

Monthly Report

February 2019

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Disaster Assistance

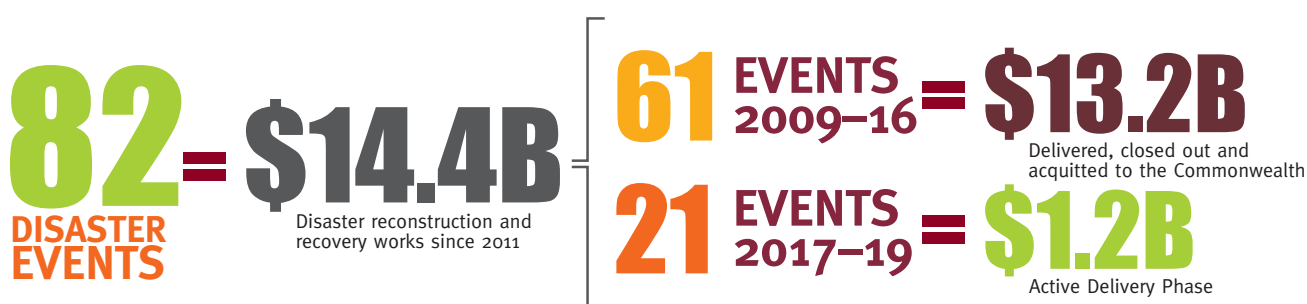
Overview

QRA has responsibility to administer Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) measures in Queensland, coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities.

Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated \$14.4 billion of disaster reconstruction and recovery works for 77 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

QRA is also managing five disaster events under DRFA, with the *Tropical Cyclone Owen, 9 – 17 December 2019, Tropical Cyclone Penny, 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019 and North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January – 10 February 2019*, events being activated during the month of January.

The list of activated disaster events is found on www.disaster.qld.gov.au.



NDRRA

Although the disaster funding arrangements transitioned to DRFA from 1 November 2018, the state will continue to administer and submit claims under the existing NDRRA Determination for a three year period while the existing NDRRA program for disasters occurring in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 event periods are finalised. Event periods are based on the closing date of the financial year, i.e. the 2018 event period represents the 2017/18 financial year. Three events also occurred in the 2019 event period prior to the implementation of DRFA and will be the final events administered under NDRRA.

With an allowable time limit of two financial years to deliver reconstruction works, \$13.2 billion of works from 61 events across 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 have been delivered and works worth \$1.2 billion for the remaining 16 events from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 event periods (that occurred prior to 1 November 2018) are currently in the delivery phase (Delivery Program).

Of the total program, \$13.1 billion of completed works have been closed out and acquitted in audited claims, with the remainder of the program from the 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 event periods to be acquitted in annual claims through to 2021 following completion of works.

DRFA

The DRFA arrangements apply to any disaster events that occur after 1 November 2018.

Five events have been activated to date to which DRFA applies in Queensland, including the *North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January – 10 February 2019* event.

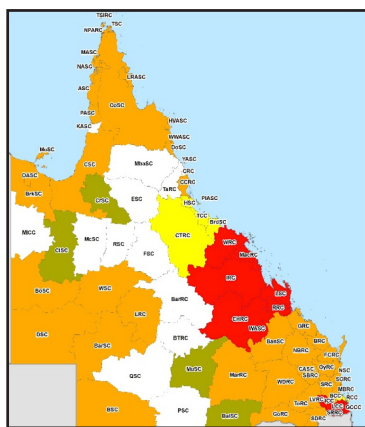
The main change under DRFA relative to the NDRRA model is that natural disaster recovery funding for the restoration of essential public assets is based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs rather than reimbursement of actual costs incurred. DRFA also provides the potential for the state to retain savings delivered in the state's restoration program for allocation to disaster mitigation and resilience projects.

