

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

July 2017



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Information security

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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 July 2017 Monthly Report – the 77th 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.

Since the last report, another milestone in the State's reconstruction effort has passed with the deadline on 30 June 2017 for councils and state agencies to complete Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) works from Tropical Cyclone Marcia and other 2015 events (other than a small number of projects that have received extensions of time). Whilst formal reporting of completion will occur over coming months, councils and state agencies have consistently indicated that works were completed on time.

QRA is now working with delivery agents to gather and assess completion documentation to close out the 2015 event and other works for acquittal in the next claim for NDRRA assistance due to the Commonwealth in early 2018.

During June, the Commonwealth finalised its assurance activities over Queensland's 2015-16 NDRRA Claim, having identified no issues with the claim. The Commonwealth subsequently paid Queensland the full \$125 million due on the Claim on 29 June 2017. Following this, Queensland has no outstanding claims under review by the Commonwealth.

The July report's Program Spotlights profiles a number of successful projects that have all been built back with increased disaster resilience:

- Aurukun Shire Council has seen the benefits of building back better following natural disasters and is keen to further increase the resilience of the Aurukun Access Road
- Somerset Regional Council has completed the last of 12 betterment projects to upgrade vital assets across the region damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015
- Seven new Brisbane River ferry terminals, designed and constructed to a more resilient standard after the devastating Brisbane flood of 2011, have won the Australian Good Design of the Year Award
- Transport and Main Roads' investment in research and innovation is paying big dividends in the wake of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, with millions of dollars in maintenance costs saved through more resilient pavements.

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.

In summary, of the estimated \$1.8 billion program of reconstruction works for the 25 events in the delivery phase, \$745 million has been approved by QRA and additional submissions worth \$91 million are being assessed by QRA or awaiting additional information. QRA is working with delivery agents to expedite the progress their preparation of submissions in relation to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and other recent events.

In addition \$466 million (26 per cent) of works in relation to the delivery program has been reported to QRA at 31 May as in progress or delivered.

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



Brendan Moon
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:



NDRRA works for 25 disaster events activated for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 event periods are currently in the delivery phases.

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

On 23 March 2017, QRA submitted the 2015-16 NDRRA Claim to the Commonwealth for works completed to 30 June 2016. Following completion of its assurance activities over the Claim, no adjustments or issues were identified and the Commonwealth finalised and paid the full reimbursement due on the claim on 29 June 2017.

QRA is currently working with delivery agents to progress delivery of the 2015 and 2016 event programs and provide advice and assistance with damage assessments and submission preparation for the more recent 2017 events, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Section two:
Disaster Assistance

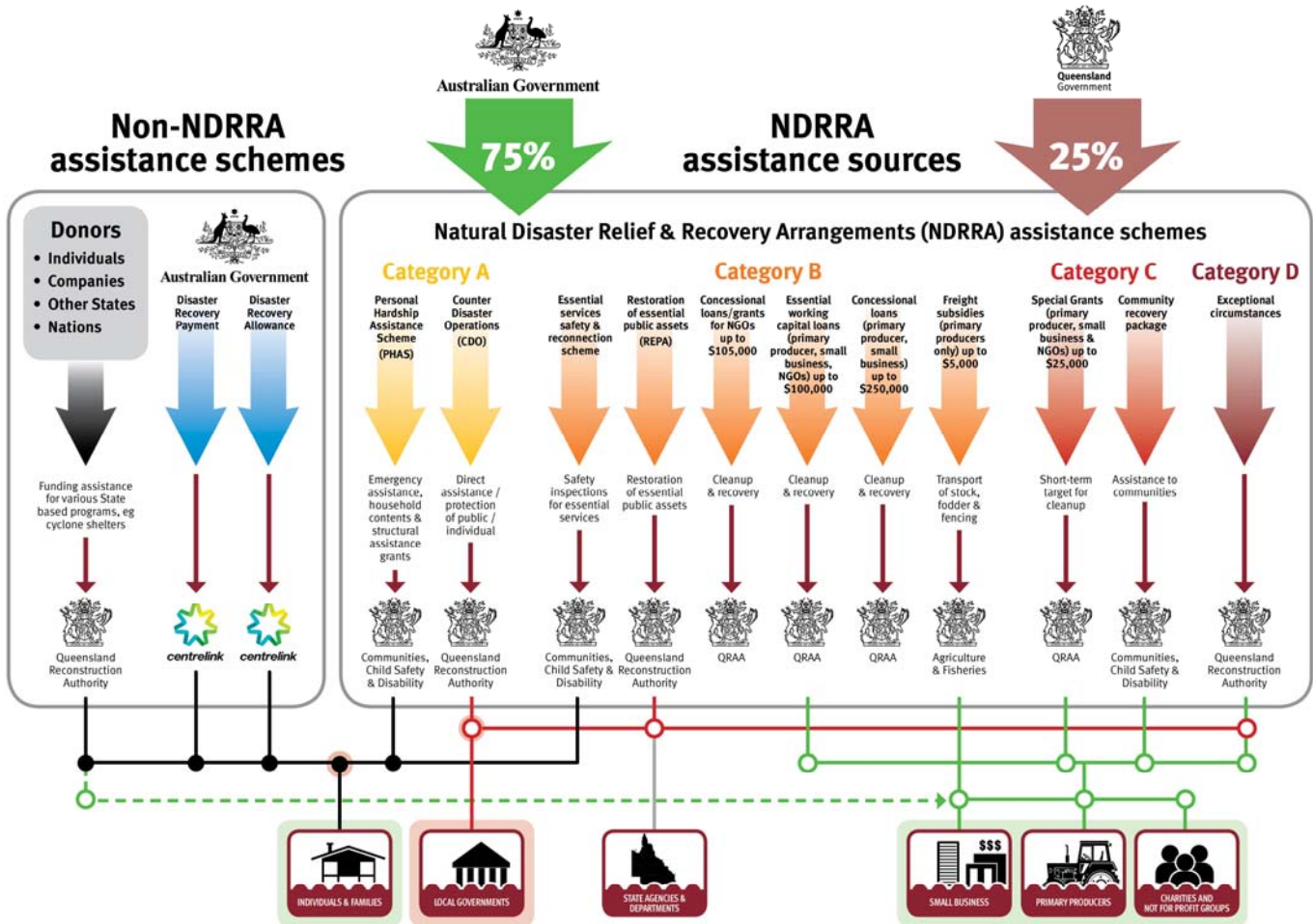


2.0 Disaster Assistance

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.

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 phase¹.

Since the last report, one additional event was activated for NDRRA relief measures - *Far North Qld Trough, 21-28 March 2017* event.

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)

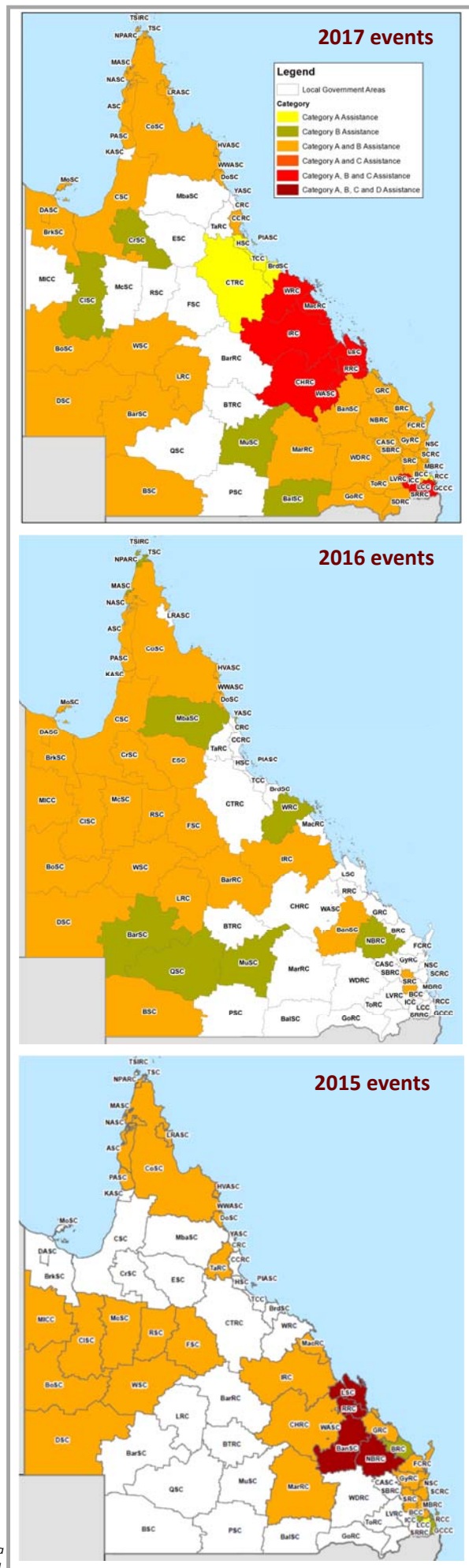
- Central Western Queensland Flooding, 13-19 June 2016
- Far North Queensland Upper Level Trough, 21-23 May 2016
- South West Queensland Floods, 7-9 May 2016
- Far North and North West Queensland Tropical Low, 14-18 March 2016
- Western Queensland Trough, 7-11 March 2016
- Central Coast Surface Trough, 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 2013 and 2014 event period are still in delivery and acquittal phases.



