

### WHAT WE DO:

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Government's program of **recovery and reconstruction** works within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice administration of public reconstruction and resilience funds. QRA is also the state's lead agency responsible for **disaster recovery and resilience policy**, working collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

### OUR VISION:

Make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

### OUR PURPOSE:

Enable recovery and build resilience to disaster events within our communities.

### Status of NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program

**In May**

QRA revised program values for additional estimates received for a number of state agencies since the April 2020 estimates review was completed.

As a result, the value of Delivery Program has been revised from \$2.05B billion to \$2.15B. These estimates have formed the basis for QRA's projected 2020-21 grant payment budget forecasts.

	2018 Events	2019 Events	2020 Events
<b>NUMBER OF EVENTS</b>	6	12	5
<b>\$2,150M Delivery Program</b>	\$281M Program	\$1,504M Program	\$365M Program
<b>\$733M Current Spend</b>	\$232M Spend to date	\$475M Spend to date	\$26M Spend to date
<b>Deadline for Delivery</b>	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022
<b>Time Elapsed</b>	92%	42%	-%
<b>% Completion</b>	83% complete	32% complete	7% complete

### DISASTER ASSISTANCE

#### NDRRA/DRFA Grants Program

Since establishment, QRA has administered recovery and reconstruction program through the joint State-Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth more than \$16 billion.



#### Impact of COVID-19 on NDRRA/DRFA Programs

QRA has been working closely with all councils and agencies with an active recovery program to understand actual and emerging impacts of COVID-19. The majority of councils have been able to continue to progress works that are underway but with some experiencing delays due to community lockdowns, loss of access to sites, supply chain issues and restrictions on consultants' and contractors' capacity to undertake works or prepare tenders.

QRA has received approval from the Commonwealth for extensions of time for delivery and approvals across the active program. These extensions are being managed by QRA on an individual project basis, with QRA officers remaining in close contact with all delivery agents in order to minimise delays wherever possible. To date, 20 councils and four state agencies have sought extensions for COVID-related impacts on their 2018 and 2019 NDRRA and DRFA programs.

#### Acquittal:

The 2018-19 NDRRA/DRFA Claim was submitted to the Commonwealth on 31 March 2020 accompanied, as required, by an unmodified audit opinion. The Claim acquitted \$840M recovery expenditure delivered in the 2018-19 financial year. The Claim is currently under assurance review by the Commonwealth, following which close to \$500 million of Commonwealth funding is expected to be released to the state by 30 June 2020. The next claim relating to the 2019-20 financial year is due for lodgement to the Commonwealth in March 2021.

#### Additional Recovery Measures

QRA is administering a suite of exceptional DRFA assistance measures for recent events.

#### Queensland Bushfires (2019) - \$30.175M

<b>Tourism Recovery package</b>	<b>\$6M</b>
Marketing Campaign	\$1.5M
Tourism Recovery Officers (TROs)	\$500k
Tourism Recovery Fund for Local Government	\$3M
Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience	\$1M
<b>Binna Burra Recovery Package</b>	<b>\$1.775M</b>
<b>Community Recovery Fund</b>	<b>\$14M</b>
Mental Health and Wellbeing	\$4.7M
Community Development Officers (CDOs)	\$3M
Flexible Funding Grants	\$6M
Monitoring and Evaluation	\$300k
<b>Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package</b>	<b>\$8.4M</b>

#### North & FNQ Monsoon Trough (2019) - \$242M

<b>Infrastructure \$134.5M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$98.3M allocated to 42 projects, to restore and improve the disaster resilience of flood damaged essential public, community and water assets.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic \$39M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Industry Recovery Officers and 3 Rural Financial Counsellors in operation.</li> <li>203 small business grants approved to the value of \$1.96M.</li> <li>Over 235 business owners accessed free mentoring under the Mentoring for Growth program.</li> <li>12 scholarships awarded for Event Management and Tourism Programs.</li> <li>41 Travel bursaries provided for delegates to attend the Destination Q Events Conference.</li> <li>\$1.7M provided to councils for fodder supply costs.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment \$36M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>114 projects worth \$33.74M recommended across Riparian Recovery Program.</li> <li>\$100,000 Emergency Response Program for Parthenium Weed is being delivered through Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.</li> </ul>
<b>Human &amp; Social \$12.75M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 Community Development Officers in place.</li> <li>13 Mental Health clinicians, social and health workers and one Child and Youth Mental Health service delivering services through Townsville, North West and Central West Hospital and Health Services (HHS).</li> </ul>
<b>Resilience \$19.75M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$4.5M Flexible Funding Grants approved across 68 projects.</li> <li>Townsville Flood Mapping project initiated.</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation \$500K</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IRO program has been evaluated for the Coastal IROs.</li> <li>Some significant data monitoring improvements have been observed. In particular, Health have developed a Disaster and Emergency Incident Relief and Recovery Application (referred to as the DEIRR app) which will enable tracking of all data including therapeutic outcomes for Cat C funded recovery processes of the Mental Health Program.</li> </ul>