Disaster Assistance

Activations

three DRFA activations new in January 2019

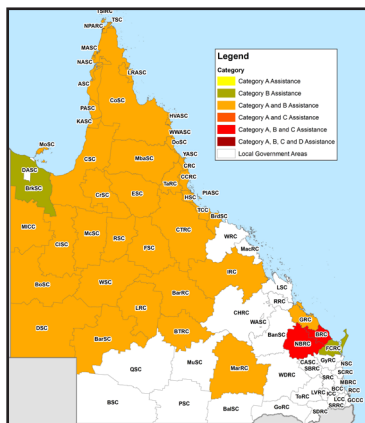
The information below shows the LGAs activated for NDRRA and DRFA relief measures for the 2017 to 2019 event periods that are still in the delivery phase.



2017 event period – \$796 million NDRRA program

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

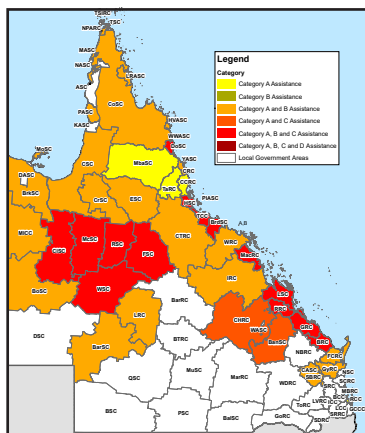
- Far North Queensland Trough, 21–28 March 2017
- Far North Queensland Trough, 3–10 February 2017
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, associated rainfall & flooding, 28 March – 6 April 2017
- Gulf Tropical Low, 15–24 February 2017
- Far North Queensland Low, 8–11 January 2017
- Western Queensland Flooding, 13–20 September 2016
- Central Queensland Severe Weather, 15–20 July 2016



2018 event period – \$437 million NDRRA program

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2020, with acquittal by March 2021)

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora and Associated Flooding, 24–29 March 2018
- North Queensland Flooding, 6–10 March 2018
- North and North West Queensland Low and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 24 February – 8 March 2018
- Central Queensland Storm, 20 February 2018
- Cape York Queensland Trough, 26 January – 2 February 2018
- Central Coast Queensland Severe Weather, 16 – 19 October 2017



2019 event period – Combined NDRRA/DRFA program value to be determined

(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2021, with acquittal by March 2022)

NDRRA

- Wide Bay-Burnett Severe Storms, 11–14 October 2018
- Mareeba & Tablelands Bushfires, 17 September – 9 October 2018 (new activation)
- Gympie Bushfires, 19 – 27 September 2018

DRFA

- North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January – 10 February 2019 (New Activation)
- Tropical Cyclone Owen, 9 – 17 December 2019 (New Activation)
- Tropical Cyclone Penny, 24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019 (New Activation)
- Central Queensland Bushfires, 22 November – 6 December 2018
- Redland Bushfires, 28 November – 13 December 2018

Disaster Assistance

NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program status

The **Delivery Program** comprises works for 21 events across the 2017, 2018 and 2019 event periods.

Of this, QRA is actively monitoring and reporting to \$1.23 billion of works from the 2017 and 2018 event periods. The eight 2019 Events in the program, including the five events activated under DRFA, will be formally reported against following the next estimates review process in March/April 2019.

The status of the Delivery Program by event period is as follows:



*program value excludes 2019 Events

2017 event period

Across the 2017 disaster season, 62 councils were activated for NDRRA assistance from seven events, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$796 million.

To date, all funding submissions have been approved, and QRA is actively working with delivery agents to progress the reconstruction program through the delivery phase. Delivery agents have until 30 June 2019 to deliver eligible NDRRA works.

Weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting, all delivery agents have reported that they expect to complete works within the deadline, Whitsunday Regional Council's Shute Harbour project has an extension of time approved due to geo-technical complexities.

2018 event period

Across the 2018 disaster season, 48 councils were activated across six disaster events at a total estimated recovery and reconstruction cost of \$437 million.

To date, approximately 57 per cent of funding submissions for the 2018 event period have been approved, and QRA is assisting delivery agents to prepare submissions and progress into delivery for the remaining program.

