



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:
Stronger, safer, resilient Queensland communities.

OUR PURPOSE:
Coordinate action to improve the resilience of Queensland communities and facilitate locally-led disaster recovery.

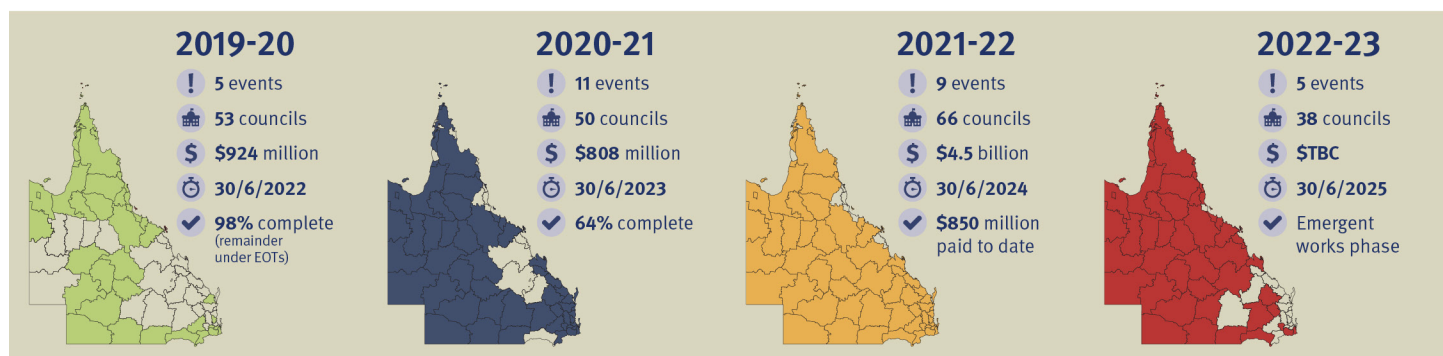
DISASTER ASSISTANCE

DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE GRANTS PROGRAM

QRA is currently administering a recovery and reconstruction program under the joint Commonwealth State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth in excess of \$6.2 billion arising from 30 events from the 2019-20 to 2022-23 disaster seasons in the delivery and/or acquittal phase.

CURRENT STATEWIDE PROGRAM

! 30 events **🏠** 76 councils with an active program **\$** \$6.2 billion



JANUARY

Being at the height of the traditional disaster season, January saw additional activations for disaster assistance measures to support communities in Queensland’s north impacted by monsoonal rain and flooding.

The focus of the disaster assistance grants program in January has been to facilitate activation of assistance measures as well as continue to monitor the ongoing progress of works in delivery and to manage the audit of the state’s annual DRFA claim which commenced during the month. The audited claim is due to be submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2023.

Concurrently, QRA has been closing out delivered works from the 2018-19 and 2019-20 programs, and also continuing pre-approval assessments relating to the massive reconstruction program resulting from the South East Queensland floods and other 2022 Events and supporting councils to scope reconstruction works following the recent events of 2023.

In addition, QRA engaged with Councils, state agencies and non-government organisations to support development of applications for funding from the Australian Government’s national \$200 million 2023-24 Round One of the Disaster Ready Fund. State applications opened on 19 January and will close on 13 February 2023.

RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY

The Resilience and Recovery team within QRA provides leadership, coordination, direction and advice for the development and implementation of disaster resilience and recovery planning, policy, funding, and support.

To deliver on this commitment, roles and responsibilities are dispersed between and across levels of government and with key stakeholders.

RECOVERY

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

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements activations – 2022-23 disaster season

The start of the new year saw activation of Queensland’s fifth event since July 2022, and activation of Disaster Recovery Funding assistance. An active monsoon trough and slow-moving low-pressure system over the north of the state produced extremely heavy rainfall from late December 2022 into January 2023. Severe thunderstorms and intense, persistent rainfall led to significant impacts in both urban and rural areas of northern and central Queensland. To date, 26 Local Government Areas are activated for relief measures, with more expected.

