

**QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY**

# Monthly Report

**September 2017**

The bottom right corner of the cover features an abstract graphic design consisting of several overlapping, parallel lines that create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a stylized architectural or structural element.

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*Message from the Chief Executive Officer*

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

Dear Major General Wilson

It is with pleasure that I present the September 2017 Monthly Report – the 79th report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

QRA was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (the Act) following the unprecedented natural disasters that struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11.

The Authority is charged with helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters through managing and coordinating the Queensland Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities and being the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy.

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

QRA is currently administering Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) works for 28 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event periods that are in the delivery and/or acquittal phases.

Since the last report, QRA has completed a review of NDRRA program estimates. The review is undertaken on a regular basis and involved a complete review of the active NDRRA program of each local government authority (LGA) and state agency. The review included updated estimates for the 2016 and 2017 events, which are in the delivery phase, and preliminary final costs for the 2015 event works, which were due to be completed by 30 June 2017.

Following completion of the estimates review, QRA's program of works in the delivery phase comprises 16 events from the 2016 and 2017 disaster periods worth an estimated \$1.4 billion. Of this, \$378 million has been approved and additional submissions worth \$182 million are being assessed by QRA or awaiting additional information. In addition \$257 million (18 per cent) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 31 July as in progress or delivered.

Since the last report, the Commonwealth approved additional components of the state's proposed \$220 million packages of NDRRA special Category D measures to assist with the recovery of the most impacted communities from the effects of STC Debbie. The Commonwealth has now approved measures of \$96 million, to be cost-shared with the state on a 50/50 basis. The state has committed to contribute the full \$110 million it allocated under the original proposal and will contribute \$48 million through NDRRA Category D contributions and \$62 million through non-NDRRA funding measures.

The August report's Program Spotlights profiles:

- The first major milestone for the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) in the STC Debbie repair program, with the reopening to traffic of the John Muntz Causeway on the Gold Coast on 30 June 2017.
- The re-opening of the Alan Wilke Bridge on Stanmore Road south of Yatala two weeks ahead of schedule, after repairs were completed to fix the severe damage it sustained from flooding associated with STC Debbie in late March 2017.
- The financial and community assistance provided to the Beard family from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) and other community organisations, whose Chambers Flat home was devastated by flood waters at the peak of the south-east Queensland flooding in the aftermath of ex-STC Debbie.

I commend the report to you and recommend its release to the Minister and the public pursuant to Section 41 of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive Officer  
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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**Section one:**  
**Introduction**



# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) was established on 21 February 2011 under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (the Act) following the extensive series of natural disasters that impacted Queensland over the summer of 2010-11.

QRA's mission is **to reconnect, rebuild and improve Queensland communities and its economy.**

QRA is charged with managing and coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.

QRA is also the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. In this role QRA is working collaboratively with other agencies and key stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

Initially established for a two-year period, QRA was extended a number of times as its role expanded to cover historical and continuing disaster events. In June 2015, QRA was made permanent, enabling it to continue the critical work of helping Queensland communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

As part of its role, QRA administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and is responsible for the acquittal of NDRRA funding including Counter Disaster Operations, Emergent Works, Restoration of Essential Public Assets, Category C and Category D assistance to State Departments and Agencies (SDA) and Local Government Authorities (LGA). Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 68 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures.

## 1.2 Timing

The Commonwealth NDRRA Determination imposes time limits for the delivery and acquittal of works.

The Determination provides for a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works and a further nine months after the end of the financial year in which the works were completed in order to acquit the works. NDRRA funding is formally acquitted through the annual submission of a financial statement to the Commonwealth comprising claims for financial assistance in respect of state NDRRA expenditure incurred on eligible disasters in the preceding financial year (Commonwealth Claim). Lodgement of Commonwealth Claims is required to secure reimbursement of the Commonwealth's share of eligible expenditure.

As QRA is managing a series of events that occurred across a number of financial years, QRA's program is spread across various stages in the delivery and acquittal phases as follows:



Following acceptance of the 2015-16 NDRRA Claim by the Commonwealth in June 2017, QRA has finalised the close out of all works up to and including the 2014 events other than a small number of projects that received extensions of time for drought-related impacts.

NDRRA works for 28 disaster events activated for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery and/or acquittal phases.

On 30 June 2017, the deadline passed to complete NDRRA works from the 2015 events. Other than three projects that requested extensions of time, delivery agents consistently indicated works were completed on time. QRA is working with delivery agents to gather and assess completion documentation to close out the 2015 events' works for acquittal in the 2016-17 claim.

QRA is currently working with delivery agents to progress delivery of the 2016 and 2017 event programs including providing advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation for Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and other recent 2017 events.

**Section two:**  
**Disaster Assistance**

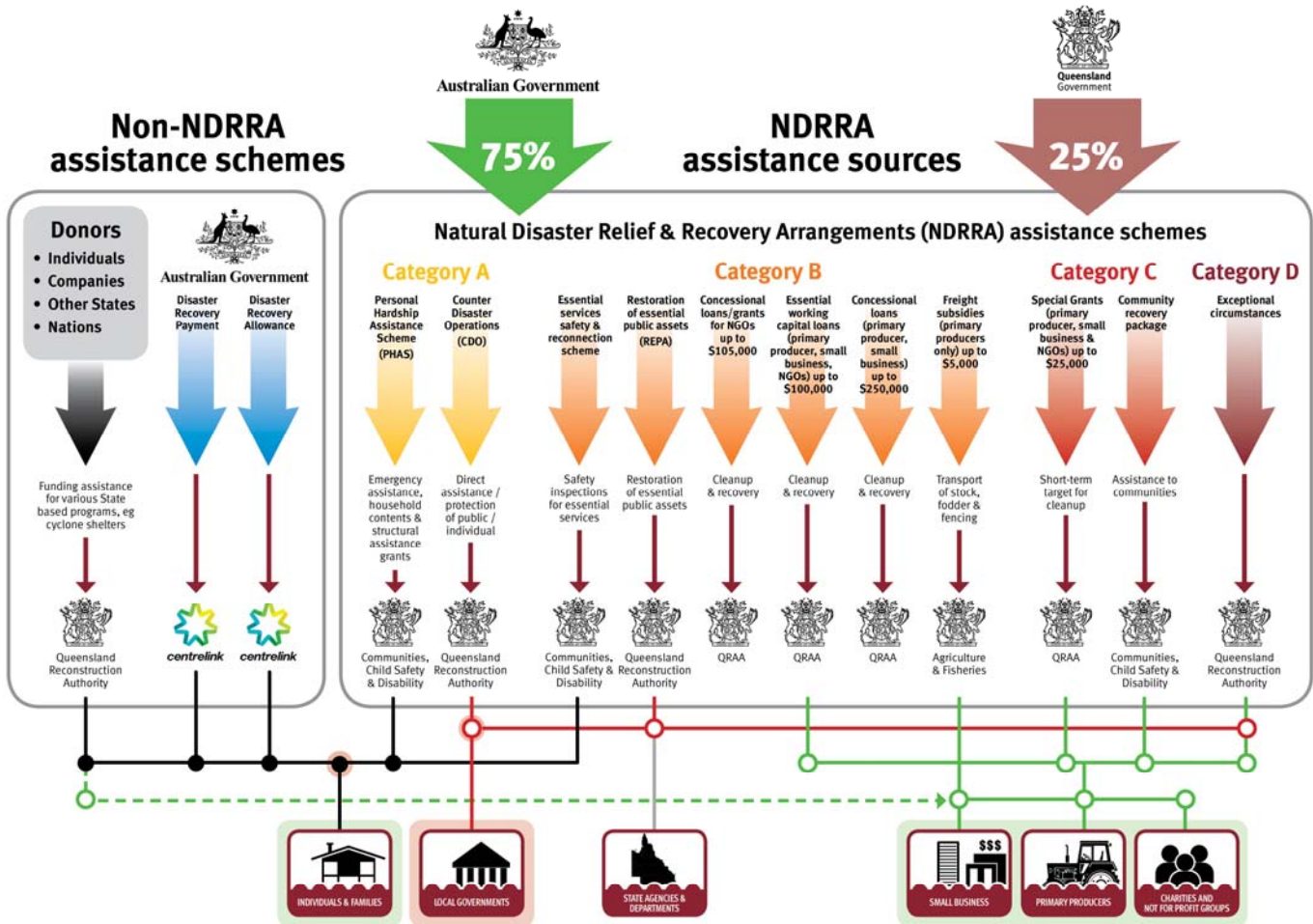


## 2.0 Disaster Assistance

### 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



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

#### Disaster events managed by QRA

The list of the activated disaster events managed by QRA are set out in **Section 2.2** and can also be found on [www.disaster.qld.gov.au](http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au).

This report includes references to event periods described as follows:

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



## 2.2 Events and relief measures managed by QRA

QRA has responsibility to administer NDRRA relief measures for historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland.

Since its establishment in February 2011, QRA has managed and coordinated the infrastructure reconstruction and recovery for 68 disaster events activated for NDRRA relief measures. Of these, 40 events are complete, having been delivered, closed out and acquitted to the Commonwealth in audited claims.