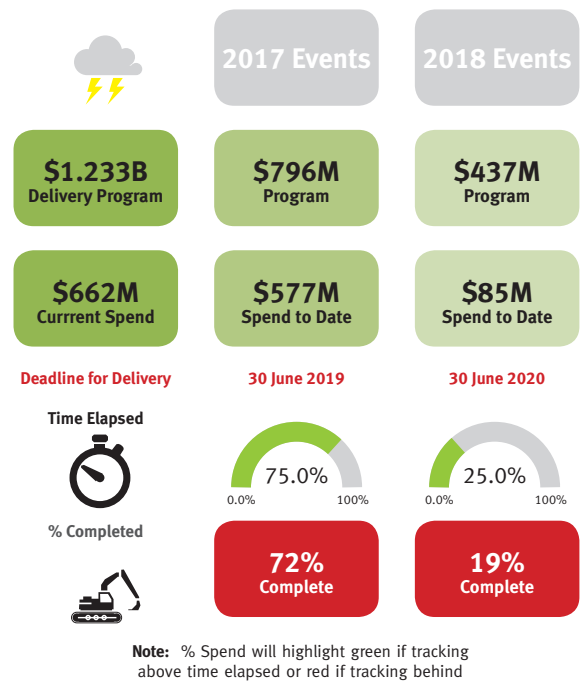
Delivery agents have until 30 June 2020 to deliver eligible NDRRA works from the 2018 events.

2019 event period

Eight events have occurred to date in 2019, with three events that occurred in September and October 2018 activated under NDRRA and five events that occurred after 1 November 2018 activated under DRFA. Across the eight events, 55 councils have been activated for assistance, including 29 councils for the recent North & Far North Queensland Monsoon event.

Progress of recovery against the eight 2019 events will be included in the Delivery Program following the next estimates review in early 2019.

The impact of the 2019 events on the existing 2017 and 2018 events delivery program will also be assessed as part of the next estimates review.



Disaster Assistance

NDRRA Acquittal Program status

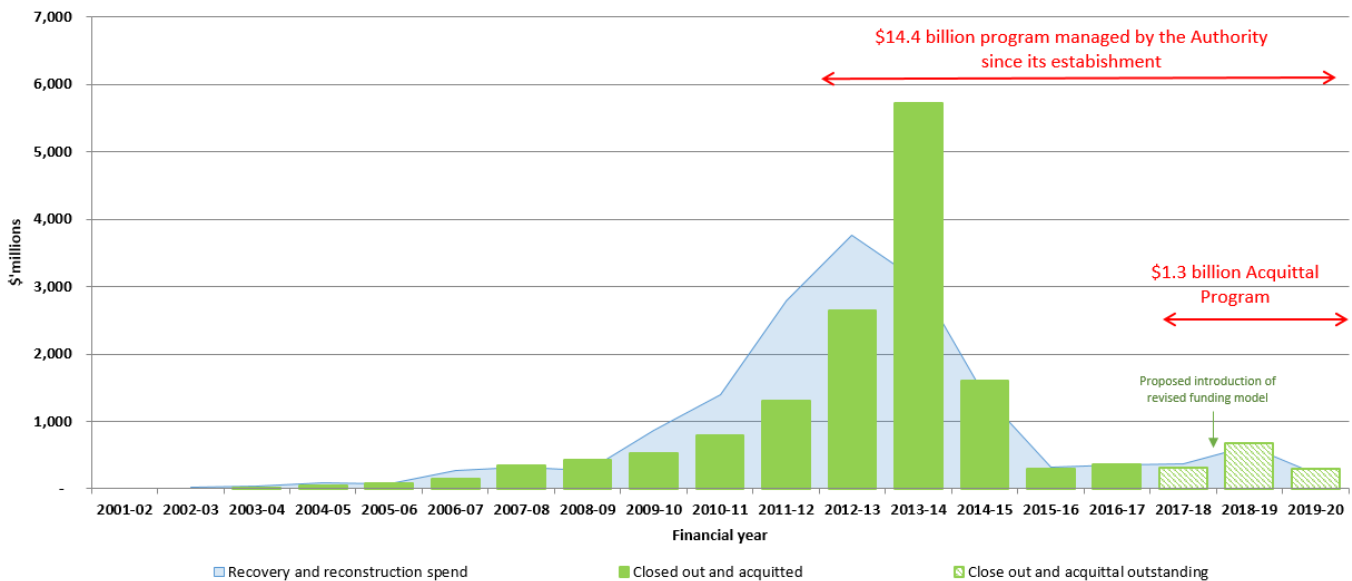


The **Acquittal Program** comprises works that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth, and is spread across the 21 events from the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Event periods in the Delivery Program, the works from the 2016 event period that were completed in the year up to the deadline for delivery on 30 June 2018 and three projects from the 2015 event period that received extensions of time for delivery.