Section three:

Program Status



3.0 Program Status

3.1 NDRRA program status

On 30 June 2017, the deadline passed for councils and state agencies to complete NDRRA works from Tropical Cyclone Marcia and other 2015 events (other than a small number of projects that have received extensions of time). Whilst formal reporting of completion will occur over coming months, councils and state agencies have consistently indicated that works were completed on time.

During June, there were two new activations for NDRRA relief measures:

- the activation for the Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie event was extended to include CDO measures for Bundaberg Regional Council
- seven councils were activated for a new event - *Far North Qld Trough, 21-28 March 2017* event.

QRA is currently assisting councils and delivery agents with the response and initial recovery activities following the impacts of these and the five other events that occurred in the 2017 disaster season.

Across the 2017 disaster season, 62 councils were activated for NDRRA assistance from seven events. QRA is assisting, as required, with the damage assessments from the event in order to progress the reconstruction program into delivery as soon as possible. QRA also continues to monitor and assist delivery agents with progressing their remaining programs of work from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 events through delivery.

No decision has yet been received from the Commonwealth in relation to the State's proposal submitted in May 2017 for a range of NDRRA special Category D measures to assist with the recovery of the most impacted communities from the effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

During June, the Commonwealth finalised its assurance activities over Queensland's 2015-16 NDRRA Claim having identified no issues with Queensland's claim and confirming the State's auditing process and controls over the claim. Queensland subsequently received reimbursement of the full \$125 million due to the State on 29 June 2017.

QRA is now also working with delivery agents to gather and assess completion documentation to close out the 2015 event and other works for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2018.

In other areas relevant to NDRRA, 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.

Active program

The value of the total NDRRA program of works managed by QRA since its establishment is estimated to be \$14.4 billion. Of this, \$12.3 billion of works from the 2009-10, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 events have been finalised (delivered and acquitted) with the remaining works for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 event years in the active delivery and/or acquittal phases.

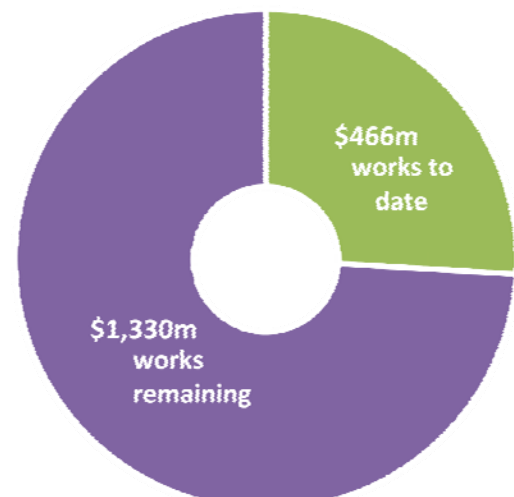
The QRA is managing the assessment of submissions and delivery of works with an estimated value of \$1.8 billion for 25 events comprising the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events (**Delivery Program**) and an **Acquittal Program** worth \$1.7 billion, principally comprising the remaining works from the 2015 to 2017 Events that are yet to be acquitted in claims to the Commonwealth.

Delivery Program status

Since the last report, QRA's Delivery Program has progressed as follows:

- A cumulative value of \$1.06 billion in submissions have been received, an increase of \$45 million since last month.
- A cumulative total of \$745 million has been approved, an increase of \$51 million since last month. Additional submissions worth \$91 million are with QRA under investigation or awaiting additional information.
- A cumulative value of \$466 million (26 per cent) of the \$1.8 billion Delivery Program has been reported to QRA at 31 May 2017 as in progress or delivered.

Delivery Program (2015 to 2017 Events) progress



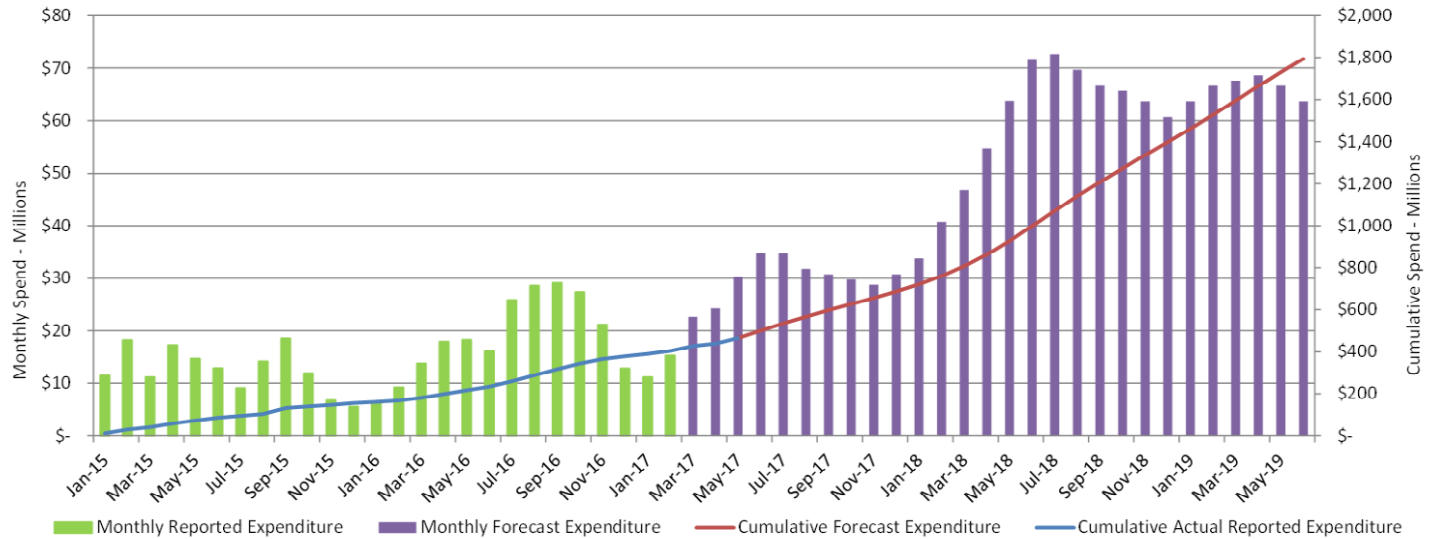
(Source: The Authority, 30 June 2017)

3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

Delivery Program status (cont.)

The graph below show monthly reported expenditure and forecast monthly costs to completion at 31 March 2017 on a combined basis for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Events.

The 2015, 2016 and 2017 Event works are due for completion by 30 June 2017, 30 June 2018 and 30 June 2019 respectively.



Recovery works underway by TMR following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie:

TMR site inspection of STC Debbie damage at Sarina Range (above left)

Gold Coast-Springbrook Road – works in progress on embankment above culvert (above)

Lamington National Park Road – temporary landslip clearing works completed (left).

