms)	54 km
2. Kms of rail line Impacted/damaged rail line	Total length of impacted/damaged lines (kms & %)	3,100 kms (43%)
	Total length of impacted/damaged rail line recovered (kms)	Recovery complete 3,100 kms

1. Damaged State controlled roads

The status of DTMR's recovery and reconstruction program (inclusive of 2010 to 2013 event works) is discussed in further detail in **Section 5.2 Progress of State-controlled roads and highways**.

DTMR has completed its road recovery phase, clearing, repairing and reopening 5,544km of state controlled roads affected by the three natural disaster events of early 2013.

DTMR plans to reconstruct 630km of roads damaged by Tropical Cyclone Oswald. As at 30 November 2013, reconstruction of 99km of roads has been completed and an additional 54km was under construction - refer **Figure 3.3.5.1**.

During November, 3km of roads were completed and the total distance of roads under reconstruction increased by 3km.

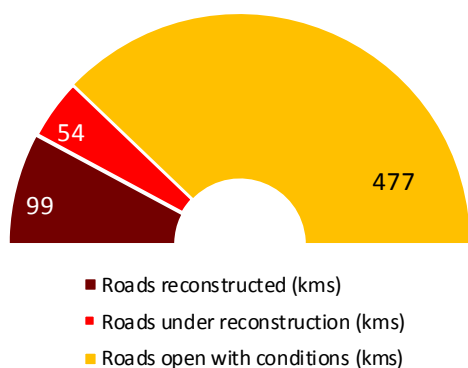
Key reconstruction works complete

- **Don Tallon Bridge** on the Isis Highway in Bundaberg was fully reconstructed within three weeks of the flooding event and access restored for all traffic.
- **Neerkol Creek Bridge** 30km west of Rockhampton on the Capricorn Highway was reopened within days of the event.

Key reconstruction works underway

- **Burnett Highway, Mt Morgan Range** - reconstruction works following 35 cut/fill slips started in May 2013 and NDRRA and complementary works are scheduled for completion in April 2014, weather permitting. Reinforced earth embankment for major fill repairs have commenced.
- **Mt Sylvia Road, Lockyer Valley** - reconstruction works commenced in July 2013 and are scheduled for completion by July 2014, weather permitting. Construction of two permanent floodways is complete and works on floodways at two additional locations are expected to commence in February 2014 following the wet season.
- **Warrego Highway, Jondaryan to Dalby** - detailed design continues following pavement failures as a result of the 2013 events. Construction is planned to be complete by December 2014, weather permitting. The list of tenderers has been short-listed and documents sent for pricing.
- **Burnett Highway, Ban Ban Springs to Monto** - interim recovery works have returned the full road to normal operating conditions. Designs are completed and works are out to tender ahead of reconstruction work scheduled in early 2014.
- **Bruce Highway, Maryborough to Gin Gin** - recovery works have returned the full road to normal operating conditions. Pavement reconstruction works are near complete and early works for access and site preparation are underway prior to reconstruction works on the embankment slip under the Tim Fischer bridge.

Figure 3.3.5.1 Roads reconstruction program—2013 event



(Source: DLGCR at 31 December 2013)

Section four:

Program Status



4.0 Program Status

4.1 Recent developments

Since the last report, there has been a new disaster event activation declared for NDRRA financial assistance, North Stradbroke Island Fires commencing 29 December 2013. Ministerial Declaration has also been granted in relation to this event.

With a deadline of 30 June 2013 for delivery agents to incur NDRRA-eligible expenditure on works arising from the 2010 disaster period, the Authority was active in the period leading up to this date assisting delivery agents with residual 2010 works complete their programs. With this period now passed, delivery agents are focused on delivery of the remaining program of works.

4.2 Combined program status

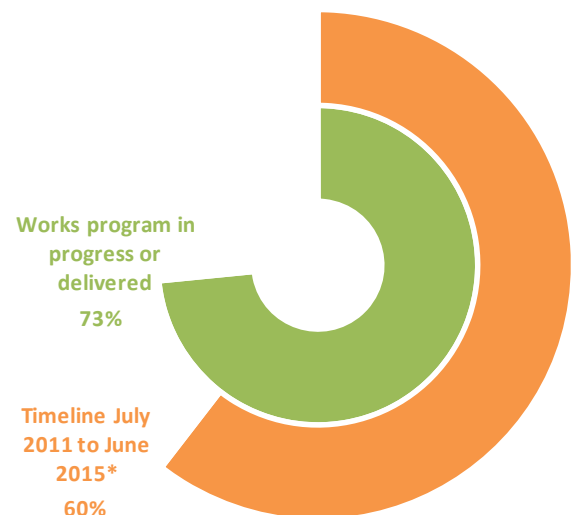
Following completion of the Authority's regular quarterly review process at September 2013, the program of works for all events actively managed by the Authority (2009 to 2013) is estimated to be \$13.96 billion.

The estimated cost of the damage from the 2013 events is more than \$2.4 billion and the cost of the 2011 and 2012 events are estimated to be \$6.9 billion and \$1.9 billion respectively. Ahead of reporting of final expenditure and close out of the relevant programs, the final cost of works for the 2009 and 2010 events managed by the Authority is estimated to be \$2.7 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 \$15.9 billion in submissions have been received by the Authority to 6 January 2014, representing an increase of \$221 million since last month
- a cumulative total of \$13.9 billion has been processed by the Authority to 6 January 2014 representing an increase of \$436 million since last month
- a cumulative value of \$10.26 billion of the \$13.96 billion works program has been reported to the Authority as being in progress or delivered by delivery agents as at 30 November 2013
- funding acquitted for individuals, small business, primary producers and non-profit organisations amounts to \$540 million.