A total of 37 LGAs have so far been activated for DRFA assistance for the 2022-23 season.

Engagement with Local Governments, other stakeholders, and the community

QRA Recovery and Resilience Officers have hit the ground running, visiting Hughenden Regional Council and Charters Towers Regional Council to discuss recovery planning and local resilience action plans. Local government engagement in January also included visits to Cairns Regional Council, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and Douglas Regional Council, with Recovery Officers attending LDMG meetings, reviewing regional resilience strategies, recovery sub-plans and discussing council’s Get Ready Queensland program. Sunshine Coast Regional Council recently appointed a new Disaster Management Officer, which prompted a visit for a meet and greet combined with a discussion around the Disaster Ready Fund.



Recovery officers at Flinders Shire Council

Recovery and Resilience officers also met with the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) to discuss regional resilience strategies and a meeting with Dabu Jajikal, an Aboriginal Corporation in Far North Queensland, to talk about the development of a cyclone preparedness and resilience plan.

The City of Gold Coast Disaster Management unit hosted the first disaster exercise for 2023, which was a desktop discussion exercise based on a Category 3 cyclone crossing the SEQ coast. The exercise included 78 participants from QRA, local government, state government agencies and NGO representatives. Outcomes included the importance of cross-agency collaboration in the lead up to a disaster event, as well as response and recovery pre-planning and delivery.

The recovery team is developing a Local Government Recovery Engagement and Communication Plan that sets a strategic approach for how the QRA recovery team engages with Councils, to help build recovery capacity, capability and resilience at the local level.



QRA recovery officer attending the City of Gold Coast disaster exercise

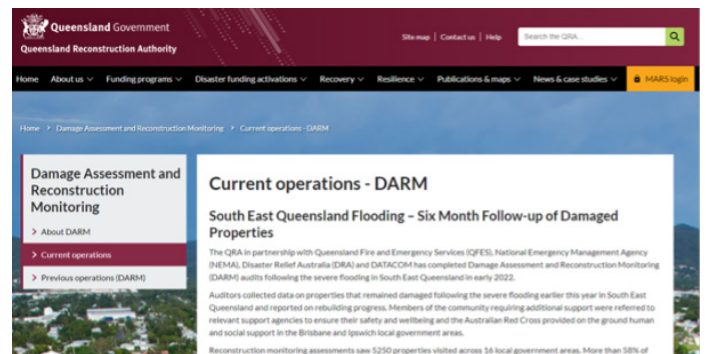
Monitoring and Evaluation of Disaster Recovery Programs

The QRA has recently completed a significant package of fifteen evaluations of recovery programs which supported the recovery from the Central Queensland Bushfires in 2018, the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough in 2019, as well as the Queensland Bushfires in 2019. These evaluations showcase key findings across the events and provide recommendations for delivery agents when developing and implementing future programs. The evaluations will be published on the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) knowledge hub as well as the QRA website the week commencing 6 February 2023.

Follow-up damage assessments provide snapshot of South East Queensland flood recovery

Preparations are in full swing for the Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring (DARM) 12-month follow-up after the South East Queensland (SEQ) Flooding in early 2022. Between 13 February and 3 March 2023, a team of QRA volunteers, supported by the officers from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) and Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES) will visit homes and businesses damaged by the 2022 SEQ flooding. A total of 3602 properties across 15 local government areas will be visited over a period of three weeks. Local government areas include Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Toowoomba, Fraser Coast, Gympie, Noosa, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Western Downs and North Burnett.

QRA officers will collect information on structural damage, insurance matters and speak with residents about any ongoing issues they may be experiencing. Community Recovery officers from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE) will also provide on-the-ground support for members of the community who may require additional assistance. Information collected through DARM will be shared with councils and relevant state agencies, to improve their understanding of the needs and priorities of impacted communities.