3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

Acquittal Program status

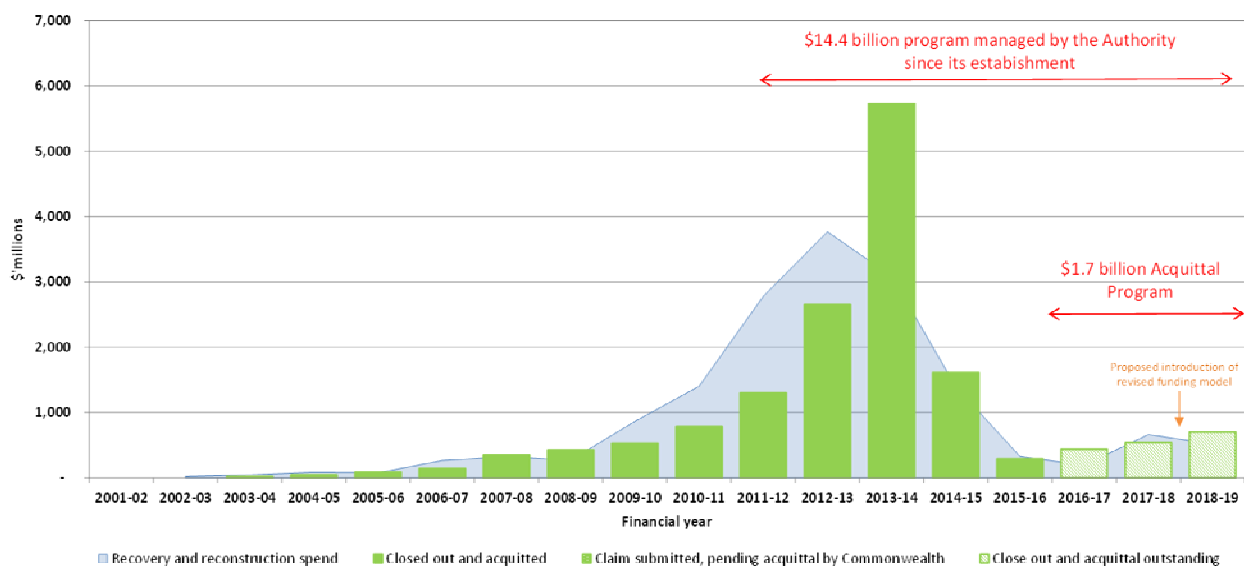
The 2015-16 Commonwealth Claim, representing the State's NDRRA claim for works completed in the year to 30 June 2016 was submitted to the Commonwealth ahead of deadline on 23 March 2017.

The claim, accompanied by an unqualified audit opinion, comprised \$292 million of State Expenditure and resulted in \$125 million reimbursement to the State being paid on 29 June 2017 following acceptance by the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth no longer pays amounts due on the claims until it has completed its own assurance activities over the claim. QRA actively engaged with the Commonwealth to progress the review of the 2015-16 Claim and was advised of its completion without issue or adjustment in June 2017.

Following finalisation of the 2015-16 Claim, Queensland has no outstanding claims under review by 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 acquittal of the \$1.7 billion remaining in the Acquittal Program. Should funding reforms be introduced as envisaged from 1 July 2018, the State will administrate 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: the Authority, February 2017 NDRRA Estimates Review and 30 June 2017

Additional NDRRA assistance measures - 2015 Events

The State Government in conjunction with the Commonwealth have activated a range of jointly-funded Category C, Category D and other relief measures to alleviate distress due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015:

Package	Purpose	Status
2015 Events Betterment Fund (\$20 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than existed pre-disaster. The normal cost of restoring or replacing the asset to its pre-disaster standard is funded under Category B NDRRA and the incremental cost to 'better' the asset to a more disaster-resilient standard is funded by a capped allocation from the Betterment fund and Council contributions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received for 190 projects across eight LGAs eligible for funding. The proposals principally comprised works to increase the resilience of damaged roads, culverts and floodways. Delivery of 2015 betterment works was required by 30 June 2017 in accordance with NDRRA requirements, unless Extensions of Time requests were made to the Commonwealth prior to that date. To 30 June 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 submissions with a total project value of over \$40 million, including \$20 million in Betterment funding have been approved 61 projects with a total project value of \$22.3 million the Commonwealth has granted an EOT to 31 December 2017 for the delivery of the Scenic Highway project at Statue Bay in Livingstone Shire Council. an extension of time request has been submitted to the Commonwealth for completion of Linkes Road work in Banana Shire Council beyond 30 June 2017.

3.1 NDRRA program status (cont.)

Additional NDRRA assistance measures - 2015 Events (cont.)

Package	Purpose	Status
Clean-up and restoration of national parks, beaches and recreational assets (\$6 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clean-up and repair community infrastructure such as picnic areas, walking tracks and associated amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QRA received EOIs from seven applicants for more than \$16 million Nine submissions worth \$6 million were approved across the seven applicants, fully allocating the program funding. Key projects allocated funding include the clean-up and restoration of Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton which was severely damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia. An extension of time request has been submitted to the Commonwealth for completion of Kershaw Gardens work beyond 30 June 2017. Delivery of other works was complete by 30 June 2017.
Green waste clean-up (\$1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist with the costs of green waste clean-up and removal activities from private properties and businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QRA received EOIs for more than \$1.7 million from three of the four LGAs eligible for funding allocation. Five submissions worth \$1 million have been delivered and closed out across the three applicants, fully allocating the program funding.
Industry Recovery Officers (\$750,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For placement of industry recovery officers (IRO) to provide recovery information and support to primary producers in the worst affected areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IRO program was managed by the Queensland Farmers Federation on behalf of Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) IRO officers were located with Growcom, Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation, AgForce and the Nursery and Gardening Industry Queensland IROs have now completed delivery of a range of support activities delivered including workshops, field visits, soil testing and feed sample analysis work.
Category C Community Recovery Package (\$5.1 million)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage community development officers and personal support managers and case workers to aid the recovery of severely affected communities in Rockhampton, Livingstone, Banana, North Burnett and part of Gladstone LGAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package was managed by Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) The package is now complete following the end of the available timeframe on 30 June 2017. Examples of activities undertaken during the program include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community wellbeing and resilience building projects undertaken by UnitingCare at Rockhampton, Gladstone and Livingstone Homesafe, self-care and domestic and family violence training preparedness activities at Yeppoon Cyclone Shelter and various retirement villages counselling services.

Additional NDRRA assistance measures - 2017 Events

The State Government has proposed a range of jointly-funded Category C and Category D measures to the Commonwealth to alleviate distress due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. As at 31 May 2017:

- the Commonwealth has agreed to a **\$14.7 million Category C Community Recovery Package**. The Community Recovery Fund will deliver support programs to individuals, and community mental health and community development programs
- a range of Category D package proposals have been submitted to the Commonwealth to provide additional assistance for communities, businesses, industries and the environment. The proposed funding includes:
 - \$135 million Recovery to Resilience** - Local Council Package to help the hardest hit local government areas undertake key infrastructure projects that will generate employment, boost the local economy, drive community recovery and build resilience
 - \$60 million Recovery to Resilience** – infrastructure package (Betterment) to enable important infrastructure that has been damaged by STC Debbie to be rebuilt to a stronger more disaster resilient state
 - \$15 million Recovery to Resilience** – environmental package to ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, recognising the important contribution our unique environment makes to the Queensland and Australian tourism industry
 - \$10 million Recovery to Resilience** – economic package, to support the recovery of industry and businesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage.

Other active Category D measures

- The State Government and Commonwealth have agreed to continue the **Day Labour** exemption for the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 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. On 31 March 2017, the Commonwealth agreed to further extend the day labour exemption to 2018 Events.