Queensland’s next claim for NDRRA works completed in the 2017–18 financial year is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth in March 2019. The 2017–18 Claim is estimated to acquit approximately \$310 million of NDRRA expenditure.

The claim is currently subject to audit review prior to its lodgement with the Commonwealth by 31 March 2019.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001–02 to 2016–17 financial years and preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2017–18 to 2019–20 in order to finalise the Acquittal Program.



Disaster Assistance

Additional Recovery Measures – Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie (2017)

A range of NDRRA and non-NDRRA relief measures have been activated to alleviate distress for communities, businesses, industries and the environment impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND NDRRA CATEGORY C \$14.9M

- Fund to support initiatives and projects over a two year period to restore social networks and build community resilience and capacity for the future in the Gold Coast, Isaac, Logan City, Mackay, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim and Whitsunday council areas.
- The Queensland Government Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and Queensland Health are delivering three support programs to individuals and community mental health and community development programs, with detailed status reports provided on a quarterly basis.

EXCEPTIONAL DISASTER MEASURES NDRRA CATEGORY D \$96.3M

Package	Purpose	Status
Local Council Package (\$17.3 million)	<p>Infrastructure projects to generate employment, boost the local economy and drive community resilience in key impact areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shute Harbour Marina (\$15.2 million) – demolish and replace the existing jetty, rebuild the terminal building, repair an existing seawall, and replace ancillary infrastructure. • Airlie Beach repairs, Whitsundays (\$850k) – for repairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shute Harbour – Demolition works on the Lloyd Roberts jetty and terminal building were completed in July 2018. • Whitsunday Regional Council released the construction tender to market in January 2019. • Unforeseen geotechnical complexities and identification of coral bommies within the construction area has resulted in delays to project design, impacting the project completion date. The Commonwealth has approved an Extension of Time for delivery to 30 June 2020. • The construction works for the Airlie Beach foreshore parklands have commenced and are expected to be completed March 2019, weather permitting.
Resilient Infrastructure (Betterment) (\$41.9 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To restore or replace essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard. • The normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard is funded under Category B NDRRA and the incremental cost to "better" the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard is funded by a capped allocation from the Betterment fund and Council contributions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received from eligible councils activated for Category B (REPA) seeking \$114 million. • 83 projects have been approved worth \$41.9 million, fully allocating the Betterment funding across 22 councils. • 30 projects have been completed and a further 35 have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2019.
Environmental Recovery Package (\$35 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, including the clean-up of beaches, recreational parks, rivers and waterways. • \$35 million of the Environmental Recovery Package across five areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Coastal B. Environmental C. Riparian D. Mapping E. Water Courses. 	<p>A & B (Coastal, Environmental) – \$19.4 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 submissions worth more than \$19.2 million have been approved to date across 15 Councils. • 28 projects have been completed and a further 14 projects have commenced delivery. All projects are forecast to be complete prior to 30 June 2019. <p>C, D & E (Riparian, Mapping, Water Courses) – \$15.6 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All funding has been allocated to eligible projects across seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies. • This program of work is approximately 55% complete.
Economic Recovery Package (\$2.1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support recovery of industry and businesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture & Fisheries has Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) in impacted areas across five primary industries including nursery, grazing and cropping, horticulture, sugarcane and dairy. • Rural financial counselling services are delivering support on the ground and IROs have been assisting primary producers with Category C Recovery Grant applications to QRIDA. Agronomic advice is being provided to farmers on a needs basis.

