

WHAT WE DO:

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

OUR VISION:

Make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia.

OUR PURPOSE:

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

Status of NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program

In August

QRA undertook a detailed review of the Delivery Program and has revised program values based on updated estimates of eligible costs. As a result, the value of Delivery Program has been revised from \$2.15B to \$2.49B.

The increases were principally in the 2020 event program, which were revised from initial, preliminary estimates.

	2018 Events	2019 Events	2020 Events
NUMBER OF EVENTS	6	12	5
\$2,489M Delivery Program	\$269M Program	\$1,547M Program	\$673M Program
\$885M Current Spend	\$255M Spend to date	\$560M Spend to date	\$70M Spend to date
Deadline for Delivery	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022
Time Elapsed	100%	50%	-%
% Completion	95% complete	39% complete	10% complete

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

NDRRA/DRFA Grants Program

Since establishment, QRA has administered a recovery and reconstruction program through the joint State-Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth more than \$16.4 billion.



Acquittal:

The state, through QRA, is up to date with the lodgement and acquittal of NDRRA/DRFA claims to the Commonwealth. The next claim, which will relate to the 2019-20 financial year is due for lodgement to the Commonwealth in March 2021.

Impact of COVID-19 on NDRRA/DRFA Programs

QRA is working closely with all councils and agencies with an active recovery program to assist manage emerging impacts of COVID-19. Some councils and agencies have experienced delays due to community lockdowns, loss of access to sites, supply chain issues and restrictions on consultants' and contractors' capacity to undertake works or prepare tenders.

QRA has received approval from the Commonwealth for extensions of time for delivery and approvals across the active program. These extensions are being managed by QRA on an individual project basis in order to minimise delays wherever possible. To date, 11 delivery agents have sought extensions for COVID-related impacts on their 2018 NDRRA program and 19 delivery agents for their 2019 DRFA programs.

Additional Recovery Measures

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

Central Queensland Bushfires (2018) - \$12.0M North & FNQ Monsoon Trough (2019) - \$242M

- Human & Social \$3.79M**
 - 3 Community Development Officers delivering program across 8 councils.
 - Mental Health program - 6 clinicians appointed across Rockhampton, Mackay and Wide Bay HHSs.
- Resilience \$8.25M**
 - \$1.5M Rural Residential Recovery program has commenced roll-out with \$1.2M paid to date.
 - \$5.19m Flexible Funding Grant approved across 78 projects.
 - Bushfire awareness campaign underway.

- Infrastructure \$124M**
 - \$116.6M allocated to 166 projects, to restore and improve the disaster resilience of flood damaged essential public, community and water assets.
- Economic \$34M**
 - 3 Industry Recovery Officers (IRO) and 3 Rural Financial Counsellors in operation.
 - 295 small business grants approved with payments to date of \$2.83M
 - Over 245 business owners accessed free mentoring under the Mentoring for Growth program.
 - 12 scholarships awarded for Event Management and Tourism Programs.
 - 41 Travel bursaries provided for delegates to attend the Destination Q Events Conference.
 - \$1.93M provided to councils and Rural Aid for fodder supply costs.
- Environment \$46M**
 - 80 projects worth \$30.02M have been contracted for Riparian Recovery.
 - 17 projects worth \$2.4M have been contracted for Coastal Recovery.
 - 22 weeds and pest management projects with a value of \$3.03M have been contracted.
 - A further 14 riparian projects have been recommended to a value of \$8.51M
 - \$100,000 Emergency Response Program for Parthenium Weed is being delivered through Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- Human & Social \$12.25M**
 - 9 Community Development Officers in place.
 - 16 Mental Health clinicians, social and health workers and one Child and Youth Mental Health service delivering services through Townsville, North West and Central West Hospital and Health Services (HHS).
- Resilience \$25.75M**
 - \$13.13M Flexible Funding Grants approved across 187 projects.
 - Townsville Flood Mapping project initiated.
- Monitoring & Evaluation \$500K**
 - The IRO program has been evaluated for the Coastal IROs.
 - Some significant data monitoring improvements have been observed. In particular, Health have developed a Disaster and Emergency Incident Relief and Recovery Application (referred to as the DEIRR app) which will enable tracking of all data including therapeutic outcomes for Cat C funded recovery processes of the Mental Health Program.