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
Interim Queensland Recovery Plan	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"> The Plan was approved by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee in March 2017 and released on the Queensland Disaster Management website. The plan will be reviewed to incorporate learnings following the 2016-17 event year, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie for release ahead of the next severe storm and cyclone season.
Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC) Guide	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"> The guide is available online via the QRA and Queensland Disaster Management websites. QRA will maintain the DRC Register commensurate with the role of the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRPPC). 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 has transitioned responsibilities to the SRPPC, while the two Deputy Recovery Coordinators continue to support recovery in the most severely impacted communities. On completion of the Deputy Recovery Coordinators' appointments the guide will be reviewed and updated, as required.
Strategic Policy Framework for Riverine Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience	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"> The Framework was approved by the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) in late June, and is being readied for public release on the QRA website.
Disaster Management Reviews	<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"> As at 1 May 2017, 11 of the 14 recommendations have been completed. The three remaining recommendations are progressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical leadership in Commonwealth funding negotiations Greater role in prioritisation of disaster recovery funding QRA provide support to QFES for a central repository for the collection and storage of whole-of-government disaster management data. A review is currently being conducted by IGEM on aspects of response and recovery to STC Debbie. The findings of this review will be used to inform future recovery policy and planning development.
Floodplain Management	QRA is developing the Queensland Flood Resilience Program (QFRP) to support LGAs in developing their own flood risk management strategies and resilience plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The QFRP is a proposed program to facilitate delivery of improved flood risk management solutions across Queensland through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development of catchment-scale flood risk management strategies; approaches for capturing critical infrastructure and building data across Queensland. 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. Preliminary officer-level discussions have occurred with Bundaberg Regional Council to provide feedback on the proposed approach. The pilot is on track to be rolled out with a 6 to 8 month timeframe. Options for the program will be developed in conjunction with the Queensland Flood Resilience Coordination Committee. Further consultation is also proposed with the Wide Bay Burnett Organisation of Councils as the representative body for the catchment.

3.2 Recovery, resilience and mitigation activities (continued)

Activity	Purpose	Status
Operation Queensland Recovery Plan and reporting	<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. The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan includes local recovery plans for the eight most severely impacted local government areas. Developed by the relevant local governments, these local recovery plans document the local recovery objectives for the impacted communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Operation Queensland Recovery Plan was tabled in Queensland Parliament and publicly released on 9 May 2017. • 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.
Brisbane River Catchment Studies	<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 that will guide a coordinated approach to planning and response activities to manage flood across the floodplain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Flood Study is complete and is now available to the public following its launch on 5 May 2017. • The Flood Study supports the development of a Strategic Floodplain Management Plan, which is underway and scheduled for completion in December 2017. • The QRA is working with four local councils (Brisbane, Ipswich, Somerset and Lockyer Valley) as well as a range of government agencies and industry to coordinate a regionally consistent approach to managing the Brisbane River Floodplain. • A range of regional scale opportunities are being investigated as part of the Strategic Floodplain Management Plan including structural mitigation options, disaster management, land use planning, community awareness and resilience, building controls and integrated catchment management. • Detailed Local Floodplain Management Plans will commence from 2018.
Flood Warning Gauge Network Project	<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"> • 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. • Draft Flood Gauge Network Investment Plans have been developed for 40 priority LGAs identified in an initial state-wide review as having high priority communities 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 LGA reports to be sent to LGAs in early July 2017. • From July 2017, QRA will work with a further 17 out of 33 LGAs to produce draft Flood Gauge Network Investment Plans. • QRA will engage with the remaining LGAs throughout 2017, with finalisation of all remaining Flood Warning Gauge Network Investment Plans scheduled for completion by December 2017 • QRA sought feedback from 36 LGAs about their gauge performance following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Generally the gauges performed well. However, there were some isolated issues with communications and gauge loss due to the magnitude of the floods, specifically in the Fitzroy Basin. In August, the QRA will meet with the impacted LGAs in Emerald to take learnings from the event, with a focus on the performance of the Flood Warning Gauge Network and to explore opportunities for regional collaboration and coordination.

3.3 Program spotlights

Aurukun Shire Council Aurukun Access Road continues to be 'bettered'

Aurukun Shire Council has seen the benefits of building back better following natural disasters and is keen to further increase the resilience of the Aurukun Access Road.

The township of Aurukun on the western coast of Cape York in Far North Queensland is one of the most remote and isolated Indigenous communities in Australia with limited access to goods and services.

The Aurukun Access Road is an essential part of the region's transport infrastructure, providing the only road link for the Aurukun community to the Peninsula Developmental Road and Weipa, approximately 200 kilometres to the north. The road is often cut by monsoonal floodwaters in the wet season, isolating the community for weeks at a time. The nature of the red soil (bauxite) that makes up the unsealed sections of the road is extremely vulnerable to severe washout and scouring damage when floodwaters recede, leaving Aurukun Access Road in an unsafe condition.

In 2014, Aurukun Shire Council completed a \$1.4 million Betterment project to bitumen seal a 10km section of the road that was particularly vulnerable to flood damage. The increased resilience of that section has withstood subsequent monsoonal events and Aurukun Shire Council has endeavoured to seal further sections of the essential transport route between Aurukun township and the Cook Shire boundary.

\$8.8 million from the Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance (CIMA) provided budget to progressively seal other sections of Aurukun Access Road with a two coat bitumen seal in addition to alignment and profile corrections to meet current engineering standards.

In 2016, CIMA-funded works sealed 15km of the Aurukun Access Road, with a further 16km programmed to be completed in 2017. This was combined with approximately \$4 million in NDRRA funding to restore damage to the road from a number of declared rainfall events.

The restoration and resealing works provide a major benefit to the community by improving the only road access to and from the Aurukun township. These works will result in a significant reduction in maintenance and ongoing restoration costs by improving resilience, flood immunity and safety of Aurukun Access Road.

Additional scope not covered under the NDRRA was made possible thanks to the Department of Transport and Main Roads' Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme. The Aurukun Access Road projects support infrastructure development in remote Far North Queensland as well as economic growth, innovation and community development for Indigenous communities.

The increased resilience of Aurukun Access Road represents an outstanding example of three tiers of government sharing responsibility and working together to boost the resilience of Indigenous communities following disaster events.



Aurukun Access Road – unsealed sections showing deep scouring damage (left); and with improved resilience to flooding following bitumen sealing (above)



3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

Somerset Regional Council Somerset builds back with resilience for the future

Somerset Regional Council has completed the last of 12 resilience projects to upgrade vital assets across the region damaged by Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015.

The projects were delivered under the \$20 million 2015 Betterment Fund, provided under Category D of the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State NDRRA arrangements.

Somerset Regional Council is regularly impacted by flooding and Betterment has enabled Council to rebuild to a stronger and more resilient standard to help the local community withstand the impacts of future events.

Somerset Regional Council has delivered improvements ranging from the complete replacement of the damaged Monsildale Bridge, to sealing roads and providing better drainage in flood-prone areas.

The new concrete bridge, re-named Fredrickson Bridge, was complemented by improvements at nine sites along Monsildale Road made possible by almost \$400,000 in Betterment funding. Another of Council's Betterment projects included upgrades to a vulnerable two-kilometre section of Ten Mile Road, approximately 15 kilometres north of Kilcoy.

During wet weather conditions, the road is subject to high water run-off and is accessible only by four-wheel-drive or heavy vehicles at slow speeds, restricting access for the local community.

Council's Betterment project for Ten Mile Road saw the installation of large concrete culverts with rock protection and shotcrete to the culvert aprons, increasing drainage capacity and reducing the likelihood of blockages. Council also applied a two-coat bitumen seal to the area, providing increased resilience to washout and scouring of the pavement during wet weather.

These improvements will support the local cattle industry and residents in Somerset who rely on the regional road network for direct access to services in Monsildale and Kilcoy.

Somerset Regional Council Mayor Graeme Lehmann said the funding enabled council to expand its efforts to rebuild following Tropical Cyclone Marcia and complete these works with the future in mind. "We have seen damage to these roads occur time and time again, but with Betterment funding we have rebuilt these roads and bridges to ensure greater resilience to future flooding."

"Thank you to the Queensland and Australian Governments for ensuring regional Australia has the opportunity to keep these vital access roads open," he said.

Other Somerset Regional Council projects delivered under the 2015 Betterment fund were Mount Kilcoy, Rasmussen, Winya, Sandy Creek, School, Kingaham, Tooloorum, Scrubby Creek roads and Axelsen Drive. The total approved value of the 12 projects is estimated at approximately \$2.9 million including \$1.8 million from the Betterment Fund.



3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

Brisbane City Council Brisbane River ferry terminals win the Australian Good Design of the Year Award

Seven new Brisbane River ferry terminals, designed and constructed after the devastating Brisbane flood of 2011, have won the Australian Good Design of the Year Award.