Works for 25 events from the 2015 to 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery phase and completed works from a further three events from the 2014 event period are also in the acquittal phase<sup>1</sup>.

The figures opposite show the LGAs activated for relief measures under NDRRA for the 2015 to 2017 event periods that are either still in delivery and/or acquittal phase.

A summary of previous events dating back to 2007 that have been managed through to acquittal by QRA is provided in Appendix B.

### 2017 events

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

- Far North Queensland Trough, 21-28 March 2017
- Far North Queensland Trough, 3-10 February 2017
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and associated rainfall and 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

### 2016 events

*(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2018, with final acquittal due by March 2019)*

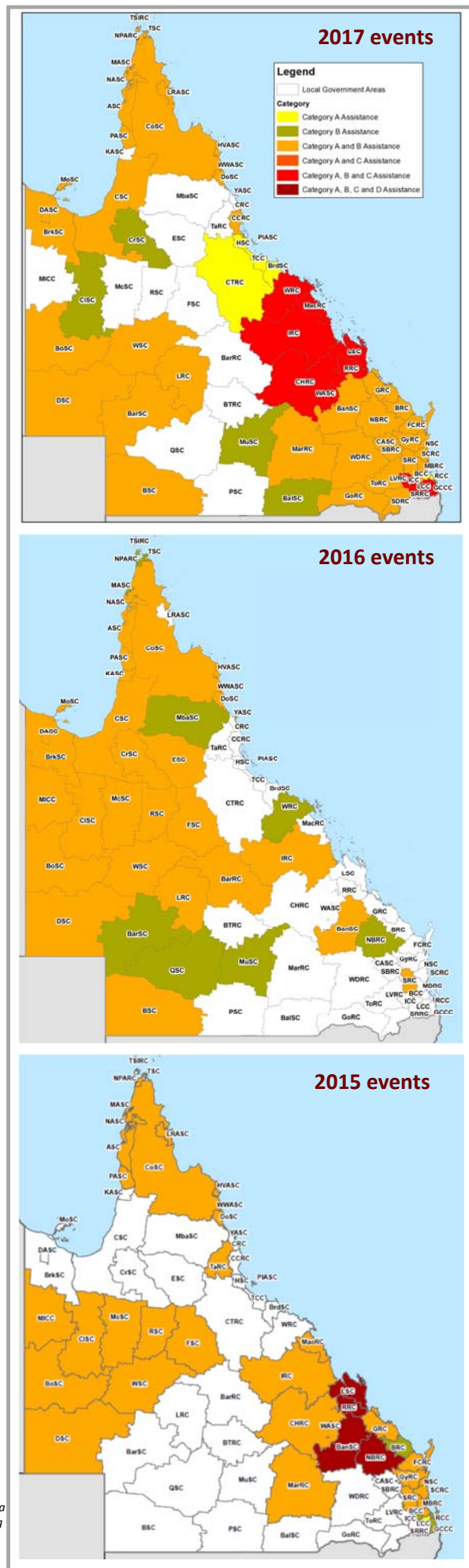
- Central Western Queensland Flooding, 13-19 June 2016
- Far North Queensland Upper Level Trough, 21-23 May 2016
- South West Queensland Floods, 7-9 May 2016
- Far North and North West Queensland Tropical Low, 14-18 March 2016
- Western Queensland Trough, 7-11 March 2016
- Central Coast Surface Trough, 4-8 February 2016
- Central Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall & Flooding, 2-4 February 2016
- Gulf of Carpentaria Monsoon Trough – 20-31 December 2015
- Fernvale Severe Storm, 27 October 2015.

### 2015 events

*(Works to be delivered by 30 June 2017, with final acquittal due by March 2018)*

- South East Queensland Low, 30 April – 1 May 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Nathan and associated rainfall & flooding, 11-15 March 2015
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia and South East Queensland Trough - 19 to 22 February 2015
- Tropical Cyclone Lam, 15-18 February 2015
- North Queensland Severe Weather and Flooding - 8 to 15 February 2015
- Central Eastern Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding - 21 to 29 January 2015
- Western Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding - 5 to 18 January 2015
- Central Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding - 8 to 14 December 2014
- Brisbane Severe Thunderstorm - 27 December 2014.

1. The NDRRA Determination imposes a time limit of two financial years after a disaster to deliver reconstruction works (delivery phase) and a further nine months to acquit completed works (acquittal phase) through lodgement of an annual claim to the Commonwealth. Following extension of time approvals, a number of projects from the 2014 and 2015 event period are still in delivery and/or acquittal phases.



**Section three:**

# **Program Status**



## 3.0 Program Status

### 3.1 NDRRA program status

Following completion of the June 2017 NDRRA estimates review process, the value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by QRA since its establishment has been revised to \$14.35 billion. Of this, \$12.7 billion of works from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 events have been finalised (delivered and acquitted) with the remaining works for components of the 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 event years in the active delivery and/or acquittal phases.

The current status of each active program is summarised as follows:

#### 2014 Events

All 2014 event works have been acquitted by the Commonwealth other than three councils' programs granted extensions of time to deliver works for drought-related reasons.

These works are now complete and will be closed out and acquitted in the next (2016-17) claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2018.

#### 2016 Events

All submissions for the 2016 events have been pre-approved and works are required to be complete by 30 June 2018 in order to be eligible under NDRRA.

QRA continues to monitor and assist councils and state agencies with progressing their program of 2016 event works through delivery.

#### 2015 Events

The deadline passed to complete NDRRA works from the 2015 events on 30 June 2017. Other than three projects that requested extensions of time, delivery agents have indicated works were completed on time.

QRA is working with delivery agents to gather and assess completion documentation to close out the 2015 events' works for acquittal in the 2016-17 claim.

#### 2017 Events

Across the 2017 disaster season, 62 councils were activated for NDRRA assistance from seven events.

QRA is currently assisting, as required, with damage assessments in order to progress the reconstruction program into delivery as soon as possible. Delivery agents have until 30 June 2019 to deliver eligible NDRRA works.



In other areas relevant to NDRRA:

- During August, the Commonwealth approved additional components of the state's proposed \$220 million package of NDRRA special Category D measures to assist with the recovery of the most impacted communities from the effects of STC Debbie. Of the proposed packages, the Commonwealth has now approved measures of \$96 million, to be cost-shared on a 50/50 basis. The state has committed to contribute the full \$110 million it allocated under the original proposal and will contribute \$48 million through NDRRA Category D contributions and \$62 million through non-NDRRA funding measures.
- QRA is continuing to participate in consultations with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions in relation to the potential funding reforms. The Commonwealth is investigating a model to provide natural disaster recovery funding based on upfront damage assessments and estimated reconstruction costs. QRA attended a national workshop with Emergency Management Australia and other jurisdictions in late August 2017 to progress reform negotiations.



Above: Recovery works by TMR continuing on the Sarina Range and Pine Creek following STC Debbie

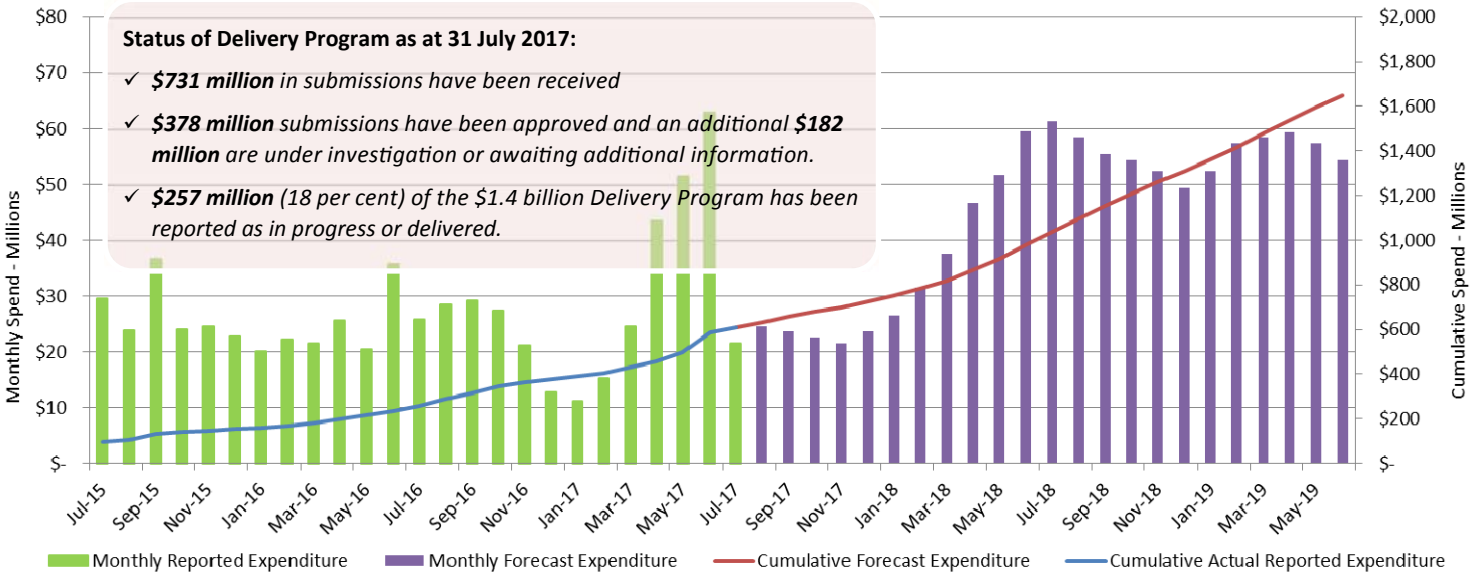
(Source: The Authority, 31 July 2017)

### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

#### Delivery Program status

The QRA is managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$1.4 billion for 16 events comprising the 2016 and 2017 Events (**Delivery Program**).