#### Central Queensland Bushfires (2018) - \$12.0M

<b>Human &amp; Social \$3.79M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Community Development Officers delivering program across 8 councils.</li> <li>Mental Health program - 6 clinicians appointed across Rockhampton, Mackay and Wide Bay HHSs.</li> </ul>
<b>Resilience \$8.25M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1.5M Rural Residential Recovery program has commenced roll-out with \$1.2M paid to date.</li> <li>\$5.19m Flexible Funding Grant approved across 78 projects.</li> <li>Bushfire awareness campaign underway.</li> </ul>

## RECOVERY

**QRA works extensively on recovery planning with councils impacted by major disaster events, increasing capability and awareness through active participation and providing support for local recovery governance.**

### Event Specific Recovery Plans

QRA is currently coordinating 3 state event specific recovery plans:

#### Queensland Bushfires (2019)

The Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan addresses bushfires that occurred across the state during the period September to December 2019. Functional Recovery Groups have completed recovery action plans which have been incorporated into the Plan. Gladstone, Southern Downs, Noosa, Livingstone, Somerset, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba Regional Councils have endorsed their event specific local recovery plans. Lockyer Valley Regional Council is finalising their event specific recovery plan.

#### North & FNQ Monsoon Trough (2019)

The third quarterly progress report is being progressed through Government for consideration.

#### Central Queensland Bushfires (2018)

Local Government and State agencies are continuing to support the recovery objectives outlined in the recovery plan. Flexible funding grants have enabled Council to use innovative approaches to recovery including the development of Rural Community Connect in the Central Highlands and an art education program in Mackay. The third progress report is currently progressing through Government for consideration.

Delivery underway on **20** completed Council event-specific recovery plans related to the Central Queensland Bushfires and the NFNQ Monsoon Trough

### Recovery Projects and activities

#### COVID-19

In light of the current COVID-19 current activities, a number of local governments have indicated a desire to develop event specific recovery plans. Engagement with local governments is underway. QRA is:

- providing assistance and tools to Local Recovery Groups across the state to enable the capture of impacts and the completion of impact assessments
- providing assistance to Local Governments across the state with the development of event specific local recovery plans
- facilitating recovery planning sessions for local government
- supporting the district with recovery coordination as required
- supporting the development of Regional Recovery Strategies.

#### Recovery Planning and Governance

The Recovery Planning and Governance program is continuing to be rolled out across the state. COVID-19 has provided the opportunity to continue discussions with local governments on the importance of the project. Consequently, an additional three councils have signed up for a Recovery Planning and Governance Workshop.

**8** Council event-specific recovery plans being finalised for the Queensland Bushfire event

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### QRA AT THE 2020 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA NATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE



In May 2020, officers from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) attended and presented at the 2020 **Floodplain Management Australia (FMA) Digital National Conference**.

The FMA Conference has been held annually for over 50 years and is the most respected flood risk management event held in Australia.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions that prevented this year's conference being physically held, the 2020 online version brought together approximately 800 floodplain management professionals from across the country and abroad to discuss innovative ideas and catch up on best practice methods deployed in other jurisdictions.

This year, QRA was a proud Session Sponsor with the conference theme of **"A flood resilient Australia: transforming vision into action"** well-suited to QRA's vision for Queensland's recovery during these challenging times.

QRA's **Executive Director of Resilience Graeme Milligan** presented on the delivery of the **Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan**, and said the Plan, launched in April 2019, has been a guiding force in the implementation of future regional resilience plans.

"One of the key successes to date of implementing the Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan has been achieving regional consistency through Local Floodplain Management Plans," Graeme said.

"These local plans in turn can identify actions to enhance flood resilience that can be linked to funding opportunities, making our communities safer."

Graeme also presented on the way QRA is working together towards the best flood warning infrastructure network, sharing some of the learnings and outcomes of the Fitzroy Basin pilot.

Also presenting at the conference, senior member of the Resilience team **Stephen Dredge** offered a pre-recorded presentation on the engagement phase of **Resilient Queensland 2018-2021**.

"QRA is the lead agency in Queensland for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risks," Steven said.

"Even though we couldn't be there in person it was great to have the opportunity to share the learnings of the community-led approach of the pilot regional resilience strategies of the Mary, Fitzroy and Central West region in Queensland.

"This locally-led, regionally-coordinated and state-facilitated approach is strengthening relationships between local governments and state agencies to support the development of resilient building strategies that can be better coordinated and aligned to future funding opportunities, providing better value for money and a more disaster resilient Queensland."