The Australian Good Design Awards were established by the Industrial Design Council of Australia in 1958. Awards are given to architecture projects as well as consumer and industrial design works.

Following the floods of 2011, the Queensland Government held a global design competition for the replacement terminals destroyed in the disaster, with Cox Rayner Architects coming up with the successful new flood-resistant design.

Works to replace the severely damaged or destroyed ferry terminals with more resilient, permanent structures were delivered as part of a \$145 million Category D (exceptional circumstances) Queensland Local Council funding package through the NDRRA, which also saw the rebuilding of the iconic Brisbane Riverwalk.

The new ferry terminals have been designed to withstand a one-in-500-year flood event and include robust piers engineered with the capacity to deflect heavy objects in flood waters, as well as gangways that detach at the shore-end in the event of a flood, allowing them to swing behind the pontoon to avoid being struck by debris.

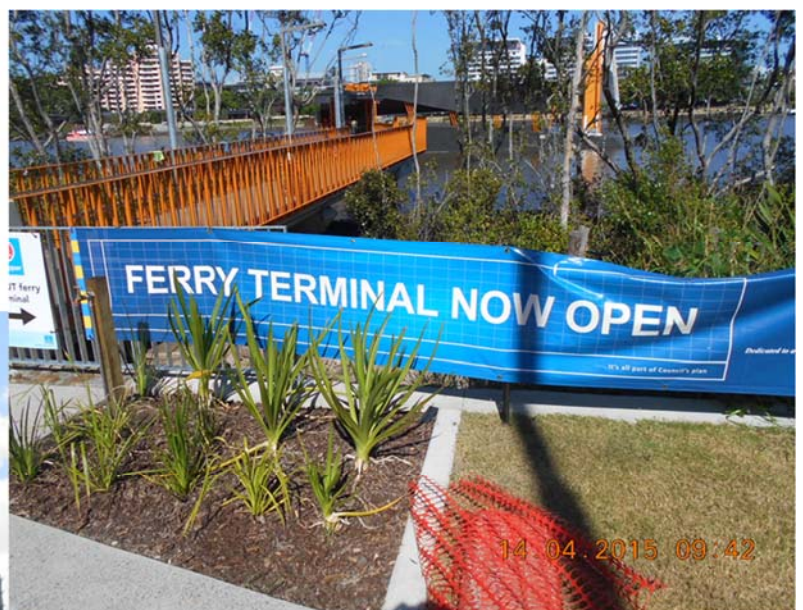
In addition to the higher level of flood immunity, the new terminals have also been designed with improved accessibility.

Ferry terminals replaced under the NDRRA Category D funding package included North Quay terminal in the Brisbane CBD, University of Queensland (St Lucia), Regatta (Toowong), QUT Gardens Point (CBD), Sydney Street (New Farm), Holman Street (Kangaroo Point) and Maritime Museum (South Brisbane).

Brisbane City Council progressively reopened the ferry terminals as they were completed between March and June 2015.

As part of the same project, Council also replaced and upgraded another four ferry terminals not funded under NDRRA.

The Brisbane Ferry Terminals are no stranger to accolades, having previously won the prestigious Sir William-Hudson Award in November 2016, the highest accolade for a project-based award from Engineers Australia.



QUT Gardens Point ferry terminal

3.3 Program spotlights (continued)

TMR

Foamed bitumen pavements thwart ex-Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie

Transport and Main Roads' investment in research and innovation is paying big dividends in the wake of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, with millions of dollars in maintenance costs saved through more resilient pavements.

The department's foamed bitumen pavements – which are more resilient to flooding when constructed in the right environment with appropriate stabilisation – withstood some of the worst weather.

While some conventional thin asphalt/granular pavements suffered significant damage from flooding, foamed bitumen pavements in similar circumstances have shown excellent resilience.

When three metres of floodwater receded from Camp Cable Road on the Mount Lindesay Highway, TMR's foamed bitumen pavement was found completely intact.

Likewise, the Bruce Highway in Cairns and Sandy Gully in Mackay showed no evidence of damage despite heavy rainfall. Pavement construction in Warrill View, south of Ipswich, was able to continue without delay, despite 300mm of rain falling on the unsealed surface.

Yeppen floodway in Rockhampton also emerged from the deluge with a clean bill of health.

These are just the latest examples of how foamed bitumen is contributing to a more resilient state road network for Queensland, with the technology already used widely in suitable coastal regions of the state.

Foamed bitumen is formed by injecting a small quantity of cold water into hot bitumen to produce an instantaneous expansion. In this foamed state, bitumen is highly efficient at wetting and coating the finer particles of the pavement material, forming a mortar and binding the mixture together to provide a water-tight structure.

By using foamed bitumen, TMR is not only saving on the cost of construction – foamed bitumen costs less per cubic metre than asphalt – but also on the cost of maintaining and rehabilitating roads after natural disasters such as STC Debbie.



Camp Cable Road during STC Debbie flooding (left); and after STC Debbie floodwaters receded (right)

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 680 media items in June 2017 (420 print – 62%, 47 TV – 7%, 138 radio – 20%, 75 online – 11%), which reached a cumulative audience of approximately 13.8 million people.

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

- **news articles** in The Age, Albert and Logan News, The Australian, Australian Financial Review, Beaudesert Times, Bowen Independent, Burdekin Advocate, Caboolture Shire Herald, Cairns Post, Canungra Times, Cape York News, Capricorn Coast Mirror, Central and North Burnett Times, Central Telegraph, City North News, City South News, Cooloola Advertiser, The Courier-Mail, Mackay Daily Mercury, Warwick Daily News, Dayboro Grapevine, Fassifern Guardian, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, Gladstone Observer, Glasshouse Country News, Gold Coast Bulletin, Gympie Times, Herbert River Express, Hervey Bay City Independent, Hervey Bay Observer, Innisfail Advocate, Jimboomba Times, Lloyds List DCN, Mackay and Sarina Midweek, Moreton Border News, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Bundaberg News Mail, Noosa News, Noosa Today, North Queensland Register, North West News, North West Star, Oakey Champion, On Our Selection News, Queensland Country Life, Queensland Times, Redland City Bulletin, The Reporter, Rural Weekly, South Burnett Times, Sun Herald, Sunday Age, Sunday Mail, Sunshine Coast Daily, Sydney Morning Herald, Tablelands Advertiser, Tamborine Mountain News, Tamborine Times, The Somerset Toogoolawah, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin, Weekend Australian, Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, Weekend Post, Westside News, Whitsunday Guardian, and the Whitsunday Times
- **Internet coverage** at brisbanetimes.com.au, dailymercury.com.au, themorningbulletin.com.au, news-mail.com.au, queenslandtimes.com.au, theaustralian.com.au, and townesvillbulletin.com.au
- **TV coverage** on ABC News 24, Sky News, Channels Seven, Nine, and WIN networks throughout the State as well as nationally
- **radio mentions** on ABC Queensland Regional Radio, ABC Radio National, 2GB Sydney, 4BC Brisbane, 4CA Cairns, 4KQ Brisbane, 4RO Rockhampton, 4TO Townsville, GOLD FM Gold Coast, HOTFM Sunshine Coast, MIX 92.7 Sunshine Coast, Triple M Darling Downs and Zinc FM Sunshine Coast.

Making news in June 2017 was ongoing recovery of Queensland communities as they reconnect and rebuild following the devastating effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Also making news was the activation of the NDRRA for Cook, Douglas, Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal and Torres Strait Island councils for flooding associated with the Far North Queensland Trough, 3-10 February 2017 event.

Engagement Activities

On Wednesday 14 June 2017, QRA's **Chief Executive Officer Mr Brendan Moon** attended the latest round of NDRRA stakeholder meetings and Disaster Funding Reform workshops hosted by Emergency Management Australia in Melbourne.

On 20 June, Mr Moon accompanied the **QRA Board** to Winton and met with Winton and Longreach Regional Councils on Wednesday 21 June 2017.

In June 2017, **Deputy Premier Jackie Trad** visited the communities of Townsville and Palm Island, and as Acting Premier visited Rockhampton and Yeppoon where she turned the sod on Livingstone Shire's new Local Disaster Coordination Centre and Community Resilience Hub.