The graph below shows the actual reported and forecast monthly remaining expenditure for all NDRRA works since 1 July 2015, and estimated total costs to deliver the 2016 and 2017 events that are in the delivery phase.

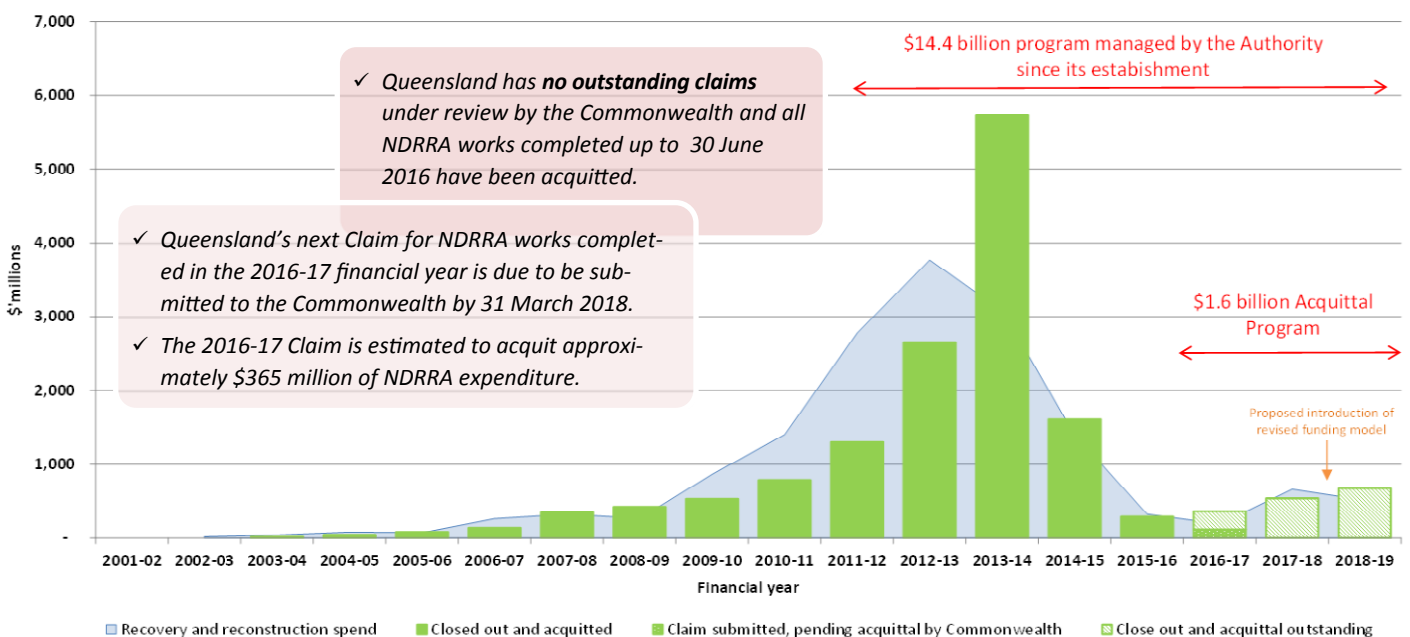


Source: expenditure reported to QRA to 31 July 2017; and estimates per June 2017 NDRRA Estimates Review

#### Acquittal Program status

The QRA is currently managing an acquittal program worth \$1.6 billion, comprising the remaining works for 28 events from the 2014 to 2017 Events that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth.

The following graph shows the historical and projected acquittal profile for Queensland as per Commonwealth Claims submitted for the 2001-02 to 2015-16 financial years and preliminarily expected to be submitted for 2016-17 to 2018-19 in order to finalise the Acquittal Program. Should funding reforms be introduced as envisaged from 1 July 2018, the state will administer and submit claims under both the existing NDRRA Determination and also under the revised arrangements for a two year period (2018-19 and 2019-20) whilst the existing model is phased out.



Source: QRA, 31 August 2017

### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

#### Additional NDRRA assistance measures - 2017 Events

The State Government in conjunction with the Commonwealth has activated a range of Category C and Category D relief measures to alleviate distress for communities, businesses, industries and the environment impacted by STC Debbie.

Package	Purpose	Status
<b>Category C NDRRA measures</b>		
<b>Community Recovery Package (\$14.9 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To deliver support programs to individuals, and community mental health and community development programs.</li> <li>Over a two year period, the program will support initiatives and projects aimed at restoring social networks and building community resilience and capacity for the future in the local government areas of Gold Coast, Isaac, Logan City, Mackay, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim and Whitsunday.</li> <li>The Queensland Government Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) and Queensland Health (QHealth) will deliver three programs:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual Support Program (DCCSDS)</li> <li>Community Development Program (DCCSDS)</li> <li>Community Mental Health Program (QHealth)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Static and mobile counselling providers are in delivery in the Whitsunday and Mackay Region.</li> <li>Procurement processes for remaining counselling services is complete and negotiations are underway by DCCSDS with identified providers.</li> <li>Mental Health screening has started in both North Queensland Region (Whitsunday and Mackay) and South East QLD Region.</li> <li>Recruitment for mental health program staff is underway in all areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Category D NDRRA measures</b>		
<b>Local Council Package (\$17.3 million)</b>	<p>Infrastructure projects in key impact areas to generate employment, boost the local economy, drive community resilience and build resilience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Shute Harbour Marina (\$15.2 million)</b> - demolish and replace the existing jetty, rebuild the terminal building, repair an existing seawall, and replace ancillary infrastructure</li> <li><b>Airlie Beach repairs, Whitsundays (\$850k)</b> - for repairs</li> <li><b>Bluewater Trail, Mackay (\$1.2 million)</b> - to repair damage and remove debris caused by STC Debbie.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRA representatives participated in Whitsunday Regional Council's project planning meeting for Shute Harbour in the first week of September.</li> <li>QRA's regional liaison officer is working with Whitsundays Regional Council and Mackay Regional Council on delivery of repair works at Airlie Beach and Bluewater Trail.</li> </ul>
<b>Resilient Infrastructure (Betterment) (\$41.9 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To restore or replace essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster.</li> <li>The normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard is funded under Category B NDRRA and the 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1.9 million of the Betterment has been pre-approved by the Commonwealth to cover the betterment component on the Shute Harbour Marina seawall</li> <li>Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the remaining \$40 million funding have been requested from the 29 councils activated for Category B (REPA).</li> <li>EOI's close 8 September 2017, with subscription anticipated beyond the \$40 million funding.</li> <li>Shortlisting of projects will be conducted to identify priority projects in accordance with the 2017 Betterment Framework.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Recovery Package (\$35 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, including the clean-up of beaches, recreational parks, rivers and waterways</li> <li>\$35 million of the Environmental Recovery Package across five areas:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal</li> <li>Environmental</li> <li>Riparian</li> <li>Mapping</li> <li>Water Courses</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QRA is administering Parts A &amp; B. EOI have been requested from the 37 councils activated for Category A or B and close 8 September 2017.</li> <li>The Department of Environment &amp; Heritage Protection (EHP) is administering packages C,D and E and EOI have been requested and close 18 September 2017.</li> <li>QRA &amp; EHP will work collaboratively to short list projects and determine the funding allocation across the five areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Recovery Package (\$2.1 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support recovery of industry and businesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Agriculture &amp; Fisheries (DAF) has finalised a contract with the Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF), the administrator of the program.</li> <li>DAF has confirmed that some support work is occurring on the ground and will ramp up once contracts are finalised.</li> </ul>

### 3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

#### Other active Category D measures

- The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to continue the **Day Labour** exemption for the 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 events, which enables councils to deliver restoration works with their own workforce on condition that they provide evidence of savings in both time and cost.

#### Additional State non-NDRRA assistance measures - 2017 Events

- The state has committed to fund the full \$110 million of additional assistance measures that it would have funded under its original \$220 million Category D proposal to the Commonwealth.
- The State will fund an additional \$62 million of recovery measures in addition to its \$48 million (50 percent) contribution to the \$96 million package of NDRRA Category D packages approved by the Commonwealth.
- To date, the State has announced funding of \$2.65 million towards the revitalisation of the Airlie Beach Foreshore. Additional funding for the project of \$2.83 million is being provided through the state's Building our Regions program and \$850,000 is being provided through the Category D program.