Figure 4.2.1 Combined program progress



4.3 Looking forward

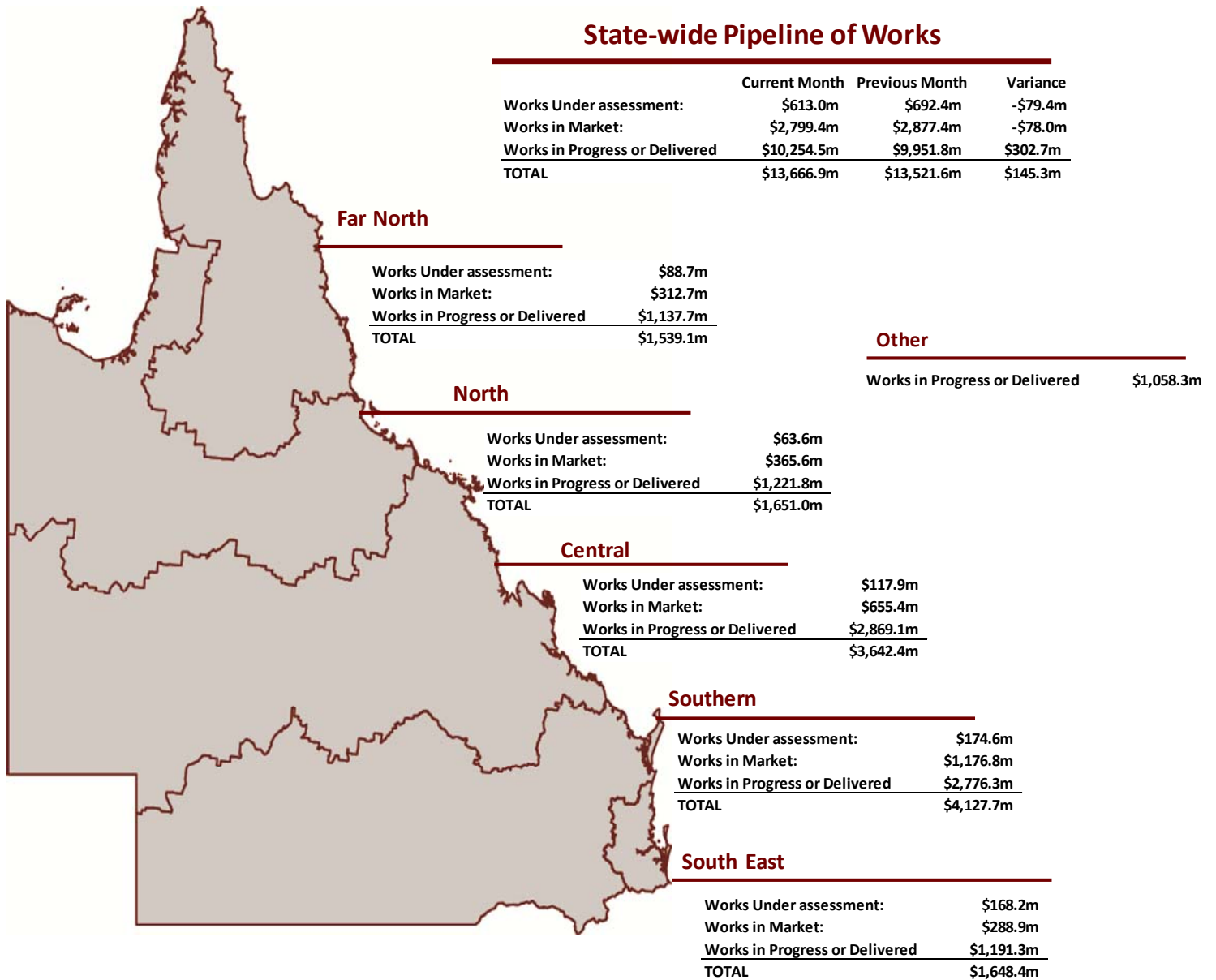
The Authority's priorities are focused on assisting councils and State agencies to progress their remaining program of works from the 2011 and 2012 disaster periods, with the bulk of the reconstruction work occurring prior to June 2014. Concurrently, the Authority is focused on accelerating the submission and application approval process for the recent 2013 events with a view to fast-tracking the 2013 program of works into project delivery phase as soon as practicable.

As the period to deliver works for the 2010 disaster period concluded on 30 June 2013, the Authority is assisting delivery agents with the reporting of final expenditure and close out of the completed program of works for 2010 events.

* Proportion of allowable time passed for delivery of total program since 1 July 2011 (following Authority's establishment) to data reporting date

4.4 State-wide pipeline of works

The Pipeline of works for all events actively managed by the Authority (2009 to 2013) has an estimated program value of \$13.96 billion, the status of which is set out below.



Note:

1. Works Under Assessment and Works in Market represents data as at 30 November 2013 (DTMR) and 6 January 2014 (LGAs and Other). Works in Progress or Delivered represents spend by delivery agents to 30 November 2013 as reported to the Authority at 6 January 2014. 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

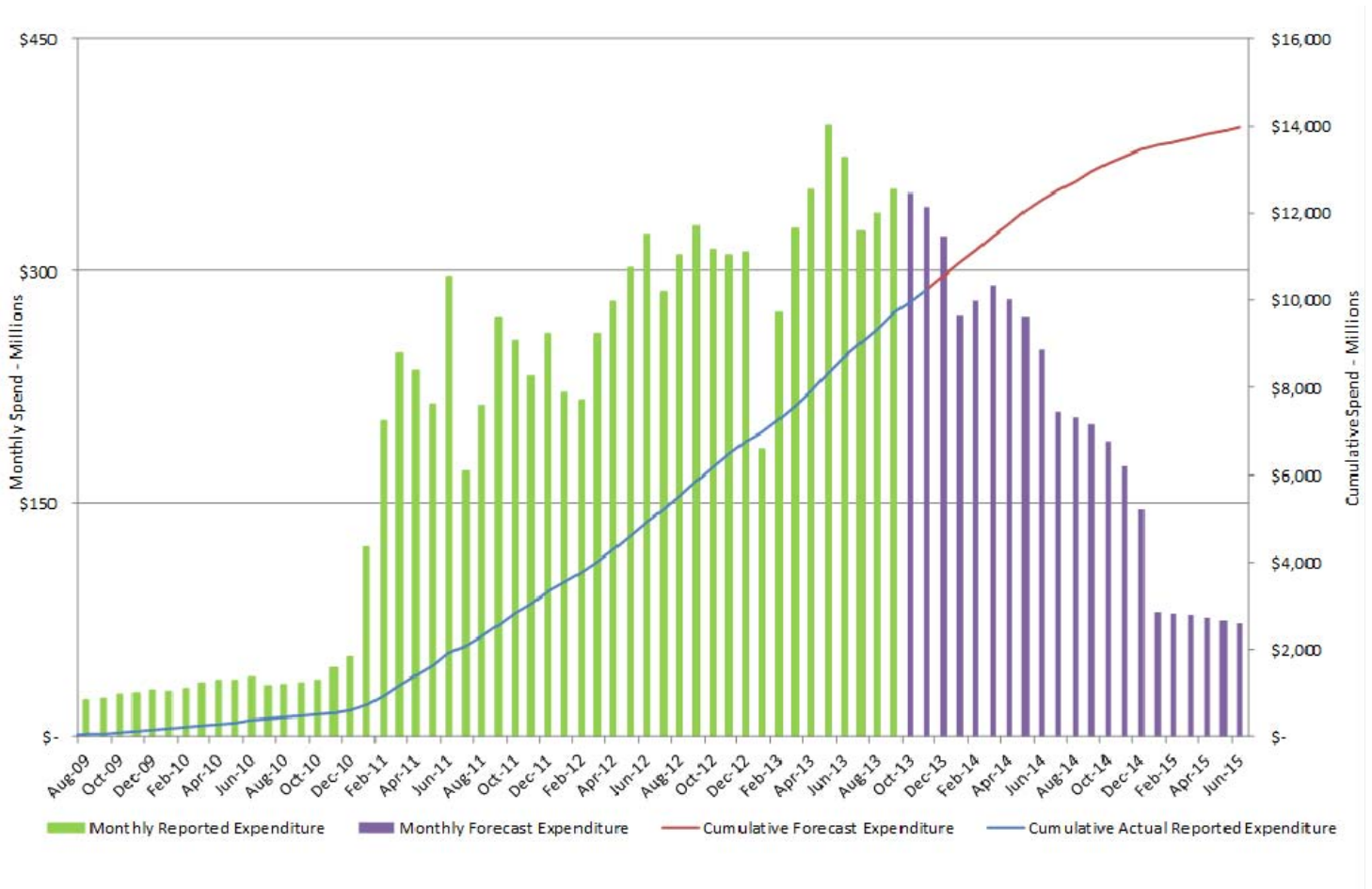
Stage	Description
Works under Assessment	Applications for packages which are currently under assessment by the Authority or are awaiting additional information from the applicant.
Works In Market	Estimate of spend remaining on works in progress and packages which have been approved by the Authority and 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 30 November 2013; and the Authority at 6 January 2014

4.5 Program of works expenditure

The figures below represents the monthly reported expenditure and estimated costs on a combined basis for all events managed by the Authority.