Disaster Assistance

STATE PACKAGES \$62M

The state has committed to fund the full \$110 million of additional assistance measures that it would have funded under its original Category D proposal to the Commonwealth following STC Debbie. Of this, the State will fund \$62 million of recovery measures in addition to its \$48 million (50 percent) contribution to the \$96 million NDRRA Category D packages approved by the Commonwealth.

Key projects announced to date for state funding for additional recovery measures to repair damage and revitalise impacted regions following STC Debbie include:

- \$8.8 million towards revitalising the iconic tourism destinations of Mackay's Bluewater Trail and Queens Park.
- \$5 million for repairs to the Whitsunday Regional Council Administration Building in Proserpine, which was badly damaged by STC Debbie and serves as the region's local disaster coordination centre.
- \$4.562 million for sand replenishment at Midge Point and Lamberts Beach and construction of new rock groynes on St Helens Beach in Mackay.
- \$2.65 million towards the revitalisation of the Airlie Beach Foreshore. Additional funding is being provided through the state's Building our Regions program (\$2.83 million) and Category D (\$850,000).
- \$500,000 for the restoration of Proserpine Entertainment Centre.
- \$1 million to Toowoomba Regional Council to contribute towards a new regional SES headquarters in Charlton.
- \$895,000 to Whitsunday Regional Council for the rectification of the Bowen Front Beach Seawall.
- \$880,000 to Logan City Council consisting of \$770,000 towards Flooded Road Smart Warning System and \$110,000 for an updated flood study of Logan and Albert Rivers.

On 4 January 2019 and as part of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, working towards making Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia, the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, The Honourable Cameron Dick announced \$3 million of additional state funding across six resilience projects:

- \$177,000 to Central Highlands Regional Council for Sapphire Emergency Warning Sirens.
- \$272,000 to Fraser Coast Regional Council for the replacement of the floodway at Bakers Road, Bauple.
- \$193,458 to Gladstone Regional Council for Causeway Upgrade at Bells Road.
- \$390,780 to the Herbert River Improvement Trust / Hinchinbrook Shire Council for the modification of the Halifax flood mitigation levee to restore flood immunity.
- \$1.884 million to Rockhampton Regional Council for the Wackford Street Drainage Scheme (Stage 1).
- \$82,231 to Scenic Rim Regional Council for the Sarabah Road Floodway Extension at Spring Gully Stays.



The Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning Hon. Cameron Dick with a representative from Substation 33 producing flood warning signs for Logan City Council.

Recovery and Resilience

QRA is leading disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy in Queensland.

Resilience grant funding programs

Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

\$15M FUNDING AVAILABLE
NDRP

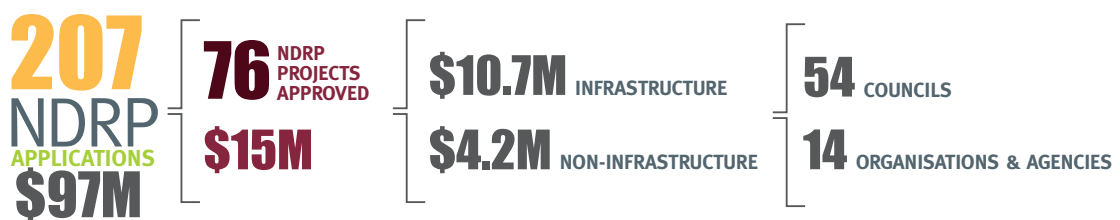
Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) supports community groups, government and non-government agencies, as well as Queensland based non-profit organisations, to build disaster resilience across the state.

The 2017–18 NDRP is administered by QRA with total funding available of \$15 million, comprising \$12 million of new funding for 2017–18 and \$3 million of program savings from earlier funding rounds.

Applications were received for 207 projects seeking \$97 million NDRP funding in the 2017–18 funding round.

Funding of \$14.3 million was allocated in June 2018 to 72 approved projects. An additional \$557,000 was allocated to four projects in September 2018 following the transfer of additional savings realised from prior year NDRP programs. A total of \$14.9 million of funds has now been allocated to 76 approved projects from 54 councils and 14 organisations and agencies.

QRA is currently actively monitoring and assisting with delivery of the projects.