Queensland Bushfires (2019) - \$66.975M

Tourism Recovery package	\$6M
Marketing Campaign	\$1.5M
Tourism Recovery Officers (TROs)	\$500k
Tourism Recovery Fund for Local Government	\$3M
Walking Trail Restoration and Resilience	\$1M
Binna Burra Recovery Package	\$1.775M
Community Recovery Fund	\$14M
Mental Health and Wellbeing	\$4.7M
Community Development Officers (CDOs)	\$3M
Flexible Funding Grants	\$6M
Monitoring and Evaluation	\$300k
Bushfire Recovery Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package	\$8.4M
Local Economic Recovery Program	\$36.8M

On 13 August 2020, the State and Commonwealth announced opening of the \$36.8 million Local Economic Recovery Program jointly funded under DRFA Category D. The program aims to support projects that contribute to local and regional economic and social recovery in the 13 local government areas most severely impacted by the 2019 Queensland Bushfires. Local councils and state agencies have been asked to submit an expression of interest (EoI) by Monday 7 September 2020. Following the EoI stage, QRA will advise applicants of identified LER projects to progress to a detailed submission, and provide detailed submission forms to assist in preparing the submission.

RECOVERY

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

Event Specific Recovery Plans

QRA is currently coordinating 3 state event specific recovery plans:

Queensland Bushfires (2019)

The Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan was approved by the Premier of Queensland on 31 July 2020. The Recovery Plan addresses bushfires that occurred across the state during the period September to December 2019. Endorsed event specific local recovery plans from Gladstone, Lockyer Valley, Southern Downs, Noosa, Livingstone, Somerset, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba Regional Councils are included in the Queensland Bushfires Recovery Plan.

North & FNQ Monsoon Trough (2019)

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

Central Queensland Bushfires (2018)

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

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

8 Councils have endorsed their Queensland Bushfires event-specific recovery plans.

8 Councils have endorsed their COVID-19 event-specific recovery plans.

Recovery Projects and activities

COVID-19

QRA is working with 31 local governments across the state to develop COVID-19 local recovery plans. 26 local recovery plans are under development, and Aurukun Shire Council, Cairns Regional Council, City of Gold Coast, Gladstone Regional Council, Goondiwindi Regional Council, Logan City, Toowoomba Regional Council and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council have endorsed their local recovery plans.

QRA will continue to support local government with their recovery planning in relation to COVID-19, and is taking into consideration the concurrent natural disasters that many are also recovering from.

COVID-19 Regional Recovery Strategies

Extensive engagement undertaken by QRA, along with the Economic Functional Recovery Group industry and agency blueprints, informed Queensland’s Economic Recovery Plan, which was launched by the Treasurer on 20 August 2020.

QRA worked with Treasury and the Covid-19 Taskforce to produce seven Covid-19 Local Economic Regional Recovery Plans.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

BINNA BURRA BUSHFIRE GALLERY GRAND OPENING

A year to the day since the 2019 devastating bushfires swept across the Gold Coast hinterland, a new Bushfire Gallery has opened at Binna Burra.

The Binna Burra Bushfire Gallery hopes to enhance understanding and reflection of the September 2019 bushfire.

Although designed as a mobile facility, the Gallery will call the Binna Burra Barn home until the end of the year.

The Barn at Binna Burra is one of the only remaining heritage buildings on the historic site in Lamington National Park and still shows scars from the bushfires last year.

The Gallery provides access to a collection of images, remains and information relating to the unprecedented Australian bushfire season in 2019/2020 and its impact on Binna Burra Lodge.

It also celebrates the contributions of community volunteers and other groups in the response and recovery stages of the bushfire disaster, promoting public awareness of bushfire management and safety.

As rebuilding works continue at Binna Burra Lodge in 2021, the mobile Gallery will be moved to other locations either on Binna Burra land or at a suitable local community facility in the Scenic Rim.

By providing a link and resource for educational and research activities, the Binna Burra Bushfire Gallery is protecting the memories and experiences of the bushfire for generations to come.



Images: The historic Binna Burra Barn, home to the new Bushfire Gallery – September 2020

RESILIENCE

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

Resilience grant programs

National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) supports community groups, government and non-government agencies, as well as Queensland based not-for-profits, to build disaster resilience across the state. A total of **\$14.9 million** of funds was allocated to **76 approved projects** from **54 councils and 14 organisations and agencies** in the 2017-18 funding round. As at 1 August 2020, works were complete for 50 projects, a further 25 projects were in delivery and one project was yet to commence. Projects are due to be completed by 30 June 2021.

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

For 2018-19, **\$10.65 million** was allocated to **75 projects** to strengthen the resilience of Queensland communities, including funding under the **QDRF (\$9.5 million, 65 projects)** and State-Commonwealth funding under the **PCF (\$1.15 million, 10 projects)**. As at 1 August 2020, 18 QDRF projects were complete, 38 were in progress, and 9 were yet to commence. In addition, two PCF projects were complete, seven were in progress and one was yet to commence.