Figure 4.5.1 Combined Program of Works—monthly expenditure



Source: the Authority - cumulative expenditure by delivery agents to 30 November 2013 as reported to the Authority at 6 January 2014; and program estimates per 30 September 2013 NDRRA Review

4.6 Betterment fund status

The \$80 million Betterment fund is a Category D relief measure available to LGAs that have been declared for NDRRA assistance for the flood, storm and cyclone disaster events that occurred in Queensland in early 2013 for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than their pre-disaster standard.

Status

The Betterment Fund was announced in February 2013 following Tropical Cyclone Oswald which caused damage to many of the assets which had been repeatedly damaged and restored from earlier disaster events. Correspondence was received from the Commonwealth in August 2013 agreeing to an extension of the Betterment fund to also cover LGAs declared for the two additional disaster events that occurred after Oswald through to June 2013 - Longreach Flood (18 February 2013) and Central and Southern Queensland Low (25 February to 5 March 2013).

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. Under the Betterment Framework, in addition to the normal NDRRA submission assessment process, the Authority considered the financial and non-financial benefits of the betterment proposal such as possible prior damage, loss of availability and its impact on economic or social factors of the community.

As at 31 December 2013, 217 projects with a Betterment component have been approved. These projects have an estimated total cost of approximately \$147 million, which includes \$74 million in Betterment funding and Council contributions of \$11 million.

Of these, 38 projects with a Betterment Fund component of \$14 million were approved in December 2013 including:

- Millbank Waste Water Plant, Bundaberg Regional Council
- Dunbar to Kowanyama Road, Carpentaria Shire Council
- Aroona Road, Range Barranga Road and Bears Lagoon Road, Central Highlands Regional Council
- O'Brian Creek Road, Etheridge Shire Council
- Round Hill Road culvert, Gladstone Shire Council
- Michael Creek Crossing, Old Wharf Road and Bosworths Road causeway, Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- 15 betterment projects for Lockyer Valley Regional Council, including Left Hand Branch Road, Black Duck Creek Road and Winwill Connection Road
- Tarome Road, Sarabah Road, Old Beaudesert Road and Peak Crossing Pedestrian Bridge, Scenic Rim Regional Council
- seven betterment projects for Somerset Regional Council, including Mout Stanley Road Crossing
- Jimbour Station Road and Mercy Pedestrian Bridge, Western Downs Regional Council.

A profile of Bundaberg Regional Council's Millbank Waste Water Plant Betterment project is provided over the page.

The focus on Betterment is progressively shifting towards project delivery phase. To date, works have commenced on a number of approved Betterment projects, including projects in the Bundaberg, Cherbourg, Hinchinbrook, Ipswich, Moreton Bay, North Burnett and South Burnett local government areas.



Above: The Left Hand Branch Road floodway, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, completely destroyed by the 2013 floods



Above: Peak Crossing Pedestrian Bridge, Scenic Rim Regional Council

Source: the Authority at 31 December 2013

4.6 Betterment fund status (continued)

Feature betterment project: Bundaberg Regional Council - Millbank Waste Water Treatment Plant

Millbank Waste Water Treatment Plant is an essential public asset servicing 28,000 residents within the city of Bundaberg.

The plant consists of a number of sewage treatment structures and associated buildings on low terrain (to facilitate gravity sewer flows) adjacent to the Burnett River. Damage to the plant can have serious health and safety consequences, with increased risk of untreated sewerage contaminating waterways.



Above: Location of Millbank Waste Water Treatment Plant, adjacent to the Burnett River



Left: Extreme flood damage from the Burnett River at the Millbank Waste Water Treatment Plant

High velocity water flows during the 2013 flood event associated with Tropical Cyclone Oswald destroyed the asset and several of the associated buildings, causing effluent to be released into the Burnett River. Electrical systems and electronic controls were also inundated and destroyed, roads and retaining walls within the complex were washed out and/or damaged and concrete structures were blocked with silt, logs and trees that had been washed downstream by floodwater.

The plant was not operational for three months after the 2013 event. Subsequently, the plant has been operating under temporary conditions and Council has hired temporary treatment facilities to undertake treatment processes until the plant can be permanently repaired.

Council's proposed Betterment solution is for the construction of a protective earth levee on the west side of the facility to divert the high velocity flows and debris around the plant. Scour protection is also proposed to the end locations of the levee.

The Betterment project is expected to minimise damage to the facility in a flood event and allow the treatment operations to be re-activated more quickly to minimise the duration of untreated sewage discharge to the Burnett River. The works are also expected to reduce future restoration costs associated with flood damage.

The estimated cost of the Betterment project for the Millbank Waste Water Treatment Plant is \$2.4 million, of which approximately \$635,000 will be funded through the Betterment Fund. The balance will be funded as a combination of both Category B NDRRA eligible works and by Council contribution.

4.7 Iconic projects in reconstructing Queensland*

Project	Value (\$m)	Description	Status
BCC Riverwalk (Cat D)	\$72.0	<p>The Brisbane Riverwalk was a unique pedestrian and bicycle path which linked the city's CBD with the inner suburb of New Farm. It also provided a direct link with tertiary education, entertainment, recreation, commercial, community and residential precincts in the inner city.</p> <p>The floating infrastructure was destroyed by the January 2011 floods and the whole structure was subsequently removed.</p> <p>Following detailed public consultation, the Brisbane City Council decided to replace the previously floating walkway with a fixed, jetty-like 850 metre long structure between New Farm and the CBD. The Riverwalk deck will be approximately 3.4 metres above the average high tide level, high enough to minimise corrosion caused by salt water.</p> <p>The walkway's 37 piles will be anchored into the riverbed, providing the structure with a strong, more flood-resilient foundation. It will feature 24 hour lighting, separate pedestrian and cyclist paths and shaded rest areas. The design also included a rotating opening span to allow for the passage of vessels to and from moorings.</p> <p>Funding for the project is being provided through special (Category D) funding under NDRRA arrangements.</p>	<p>The tender to rebuild the Riverwalk was awarded to the John Holland Construction Group in April 2013.</p> <p>Piling works commenced in late July 2013 with a 55m-long barge mobilised in the Brisbane River carrying a 280-tonne crane and a piling rig.</p> <p>Since works commenced, 10 piles have been poured and seven concrete girders have been cast on-site at the works compound beneath the Story Bridge. Installation of balustrades on the pre-cast girders and construction of a temporary dock to move completed girders onto barges is ongoing. The barge that will be used to place the pre-cast concrete girders has now arrived on site.</p> <p>Construction is continuing of the north abutment at the Howard Smith Wharf end and preparations are underway for the start of construction of the south abutment at the Merthyr Road end. Other works underway include water quality testing, establishment of survey controls and installation of a concrete pipeline.</p> <p>Completion of the Riverwalk is expected in mid -2014, weather permitting.</p>



Left: Arrival of the barge that will be used to place the pre-cast concrete girders



Below left: ongoing construction of the north abutment

Below right: A prepared pre-cast concrete girder ready for installation



(Courtesy: Brisbane City Council)

* Iconic projects represent projects that may be complex or of great significance to the local community.