Disaster Resilience Fund

\$38M
OVER 4 YEARS
QDRF

The Queensland Government announced a \$38 million Disaster Resilience Fund in the 2018–19 Budget to strengthen the state’s resilience to future disasters. The Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) will be administered by QRA.

The fund will support local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations in delivering disaster mitigation projects and initiatives that build resilience throughout the state over the next four years in parallel with disaster reconstruction works.

The QDRF aligns with the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, which identifies a need for the state to invest in resilience and mitigation projects that:

- address the state’s assessed natural disaster risks and the potential impacts of climate change
- align with locally led risk, vulnerability and capability assessments; and consider local and district priorities
- support communities to build resilience to future natural disaster events through education and awareness programs, and
- protect existing essential public infrastructure from future natural disaster events.

QRA is currently preparing the framework for allocation of QDRF funding and related program guidelines, for release in 2018–19.

Recovery and Resilience

Other Recovery and Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
Resilient Queensland 2018–2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience	Resilient Queensland 2018–21 was released on 31 May 2018 and represents the plan for implementing the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRA has undertaken a stocktake and analysis of the last nine years of state and/or Commonwealth funded activities contributing to improved disaster resilience at the local level, for reporting to the Queensland Resilience Coordination Committee (QRCC) to provide insight into future policy and project initiatives. • QRA is working with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to ensure QRCC governance arrangements are aligned with proposed changes to the remit of the State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG).
Resilient Queensland pilot projects	<p>Pilot projects to facilitate delivery of improved disaster resilience on a regional scale, and to support LGAs in developing their own disaster risk management strategies and resilience plans.</p> <p>The Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy was the first pilot project to be completed in mid-2018 and was delivered in partnership with Bundaberg, Cherbourg, North Burnett and South Burnett councils.</p> <p>The purpose of the pilots are to test and evaluate the relevant methodologies for potential State-wide application.</p> <p>The pilot projects are now being developed across additional regions in close partnership with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Resilient Queensland pilot projects commenced in late 2018 in Central Western Queensland, the Mary River and Fitzroy regions and are scheduled for completion in December 2019. • NDRP funds have been approved for Resilient Queensland pilot work including funding Regional Resilience Coordinators for both the Burnett region and the Central West regions. The Regional Resilience Coordinators commenced in the Burnett region in September 2018 and Central West region in late 2018.
Recovery Capability Development	<p>Recovery from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and IGEM's 2017 Disaster Management Plan Assessment Report highlighted the varying levels of recovery capability across local governments.</p> <p>The Recovery Capability Development Project aims to address gaps in recovery capability through a series of training workshops and exercises.</p> <p>The project is being developed and delivered collaboratively with state government and local recovery partners in 3 stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial Engagement 2. Training and Exercise Package Development 3. Training and Exercise Delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 3 underway. • Ongoing engagement is occurring with Hope Vale, Pormpuraaw and Wujal Wujal. • Local Recovery Planning Workshop scheduled for 12-14 March for Northern Peninsular Area Development Regional Council. • Governance Planning Workshop on 27 February in Rockhampton. • Dates still to be confirmed for Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire. • Draft local recovery plans sent to Kowanyama, Mapoon, Yarrabah, Aurukun and Napranum for review and approval.
Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies	<p>The Queensland Government, through QRA and partner agencies, and local councils (Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley) are working together on a long-term plan to manage the impact of future floods and enhance community safety and resilience in the Brisbane River floodplain.</p> <p>The project includes development of a Flood Study followed by a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP) that will guide a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Flood Study was released on 5 May 2017. • The Flood Study supported the development of a SFMP, which is in the final stages of completion and scheduled for release in early 2019. • QRA will oversee the implementation of SFMP to be delivered by local governments and state agencies.