### 3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities

QRA is leading disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. A summary of recent progress is set out below:

Activity	Purpose	Status
<b>Interim Queensland Recovery Plan</b>	The Interim Queensland Recovery Plan applies to Queensland Government agencies, and informs local governments, government-owned corporations, statutory bodies representing the state, non-government organisations and other disaster recovery stakeholders of the procedures and processes employed by the state during recovery operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan was approved by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee in March 2017 and released on the Queensland Disaster Management website. An extension of time from 30 June 2017 to 1 October 2017 was granted to review, amend and replace the Plan by the longer-term Queensland Recovery Plan.</li> <li>• A series of face to face engagement activities have been conducted throughout the state to maximise consultation and input from recovery partners, including direct consultation with Chairs of the FRG lead agencies, persons assisting the QDMC and LGAQ and all feedback has been considered and incorporated into the updated Plan.</li> <li>• The Plan was endorsed by QDMC on 29 August 2017 and public release is expected in October 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) Guide</b>	The DRC Guide provides information and guidance on the roles, responsibilities, training and induction requirements, management arrangements and operational issues relating to DRCs in Queensland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The guide is available online via the QRA and Queensland Disaster Management websites.</li> <li>• QRA will maintain the DRC Register commensurate with the role of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRPPC).</li> <li>• A State Recovery Coordinator and two Deputy Recovery Coordinators were appointed to manage and coordinate recovery operations following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The State Recovery Coordinator transitioned responsibilities to the SRPPC on 2 June 2017, while the two Deputy Recovery Coordinators completed their duties on 28 July 2017.</li> <li>• On completion of the Deputy Recovery Coordinators' appointments the guide will be reviewed and updated, as required.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Policy Framework for Riverine Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience</b>	The Framework addresses key recommendations from Disaster Management Reviews conducted in 2015 and will support a state-wide best practice approach to riverine flood risk management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Framework was approved by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) in late June, and was published on the QRA website on 4 July 2017.</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities (continued)

Activity	Purpose	Status
<b>Disaster Management Reviews</b>	<p>In 2015, a series of reviews were conducted into disaster management operations following Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia.</p> <p>An Interdepartmental Committee was established to review 160 recommendations from these reviews, including KPMG's operational review of QRA.</p> <p>The QRA review identified 14 recommendations relating to operational and policy-related matters, including the need for clarity in the disaster management framework on the roles and responsibilities of the QRA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As at 30 June 2017, 11 of the 14 recommendations have been completed.</li> <li>• The three remaining recommendations are progressing:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Technical leadership in Commonwealth funding negotiations</li> <li>– Greater role in prioritisation of disaster recovery funding</li> <li>– QRA provide support to QFES for a central repository for the collection and storage of whole-of-government disaster management data.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• IGEM is finalising a report on aspects of response and recovery to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. This report is currently being considered by government, the findings of which will be used to inform future recovery policy and planning development. This report was tabled and approved at the QDMC on 29 August 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Floodplain Management</b>	<p>QRA is developing the Queensland Flood Resilience Program (QFRP) to support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The QFRP is a proposed program to facilitate delivery of improved flood risk management solutions across Queensland through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the development of catchment-scale flood risk management strategies;</li> <li>- approaches for capturing critical infrastructure and building data across Queensland.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It is proposed to undertake a Pilot Program in the Burnett River catchment to test technical methodologies and assess the suitability of the program for full state-wide rollout. Project planning and scoping is underway, including how the QFRP may support other initiatives and projects.</li> <li>• Preliminary officer-level discussions have occurred with Bundaberg Regional Council and the Wide Bay Burnett Region of Councils (WBBROC) to provide feedback on the proposed approach. Support for the pilot project from these stakeholders has been positive to date.</li> <li>• The pilot is on track to be rolled out with a 6 to 8 month timeframe.</li> <li>• Options for the program will be developed in conjunction with the Queensland Flood Resilience Coordination Committee, which includes LGAQ (who has been briefed).</li> <li>• Further consultation is also proposed with the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils as the representative body for the catchment.</li> <li>• Three workshops are proposed before the end of the year.</li> </ul>
<b>Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience</b>	<p>The QRA has updated the original Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (2014) to incorporate climate change risk and deliver a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to building disaster resilience throughout Queensland.</p> <p>The Strategy provides an overarching framework to empower Queenslanders to factor in resilience measures and activities as they anticipate, respond and adapt to changing circumstances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 19 July 2017 the Deputy Premier announced the release of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2017.</li> <li>• The release of the Strategy allows the QRA to formally commence a state-wide consultation and engagement process with stakeholders to develop an Implementation Plan.</li> <li>• This consultation process has commenced with externally facilitated Focus Group Workshops undertaken.</li> <li>• QRA representatives will also be working with partner agencies to gather intelligence on local government capabilities for resilience to inform the Implementation Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Operation Queensland Recovery Plan and reporting</b>	<p>The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The plan focuses on empowering local governments, supported by state agencies, to deliver local solutions to ensure communities are resourced appropriately and are able to lead their own recovery and build resilience for future events.</p> <p>The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans for the eight most severely impacted local government areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan was tabled in Queensland Parliament and publicly released on 9 May 2017.</li> <li>• QRA is coordinating cross-cutting recovery issues and monitoring the progress and effectiveness of recovery efforts through monthly reporting, informed by each Functional Recovery Group.</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities (continued)

Activity	Purpose	Status
<b>Brisbane River Catchment Studies</b>	<p>The Queensland Government and local councils are working together on a long-term plan to manage the impact of future floods and enhance community safety and 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"> <li>• The Flood Study is complete and available to the public following its launch on 5 May 2017.</li> <li>• The Flood Study supports the development of a SFMP, which is underway and scheduled for completion in December 2017.</li> <li>• The QRA is working with four councils (Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley) as well as government agencies and industry to coordinate a regionally consistent approach to managing the Brisbane River Floodplain.</li> <li>• A range of regional scale opportunities are being investigated as part of the SFMP including structural mitigation options, disaster management, land use planning, community awareness and resilience, building controls and integrated catchment management.</li> <li>• The SFMP consultation went live on the QRA website on 14 August 2017, which includes details of public information displays and a link to an on-line community survey.</li> <li>• Detailed Local Floodplain Management Plans will commence from 2018.</li> </ul>
<b>Flood Warning Gauge Network Project</b>	<p>QRA continues to ensure that the Bureau of Meteorology (the BOM) has the best available information for providing flood warnings and forecasts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The QRA continues to implement collaborative approaches to support local councils ensure that flood warning infrastructure is appropriate, by engaging with local councils, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the BOM and gauge owners across the state.</li> <li>• Draft Flood Gauge Network Investment Plans are being finalised for 40 priority local councils identified in an initial state-wide review as requiring a more detailed review of flood warning infrastructure. Final plans have been distributed to nine LGA's to June 2017. The Bureau of Meteorology is finalising maps for the remaining 31 local councils reports to be sent to local councils in early July 2017.</li> <li>• QRA commenced engagement with the remaining local councils in July 2017, with finalisation of all remaining Flood Warning Gauge Network Investment Plans scheduled for completion by December 2017.</li> <li>• QRA is currently finalising the forecast location recommendations to the Bureau of Meteorology in the coming weeks, which identify eleven new forecast locations.</li> <li>• In August QRA met with the impacted councils and other stakeholders in Emerald to take learnings from the event and to explore opportunities for regional collaboration and coordination.</li> </ul>



Green Heart Fair – Sunday 10 September



Hatton Vale Twilight Markets – Friday 25 August



Ekka – 17 and 18 August 2017



Ipswich City Square Food Markets – Saturday 26 August

Throughout August and the beginning of September, QRA Recovery and Resilience staff manned community information displays at several large community events to provide consultation opportunities, increase awareness and listen to feedback from the public in relation to the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies project.



### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### TMR

#### John Muntz Causeway reopens to traffic

In the first major milestone for the Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie repair program, the John Muntz Causeway on the Gold Coast has reopened to traffic.

The John Muntz Causeway is located in Upper Coomera and spans the Coomera River via Tamborine–Oxenford Road. The causeway connects the residential communities of Upper Coomera to the Pacific Motorway and is also an alternate route for visitors to Tamborine Mountain.

The original causeway was damaged in the South East Queensland Heavy Rainfall and Flooding event in January 2012 and a new bridge and causeway were constructed in 2014–15.

On 30 March 2017, during the flooding associated with ex-Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, the Coomera River reclaimed approximately 25 metres of river embankment, resulting in the western approaches on Tamborine–Oxenford Road collapsing. This severed the connection between Tamborine–Oxenford Road and the John Muntz Causeway, forcing the river crossing to be closed.

Reconstruction works commenced on 18 April 2017. The causeway was reconnected to Tamborine–Oxenford Road and reopened to traffic in both directions on 30 June 2017. Work continues within the road reserve and it is expected the construction crews will be off site by the end of August 2017.



*Above: John Muntz Causeway in flood, during repairs and open to traffic*

### 3.3 Program spotlights

#### City of Gold Coast & Logan City Council Alan Wilke Bridge re-opens to traffic

The Alan Wilke Bridge on Stanmore Road south of Yatala recently reopened to traffic on 19 August, two weeks ahead of schedule, after repairs were completed to fix the severe damage it sustained from flooding associated with Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie in late March 2017.