4.7 Iconic projects in reconstructing Queensland (continued)

Project	Value (\$m)	Description	Status
Gore Highway, Toowoomba to Millmerran	\$66	<p>The Gore Highway is a vital transport route linking Toowoomba to Goondiwindi and forms part of the National Highway's Melbourne to Brisbane link. The highway provides access for B-double and road trains travelling interstate and also serves as an important link for the diverse agricultural sector in the area.</p> <p>Many sections of the Gore Highway sustained flood damage to pavements and roadside drainage, as well as severe erosion around culverts in the flood events of 2010-2011 and early 2013.</p> <p>The reconstruction works include shoulder reinstatement, pavement repairs and rehabilitation and bitumen resurfacing along sections of the highway between Toowoomba and Millmerran, as well as repairs to culverts and roadside drainage.</p>	<p>FK Gardner and Sons has been contracted to reconstruct on behalf of DTMR. Works to repair the damage commenced in November 2012.</p> <p>Several sections of pavement repairs have now been completed. Repairs are underway at the Condamine River Crossing, including the Millmerran Centenary Bridge.</p> <p>Additional damage from the early 2013 flood event has been awarded for delivery. From late January 2014, works will begin near Millmerran.</p> <p>The project is scheduled for completion in April 2014.</p>

Right: Condamine River Crossing (Millmerran Centenary Bridge) under flooding in 2011 (left) and during works in December 2013 (right).



Grigor Bridge, Conondale	\$4.5	<p>The Grigor Bridge is a major crossing of the Mary River on the Maleny-Kenilworth Road near Conondale, in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. The original single-lane timber Grigor Bridge was built in 1929 and was extensively damaged during flooding in October 2010 and again in January 2011.</p> <p>The total project comprises \$4.5 million of NDRRA funding representing the estimated cost of replacing the original structure, and more than \$5 million complementary funding for an additional lane and raising the bridge plus embankments and culverts. The complementary works are intended to improve flood immunity, safety and traffic capacity.</p> <p>Construction activity in the river is scheduled to accommodate the breeding cycles of a number of iconic species found in the Mary River including the Mary River Turtle and Mary River Cod.</p>	<p>Construction of the new bridge started in March 2013.</p> <p>All remaining deck kerbs were poured in December 2013, marking completion of concrete works for the new bridge.</p> <p>Also prior to Christmas, the first layer of unbound pavement was placed on both approaches, and gabions were completed on both sides of the bridge to provide additional protection from scouring during future rain events.</p> <p>Weather permitting, the new bridge is expected to be open to traffic in February 2014 with the project, including demolition of the existing bridge, expected to complete by June 2014.</p>
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Right: construction works Grigor Bridge, November 2013— view looking towards Conondale (left); and finishing operations at both infill slabs (right)



4.7 Iconic projects in reconstructing Queensland (continued)

Project	Value (\$m)	Description	Status
Gayndah Water Supply Intake Station (Cat B and Cat D - Betterment)	\$3.9	<p>The Gayndah Water Supply Intake Station on the Burnett River provides the town's only water supply and supports a population of approximately 2000, as well as local primary industries.</p> <p>The pumping station was rebuilt after being severely damaged in 2011; only to have the new jetty, raw water intakes, pumps and water discharge main destroyed by the floods of early 2013.</p> <p>The pumping station is being rebuilt and improved through a combination of Category B NDRRA funding (for the cost of reconstructing the damaged station), Category D Betterment funding (for the incremental cost of betterment works) and council contribution. The betterment package includes a new submersible-style pumping station, a water intake upstream of the weir and a new raw water main to the water treatment plant.</p> <p>Making this piece of infrastructure more flood resilient will help secure Gayndah's water supply and improve the efficiency and reliability of this important piece of community infrastructure in the case of extreme weather.</p>	<p>Works commenced on the first of two stages of betterment works for the Gayndah Water Supply Intake Station in mid-November 2013. The first stage, being delivered by Doval Constructions Pty Ltd, to install a new main pipeline from the proposed water intake structure at Claude Wharton Weir, reached completion in December 2013.</p> <p>Stage two works to construct the pump station at the Claude Wharton Weir have been awarded to Abergeldie Constructions with works expected to commence in January 2014.</p>

Section five: Progress Reports



5.1 2013 in review

Although Queensland summers and wild weather go hand in hand, few could have imagined the events of early 2013.

Tropical Cyclone Oswald crossed the western coast of Cape York Peninsula on 22 January 2013 and moved inland and down the coast over the following seven days producing damaging winds, extreme rainfall and flooding across the State. The effects of the cyclone had a catastrophic impact with more than \$2.4 billion of damage caused across 57 LGAs in the State with the most severe impacts centred on the Bundaberg and North Burnett regions.

In the immediate aftermath of the event, delivery agents, the Authority, QFRS and other State agencies deployed to manage the immediate recovery and plan for the reconstruction effort. In this time, more than 8722 homes were assessed for damage using the Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring system (DARMSys™) and the Authority conducted more than 11,000 damage assessments on essential public infrastructure with more than 94,000 photographs taken in the process. The data was gathered rapidly in a concerted effort to fast-track the 2013 program of works into project delivery.

Evident of the variability of nature and the size and breadth of the State, works in many areas of the State have been challenged by drought conditions throughout the year, particularly through Central and Western Queensland, even whilst flood recovery was underway.

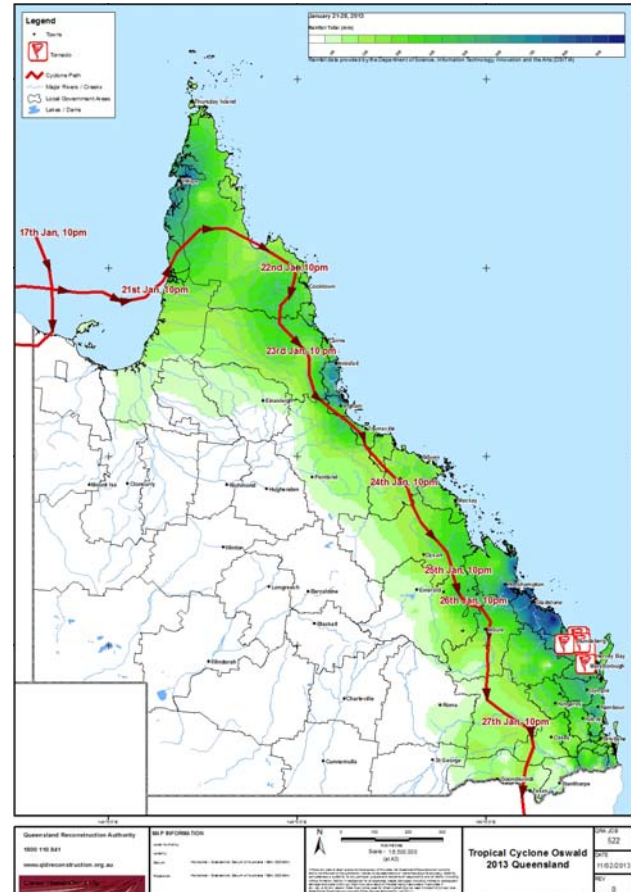
Despite these impacts, delivery agents have maintained the momentum of reconstruction from this and earlier events. Expenditure on reconstruction and recovery works has exceeded more than \$1 billion for each of the June and September 2013 quarters.

The first half of the year saw delivery of the remaining works from the 2010 disaster period, prior to expiry of the eligible delivery period on 30 June 2013. Councils and State agencies also continued to progress the substantial program of works from the 2011 and 2012 event periods, the majority of which needs to be completed before 30 June 2014.

The final three cyclone shelter projects to be delivered under a \$60 million fund to construct 10 cyclone shelters and multi-purpose facilities in Central and North Queensland were completed at Bowen, Cairns and Weipa in early 2013. The shelters were funded by a gift of \$30 million from the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and a \$30 million contribution by the Queensland Government.

2013 also saw the introduction of the Betterment Fund. More than a thousand council projects were identified seeking a portion of the \$80 million fund designed to deliver more resilient infrastructure for the future. By 31 December 2013, the majority of the Betterment Fund had been allocated to 217 approved projects across 31 councils and a number of projects are in construction.