Recovery and Resilience

Other Recovery and Resilience Activities

Activity	Purpose	Status
Flood Warning Infrastructure Program	QRA continues to assist the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) to ensure the best available information is available for providing flood warnings and forecasts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRA is reviewing the status of the Network Investment Plans with councils with regards to implementation of recommendations. • QRA worked with the Bureau of Meteorology to develop the draft <i>Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan</i> that will support the Bureau's National Flood Warning Infrastructure Strategy. • The Draft <i>Queensland Strategic Flood Warning Infrastructure Plan</i> was submitted to the Queensland Flood Warning Consultative Committee in late December 2018 for review and endorsement.
Operation Queensland Recovery Plan and reporting (2017 Recovery Plan)	<p>The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery following STC Debbie.</p> <p>The plan focuses on empowering local governments, supported by state agencies, to deliver local solutions to ensure communities lead their own recovery and build resilience for future events. The Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans for the eight most severely impacted council areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRA is continuing to work closely with the Mackay and Whitsunday councils, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Queensland Health and recovery partners to assist these entities address the recovery issues facing impacted residents after STC Debbie, including raising insurance matters with the Insurance Council of Australia, progressing reconstruction of property and connecting residents in need with targeted recovery services.
Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework	QRA is collaborating with government and industry to develop the Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework (QDRMIF) to provide guidance on effective investment prioritisation to support building resilience and mitigating disasters across Queensland. The QDRMIF defines key principles for investment in disaster resilience and mitigation, and articulates how an investment contributes value to Queensland's broader resilience agenda. It is informed by international and national approaches and recognised the significant work that has already been undertaken in this space across the state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final draft framework has been circulated to stakeholders for consultation and endorsement.
Review of NDRRA- Support to Individuals and Families	The review will assess the efficacy of government financial support arrangements for the relief of individuals and families who have been impacted by eligible disasters. It may provide options for revisions to current arrangements to improve efficiencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data analysis, financial modelling and literature review completed. • Consultation paper was developed. • Paper will inform state discussions on broader national review of DRFA category A and C funding.

Program spotlights

Records broken in Queensland during monsoon season

Large parts of Queensland have been hit with unprecedented and heartbreaking flooding as a result of the rainfall from the ongoing North and Far North Queensland monsoon trough.

The record-breaking Queensland floods started on 25 January 2019, with Wujal, Wujal, Cook and Douglas councils the first to be impacted, and continued into mid-February in North West and Central Western Queensland leaving primary producers devastated.

Some records that have stood for more than a century have tumbled under the depth of the floodwaters.

The Daintree River reached its highest point in 118 years of 12.4 metres over the Australia Day long weekend. Townsville received almost double its annual rainfall in 10 days and more than 1.9 metres of rain drenched the city, eclipsing the floods of 1998 by half a metre.



Townsville flooded – 4 February 2019 (photo courtesy of Townsville City Council)

The State Disaster Coordination Centre was stood up on 1 February 2019 in response to the unfolding situation.

Townsville was the centre of the response effort due to the torrential and ongoing rainfall in the area, eventually the Ross River Dam gates automatically opened after reaching almost 250 per cent capacity on the night of 3 February 2019.

As the crisis continued and the rain kept falling, the record-breaking floods expanded into western regions, devastating primary producers who have suffered major stock and crop losses.

Throughout the event, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has worked with Emergency Management Australia to fast track activation of disaster assistance, including personal hardship payments under the joint State/Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Flooding in the Diamantina River at Winton closed all roads in and out of the town

At the time of writing, 29 local government areas had been activated for disaster assistance for varying measures including personal hardship, counter disaster operations and the restoration of essential public assets as well as loans and grants to small businesses, non-profits and primary producers.

More than 34,000 applications have been received for emergency hardship assistance under the DRFA Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme with more than \$4.6 million paid to grant applicants, benefitting more than 26,000 people.

On Friday 8 February 2019, Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced that Queensland farmers hit by the devastating floods will receive more support, with increasing clean-up and recovery grants from \$25,000 up to \$75,000.

QRA Regional Liaison Officers and Recovery Officers have been in contact with impacted councils during and after the event to provide advice, support and to assist with recovery planning.



In the aftermath of the floods, Minister Cameron Dick and QRA CEO Brendan Moon travelled to inspect the damage in Cloncurry meeting with Mayor Gregory Campbell

A total of 16 QRA assisted Queensland Fire and Emergency Services with rapid damage assessments in the Townsville, Palm Island and Burdekin areas conducting approximately 7800 assessments to map damage and help inform recovery planning.