4.1 Communicating progress (Cont.)

Communications

QRA keeps its stakeholders and the community informed and ensure's access to the latest information regarding the reconstruction effort through our website, phone hotline and management of correspondence.

QRA's website is regularly updated, including information about progress on Betterment projects and current recovery efforts. There has been a large number of visits to the website since it was launched on 18 February 2011. At 31 May 2017, total website visits amounted to 529,209. (See Figure 5.1.1).

In May, we received an additional 67 calls to our dedicated hotline and managed 220 pieces of written correspondence (See Figure 5.1.2)

Fig. 5.1.1 Website traffic

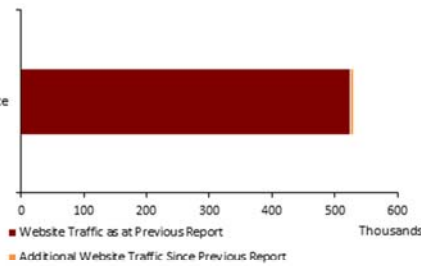
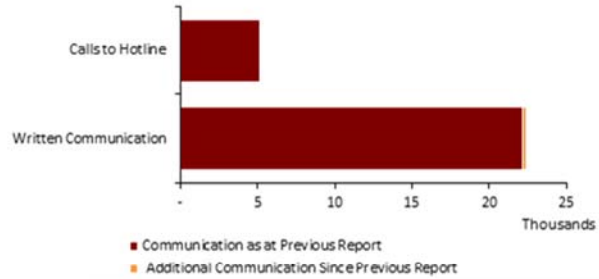


Fig. 5.1.2 Communications



4.2 Media reports

Cancel the show? You must be joking

Vital funds makes show place to be

Jacob Wilson
jacob.wilson@whitsundaytimes.com.au

ONLY a world war would stand in the way of the Proserpine Show going ahead.

And while Cyclone Debbie's wrath resulted in fallen power lines and a chaotic mess to clean up – the State Government and Whitsunday Regional Council joined forces to ensure the 105th show would run as scheduled.

Show Whitsunday was successful in obtaining \$25,000 of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements funding from the Queensland Government, in addition to a one-off \$18,000 contribution from council.

Show Society President Donna Rogers said the thought of the show not going ahead under her watch was unthinkable.

"The only other time the show was cancelled in the past 105 years was during World War One," she said.

Ms Rogers said the NDRRA Category C funding helped restore power to the main show grounds, while generators provided by the Showman's Guild would ensure Sideshow Alley and the camp grounds were up and running.

Ergon's local crews worked closely with the Show Whitsunday committee to repair its electricity network which was severely damaged in the category four storm.

Treasurer Curtis Pitt said power was one of the show's most pressing issues.

"Without power the Proserpine Show could not be held at the showgrounds this year. We were pleased to help the committee to get ahead.

Ms Rogers said the committee was "so grateful" to Ergon Energy.

"They've not only restored our network but saved our their network operating again so the show could go on," he said.

The show is so important to the Whitsunday community. It brings together all communities in this area for two days of events and activities and that is so important now as our community recovers from Cyclone Debbie," she said.

Deputy Premier Jackie Trad came to the Whitsunday Showgrounds alongside Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Glenn Butcher last week likewise stressing the importance of keeping the family friendly tradition alive.

Ms Rogers also thanked the 50 volunteers who worked hard to clean up the Showgrounds over the previous weekend.

About 10,000 people will attend the Proserpine show on June 23-24.

“It's the one weekend a year that people in the area have come together for over 100 years and the collaborative support will ensure the family tradition will continue this year.”

— Donna Rogers

Flood Aid set to flow for community

FLOOD-AFFECTED small businesses and not-for-profit groups such as sporting clubs can now apply for Category C clean-up and recovery grants of up to \$25,000 under an extension of the Natural Disaster and Recovery Arrangement (NDRRA) to the Logan City region.

Logan City Council (LCC) has welcomed the extra support offered to the district, including the suburbs of Jimboomba, Slacks Creek and Waterford West, which are now eligible for Category C small business relief measures under the jointly-funded federal/state government NDRRA.

Beemleigh, Carbrook, Eagleby, Loganholme, Loganlea, and Meadowbrook are included in the extension area.

Mayor Luke Smith said Logan had been hit hard by ex-tropical cyclone Debbie, devastating small business operators and not-for-profits across the city.

"The extension of Category C funding will provide much needed relief as they rebuild," he said.

"I urge all affected businesses to contact the

Queensland government to see if they are eligible."

According to an LCC statement, around 50 businesses were flooded during the late March/early April deluge and many more were disrupted by power outages and road closures.

Council has contacted all affected businesses, not-for-profit groups and primary producers and offered assistance to access financial relief packages being offered by the state and federal governments.

FLOOD AID CONCERT

Tickets are still available for the June 4 Flood Aid concert at Logan Village Hotel from 2pm to 9pm.

Local star of *The Voice* Ruby Jo is set to rock the stage alongside John Williamson, James Blundell and the Flood Aid Rock Legends band which includes Buzz Bidstrup (The Angels, Gangajang), Kevin Borich (The Party Boys) and Tyrone Noonan (George).

All the profits from the gate, food and bar sales are expected to raise up to

\$75,000 which will be donated to local flood victims.

Division 4 councillor Laurie Koranski and state member for Logan Linus Power will chair the distribution of funds through various charities to help families directly affected by the floods as well as the emergency service organisations.

Country music performer James Blundell said he was looking forward to performing for all the incredible community service groups and residents affected by the recent flooding of the Logan River and surrounds.

Five hundred free tickets for the flood-affected and emergency services workers will be distributed by representatives of emergency services organisations and the hotel.

Flood Aid tickets are available from oztix.com.au for \$39.95, children under 12 \$10. More information on the latest Category C funding can be found at qraa.qld.gov.au.



7 June - Whitsunday Guardian



1 June—Jimboomba Times

RECOVERY ZONE: Local businesses are encouraged to apply for extra flood-damage funding, and the Flood Aid concert is taking place on June 4. Photo: Georgina Bayly

4.0 Communications (cont.)

4.2 Media reports

Further assistance available for locals affected by Debbie

Further disaster assistance has been made available to locals two months on from the devastating flooding that left damage and destruction in its wake.

Federal Member for Wright Scott Buchholz said locals had not been forgotten and help was on its way.

"Demolition and rebuilding assistance is now available to locals whose homes were damaged by the recent flooding," Mr Buchholz said.

"So many individuals and families from across our region have been affected, this extra assistance will help our community get back on its feet as quickly as possible."

The extra assistance is being provided through the Queensland State Government with support from the Federal Government through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

Mr Buchholz said local residents in Logan and the Scenic Rim were eligible for the demolition and rebuilding assistance.

"I encourage locals dealing with the aftermath of ex-Cyclone Debbie to apply for this and the range of other assistance currently available," Mr Buchholz said.

"I will continue to push for any further extension of assistance that is needed to ensure our community can rebuild better than ever from this natural disaster."

Information on disaster assistance available for this natural disaster can be found on the Australian Government's Disaster Assist website at <https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/> and the Queensland Government's Disaster management website at <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/>.

20 June - Tamborine Mountain News

Support sought for cyclone funding

CYCLONE Eve Reimajer

MIKE Brunker, Labor's candidate for the state seat of Burkin, is calling on Federal Member for Dawson George Christensen to get behind local projects seeking Category D funding following Cyclone Debbie.

It comes after Mr Christensen described some of those claims under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) scheme as bogus.

He said the State Labor Government had serious questions to answer about their \$20 million application for Category D funding which included infrastructure items that had not been affected by the cyclone.

"What we find instead on the State Government application are projects which are very worthy in their own right, but they do not meet the NDRRA guidelines. So they cannot be funded," Mr Christensen said.

"For instance, they asked for \$40 million for the Whitsunday Coast Airport when aircraft were landing at the airport two

days after Cyclone Debbie. The airport had not been seriously impacted.

"There was a request for \$6.3 million for the Airfie Beach foreshore where there was no serious damage."

Mr Brunker said the projects did fall within Category D guidelines and Mr Christensen should get behind them.

"I am calling on George to go down and rattle the Prime Minister's cage and make sure we get some Cat D funding because there was a lot of politics going on when they were putting in for the Cat C funding causing undue angst."