An overview of the year's activities across each region is provided over the following pages.



Above: Approximate path of ex-/Tropical Cyclone Oswald—January 2013



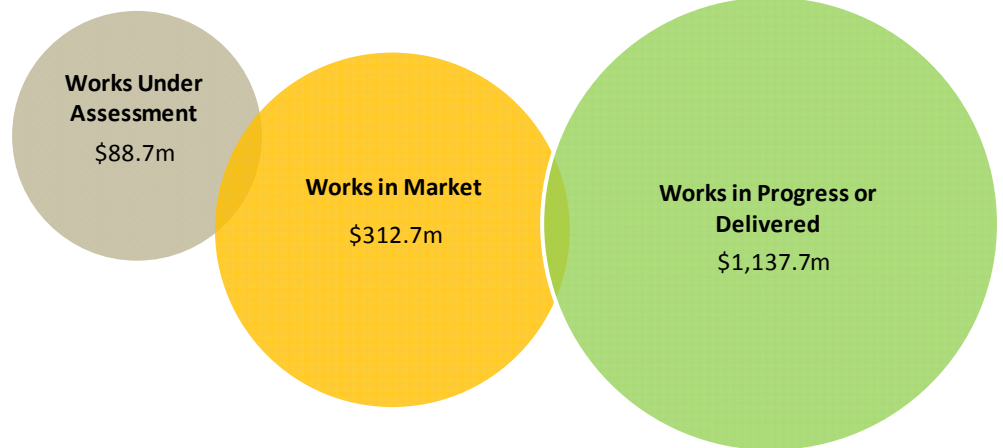
Above: Aerial view of Bundaberg under flood, January 2013



Above: Weipa Cyclone Shelter, completed in February 2013

5.2 Progress of LGAs and DTMR by region (See Appendix A LGA by region map)

5.2.1 Far North Queensland



Program status summary - Far North Queensland

Far North Queensland 2013 in review

The Far North Queensland region has been impacted by major disaster events in each of the past five years, most notably by Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

The region was again impacted in 2013 with more than \$100 million damage incurred by local governments from flooding and cyclone damage associated with Tropical Cyclone Oswald, with the most significant damage centred around the Cassowary Coast, Cook and Tablelands areas.

To date, in excess of \$1.1 billion of recovery and reconstruction works has been reported as delivered or in progress in the region. Key works delivered during the year included the \$36 million Reconstructing Cardwell project, a Category D project to restore the Cardwell foreshore and reconstruct an adjacent 1.4km section of the Bruce Highway. Concurrently, restoration of the nearby Dunk Island Jetty, Clump Point Jetty and the Dunk Island campground and day visitor area was also completed with Category D funding.

Elsewhere in the region, other projects of note delivered included the reconstruction of Battlecamp Road (Cook Shire Council), works on the Gillies Range Road on the Atherton Tableland (DTMR) and Lake Morris Road in Cairns Shire Council. Tablelands Shire Council delivered a number of significant projects in the region including restoration of Black Mountain Road, Hughes Crossing and Bilwon Road.

During the year, 15 Betterment projects were also approved in the Far North Queensland region for Aurukun Shire Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Croydon Shire Council, Etheridge Shire Council, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council, Tablelands Regional Council and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council.



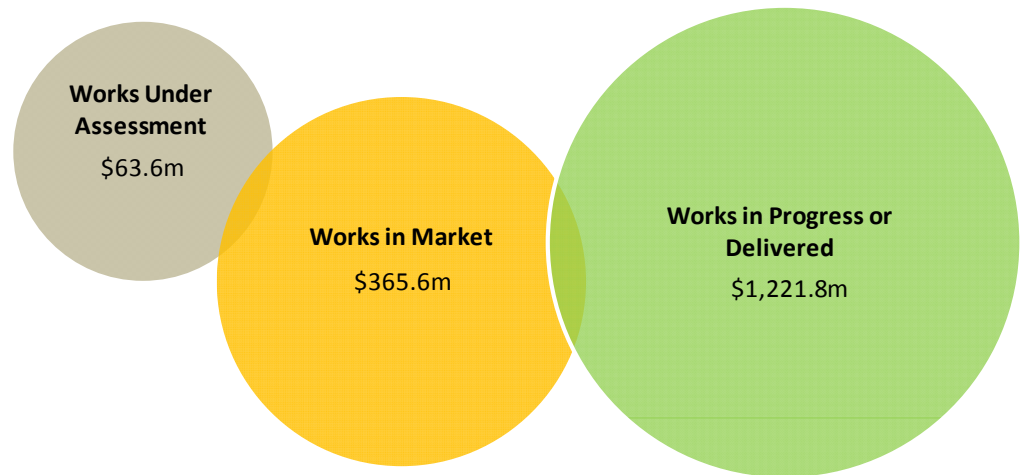
*Top: aerial view of completed works to Cardwell foreshore
Above: Dunk Island campground
Left: Dunk Island jetty*



Above: Works on Gillies Range Road (left) and Black Mountain Road, Tablelands Regional Council (right)

5.2 Progress of LGAs and DTMR by region (See Appendix A LGA by region map)

5.2.2 North Queensland



Program status summary - North Queensland

North Queensland 2013 in review

The North Queensland region incurred close to \$100 million damage to local government assets as a result of the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Oswald in early 2013, with the most significant impacts experienced in the Carpentaria and Hinchinbrook Shire Council areas.

Almost paradoxically, many of the regions impacted by flood early in 2013 subsequently experienced drought conditions during the year which further impacted delivery. Nine of the 14 shires in the region were drought declared in 2013, and water limitations continue to challenge project delivery in the region.



Peak Downs Highway – showing damage as a result of the 2010-11 events (left) and following completion of works (right)



More than \$1.2 billion of reconstruction and recovery works has been reported as delivered or in progress in the North Queensland region to date. Key works delivered in 2013 include reconstruction of Ardrbrin Lane in Richmond Shire, an access route to cattle stations and neighbouring shires; restoration of Dotswood Road, a local access road for the cattle industry and military in the Charters Towers region; and reconstruction of Horseshoe Bay Boatramp on Magnetic Island. Substantial works were also completed on the Peak Downs and Bruce Highways in the Mackay/Whitsunday region. Towards the end of the year, Palm Island Aboriginal Council also commenced its important seawall reconstruction project.



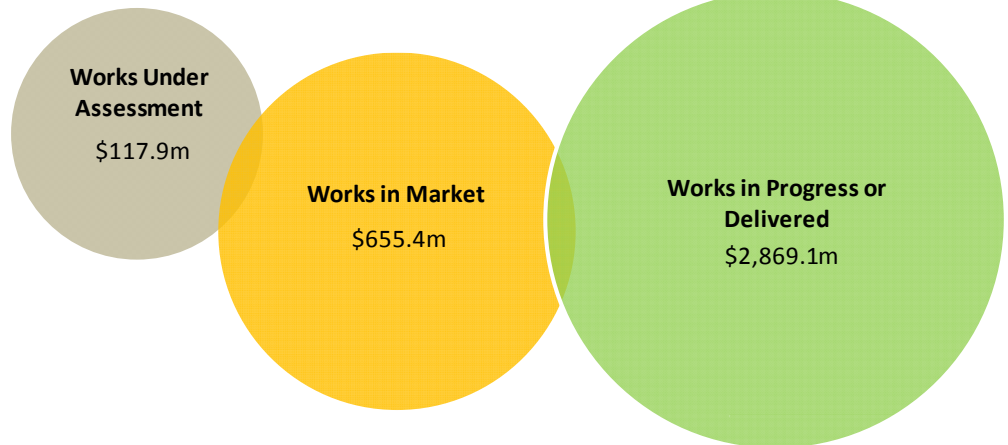
In addition, Townsville City Council reported in December 2013 that it was nearing the end of a five year, \$200 million + program of NDRRA works with the completion of one of its final road reconstruction projects at Dalrymple Road.