The Alan Wilke Bridge crosses Albert River, the local government boundary between City of Gold Coast and Logan City Council.

High velocity floodwaters associated with STC Debbie broke the banks of the Albert River and caused extensive damage to the bridge, destroying the pavement and washing away the connection to the eastern approach on the Gold Coast side.

The Alan Wilke Bridge was one of the worst affected pieces of infrastructure on the Gold Coast and its closure since 30 March has had a major impact on the local community, adding significantly to the travel times of residents, businesses and students.

Extensive works were required to rebuild the damaged bridge and included replacing the rock protection at the river piers, rebuilding the bridge approach with rock, installing a steel-reinforced concrete relieving slab, reconnecting the bridge to the road and sealing with asphalt.

The City of Gold Coast fast-tracked earthworks in mid-May while road pavement and bridge repair works started in June and the bridge was reopened to traffic on 19 August 2017.

The significant reconstruction works for the bridge were delivered at an estimated cost of \$2 million.

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

Divisional Councillor and Deputy Mayor Donna Gates said she was delighted to see the bridge reopen to traffic and acknowledged the joint local, state and federal partnership in reopening the bridge.

“I would like to thank the Australian and Queensland governments for their support in helping us with our recovery efforts from Ex Tropical Cyclone Debbie,” she said.

“The NDRRA provides local councils with much needed funding assistance for clean-up, recovery and restoration of essential public assets after natural disaster events such as floods and cyclones. It also provides disaster relief and recovery payments to help communities recover from the effects of natural disasters.

“I’d also like to thank all community members for their patience over the past five months while we worked to reopen the bridge.”



*Works on site at the Alana Wilke Bridge – 30 June 2017*

### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### City of Gold Coast & Logan City Council Alan Wilke Bridge re-opens to traffic



*Above: Deputy Premier Jackie Trad inspects damage with Logan Mayor Luke Smith (left); damaged pavement (right)*



*Works on site May-August*



*The completed Alan Wilke Bridge project*

### 3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

#### Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services Chambers Flat family moves back home

At the peak of south-east Queensland flooding in the aftermath of ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie, the Beard family home in Chambers Flat had flood waters two metres above their house.

These record flood waters made Gary and Maree Beard question whether they were going to be able to bounce back from this latest setback Mother Nature had thrown at them.

The Beards are no strangers to the effects of damaging floods in the area having lived through at least three natural disasters in the 22 years they have lived in their Chambers Flat home.

In a true example of the resilience of Queenslanders in the face of adversity, the Beard's did as they always have and got on with the recovery process.

They temporarily moved to their daughter's home in Park Ridge while the clean-up and reconstruction works were undertaken at their home.

The Beard's received financial assistance from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) through the Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) Immediate Hardship Assistance, Essential Household Contents and Structural Assistance Grants, with an additional financial grant from Saint Vincent's De Paul.

DCCSDS coordinated additional assistance from Logan City Council and community groups including Global Care to assist with the property clean-up.

Mr and Mrs Beard said they were grateful for the assistance they received.

"Absolutely everything from the ground up needed to be fixed, replaced or cleaned," Mrs Beard said.

"This was the worst flooding we have seen here but after losing everything in the 2013 flood we managed to save what we could this time.

"It was a tough time and Gary had to take time out from his business initially, when possible, to keep an income generating while rebuilding our home following the devastation.

"It's a total relief to be back home after all, home is home," she said.

The Beards moved back into their home on 6 August 2017.



*Right: The Beard's damaged lounge room post-flooding in April 2017 (top) and after repairs and moving back in August 2017 (below).*

## **Section four: Communications**



## 4.0 Communications

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

### 4.1 Communicating progress

#### Media analysis

There has been a total of 533 media items in August 2017 (278 print – 52%, 39 TV – 7%, 165 radio – 31%, 51 online – 10%), which reached a cumulative audience of approximately 13 million people.

There was extensive media coverage for regions impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and other natural disasters including:

- Articles in Albert and Logan News, Atherton Tablelander, The Australian, The Australian Financial Review, Beaudesert Times, Bowen Independent, Cairns Post, Canungra Times, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Cassowary Coast Independent, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Queensland News, Central Telegraph, Clifton Courier, The Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Warwick Daily News, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone Observer, Gold Coast Bulletin, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, Innisfail Advocate, Jimboomba Times, Kilcoy Sentinel, Mackay and Sarina Midweek, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Northern Miner, Queensland Country Life, Queensland Times, Redland City Bulletin, Rural Weekly, The Saturday Age, Scenic Rim Leader, South Burnett Times, Southern Free Times, Springwood Southern Star, Stanthorpe Border Post, Sunday Mail, Sunshine Coast Daily, Sydney Morning Herald, Tamborine Mountain News, Tamborine Times, Toowoomba Chronicle, Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, Western Star, Whitsunday Guardian, and the Whitsunday Times;
- Internet coverage at abc.net.au, balonnebeacon.com.au, brisbanetimes.com.au, cairnspost.com.au, couriermail.com.au, dailymercury.com.au, gladstoneobserver.com.au, goldcoastbulletin.com.au, morningbulletin.com.au, news.com.au, news-mail.com.au, queenslandtimes.com.au, theaustralian.com.au, thechronicle.com.au, townsvillebulletin.com.au, and warwickdailynews.com.au;
- TV coverage on ABC News 24, Sky News, Channels Seven, Nine, and WIN networks throughout the State as well as nationally and;
- radio mentions on ABC Queensland Regional Radio, ABC Radio National, 2SM Sydney, 4BC Brisbane, 4CA Cairns, 4RO Rockhampton, 4TO Townsville, River FM Ipswich, 97.3 FM Brisbane, Triple M Central Queensland, Triple M Mackay and WS FM Whitsundays.

Making news in August 2017 was ongoing recovery of Queensland communities as they reconnect and rebuild following the devastating effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the announcement of NDRRA Category D funding.

#### Engagement Activities

On 17 August 2017, **Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Jackie Trad** and QRA's **Chief Executive Officer Mr Brendan Moon** visited Proserpine in Whitsunday Regional Council to inspect damage from STC Debbie and announce additional funding for the Airlie Beach Foreshore revitalisation project.

In early August 2017, Mr Moon travelled to Canberra to attend the Australia New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) joint sub-committee workshops, to consider and refine ANZEMC's policy objectives and identify capability solutions; and participated in national workshops with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions in relation to natural disaster funding reforms on 29 and 30 August 2017.

On 24 August, Mr Moon travelled to Carpentaria Shire Council and provided council with an update on national natural disaster funding reform.

Throughout August and the beginning of September, QRA Recovery and Resilience staff manned community information displays at several large community events, including the EKKA, to provide consultation opportunities, increase awareness and listen to feedback from the public in relation to the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies project.

#### Communications

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

Our website is regularly updated with information about progress on current recovery efforts. There has been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 31 August 2017, total website visits amounted to 539,376.

In August, we received an additional 43 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 340 pieces of written correspondence.

Source: QRA at 31 August 2017

4.2 Media reports

**Cyclone damage revealed**

THE full extent of damage to Southern Downs Regional Council roads caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie is becoming clearer.

The level of damage from the March cyclone will mean recovery works will be ongoing until March 2019, according to the council.

SDRC manager of works maintenance and open space Chris Whitaker said council staff were finalising damage assessment.

"To date, council staff have identified approximately 300km of damaged roads," he said.

Having now been declared a natural disaster by the state government, the council is in a position to claim for the full restoration works and be reimbursed under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) process.

Southern Downs Mayor Tracy Dobie said the first submissions had been made, with approvals expected within weeks.

"Council appreciates that the current state of some roads in the region may be rough as a result of the damage sustained from the ex-TC weather event and associated flooding but we ask residents to be patient and drive to the conditions."

Stanthorpe Border Post — 24 August

**Cyclone-hit businesses get leg up**

THE State Government is helping 82 small businesses impacted by Cyclone Debbie through its first round of dedicated Small Business Recovery Grants.

Minister for Small Business Lesanne Enoch said the businesses would share in more than \$45,000, enabling them to access business expertise so they can recover and rebuild.

"The Small Business Recovery Grants program is offering funding of up to \$100k for eligible small businesses to engage business consultants, mentors, coaches or an advisory service to assist with business recovery following Cyclone Debbie," Ms Enoch said.

"When it made landfall in March, the cyclone and the subsequent flooding devastated buildings and left businesses without access to water, power and other essential services."

"The Palaszczuk Government had Category C small business grants allocated under the jointly funded Commonwealth-State National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements by April 14. This meant cyclone-affected small business owners could access much-needed funds to help them recover and resume trading."

Ms Enoch said 292 small businesses had received more than \$1.8m in Category C funding.

A second round of Small Business Recovery Grants will open later this year.