Let's get the politics aside and let's get in and support the category D and get some more money flowing this way."

Mr Brunker said within the Whitsunday Regional Council area funding was also being sought for State Harbour.

Meanwhile, Whitsunday Mayor Andrew Wilcox has also been pushing for Category D funds to start flowing.

He has called on the State and Federal governments to work together to deliver the "much-needed" funding to the

Whitsunday Region, which was hardest hit by Cyclone Debbie, as that was where it crossed the coast.

He said the claims were legitimate, with one section of Category D funding for assets damaged during Cyclone Debbie, however there were other sections for building, resilience and for building some pieces of infrastructure to help rebuild the region.

Primary producers have applied for 437 grants, with about 216 of those applications, worth \$12 million, approved.

Queensland Reconstruction Authority chief Brendan Moon said councils had a lot of work ahead, particularly in fixing vital assets including roads.

"Councils are well placed in terms of their recovery," he said.

"They are reconnecting the vital road infrastructure and a lot of the essential services or most of them are back in operation."

Debbie crossed the coastline on March 28 but even after its initial rampage which battered Bowen, Mackay and the Whitsundays, the ex-tropical cyclone continued to cause havoc as it dumped massive amounts of rain on southeast Queensland and northern NSW.

You can read amazing stories of inspiration in our special publication, *Defying Debbie*.

Featuring heroes who helped overcome adversity, this gloss 132-page book costs just \$7.50 and all of the proceeds of the sale will help our regions rebuild.

The money will be donated to the charity *GiveitGuns*, which is delivering goods and services to those in need.

The book was produced by News Regional Media, including the Cairns Post, with the support of Suncoq. Order by calling 1800 361 604 (8am-5pm, Monday to Friday); \$4 postage for phone orders.

Region open for business again

Betina Warburton

IT has been two months since Tropical Cyclone Debbie hit the North Queensland coast but the Whitsundays tourism and business communities have one message: "Come visit."

"The call comes with Queensland school holidays a little over two weeks away.

The Whitsundays Coast Chamber of Commerce vice president Mark Beale said the region was "well and truly open for visitors".

"The first six weeks after the cyclone were hard going, but things have now returned to normal," he said. "You look at the main street at Airfie Beach and it is business as usual."

"Sure some businesses are still closed but the majority are open."

Mr Beale said the region's businesses and locals were resilient and had bounced back from the wrath of Cyclone Debbie.

"Now we have about 90 per cent of leaves back on the trees," he said. "If you didn't know there had been a cyclone, you'd not necessarily suspect so if you were not a local."

Mr Beale said the famed Airfie Beach lagoon was resilient and had bounced back from the wrath of Cyclone Debbie.

"It'll be another 10 weeks before the lagoon is open but Airfie Beach and the Whitsundays are more than the lagoon to

visitors to the region. "Now it's not stinger season, visitors can swim in our beautiful beaches. If this happened in the stinger season, it would be much more damaging."

Tourism Whitsundays CEO Craig Turner said bookings were solid post-cyclone.

"There's a range of accommodation available and at competitive prices," he said. "Across the board, given it's only been about eight weeks since Cyclone Debbie, the place is looking great."

Mr Turner said visitors could holiday in the Whitsundays knowing they would have a fantastic experience.

"Tours are operating and tours have adapted the operations if required to ensure the best visitor experience," he said.

"While we had a major weather event, the reality is the destination is still beautiful."

"There's a saying that the Whitsundays on its worst day is better than most places on their best day and that rings true now."

"But that's not to say we aren't working hard to tell people the Whitsundays is ready to welcome visitors."

Mr Turner said he expected the upcoming school holidays period to be a



7 June - Gympie Times

April flood assistance for victims

LOGAN and Scenic Rim council areas have been included in an extended assistance package for those who have had to demolish, rebuild or restore a house following the April-May flood.

Justice Minister Michael Keenan said the assistance was being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

"It will provide additional assistance to five local government areas, on top of already activated assistance in these areas, to help affected individuals and communities get back on their feet as quickly as possible," he said.

Police Minister Mark Ryan said the Commonwealth and Queensland governments would continue to monitor the impact of Tropical Cyclone Debbie and would extend assistance under the NDRRA to other areas if required.

Information on disaster assistance is at [disasterassist.gov.au/](https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/) and at [disaster.qld.gov.au](https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/)

29 June - Albert & Logan Times

State Recognises Council's Role During Disaster

Council's contribution to the response and recovery efforts following Tropical Cyclone Debbie has been recognised along with the achievements of outstanding Queenslanders. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk presented Scenic Rim Mayor Greg Christensen with a commemorative plaque during Queensland Day celebrations honouring Queenslanders for their contribution to the state.

Cr Christensen said the plaque recognised the valuable contribution of all Council staff who played a part during the response and recovery efforts after ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie dealt a devastating blow to the Scenic Rim region.

"Council staff worked tirelessly in response to the severe weather and flooding and have continued to be part of the recovery process. This award is a tribute to the team in our Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC), to those who worked in the field to

restore critical infrastructure or provide community welfare services, and those who ensured continuity of our council functions," he said.

"In the weeks since ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie, our local community and key decision-makers in the emergency services and State Government have spoken of the dedication and professionalism of our LDCC and Council staff."

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie caused some \$40 million damage to the Scenic Rim's infrastructure that could take up to two years to rebuild. This rebuilding will be supported under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) by the State and Federal Governments which are also providing financial assistance to Scenic Rim communities.

"It will be a long road to recovery but Scenic Rim Regional Council is well equipped for the task," Cr Christensen said.

22 June - Tamborine Times

Roads still on the mend after cyclone

COUNCILS impacted by Cyclone Debbie are still fixing roads more than 10 weeks later.

More than 30 councils will receive support through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements for their reconstruction efforts.

Already the NDRRA has distributed more than \$28.1 million and that figure will continue to climb.

About 116,000 residents across cyclone zones have also received financial support through the Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme.

Primary producers have applied for 437 grants, with about 216 of those applications, worth \$12 million, approved.

Queensland Reconstruction Authority chief Brendan Moon said councils had a lot of work ahead, particularly in fixing vital assets including roads.

"Councils are well placed in terms of their recovery," he said.

"They are reconnecting the vital road infrastructure and a lot of the essential services or most of them are back in operation."

Debbie crossed the coastline on March 28 but even after its initial rampage which battered Bowen, Mackay and the Whitsundays, the ex-tropical cyclone continued to cause havoc as it dumped massive amounts of rain on southeast Queensland and northern NSW.

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Deep Creek Bridge, Gayndah-Mundubbera Road under construction. Council acknowledges the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding is a joint Commonwealth and State Government program.

29 June - Central and North Burnett Times

Grants for clean-ups

SMALL business owners impacted by Cyclone Debbie can now apply for \$10,000 grants under a \$4 million State Government recovery package.

To be eligible for funding under the package, businesses must be located in regions approved to receive Category C Special Disaster Assistance (Clean-up and Recovery Grants) for Small Business under the Commonwealth/State NDRRA, have a minimum trading history of two years, and fewer than 20 employees on March 27, 2017.

Hard-hit small businesses in the local government areas of Whitsunday Coast, Isaac, Mackay and Rockhampton Regional Councils and Logan City Council can apply for Category C small business relief measures under NDRRA. Businesses have until October 13 to apply for Category C assistance.

Small business owners can apply for Category C clean-up and recovery grants and Category B concessional loans through www.qraa.qld.gov.au or by phoning 1800 623 946.

Applications for grants under Operation Queensland Recovery close on June 28.

For information, visit www.business.qld.gov.au/recovery-grants.

9 June - Brisbane Reporter

28 June - Capricorn Coast Mirror

Disaster centre construction

Work has begun on new hub

CONSTRUCTION officially began last week on Livingstone Shire Local Disaster Co-ordination Centre and Community Resilience Hub, which is expected to raise the bar in disaster recovery services.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning Jackie Trad joined LSC Mayor Bill Ludwig and State Minister for Keynote Industry Laura Keppel to mark the start of construction works with the first steel turn.