During the year, 11 Betterment projects were approved in the region for Burdekin Shire Council, Carpentaria Regional Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council and Palm Island Aboriginal Regional Council.

*Top left: During reconstruction works on Ardrbrin Lane, Richmond – June 2013
Bottom left: Completed works at Horseshoe Bay boat ramp, Magnetic Island*

5.2 Progress of LGAs and DTMR by region (See Appendix A LGA by region map)

5.2.3 Central Queensland



Program status summary - Central Queensland

Central Queensland 2013 in review

The expected cost of the damage to the Central Queensland region's local government assets from the effects of Tropical Cyclone Oswald was almost \$200 million, with Gladstone Regional Council and Banana Shire Council most severely impacted.

As experienced in the North Queensland region, most of the Central Queensland region inland from the coast also experienced drought conditions in 2013. By year's end, nine of the 15 shires in Central Queensland have been drought declared with water limitations challenging project delivery in affected areas.

Despite these impacts, approximately \$2.9 billion of recovery and reconstruction works has been reported as delivered or in progress in the region to date.

Examples of significant projects underway or completed in 2013 include the repair and reopening of the Capricorn Highway at Neerkol Creek, near Rockhampton, within two weeks of the 2013 event; works to repair several sections of Diamantina Development Road between Boulia and Djarra; reconstruction works around Barcardine including Narounyah, Aberleigh and Port Wine Roads; and restoration of creek crossings at Stony Crossing, Diamantina and Mimosa Creek, Woorabinda.

In the latter half of the year, the region also received approvals for more than 40 Betterment projects across Banana Central Highlands, Gladstone and Rockhampton regional council areas.



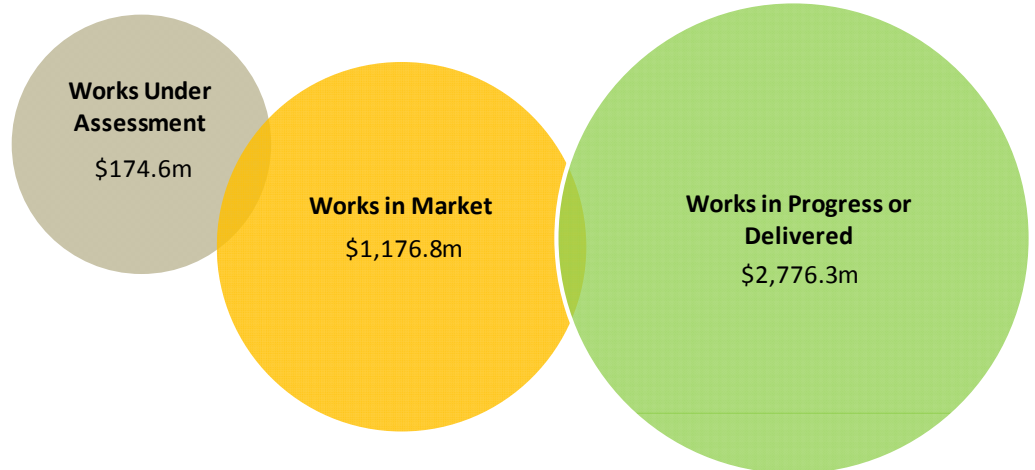
Above: Completed works of part of Diamantina Development Road (top); and completed works at Mimosa Creek Crossing, Woorabinda including complementary funded crossing raising and installation of crash barriers (bottom)



Left: Damage to Narounyah Road, Barcardine from 2012 floods (left); and completed flood reconstruction works to a section of Port Wine Road, Barcardine Shire Council (right)

5.2 Progress of LGAs and DTMR by region (See Appendix A LGA by region map)

5.2.4 Southern Queensland



Program status summary - Southern Queensland

Southern Queensland 2013 in review

The Central Queensland region experienced the State's most severe impacts of Tropical Cyclone Oswald in January 2013 with Bundaberg and North Burnett bearing the brunt of record flood levels and tornado-like winds, which caused widespread isolation of communities and damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure. The region incurred more than \$500 million damage to local government assets as a result of the event.

The initial recovery effort in the region was substantial, including the recovery of Don Tallon Bridge within two weeks of the event, restoring a crucial cross-river link for the Bundaberg community. Reconstruction works for the event have also been fast-tracked to delivery phase. By year's end, a number of 2013 reconstruction projects had been completed, including works to Mariners Way, Bundaberg, a priority project providing the only access to urban properties along the river in North Bundaberg.

To date, almost \$2.8 billion of recovery and reconstruction works has been reported as delivered or in progress in the region. Other significant projects delivered during 2013 include restoration of important cattle transport and local access routes at Orientos and Bulloo Downs Roads, Bulloo Shire and Mt Tabor Road in Murweh Shire; restoration of 38 town roads damaged in the 2011 and 2012 events in Roma and major reconstruction projects on the Gore Highway, Toowoomba and the Bruce Highway, Maryborough to Gin Gin.

Five of the region's 16 council areas were drought declared during the year, and have consequently been required to deliver works with constrained access to water.

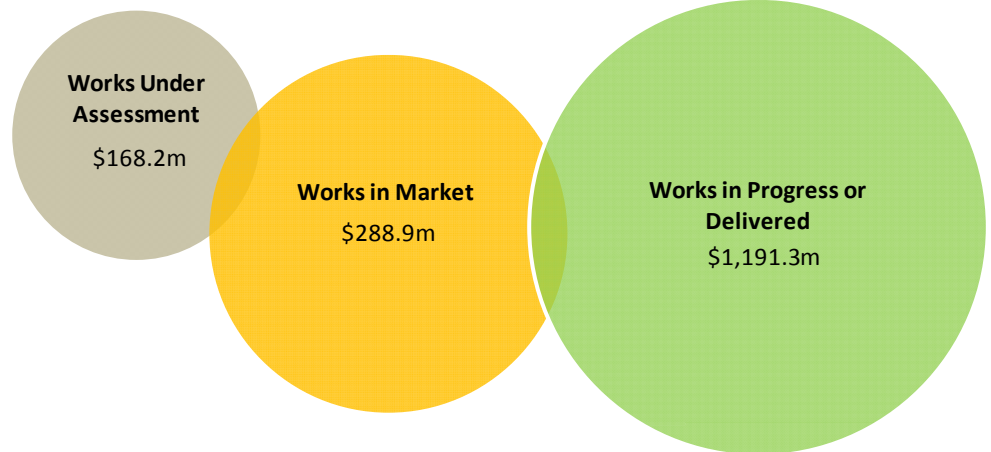
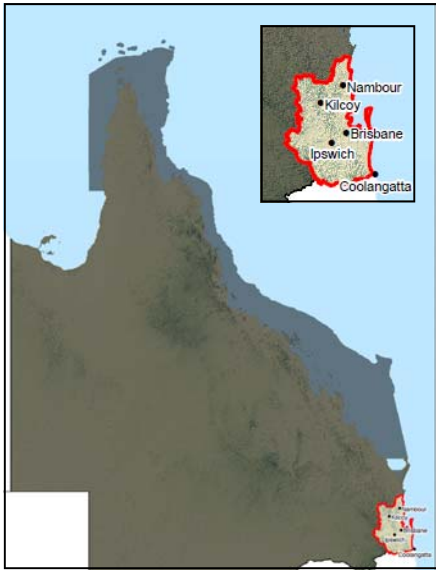
In excess of 75 Betterment projects were also approved in 2013 in Southern Queensland for Bundaberg, Cherbourg, Fraser Coast, Gympie, North Burnett, South Burnett, Southern Downs, Toowoomba and Western Downs council areas. By year's end, a number of these Betterment projects had progressed to construction phase.