Update on Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

QRA is continuing to work with state and Commonwealth partners on the roll out of exceptional circumstances packages, jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments, to support Queensland communities in their recovery from significant weather events during the 2021-22 disaster season.

The QRA secured more than \$2 billion in extraordinary assistance packages under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), to provide support to communities in need following the Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, Ex TC Seth, SEQ Rainfall and Flooding and Southern Queensland Flooding (6-20 May 2022).



RESILIENT HOMES FUND

\$741 million Resilient Homes Fund - Registrations of Interest still open

As at 30 January, 5810 homeowners from eligible local governments areas whose property was inundated have registered their interest in the Resilient Homes Fund. Of the active 4808 registrations, 639 people have registered their interest in the Voluntary Home Buy-Back program, 1436 in the house-raising and 1943 in the retrofit, with 790 people unsure which option is best suited to their individual needs.

Rollout of the Home Buy-Back component of the Resilient Homes Fund has continued in Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Sunshine Coast, Fraser Coast, Gympie, Moreton Bay, Lockyer Valley, Goondiwindi, Somerset, Gold Coast and Noosa local government areas. As at 27 January, there have been 468 valuation inspections undertaken, 274 offers presented, 169 offers accepted and 47 contracts settled.

Further details: [Resilient Homes Fund Eligibility and funding factsheet](#)

Property Level Flood Information Portal

Delivery of Property Level Flood Information Portal (“the Portal”) continues, with market responses to the Expression of Interest being evaluated and shortlisted for the next stage of procurement.

The Portal has the principal aim of assisting residents to understand, be more informed and better prepared for future flooding events by giving them access to flood risk information specific to their property.

Delivery of the Portal will enable any member of the public in an eligible local government area to enter their address into a locally hosted platform and obtain key information about flooding at their property. Where data is limited, the system will still be implemented using existing datasets and allow for updates as new data becomes available.

The project is funded under the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund to support resilience measures in Queensland homes impacted by the following events across 39 activated Councils.

Flood studies, risk assessment and management strategies and intelligence systems (WP3)

36 Councils activated for DRFA funding from the 2021-22 events have been advised their applications were successful and they will receive funding for projects under the \$18.25 million flood studies, risk assessment and management strategies and intelligence systems (WP3) work package.

RESILIENCE

QRA is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risks and improving the resilience of communities and facilitating mitigation against potential disasters.

As the most disaster-prone state in Australia and with on-going disaster impacts across the state, QRA is continually considering new ways to improve the safety and resilience of Queensland communities. This includes building trusted, reciprocal and robust relationships with community leaders, thought-leaders, and local, state, Commonwealth and international partners, and participating in a wide range of activities to inform our policies.

Disaster Ready Fund Is Open

The Australian Government opened the \$200 million 2023-24 Round One of the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) on 10 January 2023 to support disaster risk reduction, nationally. The DRF is the Australian Government’s flagship disaster risk reduction initiative which will fund a diverse set of projects in partnership with states and territories to deliver medium-term and long-term national outcomes, investing up to \$1 billion over the next five years.

QRA is the lead agency coordinating Queensland’s application for the DRF and, as such, is working closely with state agencies, local councils, non-government

organisations and universities to submit applications for DRF funding to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

QRA is seeking project applications that increase the understanding of disaster impacts, increase resilience, build capacity and capability, and reduce disaster risk. Project applicants are expected to contribute 50 per cent towards their proposed project. All project applications are due to QRA by 5pm on Monday 13 February 2023.

Further information can be found at www.qra.qld.gov.au/funding-programs/disaster-ready-funding.

Review into Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements

On 26 October 2022, the Queensland Government announced its response to the Independent Review of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services titled “Good Jobs and Better Fire and Emergency Services to Support Queensland’s Great Lifestyle”. On 14 December 2022, consistent with the recommendations of the Independent Review, the Government requested the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) conduct a review of Queensland’s disaster management arrangements (QDMA) to inform any changes to the arrangements, legislative reforms, or any updates to the State Disaster Management Plan. This review will also inform the transition of disaster management functions to the Queensland Police Service and other relevant agencies. QRA continues to work closely with IGEM and relevant agencies to strengthen disaster management practices in Queensland and ensure they are fit for purpose.