Daily Mercury — 10 August



GIVING THANKS: SES members Greg Yuskan, Mark Connors, Queensland Governor Paul de Jersey, Leigh Munro and Sue Sonnors at the Airlie Beach foreshore on Saturday afternoon. PHOTO: JACOB WILSON

**Governor gives thanks to helpers**

**Jacob Wilson**  
jacob.wilson@whitsundaytimes.com.au

HE SAW houses completely destroyed and people seeking certainty from their insurers.

On Saturday, Queensland Governor Paul de Jersey visited the Whitsundays to pay tribute to the volunteers who stood up for those who suffered the most in the aftermath of devastating

Cyclone Debbie.

"My gratitude goes out to volunteers and SES people in particular, who put their lives on hold and endangered themselves," he said.

"It should be remembered that it is not just these (volunteers) who put themselves out for extended periods helping others, but also their families who have

been left behind as a consequence."

Mr de Jersey said the region was still in the midst of "difficult times" but expressed confidence that all levels of government were working together.

On Sunday, Mr de Jersey inspected the Whitsunday Islands with Councillor Jan Clifford and Whitsunday police.

Whitsunday Times — 24 August

**WOLFFDENE**

**Bridge in operation after flood**

LOGAN residents from as far afield as Yarrabilba breathed a collective sigh of relief last week with the re-opening of the Alan Wilke Bridge at Wolffdene.

The bridge, at Stanmore Crossing, was closed for four months for repairs after flooding from Cyclone Debbie. The flood washed away the bitumen on the top of the bridge and bent light poles, which were more than 30m above the Albert River.

Traffic chaos ensued as motorists sought alternate routes to the M1, rat-running through the suburban streets of Windaroo, Mount Warren and Beenleigh.

Logan city councillor Laurie Koranski said it had been a long haul for residents and businesses who were diverted through Beenleigh while the bridge was closed.



The Alan Wilke Bridge has reopened after four months.

Tamborine Times — 24 August

**Shute gets assistance**

**Jacob Wilson**  
jacob.wilson@whitsundaytimes.com.au

AFTER months of political angst between the State and Federal Governments on their Disaster Recovery commitments, the Whitsundays has finally secured a win.

The Federal government this week pledged \$28.6 million on top of their initial \$29 million NDRRA funding, bringing the joint commitment to \$58 million.

Shute Harbour was the biggest beneficiary from the decision with \$12.2 million going towards what was once the second biggest harbour in Australia.

There will also be \$4.8 million for the seawall buttressment component of Shute Harbour.

Whitsunday Mayor Andrew Wilson welcomed the decision and said he hoped the "political games" were over.

"What I'm hoping for now, is we don't have any delays in this money coming through so we can actually start our projects as we are coming into another storm season now," he said.

"We have a council office in Proserpine which is not habitable which we have to

fix and sort out. There is plenty of work to do and we don't want any games being played when it comes to the projects we put forward."

Federal Justice Minister Michael Keenan rejected the notion political pressure had been a factor.

"We required basic information from the (State) Government about what was damaged and we were chasing it for five months... that has been provided to us now but it has taken far too long," he said.

In reply, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad signalled the way of words was not to continue.

"The Federal government has been dragged kicking and screaming to provide additional money for the Category D funding," she said.

"But it's still less than half of what we asked them when we put together the Category D package with the support of local Councils."

One of the projects not covered by the new commitment was the Whitsunday Coast Airport application.

Dawson MP George Christensen said this never qualified for funding.

"The original State Government request included a proposed Rockhampton flood levy and new upgrades to the Whitsunday Coast Airport," Mr Christensen said.

"They simply did not meet the criteria and should never have been listed in the first place."

"With those two projects removed, the figure needed was around \$16 million and that is the outcome we have now achieved."

"The total bill to both (the) state and federal government for Cyclone Debbie recovery is likely to be around \$1 billion, and the Federal Government picks up 70% of the cost - that's a significant investment in our region by anyone's standard."

Whitsunday Guardian — 25 August

**IN BRIEF**

**Category D funding update**

DAWSON MP George Christensen said extra information has been supplied to the Prime Minister's office and he is confident there will be further NDRRA funding for the Whitsundays.

This follows a long running funding dispute between the Queensland and Federal Government, after the Turnbull Government only agreed to contribute \$29 million of the \$58 million requested by the Palaszczuk government.

"Whatever is needed for the Shute Harbour, whatever is needed for the Bluewater Trail in Mackay as well as adequate funding to restore beach fronts, to restore the Dun River and whatever is needed to repair infrastructure to a level which ensures it can withstand future cyclone events, is what I expect to see provided," he said.

Whitsunday Times — 31 August



IDIST: Shute Harbour suffered significant damage as a result of Cyclone Debbie.

PHOTO: LIAM KIDSTON

## 4.0 Communications (cont.)

### 4.2 Media reports



CROSSING CELEBRATED: Logan City councillor Leanne Karamati at the newly opened Alan Wilke Bridge, Wollstone. Photo supplied

### Alan Wilke Bridge reopened

RESIDENTS and councillors across two local government regions welcomed the reopening of the Alan Wilke Bridge at Wollstone on Friday, August 18 after it was out of action for almost five months.

The Scenic Rim Council bridge was closed to allow for extensive repair work following the devastating impacts of ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

It required a joint council effort to reopen.

According to Logan City Division 4 councillor Leanne Karamati, the reopening of the bridge would be welcome news for local residents and commuters.

"The impact of the bridge closure was felt by commuters as far afield as Brisbane, Yamanto and Logan Hills," she said.

"The closure of the bridge has been a source of frustration for commuters, turned our local areas into main roads and has hampered local businesses.

"I'd like to extend a huge thank you to our flexibility and resilience community for their patience during this challenging time."

Jimboomba Times—30 August

### The Yeppoon Lagoon Precinct is well and truly under way



Morning Bulletin—26 August

## Statue Bay works progress

Works to be complete late 2017

Statue Bay reconstruction is back in full swing with works now advancing simultaneously on both the upstage and downstage areas.

The works advancing are welcome news following extended delays caused by unforeseen variable ground conditions in the footing areas where the protective seawall is to be strengthened and extended.

Spokesperson from the Council's engineering team said the development work will require further extensive geotechnical investigations following initial excavation for the footings.

"Despite geotechnical expert advice, including geotechnical soil testing, excavation earlier this year revealed that the initial footing design would need to be revised and substantially changed at specific locations," the spokesperson said.

"The further geotechnical investigations undertaken have enabled the designers to come up with a design solution that will ensure the

new seawall is better able to withstand major cyclonic events in the future.

"These major works as both the development and the upstage stabilization works cannot be rushed.

"It is absolutely vital that all works are carried out thoroughly to ensure the future safety of all road users and local residents.

The upstage works involve piling and reinforcing the cliff face with soil nails and steel reinforced shotcrete where required to minimise the risk of future slippage and erosion.

The downstage works involve constructing a seawall along the ocean side of the road to contain the road and protect it from wave erosion along with reconstruction of the road.

Construction of sections of the seawall and earth reinforcement will advance while drilling for soil nails and placement of shotcrete will continue from the northern end.

Mayor Bill Ludwig said that while the specialist construction team would progress as expeditiously as possible, Council appreciated and thanked the community for their continued patience while works were under way.

Forming part of the Capricorn Coast unique Tourist Drive and connecting Yeppoon to Pine Park via the Scenic Highway, the widened two lane road along with a short pedestrian cycle way is expected to reopen, subject to weather, around late December or early January.

Total cost of the project is expected to be about \$8.5M with the majority funded under Federal and State Government joint disaster funding arrangements.

The current two-way detour will remain in place until construction is completed.



Livingstone Shire Council manager Disaster Management, Recovery and Resilience Dave Mazzafari, Livingstone Mayor Bill Ludwig and Rockhampton Regional Councillor Tony Williams inspect the damage at Statue Bay.

Morning Bulletin—31 August

## Damage assessment following ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie is almost complete

The Scenic Rim Council is close to completing a full damage assessment of the local road and bridge network as part of the Scenic Rim's disaster recovery and infrastructure restoration process.

Mayor Greg Christensen said the full force of ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie left more damage than everyone thought.

"In the immediate aftermath of ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie we completed a rapid damage assessment with a focus on directing council resources to restoring community connectivity during the emergent works period," he said.

"This included clearing almost 40 land slips and building temporary sidetracks around damaged bridges to help get our region moving again.

"However, these priority works were just the tip of the iceberg and we are now moving into a long term program of infrastructure restoration under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRA), co-funded by the State and Federal Governments."

Mr Christensen said a full damage assessment of the road and bridge network had been undertaken by council staff and engineering contractors over the past several weeks.

"This assessment has required a visual inspection of every local road and bridge within Scenic Rim, which equates to about 1000 kilometres of sealed and unsealed road and 129 bridges, to document all damage and deterioration as a result of the storms and flooding," he said.

"What we know is that 50 of our bridges have sustained damage and 520 of our local roads have been impacted.

"Council is in the fortunate position that it had only just completed a full video assessment of the road network prior to ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie as part of its asset management program.

"As a result, we have a wealth of recent comparative data to illustrate the pre-disaster and post-disaster condition of roads, which will assist with the validation and processing of future claims under NDRA.