*Top: Bundaberg under flood—January 2013
Centre top: damage to Don Tallon Bridge, Bundaberg following 2013 flood event
Centre below: completed works Orientos Road, Bulloo Shire
Bottom: Completed works—Roma*

5.2 Progress of LGAs and DTMR by region (See Appendix A LGA by region map)

5.2.5 South East Queensland



Program status summary - South East Queensland

South East Queensland 2013 in review

Areas of South East Queensland most affected by the 2011 floods, including Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and Somerset Regional Councils, once again bore the impact of floods in 2013. The event caused damage of more than \$300 million to local government assets across the region, including impacts for the Gold Coast and Logan council areas, resulting in their first significant NDRRA-eligible damage in a number of years.

Across the region, close to \$1.2 billion has been reported as spent by delivery agents on recovery and reconstruction works.



Above: damage (left) and post-completion (right) to the Berree-Badalla boardwalk



*Top: Esk Pedestrian Bridge—damage (left) and following reconstruction (right)
Below: Completed works at George Bishop Bridge (left) and Alf Williams Bridge (right), Somerset Regional Council*

Key projects delivered during 2013 include the George Bishop, Sunday Creek, Alf William and Esk Pedestrian Bridges in Somerset, all damaged in the 2011 flood event; repair of the Berree-Badalla Boardwalk at Currumbin damaged in 2013; and restoration of Woodlands Road, a local arterial road between Gatton and Laidley in the Lockyer Valley. At year's end, construction is advanced on the Grigor Bridge at Conondale in the Sunshine Coast hinterland; the restoration of Karalee Park, Ipswich; and the Brisbane Riverwalk project, a \$70 million + Category D project to replace the floating walkway destroyed in the 2011 floods.

The South East Queensland region has also received approvals during the year for more than 60 Betterment projects across Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Scenic Rim and Somerset council areas. Towards the end of the year, a number of Betterment projects in the region had progressed to construction phase.

5.3 Progress of State-controlled roads and highways

DTMR's Transport Network Reconstruction Program (TNRP) manages the recovery and reconstruction of Queensland's integrated transport system to reconnect Queensland communities and economies following the damage from natural disaster events in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. The transport system includes state-controlled roads, ports, navigation aids and the rail network.

The current state of activity:

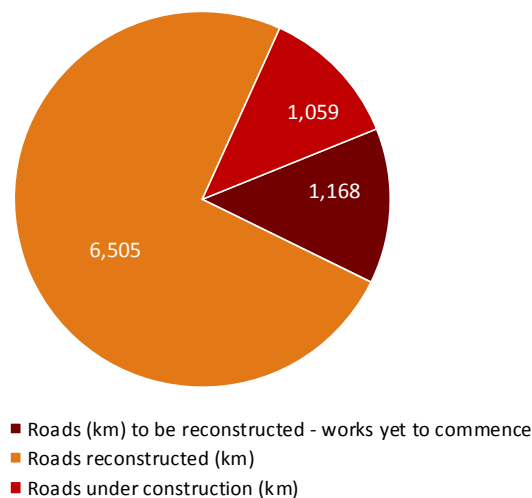
Roads – \$4.2 billion of projects have been completed for both recovery and reconstruction works (excluding maritime infrastructure) for works resulting from the disaster periods of 2010 to 2013 and \$1.7 billion of reconstruction works are currently underway. Of the 8,732km of roads which DTMR plans to reconstruct following damage from these natural disaster events, 6,505km had been reconstructed to 30 November 2013. A further 1,059km of road is under construction on active works contracts. *See Figure 5.3.1 and TNRP Summary map.*

- **Rail** – 3,100km (43%) of Queensland Rail lines were closed or had limited access due to the natural disaster events in early 2013, and all have been recovered and services resumed.
- **Maritime** – repairs have been required to navigation aids, jetties and other boating infrastructure following natural disasters from 2010 to 2013. The events of 2013 affected seven ports (all of which have since been reopened without restriction) and damaged or destroyed 348 aids to navigation, of which 280 have since been recovered and 19 temporarily fixed.

Key achievements:

- During November 2013, DTMR expended approximately \$230 million on reconstruction works across the State arising from natural disaster events between 2011 and 2013. The cumulative spend on reconstruction of the transport network to 30 November 2013 is \$5.2 billion for works resulting from the 2010 to 2013 disaster periods.
- There was 195km of damaged roads reconstructed in November 2013 bringing the total reconstructed since the program commenced to 6,505km of the total damaged.
- Construction commenced on 45 projects valued at \$97 million in November 2013 including works on 28 projects in Far North Queensland valued at \$32 million, five projects valued at more than \$5 million in the Fitzroy region and four projects in the South West region including works on the Mitchell and Warrego Highways.
- During November 2013, a rill (earth mound) and signage was used in the Central West Region for cultural heritage delineation which saved on cost and time to otherwise install a three strand fence. The new delineation of cultural heritage areas has been approved by the Traditional Owners Central West.
- The use of hydro mulching for erosion and scouring control along the Carnarvon Highway has established well and stood up well during recent rain in the Fitzroy region. Works in the Wide Bay/Burnett region have also withstood recent rain events. Works at the Binjour Range fared well after 60 millimetres of rain due to staging of stabilisation works and a good strike on hydro mulching.

Fig.5.3.1 Roads damaged/reconstructed - 2010 to 2013 events



Right: damage to Gatton-Clifton Road (top); and opened to two lanes prior to line marking (bottom) - November 2013

(Source: DTMR 30 November 2013)