Committing to Implement the Sendai Framework

In late 2022, QRA completed its first Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitment delivering 14 Regional Resilience Strategies statewide to strengthen disaster resilience. To continue to showcase Queensland as a global leader in disaster resilience, QRA has recently made three new Voluntary Commitments to deliver on the Sendai Framework targets.

The commitments are:



Last updated: 17 Jan 2023

Queensland Resilient Homes Fund

Implementer(s): Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Scope: Local
Countries: Australia
Version: 2.0

The Resilient Homes Fund includes three funding programs to improve Queenslanders’ residences’ resilience to flooding through resilient retrofit, home raising, or voluntary buy-back programs.



Last updated: 6 Jan 2023

Delivery of Get Ready Queensland 2022-2023 across Queensland

Implementer(s): Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Scope: Local
Countries: Australia
Version: 1.0

Get Ready Queensland is a year-round, resilience building initiative that delivers an ongoing disaster preparedness awareness campaign and provides \$2 million in funding to Queensland’s 77 Local Governments and one Town Authority (Weipa) to support community preparedness for disasters.



Last updated: 6 Jan 2023

Queensland Betterment Fund, investing to create stronger, more resilient Queensland communities

Implementer(s): Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Scope: Local
Countries: Australia
Version: 1.0

Queensland leads the nation in delivering betterment programs that demonstrate how upfront investments in stronger, more resilient assets, saves money for all levels of government in future disasters.

Further details on the commitments can be found here: <https://sendaicommitments.undrr.org/commitments>

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 QRA, alongside a grass roots grants program providing \$2M across Queensland’s 77 councils and the Weipa Town Authority to deliver locally-led disaster preparedness initiatives.

2022 campaign sets new benchmarks

More Queenslanders than ever have been reached by GRQ’s annual campaign. That is according to research commissioned to evaluate the campaign’s impact.

In 2022, GRQ’s tested their new behaviour change campaign framework, aimed at removing barriers that stop people adopting positive preparedness behaviours. Launching in October, the new campaign asked Queenslanders to purchase items for their emergency kit while doing their normal grocery shop – a simple, attainable but effective step to increase household-level resilience. The campaign was enabled through a unique retail partnership with independent supermarket chain, IGA, and reinforced by in-situ out of home advertising.

58% of Queenslanders saw the campaign (up from 53% in 2021), and results were even stronger amongst targeted audience segments:

- People intending to act, but are yet to: 64%
- People confident in their ability and would follow authorities’ advice: 63%
- People who don’t feel prepared and don’t know how: 62%

The campaign significantly improved on several impact metrics, such as:

- giving Queenslanders the information they need to prepare: 82% (73% in 2021)
- grabbing their attention: 81% (74% in 2021)
- giving them something new to consider: 81% (72% in 2021)
- and, importantly, that they should pack or refresh their kit: 35% (8% in 2021)