"We expect the time frame for the completion of these works will be upwards of 18 months."

Patrolling: SES members David and Damon on patrol on the flooded Logan River when ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie hit earlier this year.



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Scenic Rim Leader—15 August

## FLOOD DAMAGE ASSESSED

ALMOST \$6.4 million worth of flood damaged Scenic Rim road and bridge network repairs have been approved for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRA) funding to date.

While the Council has estimated the total bill for the damage caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie will be in the vicinity of \$40 million, Mayor Greg Christensen says many eligible projects will require extensive planning and design which will take more time to complete before restoration works can commence.

"Council has now completed the damage assessment of the region's road network and is monitoring to prepare and lodge submissions to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) for funding approval to repair or replace damaged assets under the NDRA."

In assessing the damage, Council carried out an inspection of about 1,400 kilometres of sealed and unsealed road and 129 bridges.

"Restoration works which have already been deemed as eligible by the QRA include: two bridge replacements; three major bridge repairs; 31 landslips and scores affecting 18 roads in eastern areas of the region; and damage to 43 sealed and unsealed roads within the East 3 region (see map)," Mr Christensen says.

"Council's damage assessment of all 1316 sealed and unsealed local roads within the Scenic Rim has found that 592 sustained damage due to ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

"This represents 45 percent of all roads in Scenic Rim."

Breaking down the numbers, Mr Christensen revealed:

- Approx 400 km of unsealed road sustained damage.
- The unsealed roads will

require about 500,000 tonnes of gravel to repair.

- More than 20,000 square metres of sealed pavement will also require repair.
- Ten floodways will require reconstruction.
- 38 bridges sustained damage due to flooding.

"Two bridges have already been approved for replacement due to severe flood damage - Haack Bridge at Lamington and Steinhardt Bridge at Darlington," Mr Christensen says.

"An additional three bridges have been approved for major repairs - Washpool Bridge at Aratula, The Stan Martin Bridge at Whitcliffe and Geiger Bridge at Cammergal."

He added that Council had begun to repair damaged unsealed roads and bridge elements on eligible restoration projects.

And while awaiting the completion of planning and design on the more complex repairs, Mr Christensen says temporary works will be carried out, albeit at a standard that is lower than usually provided.

"It is expected the full program of works will take more than 18 months to complete and Council understands the patience and understanding of Scenic Rim road users."

**Some flood damage found on 45 percent of the roads in the region**

## Storm debris cleared from Kings Creek

Debris from Ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie was cleared from under and around the Kings Creek Bridge by contractors on Thursday, more than five months after the worst weather system hit the region.

Forming as a tropical low on Thursday March 23, the low gradually intensified to a named tropical cyclone on Monday March 26.

Cyclone Debbie made landfall as a Category 4 system near Ayrton Beach at about 1pm on Sunday March 26.

By the time it reached the Darling Downs, the cyclone had weakened to a tropical low.

The debris piled against the bridge crossing Kings Creek at the western approach to Clifton.

Department of Transport and Main Roads contractors used excavators and trucks to clear the debris from under and around the bridge crossing over four days.

The debris did not cause any structural damage to the bridge crossing.

The clean up was completed on Friday.

The storm damaged relatively unsealed roads in the Scenic Rim region, which brought heavy rain, constant winds, volcanic damaging winds, and rain.

While there were no reports of major damage in the Scenic Rim region, many roads were closed as a result of landslip flooding, most notably a section of the New England Highway between Clifton and



PHOTO: Transport and Main Roads contractors clearing out the debris from under Kings Creek Bridge on Thursday, more than five months after the worst weather system hit the region.



PHOTO: Debris built up under the Kings Creek Bridge following Ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Northcott and a section of the Clifton-Darling Road near the Clifton-Darling Road.

The full extent of damage to Southern Downs Regional Council roads caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie is still being assessed, says Southern Downs Regional Council's Manager Works, Maintenance & Operations Chris Whittaker and Council staff are reaching completion of a full assessment of the damage in the region.

Clifton Courier—23 August

## Millions Flow for Disaster Restoration

A post-disaster damage assessment of the Scenic Rim road network is now complete as Council continues to prepare and lodge submissions with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) for funding to repair or replace damaged assets. Submissions with a recommended value of approximately \$6.4 million had been approved by the QRA to date under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, co-funded by the Federal and State Governments.

Restoration works which have already been approved by the QRA include: two bridge replacements; three major bridge repairs; 31 landslips and scores affecting 18 roads in eastern areas of the region; and damage to numerous sealed and unsealed roads.

Council's damage assessment of all 1316 sealed and unsealed local roads within the Scenic Rim has found that 592 sustained damage due to ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie. This represents 45% of all roads in Scenic Rim. Approximately 400 kilometres of unsealed road has sustained damage which will require approximately 500,000 tonnes of gravel to repair. More than 20,000 square metres of sealed pavement will also require repair. Ten floodways will also require reconstruction.

Council has inspected 129 local bridges and determined 50 had sustained flood damage. Two bridges have already been approved for replacement due to damage - Haack Bridge at Lamington and Steinhardt Bridge at Darlington. An additional three have been approved for major repairs - Washpool Bridge at Aratula, The Stan Martin Bridge at Oaky Creek and Geiger Bridge at Cammergal.

It is expected the full program of works will take more than 18 months to complete and Council understands the patience and understanding of Scenic Rim road users. Council is prioritising the processing and delivery of repairs based on the ability to streamline approval time frames and achieve efficient project management of delivery. Council's restoration program will involve the engagement of specialised contractors to deliver these works, supporting and supplementing Council's own workforce.