The \$1.225 million state-of-the-art facility is jointly funded by the State and Federal governments and Livingstone Shire Council will provide a central location for all emergency service agencies to work co-operatively during times of disaster.

Mr Trad said the Queensland Government's investment of \$1.225 million under the project would create Livingstone Shire's most prepared and better-organised for any future natural disaster.

"This facility, located in the heart of Yepoon on the Bowman Park, ensures Livingstone will have a central location for all emergency service agencies to work co-operatively during times of disaster."

make a contribution to safer, more sustainable communities, and the LDCC will certainly strengthen the Capricorn Coast community in times of need," she said.

"The Disaster Co-ordination Centre project, on top of our investment of \$20 million in the Yepoon Foreshore, is a perfect example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to assisting Livingstone Shire to recover, prepare for future events and continue to grow."

Member for Capricornia Michelle Ludwig, who was unable to attend the launch, said it was truly exciting to see such a major project become a reality on the Capricorn Coast.

The hub is expected to be completed near the end of November.



What the centre will look like when finished. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



Livingstone Shire Mayor Bill Ludwig, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad and Keppel MP Brittany Lauga. PHOTO: TRISH BOWMAN



The sod turning was a momentous occasion for a step forward in community resilience for the region. PHOTO: TRISH BOWMAN

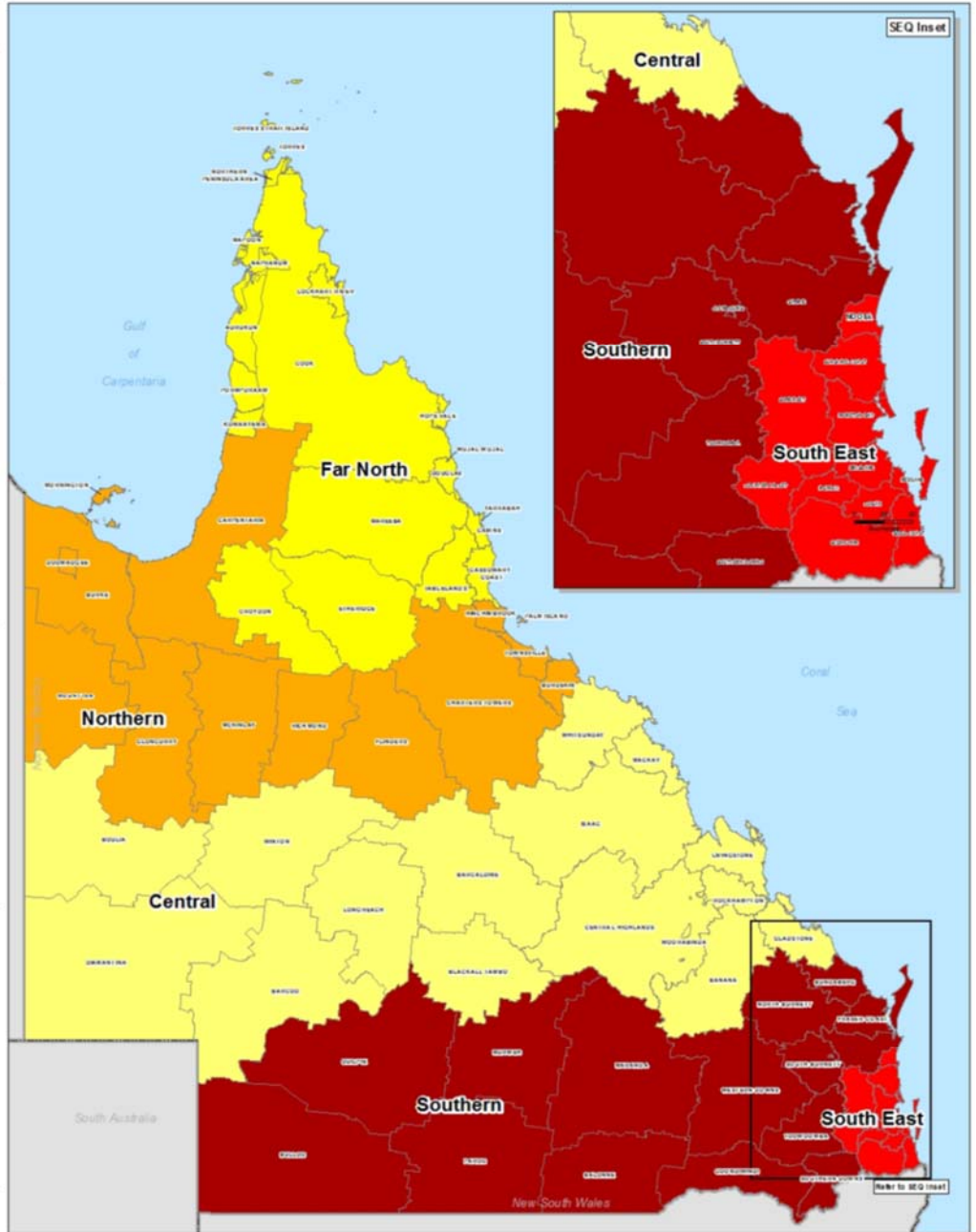


1 June - Jimboomba Times

Appendices

Appendix A: Local Government Areas by Region

Region	Local Government Areas (LGAs)	
Far North Queensland (FNQ)	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	
North Queensland (NQ)	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
	Central Queensland (CQ)	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	
Southern Queensland (SQ)	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	
South East Queensland (SEQ)	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	



Disclaimer:
This map has been prepared by the Dept of Queensland, Energy,
Water and Environmental Protection for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information provided on this map. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information provided on this map.

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

**Local Government Areas
and QldRA Reporting Regions**

Scale at A4: 1:6,700,000

Legend

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

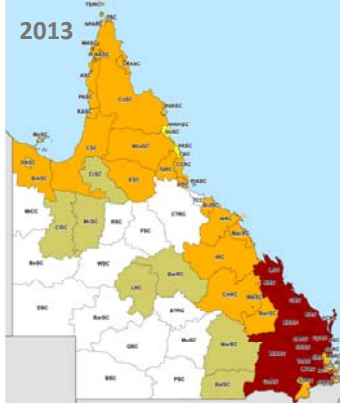
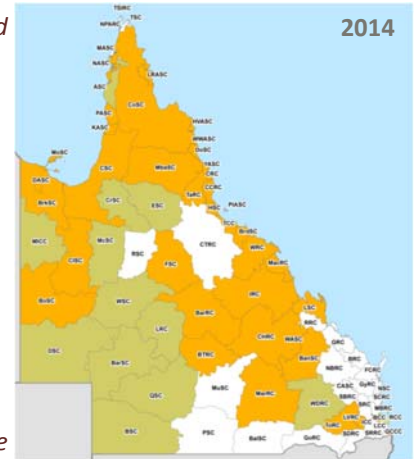
As at 5/02/2014

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

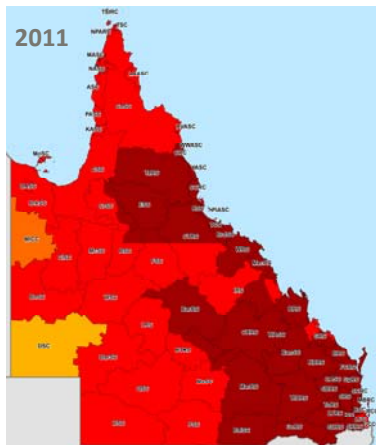
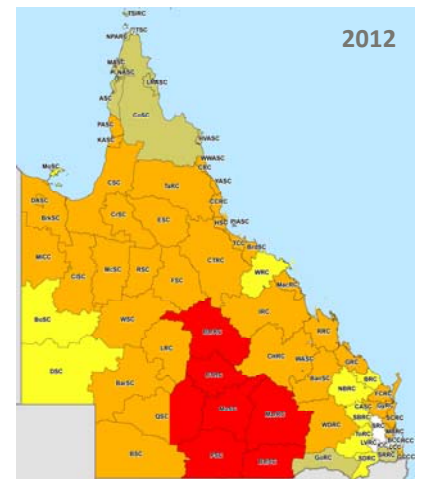
(Delivery and acquittal of works complete other than three projects that received extensions of time for delivery)

- 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[#]
- 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.