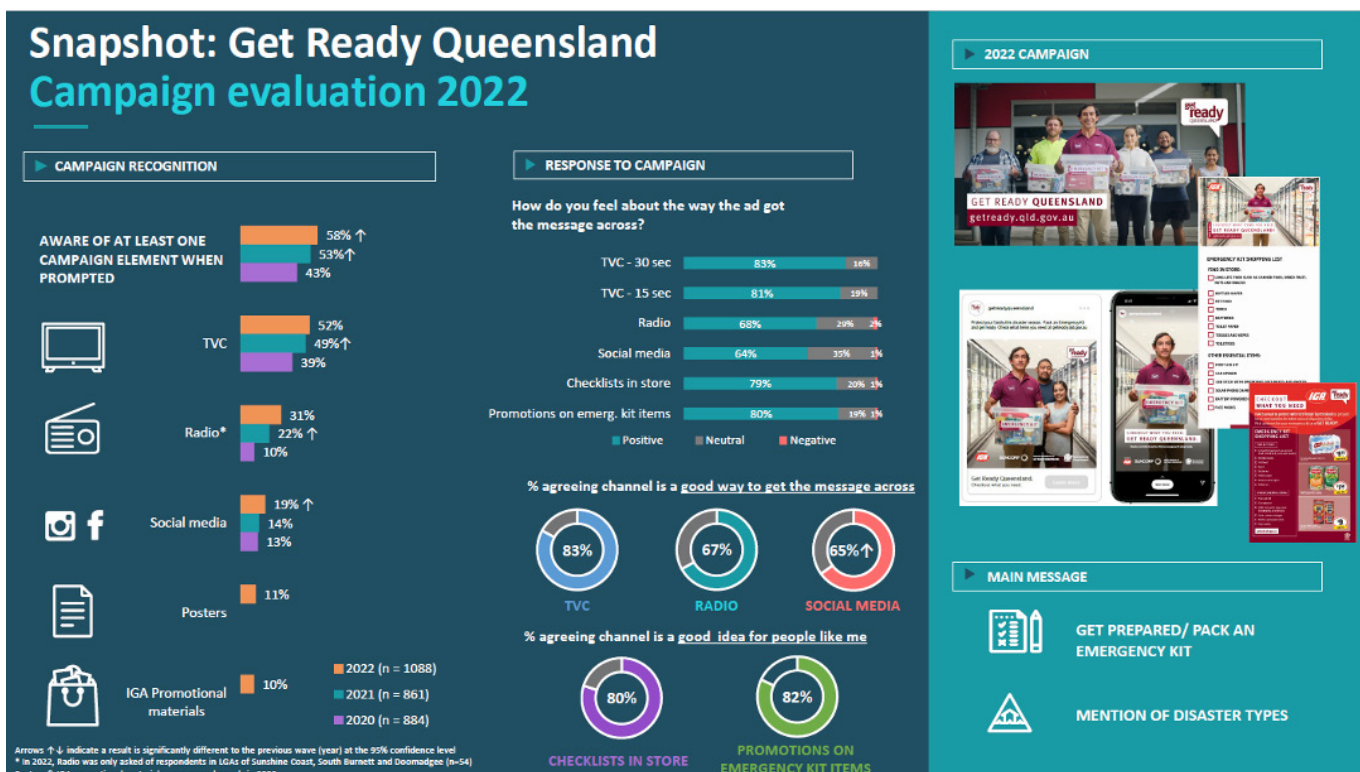
Beyond packing a kit, the campaign positivity influenced sentiment towards preparedness in general:

- Preparing for extreme weather is a good thing to do: 91% (81% in 2021)
- I need to prepare for extreme weather: 88% (82% in 2021)
- I can prepare successfully: 87% (80% in 2021)

In terms of emotional impact, the majority of respondents had a positive response to the campaign creative:

- I feel positive about the campaign: 83%
- The campaign was easy to understand: 94% (90% in 2021).

Below is a snapshot demonstrating the effectiveness of communications channels, with television, radio (where it was used) and social media returning on investment.



Queenslanders also reacted very well to GRQ’s campaign retail partnership. 80% of respondents thought IGA’s emergency kit items promotion was a good idea, while 79% liked having checklists in store to help. The IGA promotional materials were particularly impactful for those aged 30 – 44 years, speak a language other than English at home or have previous disaster experience.

In terms of driving action, the number of people seeking information on the GRQ website surged 40 percent during the campaign period, when compared to 2021. Redesigned materials were downloaded almost 10,000 times in just two months and key social media content recorded more than 2.27M impressions in six weeks.

GRQ is thrilled to see Queenslanders responding well to the fresh campaign. With promising results, GRQ will now explore ways this approach can go from strength to strength.