Queensland Risk Reduction and Resilience Fund

Queensland's commitments under the National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction are being delivered via the **\$13.1 million** Queensland Risk Reduction and Resilience Fund. The fund consists of **\$8.3 million** in State Government funds and **\$4.8 million** from the Australian government. Applications for grants under the fund closed on 22 July 2020 and are in the final stages of assessment.

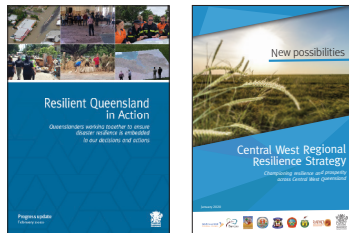
Resilience projects and activities

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

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

Central West Regional Resilience Strategy
Mary Regional Resilience Strategy
Fitzroy Regional Resilience Strategy.

- Procurement activities for the statewide rollout is currently underway. An options analysis to facilitate statewide rollout has been completed, along with a project plan. Delivery on the next phase of the project is to commence September 2020.



Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes

Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes *launched 9 April 2019*

Cyclone Resilient Guidance for Queensland Homes *released 17 December 2019*

Storm Tide Resilient Guides for Queensland Homes *released 17 December 2019*

Bushfire Building Guideline for Queensland homes *due for imminent release.*



Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP)

- QRA has oversight of 52 SFMP actions including 34 for State government, of which QRA is responsible for 12.
- One of QRA's actions is to produce a Flood Communication Kit which provides a comprehensive suite of flood messaging that councils and relevant state agencies can use in their social media and other flood communication messaging to improve community awareness and resilience to floods for all Queenslanders. The Toolkit is planned for release by October 2020.

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

- The \$1 million Burdekin and Haughton Catchment Resilience Strategy Project** will develop locally-led and regionally-coordinated resilience solutions to address recent and emerging disaster risks for councils in the catchment area including Townsville City Council. This project is currently underway and due for completion by April 2021.
- The **\$8M Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project** has paid all 28 impacted councils an initial 30% funding entitlement. The project has engaged a specialist vendor to create a guideline that will assist council project managers in the delivery of their assets. Each Area of Operation (AO) will appoint a project manager to oversee delivery of works for all councils within the AO. AO3 (Townsville and Surrounds) has already appointed a project manager who will operate from Townsville. AO2 will soon appoint a project manager, and AO1 and AO4 will merge and appoint a project manager. Consultation continues with the Bureau of Meteorology, Department of Transport & Main Roads, and Queensland Rail for the purposes of data sharing.

- Townsville Recalibrated Flood Modelling and Mapping Project** - supporting Townsville City Council to update and recalibrate flood modelling and mapping across the council area including the Ross River. This project is underway.

Resilience projects and activities

CSIRO Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach (RAPTA)

- QRA has worked with CSIRO to develop a tailored version of their **Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach (RAPTA)** for Queensland to support resilience building activities.
- Draft reports have been received by QRA for final endorsement. Given the complexity of some of the materials, QRA intends to publish a summary document to introduce the materials when they are made available on the QRA website. This summary document is under review prior to release.
- QRA and CSIRO will host a webinar with state agencies on 24 September 2020, to outline and discuss the findings of the completed work.

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (RCNDA)

- On 31 August 2020, the **RCNDA interim observations were published**, and on 1 September, the **RCNDA issued 165 draft propositions, outlining likely recommendations of the RCNDA**, and sought Queensland government advice of proposition support. QRA is supporting a whole of government response.
- QRA also continues to contribute to the state's Notices to Give Information issued by the RCNDA, most recently received on 25 August 2020.

National Bushfire Recovery Plan

- Council of Australian Governments (COAG) **tasked the NBRA to work with states, territories, local governments** and other stakeholders to develop a National Bushfire Recovery Plan.
- NBRA has had challenges developing the plan, and in late June **provided QRA and selected other jurisdictions with two drafts for review and input**.

- **NBRA has provided an updated draft plan** for jurisdictional feedback, prior to finalisation.
- **QRA is consulting with key state agency stakeholders** to inform our feedback, which is due by 4 September 2020.

Reform of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

- On 13 March 2020, **COAG tasked Emergency Management Australia (EMA) to lead a review of the DRFA** in consultation with States and Territories.
- Following stakeholder consultation, EMA identified the following key areas for review:
 - – **national comparison** of state and territory DRFA assistance measures;
 - – **streamlining the Category C activation process**; and reviewing the assurance arrangements for the DRFA.
- QRA is leading reform negotiations on behalf of Queensland Government agencies, and **established a multi-agency DRFA Community Recovery reforms project board** to ensure agency input is captured.
- Progress on each of the reform measures include:
 - – **National comparison** of state and territory DRFA assistance measures - On 24 August, Minister Littleproud wrote to State Emergency Management Ministers to advise that the Commonwealth will seek to achieve consistency in recovery measures available between states. QRA has received the draft final COAG review: national comparison of DRFA assistance, which is due for Australia New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) consideration on 8 September.