Fig.5.3.2 TNRP summary of reconstruction works to date - November 2013

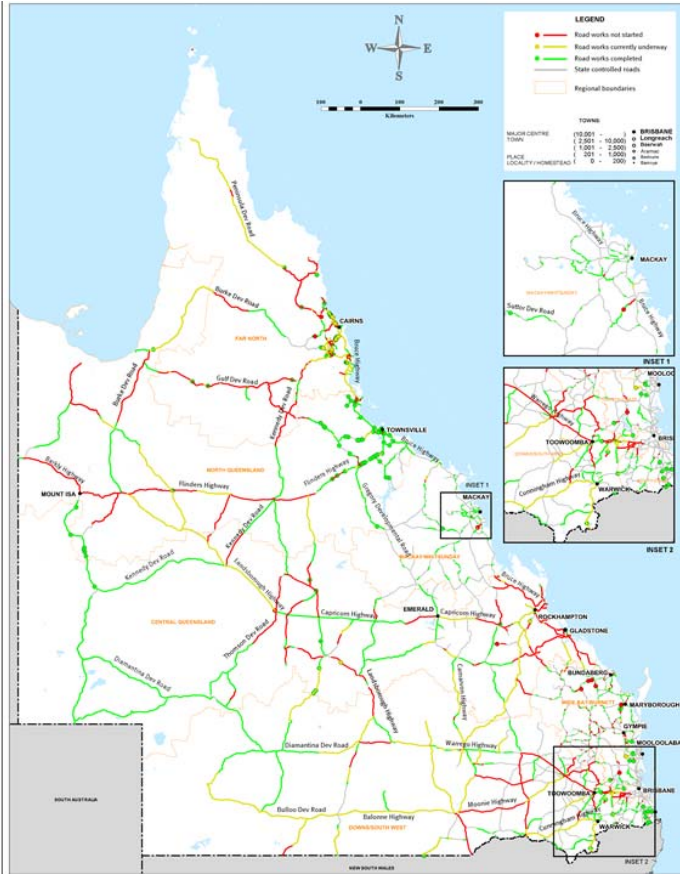
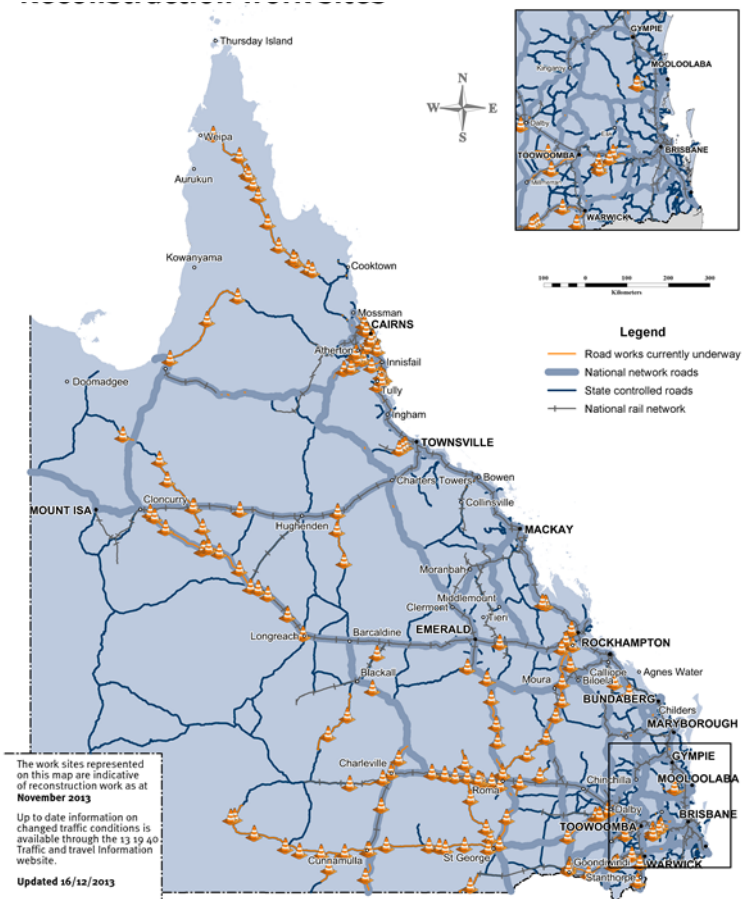


Fig 5.3.3 TNRP reconstruction work sites - November 2013



(Source: DTMR 30 November 2013)

Roads and Transport Case Example Central West Team Helps to Fight Grass Fire

TNRP contractors working on the Landsborough Highway (Barcaldine to Longreach) recently assisted local fire authorities extinguish a large grass fire that was burning parallel to the highway in a TNRP work zone.

The contractors from the Bouygues Seymour Whyte Joint Venture in the Central West region were working on part of the road infrastructure reconstruction program in the region.

On 22 August 2013, the contractors spotted a grass fire burning on the Cumberland Station stock route (west of Barcaldine) when they arrived on site. The site supervisors immediately notified local emergency services to attend and requested Ballard Freight Lines, one of the contractors providing TNRP water cart services to attend the site with one of their vehicles. Under direction of the site supervisors, the water cart wet down the fire affected area until the local fire authority arrived and the fire was contained.

The local authorities suggested that the fire may have been sparked by a campfire that was not extinguished properly; from drivers passing through the area the previous night. Quick action by the reconstruction team minimised the spread of fire and its impact on the stock route and traffic long the Landsborough Highway. The Landsborough Highway works are expected to be completed by June 2014, weather permitting.



Above: grass fire burning next to the Landsborough Highway, Landsborough Highway - August 2013



Above: Extinguished fire on 22 August 2013

5.4 Communications

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

5.4.1 Communicating progress

Media analysis

There has been a total of 288 media items from 1 to 31 December (184 print – 64%, 21 TV – 7%, 83 radio – 29%), which reached a cumulative audience of over 6.4 million people, with the focus this month being on council recovery and Betterment funding for those regions hardest hit by the 2013 event.

December media coverage saw mentions for regions recovering and rebuilding from natural disasters across Queensland including articles in the Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton), Rural Weekly (Mackay), the Northern Miner (Charters Towers), the Herbert River Express (Ingham), Ipswich Life and the Townsville Sun, and TV mentions on WIN Townsville and Seven Bundaberg. .

The Betterment Fund received coverage for projects in Somerset, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Cassowary Coast, Scenic Rim, and Somerset, with articles appearing in regional media including the Tully Times, the Clifton Courier, Townsville Bulletin, the Fassifern Guardian, the Kilcoy Sentinel, the Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, and The Somerset.

Engagement activities

Authority Chairman, Major General Richard Wilson, attended Lockyer Valley Regional Council’s Strengthening Grantham thankyou luncheon community event, on Saturday 7 December 2013.

On 6 December 2013, **Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience David Crisafulli** visited Townsville to mark the conclusion of their NDRRA road and infrastructure works with the last package at Dalrymple Road.

Minister Crisafulli also toured Bundaberg on 12 December to inspect the region’s volunteer community rebuild program and the recently approved betterment project for the Millbank Waste Water Plant.

Communications

There are a number of methods available to the public to communicate with the Authority.

The Authority’s website provides information to the public and continues to be enhanced with ongoing updates, including information about Betterment projects. There have been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011.

At 31 December 2013, total website visits amounted to 382,674 - an increase of 2.1% since last month. *(See Figure 5.4.1)*

In December, the Authority received an additional 47 calls to its dedicated hotline and 298 additional pieces of written correspondence were received. *(See Figure 5.4.2)*

Fig. 5.4.1 Website traffic

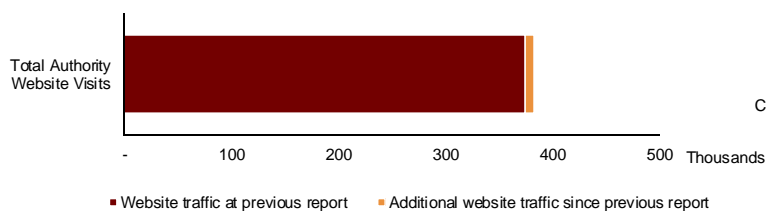
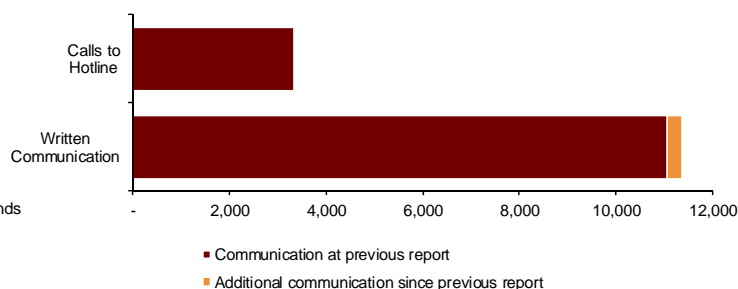


Fig. 5.4.2 Communications



(Source: the Authority at 31 December 2013)

Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