CHECKOUT WHAT YOU NEED

IGA **get ready** QUEENSLAND

IGA is proud to partner with Get Ready Queensland to prepare local communities for when natural disasters strike. Pick up items for your emergency kit and **GET READY**.

EMERGENCY KIT SHOPPING LIST

FIND IN STORE:

- Long-life food such as canned food, dried fruit, nuts and snacks
- Bottled water
- Pet food
- Torch
- Batteries
- Toilet paper
- Tissues and wipes
- Toiletries

OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS:

- First aid kit
- Can opener
- USB stick with important documents and photos
- Solar phone charger
- Battery powered radio
- Face masks

getready.qld.gov.au

Frantelle Spring Water 24x600mL
60c per litre **\$9.75**
SAVE \$6.95

Edgell Canned Peas or Beans
400-420g Selected Varieties **\$1.50**
SAVE 50c

Eveready Black Shadow
Batteries AA or AAA 24 Pack
30c each **\$9**
SAVE \$8

Queensland Government

A page from an IGA catalogue during the 2022 Get Ready Queensland campaign.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

MAJOR MILESTONES MET FOR THE RESILIENT HOMES FUND

As at January 2023, 169 flood-impacted homeowners have accepted a voluntary home buy-back as part of the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund (RHF).

In addition, heavy machinery and specialist crews have begun demolishing homes at Goodna which were among the first homes bought back under the RHF.

These are two significant milestones for the RHF and very welcome news for the homeowners who were impacted by devastating floods last year.

The RHF is a jointly funded initiative delivered through Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and was established in May 2022 following the catastrophic 2021-22 rainfall and flooding events.

Three program options are available to applicants: Resilient Retrofit, Home Raising, or Voluntary Home Buy-Back.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority is managing the Voluntary Home Buy-Back program, with Queensland’s Department of Energy and Public Works leading the house raising and retrofitting components of the RHF.

The RHF is making homes impacted by flooding more resilient or removing vulnerable Queenslanders from harm’s way.

To date, there have been more than 270 offers presented to homeowners, with 169 offers accepted across Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Sunshine Coast, Fraser Coast, Gympie, Moreton Bay and Lockyer Valley.

For those whose homes were the most severely damaged in last years’ flood event and are at greatest risk of future flooding, the voluntary home buy-back program is allowing them to move on with their lives and out of the flood zone.

Flood-affected properties bought back under the program will no longer be available for residential zoning ensuring that no residents will suffer from future flooding of these blocks.

The demolition of Goodna homes bought back under the Voluntary Home Buy-Back program commenced on January 23, 2023, marks a significant step forward in the program.

The six properties being demolished on Enid Street, Mill Street and Cox Crescent were among the first identified for buy-back as part of the first resilience program of its kind to be delivered in Queensland.

Once the property has been purchased by council and settlement finalised, all utility services to the property are removed and structures are demolished, with the land re-zoned for non-occupied uses such as green space.

Valuation inspections are continuing across 12 local government areas, including Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Sunshine Coast, Fraser Coast, Gympie, Moreton Bay, Lockyer Valley, Gold Coast, Noosa, Goondiwindi and Somerset.

Work is also continuing with many homeowners who have expressed interest in the other program options of the Resilient Homes Fund, to either raise or retrofit their homes to make them as flood resilient as possible.

More than 5800 homeowners have now registered for the Resilient Homes Fund, which remains open for Queensland homeowners affected by the floods of 2021-22.

For more information about the Resilient Homes Fund, visit www.qld.gov.au/resilienthomes



On site for the first flood-prone home demolished following a voluntary buyback: (L to R), Ipswich City Councillors Russell Milligan, Paul Tully, Nicole Jonic and Mayor Teresa Harding with Federal Member for Oxley Milton Dick, Deputy Premier Steven Miles, Member for Bundamba Lance McCallum and Acting QRA CEO Jimmy Scott – 24 January 2023



Demolition crews at work removing flood-vulnerable houses in Goodna – January 24, 2023



The de Vos family, who have accepted an offer to buy-back their Goodna home under the RHF

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

ICONIC LAMINGTON BRIDGE TO BE BETTER PREPARED FOR FLOODS

The iconic Lamington Bridge in Maryborough will be better prepared for future floods, with Transport and Main Roads (TMR) planning to install new fold-down handrails as part of flood repairs at the site.