- – **Update Category C activation process** - EMA has circulated an updated Category C activation process, supported by QRA, which removes the need for states to meet the strict criteria previously applied. Minister Littleproud has advised that the new Category C activation process will be in place for the 2020-21 disaster season, following ANZEMC consideration on 8 September.
- – **Review of assurance arrangements for the DRFA** - EMA has advised that consultation will recommence with states following the ANZEMC meeting on 8 September.

Get Ready Queensland (GRQ)

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

- **New council funding round launched** - QRA is currently assessing GRQ funding submissions for 2020-21 and is scheduled to notify councils of their approved plan of activities in early September 2020. The funding guidelines have been updated this year to enable councils to pool their funding for shared initiatives. The funding is to be directed towards preparedness and prevention activities for natural hazards and pandemic.
- **GRQ advertising campaign for 2020-21** – production of the new state-wide advertising campaign is underway, which will once again include GRQ's Ambassador Jonathan Thurston and run for approximately six weeks from early October 2020. Advertising channels will include television, Coles radio, social media and electronic billboards.

- Preparations are also underway for a shared media announcement with the Bureau of Metrology to inform communities about this season's weather outlook and the commencement of Get Ready Week on Monday 12 October.
- **Corporate sponsorship** – QRA has entered into a two-year sponsorship agreement with Suncorp which will provide the GRQ program with additional funding to extend its advertising reach across the state, particularly through television.
- **Resilient Australia Awards (Queensland)** – award nominations closed on 16 June and judging took place in mid-July 2020. GRQ will host a virtual award ceremony to be held during Get Ready Week in October 2020. Queensland winners will be recognised in the national awards across six categories including community, schools, business, local government, state/federal government and photography.
- **Stakeholder engagement** – GRQ is holding virtual meetings with councils to brief GRQ representatives on preparations ahead of Get Ready Week in October 2020. Agency briefing sessions are also being held to coordinate preparedness messaging for this disaster season.
- **GRQ Market Research** – state-wide market research was undertaken in July 2020 to understand levels of community preparedness across Queensland regions. Community attitudes captured in the market research are being used to inform key messages for the 2020-21 awareness campaign. Council and agency stakeholders will be briefed on the results of the market survey in September to consider in their local strategies.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

GLADSTONE–MONTO FLOODWAY REPAIRS REACH KEY MILESTONE

Works to repair nine floodways along Gladstone–Monto Road are progressing well, with base slabs now installed at all sites.

The road initially suffered flood damage caused by significant rainfall associated with Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March 2017, then was further damaged by the Central Coast Severe Weather disaster event in October 2017.

Gladstone–Monto Road, which runs from Monto to Calliope, is a key transport link for the Boyne Valley community and is also an important heavy vehicle route servicing the local resources sector.

Following detailed design and environmental approvals to allow works to be carried out in the waterway, Transport and Main Roads (TMR) started reconstruction works in April 2020 to replace the concrete floodways, implement rock batter protection and realign road approaches.

In addition, the capacity of the floodways is being upgraded to meet the legislative requirements of an improved waterway fish passage, which promotes a healthy ecosystem. This increase in culvert size will also provide a secondary benefit of facilitating increased flows during flood events.

By early July 2020, existing floodways had been demolished where required, side tracks built to enable continued access and other site preparation works completed. By the end of July 2020, base slabs had been constructed at all nine floodway sites and box culverts installed at seven sites.

Works are continuing to install remaining box culverts and will involve embankment and pavement works, rock stabilisation, road sealing and landscaping.

In conjunction with the reconstruction works, TMR is undertaking complementary works to enhance the resilience of this route, which has suffered recurring damage from several major disaster events that have impacted the area since 2011. This includes constructing foamed bitumen pavement on the floodway approaches and widening all nine floodways, with some floodways also to be lengthened. Additional rock protection will be implemented at some floodways and protective treatments included on some approaches.

Due to the delivery impacts of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, an extension of time has been granted to complete this project. Reconstruction works are expected to be completed in late 2020.

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



Image: Photo: Gladstone–Monto Road – preparation for pouring wingwalls and aprons



Image: Gladstone–Monto Road – earthworks



Image: Gladstone–Monto Road – road excavation on south side