More information about QRA projects that enhance the flood resilience of our Queensland communities and a series of short educational videos to help Queenslanders to better understand their flood risk is available at <https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/understand-your-flood-risk>.



Image: QRA's Graeme Milligan presenting at the 2020 Digital FMA National Conference

## RESILIENCE

**QRA leads the coordination and development of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risk, improving the resilience of communities, and facilitating mitigation against potential disasters.**

### Resilience grant programs

#### National Disaster Resilience Program (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 not-for-profits, to build disaster resilience across the state. A total of **\$14.9 M** of funds was allocated to **76 approved projects** from **54 councils** and **14 organisations and agencies** in the 2017-18 funding round. Projects are due to be completed by 30 June 2021, with 34 NDRP projects reported as complete at 1 May 2020.

#### National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction

Queensland's Implementation Plan for the **National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction** was submitted to the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management for approval on 29 April 2020.

The Implementation Plan outlines a competitive grants program as the mechanism to allocate funds towards statewide and regional disaster risk reduction and resilience priorities in Queensland. On 20 May 2020 the Commonwealth endorsed Queensland's Implementation Plan. Once the joint media release is delivered, the grants program will open. The grants program is called the **Queensland Risk Reduction and Resilience Fund** and will accept applications from local governments, state agencies, not-for-profits and volunteer groups for initiatives that will help reduce disaster risk and build resilience.

#### Get Ready Queensland (GRQ)

GRQ is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The program integrates a state-wide research driven awareness campaign led by the QRA, alongside a grass roots grants implementation by providing \$2M across all 77 Queensland councils to tailor information most credible and relevant to their community.

#### New council funding round launched

On 27 May, QRA advised councils on their allocations for the 2020-21 Get Ready Queensland program with submissions due by July 2020. The funding guidelines have been updated this year to enable councils to pool their funding for shared initiatives. The funding is to be directed towards preparedness and prevention activities for natural hazards and pandemic.

#### State-wide market research

Market research was conducted in field from late May to early June to measure community resilience/preparedness as well as attitudes towards disaster risk. The research will inform a two-year strategic plan that will guide future development of the Get Ready Queensland program. A report will be provided at the end of June.

#### Get Ready Queensland advertising campaign for 2020-21

Work has commenced to plan for the next state-wide advertising campaign, which will once again include GRQ's Ambassador Jonathan Thurston and run for approximately six weeks from early October 2020. Advertising channels will include television, radio and electronic billboards.

#### Corporate sponsorship

Negotiations are underway for a corporate sponsorship that is anticipated to take effect from next financial year. The sponsorship will provide the GRQ program with additional funding to extend our advertising reach across the state, particularly through television.

#### Get Ready Ambassador

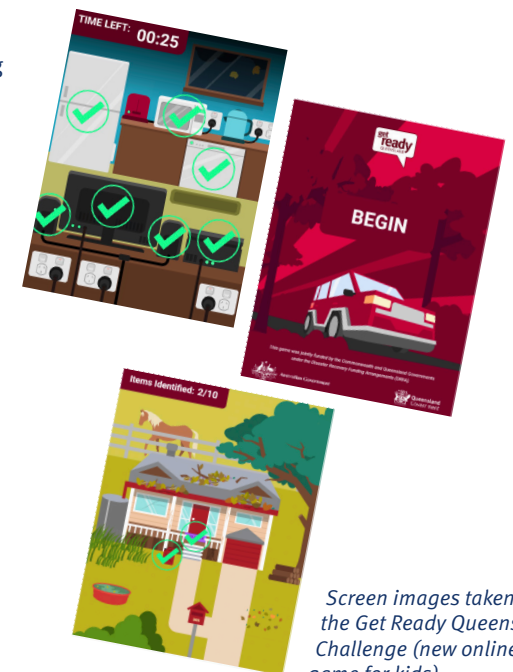
The schedule of activities to be delivered by GRQ Ambassador Jonathan Thurston in the 2020-21 financial year is currently being developed. Thurston will once again be the face of the annual advertising campaign, and QRA is working through other opportunities for him to help raise the profile of the program through school visits, social media and videos.

#### Resilient Australia Awards (Queensland)

GRQ is actively promoting the awards with nominations to close on 16 June. GRQ will host an award ceremony in September 2020. Queensland winners will be recognised in the national awards across six categories including community, school, business, local government, state/federal government and photography.

#### Get Ready Queensland Challenge

A new digital childrens' game was completed in May for public launch during the school holidays from July. The game was developed using Category C funding from the 2019 Monsoon Trough to educate communities about key ways to prepare for disasters. The game will be promoted specifically to communities impacted by the Monsoon event, in addition to broader state-wide promotion. The Commonwealth endorsed the game in May and recommended QRA share this resource with other states as a great example of ways to meaningfully engage with children and families.