Built in 1896, Lamington Bridge – which connects Tinana and Maryborough over the Mary River – is one of the oldest concrete bridges in Australia. The bridge’s unique heritage handrails were extensively damaged during flood events on the Mary River in early 2022.

The bridge remains open to traffic with a reduced speed limit of 40km/hr. Interim arrangements are in place to provide clear delineation of the traffic lane until the permanent rails have been installed.

Given the bridge is a cultural heritage landmark, TMR plans to install handrails that are aesthetically similar to the original handrails, but with added features so they can be better managed in preparation for floods.

In consultation with local government, TMR investigated a range of potential solutions to minimise the future risk of damage or loss of the handrails during flood events. New handrails have been designed that will be able to be folded down before the bridge is overtopped during a major flood event.

The concept design was approved by the Queensland Heritage Council in August 2022 and local suppliers will be invited to tender for fabrication of the railing.

The new handrails are targeted to be installed by mid-2023, should no supply or other issues be encountered.

Assistance will be provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Lamington Bridge – damaged downstream handrails



Lamington Bridge – damaged upstream handrails



Lamington Bridge – damaged upstream handrails

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

BUILDING RESILIENCE ON THE BRUCE HIGHWAY

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is building resilience on the Bruce Highway, with current and planned projects to make improved flood resilience a reality, as well as boosting safety and capacity.

Significant flooding from the South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event resulted in closures from 26 to 28 February 2022 at multiple locations between Caboolture in the Moreton Bay region and Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast.

Sustained heavy rainfall resulted in scouring of the road shoulder at Elimbah and widespread pavement damage along the Bruce Highway from Brisbane to Gympie. TMR responded quickly, with emergency works undertaken to reopen the road at 12.30pm on 28 February 2022.

Impacted sections of the Bruce Highway are being made more flood resilient through planned and future projects in TMR's Bruce Highway Upgrade Program.

The Bruce Highway Upgrade – Caboolture-Bribie Island Road to Steve Irwin Way (Exit 163) will widen the 11km stretch of the Bruce Highway from four to six lanes. This project will also improve flood immunity at Lagoon, King John, Six Mile, Un-named and Beerburrum creeks, with new three-lane bridges to withstand a 1-in-100-year flood for northbound and southbound lanes to be built at all five creek crossings.

Several sections of the Bruce Highway were cut within the project area in February 2022. Bridges were underwater at Six Mile, Lagoon and King John creeks. All three of those areas now have new southbound highway bridges which are open to traffic. The new southbound bridges have been raised to have improved flood immunity and resilience compared to the low-lying bridges they replaced.

The new northbound bridges, which are currently being constructed, will also sit higher than the old ones, making delays to travel and freight supply chains on this route during weather events a thing of the past.

These are being built as part of the \$662.5 million Bruce Highway Upgrade – Caboolture-Bribie Island Road to Steve Irwin Way (Exit 163), which is funded by the Australian and Queensland governments on an 80:20 basis. Works are expected to be completed by late 2023, weather and construction conditions permitting.

The Bruce Highway Upgrade Program is the largest road infrastructure program Queensland has ever seen. It is aimed at improving safety, flood resilience, and capacity along the length and breadth of the highway between Brisbane and Cairns.



Bruce Highway at King John Creek, Elimbah, during SEQ Rainfall and Flooding event (February 2022)



Bruce Highway – new and old bridges at Six Mile Creek (February 2022)



Bruce Highway looking south towards King John and Lagoon Creeks (February 2022)