Albert & Logan News—24 August



PHOTO: COURTESY OF TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS

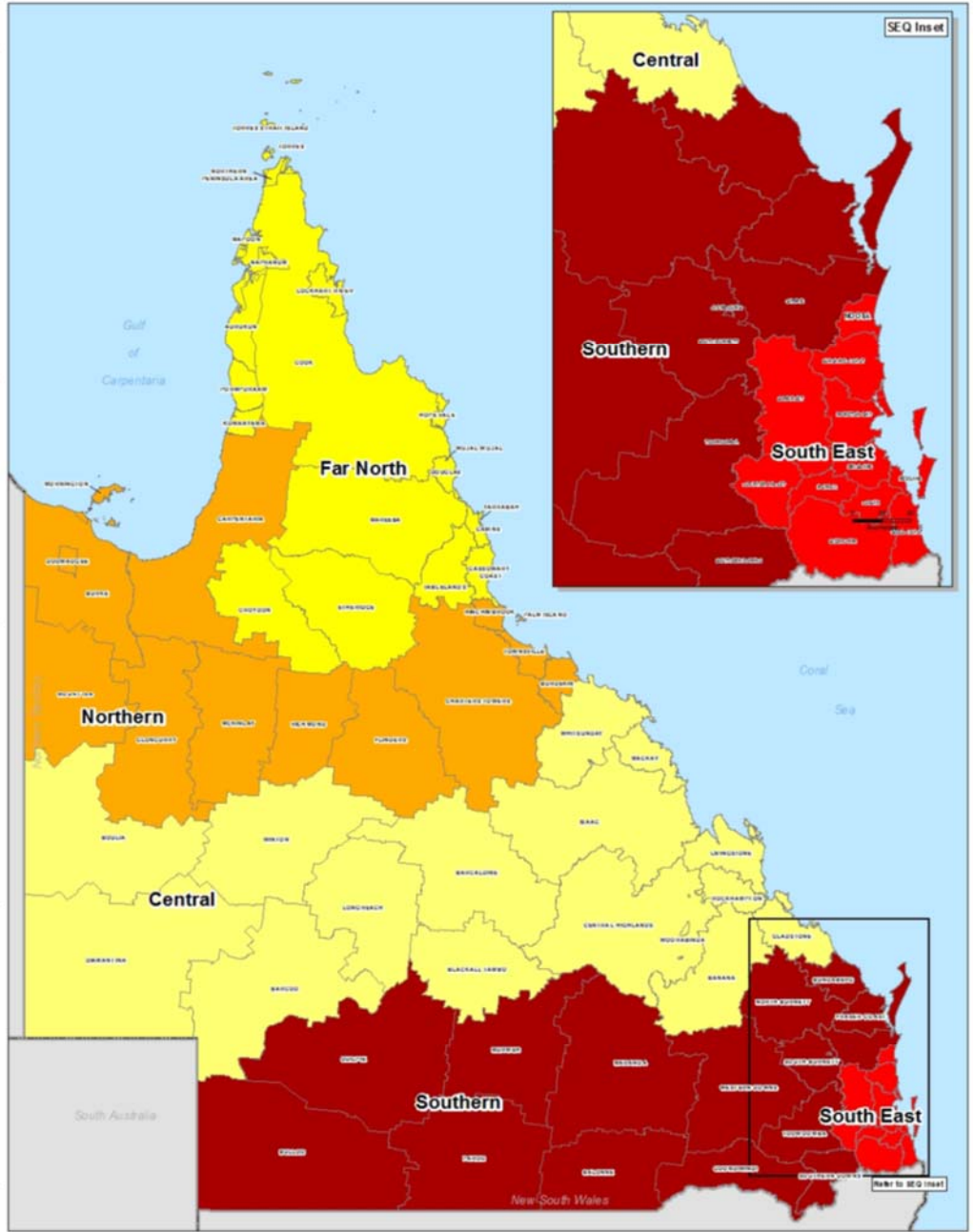
Fassfern Guardian—17 August



# Appendices

# Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

Region	Local Government Areas (LGAs)	
<b>Far North Queensland (FNQ)</b>	ASC	Aurukun Shire Council
	CRG	Cairns Regional Council
	CCRC	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
	CoSC	Cook Shire Council
	CrSC	Croydon Shire Council
	DSC	Douglas Shire Council
	ESC	Etheridge Shire Council
	HVASC	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
	KASC	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
	LRASC	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
	MASC	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
	MbaSC	Mareeba Shire Council
	NASC	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
	NPARC	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
	PASC	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
	TRC	Tablelands Regional Council
	TSC	Torres Shire Council
	TSIRC	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
WWASC	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	
YASC	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	
<b>North Queensland (NQ)</b>	BrdSC	Burdekin Shire Council
	BrkSC	Burke Shire Council
	CSC	Carpentaria Shire Council
	CTRC	Charters Towers Regional Council
	CISC	Cloncurry Shire Council
	DASC	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council
	FSC	Flinders Shire Council
	HSC	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	McSC	McKinlay Shire Council
	MoSC	Morrington Shire Council
	MICC	Mount Isa City Council
	PIASC	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
	RSC	Richmond Shire Council
	TCC	Townsville City Council
	<b>Central Queensland (CQ)</b>	BanSC
BarRC		Barcaldine Regional Council
BarSC		Barcoo Shire Council
BTRC		Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
BOSC		Boulia Shire Council
CHRC		Central Highlands Regional Council
DSC		Diamantina Shire Council
GSC		Gladstone Regional Council
IRC		Isaac Regional Council
LSC		Livingstone Shire Council
LRC		Longreach Regional Council
MacRC		Mackay Regional Council
RRC		Rockhampton Regional Council
WRC		Whitsunday Regional Council
WSC		Winton Shire Council
WASC	Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council	
<b>Southern Queensland (SQ)</b>	BaSC	Balonne Shire Council
	BSC	Bulloo Shire Council
	BRC	Bundaberg Regional Council
	CASC	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council
	FCRC	Fraser Coast Regional Council
	GoRC	Goondiwindi Regional Council
	GRC	Gympie Regional Council
	MarRC	Maranoa Regional Council
	MuSC	Murweh Shire Council
	NBRC	North Burnett Regional Council
	PSC	Paroo Shire Council
	QSC	Quilpie Shire Council
	SBRC	South Burnett Regional Council
	SDRC	Southern Downs Regional Council
	ToRC	Toowoomba Regional Council
WDR	Western Downs Regional Council	
<b>South East Queensland (SEQ)</b>	BCC	Brisbane City Council
	GCCC	Gold Coast City Council
	ICC	Ipswich City Council
	LVRC	Lockyer Valley Regional Council
	LCC	Logan City Council
	MBRC	Moreton Bay Regional Council
	NSC	Noosa Shire Council
RCC	Redland City Council	
SRRC	Scenic Rim Regional Council	
SRC	Somerset Regional Council	
SCRC	Sunshine Coast Regional Council	



**Local Government Areas and QldRA Reporting Regions**  
 Scale at A4: 1:6,700,000

Legend

- QldRA Region
- Far North Queensland
- North Queensland
- Central Queensland
- Southern Queensland
- South East Queensland
- Local Government Areas

As at 5/02/2014

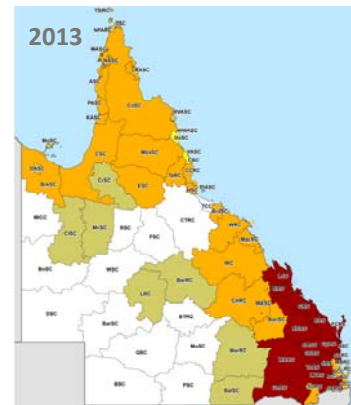
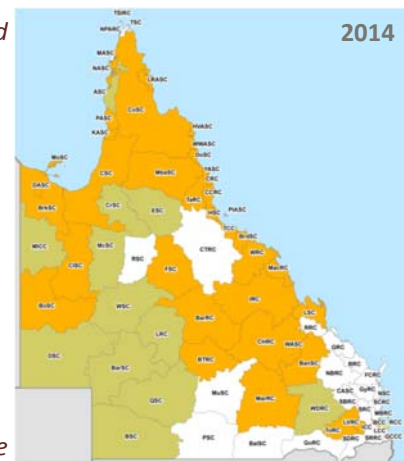
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

## Appendix B: NDRRA activations managed by QRA - 2007 to 2014 Events

### 2014 events

*Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three LGA programs\* that received extensions of time for delivery)*

- Tropical Cyclone Ita & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 11-14 April 2014
- Tropical Cyclone Gillian - 10 to 11 March 2014
- Central Coast & Southern Queensland Trough, 26-30 Mar 2014
- Central & Western Queensland Flooding & Rainfall, 18-28 February 2014\*
- North East Queensland Monsoonal Rainfall & Flooding - 7 to 9 February 2014\*
- Tropical Cyclone Fletcher, commencing 2 February 2014\*
- Far North Queensland Peninsula Flooding (27-31 Jan 2014)
- Tropical Cyclone Dylan, 31 January 2014
- North Stradbroke Island Fires, commencing 29 Dec 2013



### 2013 events

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three projects that received extensions of time for delivery)*

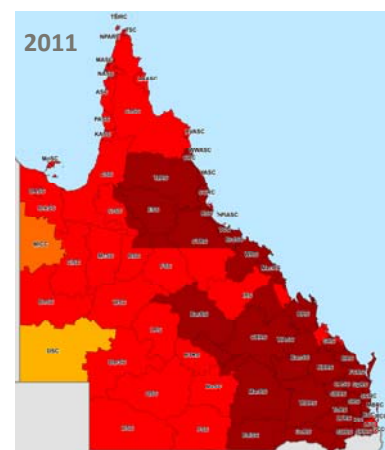
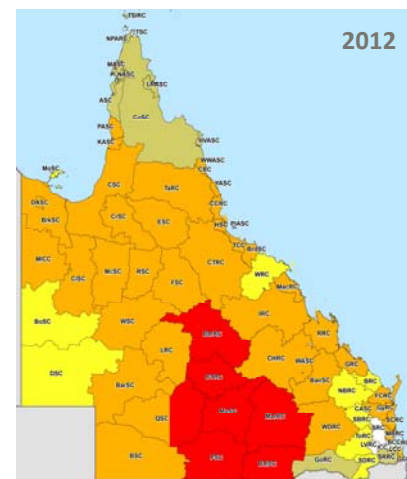
- South West Queensland Wildfires, 21 December 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Bushfires, late Oct - Dec 2012
- Tropical Cyclone Oswald & Associated Rainfall & Flooding, 21-29 January 2013<sup>#</sup>
- Longreach Flood, 18 February 2013
- Central & Southern Queensland Low, 25 Feb - 5 Mar 2013.

### 2012 events

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)*

- Queensland Bushfires, August to October 2011
- Localised Heavy Rainfall Northern Queensland, October 2011

- Southern Queensland Flooding, December to December 2011
- South East Queensland Heavy Rainfall and flooding, 23- 26 January 2012
- Western Queensland Tropical Low, January - February 2012
- Far Northern Queensland Tropical Low, 3-4 February 2012
- North Coast Queensland Storms & flooding & East Coast Hybrid Low, 24 Feb - 7 March 2012
- Northern & Far Northern Queensland Heavy Rainfall & flooding, 15 Mar 2012
- East Coast Low, 22 March 2012.



### 2011 events

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)*

- South West Flooding, April 2011
- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding Event, 28 February 2011
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi on 2 February 2011
- Queensland Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Tasha & Anthony, Dec-2010 to February 2011.

### 2007-2010 events managed by QRA

*(Delivery and acquittal of works complete)*

- Queensland Monsoonal Flooding & Tropical Cyclones Olga, Neville, Ului and Paul, Jan to Apr 2010
- Northern, Central & South West Queensland Flooding, 22 December 2009 to 8 January 2010
- South West Flooding, 20 – 25 December 2009
- 2010 South East Queensland Flooding, 9-12 October 2010.
- Queensland Bushfires, September – October 2009

- South West Queensland Low and Associated Flooding, September 2010
- South East Queensland Low, May 2009
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding and Tropical Cyclone Charlotte and Ellie, January - February 2009
- Queensland storms and associated flooding, 16-22 December 2008
- South West Queensland flooding, June 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, February March 2008
- Queensland Monsoonal flooding, January 2008
- South East Queensland East Coast Low, 27 December 2007 - 7 January 2008
- Central Western Queensland storms and flooding, 22-30 December 2007
- South West Queensland storms and flooding, 23-30 November 2007
- South East and North Coast Queensland East Coast Low, August 2007.