There is no doubt the human, social and economic impact from this event will be significant and will take months to get an understanding of the full impact but QRA will stand together with local governments to give impacted communities confidence the Queensland Government will support their recovery.

On 8 February 2019, Major General Stuart Smith (retired), who was appointed to the role of State Recovery Coordinator (SRC) in the wake of the bushfires of late 2018, has had his role expanded to include the flood recovery efforts.



QRA's Rapid Damage Assessment team was deployed to Townsville to assist QFES

Program spotlights

GIVIT helps disaster affected Queenslanders on the road to recovery

Queenslanders are well known for rolling up their sleeves and digging deep to help those impacted by disasters, and the non-profit organisation GIVIT is making it easier to connect their generosity with people in need.

From September to December 2018, Queensland was gripped by four separate bushfire events in Mareeba, Gympie, Redlands and the devastating Central Queensland Bushfires that burned more than 1.4 million hectares of land in and around Bundaberg, Gladstone, Isaac, Livingstone, Mackay and Rockhampton.

And since the Australia Day long weekend, many regions across northern and western Queensland are dealing with devastating, unprecedented floods.

GIVIT, a national online charity, is working with community organisations to help impacted families following the bushfires.

The full impact of these disasters goes beyond the mapping of fire scars, flood damage statistics, or damage costs.

The destruction of a family's only water tank or other vital equipment, and the uncertainty of getting it replaced or repaired, can be a big cause of emotional or financial stress.

Knowing GIVIT is working to source their exact needs can go a long way to help a vulnerable family recover.

GIVIT works in partnership with the Queensland Government to support local charities, community groups and councils in the affected regions by helping them find exactly what is needed to assist those impacted.

The initial recovery phase following a disaster can be chaotic and challenging for vulnerable people to navigate, so GIVIT's unique online "virtual warehouse" matches donated goods and services. This eliminates the need for organisations to physically collect, sort and store donations that aren't needed.

So far GIVIT has received more than \$220,000 in cash donations and has matched more than 15,000 donated items with people in need for the bushfire events of late 2018.

Fencing material and water pumps are among the most needed items, as many of the most severely impacted people live on the land; growing cane or running cattle.

Cash donations are used to buy household supplies, whitegoods and farm supplies.

Through GIVIT's tireless efforts, generous donors have helped hundreds of Queenslanders to get back on their feet following the catastrophic bushfires. With the recent unprecedented flooding event in North, Far North and Western Queensland, GIVIT is once again playing its part to help impacted communities.

As at 8 February 2019, GIVIT has received 27,500 items equalling \$34,000 in donations of food vouchers, and goods and services in its virtual warehouse.

Donations to GIVIT's Queensland Fire Appeal can be made at any Westpac Branch, via direct deposit or online at GIVIT.org.au.



Program spotlights

Tomewin Mountain Road repairs

Following extensive reconstruction works, Gold Coast–Springbrook Road reopened to traffic on Monday 17 December.

The road had been closed since April 2017 in order to safely undertake repairs, after significant rainfall from Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie caused extensive damage and landslips. Alternative access was provided via nearby Pine Creek Road.

Gold Coast–Springbrook Road is the primary access route between the Gold Coast and the township of Springbrook. Springbrook is also a popular tourist destination due to its proximity to the World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforests, in addition to offering boutique shopping, dining and accommodation.



Gold Coast–Springbrook Road – landslide caused by STC Debbie (April 2017)

Major reconstruction works have been carried out at 53 landslip sites along the 10-kilometre closed section of Gold Coast–Springbrook Road. Works are also being undertaken at 19 sites outside the closure.

Minor works will continue under stop/go traffic control until the expected project completion in February 2019, weather permitting.

Work continues on the broader South Coast reconstruction program, including major projects at Lamington National Park, Beechmont and Nerang–Murwillumbah Roads, and Cunninghams Gap.

Eligible reconstruction works will be jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).



Gold Coast–Springbrook Road – completed soil nail repairs to landslip

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