Screen images taken from the Get Ready Queensland Challenge (new online game for kids)

#### Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF) and Prepared Communities Fund (PCF)

For 2018-19, **\$10.65M** was allocated to **75 projects** to strengthen the resilience of Queensland communities, including funding under the **QDRF (\$9.5M, 65 projects)** and State-Commonwealth funding under the **PCF (\$1.15M, 10 projects)**.



## Resilience projects and activities

### Resilient Queensland 2018-2021: Delivering the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

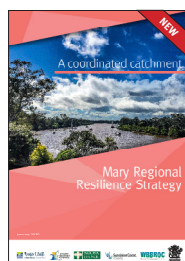
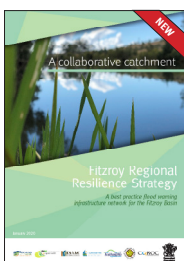
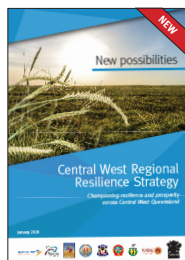
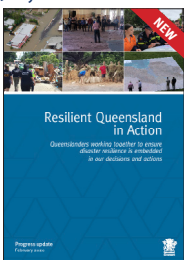
- Resilient Queensland in Action was released on 21 February 2020 as the progress update on delivering the first 18 months of Resilient Queensland, demonstrating how we are implementing the QSDR. It includes case studies and initiatives showcasing some of the great work happening throughout Queensland to improve disaster resilience.
- On 21 February 2020, three regional resilience pilot projects were released as part of Resilient Queensland:

#### Central West Regional Resilience Strategy

#### Mary Regional Resilience Strategy

#### Fitzroy Regional Resilience Strategy.

- Evaluation and planning for statewide rollout is currently underway. An options analysis to facilitate statewide rollout has been completed and a project plan is now being developed. Delivery on the next phase of the project is to commence July 2020.



### Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP)

- QRA has oversight of 52 SFMP actions including 34 for State government, of which QRA is responsible for 12.
- The Brisbane River SFMP Management Group** met on 6 May 2020 with representation from Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley councils and relevant State agencies. The group will meet again on 5 August 2020 to monitor progress of the SFMP implementation.
- The Steering Committee meeting with Directors-General and CEOs** of the respective stakeholder agencies has been rescheduled for the last week of July 2020.
- One of QRA's actions is to produce a **Flood Communication Kit** which provides a comprehensive suite of flood messaging that councils and relevant state agencies can use in their social media and other flood communication messaging to improve community awareness and resilience to floods for all Queenslanders. Consultation has also been undertaken with the Office of the Chief Scientist, the Insurance Council of Australia, the Bureau of Meteorology, and the Inspector-General Emergency Management. Brisbane River catchment partner councils were consulted in the development of the Toolkit to ensure that it meets council needs. Feedback from the councils has been very positive and the Toolkit is planned for release by July 2020.

### North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough Cat D - Flood Mapping and Flood Warning Programs

- The \$1 million Burdekin and Haughton Catchment Resilience Strategy Project** will develop locally-led and regionally-coordinated resilience solutions to address recent and emerging disaster risks for councils in the catchment area including Townsville City Council. This project is currently underway and due for completion by end of 2020.
- The \$2 million Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project** will analyse existing flood warning infrastructure, working with the Bureau of Meteorology and councils to identify high priority locations requiring additional flood warning infrastructure capability including repairs of and/or installation of new infrastructure. This project is underway in Townsville and surrounds, North West Queensland, Far North Queensland and Central West Queensland. A network optimisation exercise has been completed and has produced a report (including maps) with a prioritised list of infrastructure improvements and costings for each impacted council. Consultation has commenced with the Bureau of Meteorology, the Department of Transport & Main Roads, and Queensland Rail, for the purposes of data sharing. Funding options are currently being considered to meet a total project demand of some \$7M.
- Townsville Recalibrated Flood Modelling and Mapping Project** - supporting Townsville City Council to update and recalibrate flood modelling and mapping across the council area including the Ross River. This project is underway.

### Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes

#### Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes

– launched 9 April 2019

#### Cyclone Resilient Guidance for Queensland Homes

– released 17 December 2019

#### Storm Tide Resilient Guides for Queensland Homes

– released 17 December 2019

#### Bushfire Building Guideline for Queensland homes

– in development and due for completion June 2020.

### Resilience policy

- QRA is working with **CSIRO** to develop an adaptation of their **Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach (RAPTA)** for Queensland to support resilience building activities. A stakeholder workshop was held on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 February with a follow up workshop to be held on Wednesday 3 June. CSIRO has undertaken an analysis of workshop outcomes to identify next steps. A report is due to QRA in June 2020.