



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:




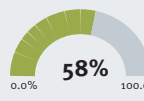
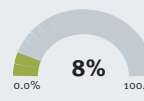




Enable recovery and build resilience to disaster events within our communities.

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.

Status of NDRRA/DRFA Delivery Program

	2018 Events	2019 Events	2020 Events
NUMBER OF EVENTS	6	12	6
\$2,489M Delivery Program	\$269M Program	\$1,547M Program	\$673M Program
\$1,157M Current Spend	\$261M Spend to date	\$727M Spend to date	\$169M Spend to date
Deadline for Delivery	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022
 Time Elapsed	 100% Remainder being delivered under EOTs	 58%	 8%
 % Completion	 97% complete	 47% complete	 25% complete

In November

The first disaster event for the 2020–21 year was activated for DRFA measures for the hail storm centered on Springfield in South East Queensland:

“Communities in Southern Queensland affected by hailstorms, 31 October 2020”

The focus in the disaster assistance grants program in November has been to progress approval of submissions for the inclusion in Queensland’s next DRFA claim to the Commonwealth. QRA is aiming to have the majority of submissions approved by 31 December 2020 to facilitate the audit process in Q1 2021 and finalisation of the claim by the due date for lodgement of 31 March 2021.

Acquittal:

The state, through QRA, is up to date with the acquittal of NDRRA/DRFA claims to the Commonwealth. The next claim is due for lodgement to the Commonwealth in March 2021 and will acquit approximately \$1.2 billion of DRFA expenditure for the 2019-20 financial year.

<p>Works for 23 events from 2018 2019 2020 disaster seasons</p>	<p>are currently in delivery with an estimated value in excess of \$2.49B</p>
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Impact of COVID-19 on NDRRA/DRFA Programs

QRA had approval from the Commonwealth to grant extensions of time for the delivery and approvals across the active program for delays due to COVID-19 impacts including community lock downs loss of access to sites, supply chain issues and restrictions on consultants’ and contractors’ capacity to undertake works or prepare tenders. These extensions are being managed by QRA on an individual project basis in order to minimise delays wherever possible.

To date, 25 delivery agents have sought extensions for COVID-related impacts on their 2018 NDRRA program and 19 delivery agents for their 2019 DRFA programs.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

CLONCURRY SHIRE COUNCIL – BETTERMENT – SEDAN DIP ROAD

Sedan Dip Road in Cloncurry Shire in remote north western Queensland has been rebuilt better than ever after it was damaged by the monsoon and floods in February 2019.

The road works received \$9.4 million in Betterment funding under the joint Commonwealth and Queensland Governments Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Sedan Dip Road provides essential access for livestock from major pastoral operations across two shires.

This betterment funding has allowed Cloncurry Shire Council to increase the longevity of the road, giving primary producers the ability to move to and from their properties as needed.

The Betterment upgrade works will also see the remote communities of Cloncurry and McKinlay safer next time a disaster hits by ensuring access to vital services are maintained in a crisis.

The Monsoon Trough event in 2019 resulted in a loss of gravel, major washouts, and covered multiple sections of the road in large amounts of silt and debris, cutting the road off for an extended period of time.

Cloncurry Shire Council used the betterment funding to stabilise and seal the road, improving its resilience in wet conditions and shortening the duration of road closures following a weather event.

Cloncurry Shire Council Mayor Gregory Campbell said the outcome achieved for the community and the broader beef industry was tremendous.

“The Betterment Funding created construction jobs as well as improving the safety and efficiency of The Sedan Dip Road many times over.” Mayor Campbell said.

“Roads and communication are two critical components in a successful business and become even more so in a disaster. I commend the QRA on their professional conduct in handling our disaster recovery and thank the State and Federal governments for their ongoing support of the region.”

The Sedan Dip Road Betterment works were delivered through the \$242 million extraordinary assistance package funded by Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Image (L): Sedan Dip Road prior to Betterment (R) Betterment works complete – November 2020.



Image: Cloncurry Shire Council staff including Mayor Greg Campbell join QRA’s Jo Killick at the grand opening of Sedan Dip Road.

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 three state event specific recovery plans that underpin the Government’s commitment to helping communities recover, rebuild and reconnect from the following major weather events of recent years:

- **Queensland Bushfires (2019)**
- **North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough (2019)**
- **Central Queensland Bushfires (2018)**

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.

Recovery Planning and Governance Project

The Recovery Planning and Governance project is continuing to be rolled out across the state. In November, Recovery Sub-plan Development meetings were completed with Bundaberg, Cairns, Gympie, Palm Island and Woorabinda Local Governments. The project has resulted in the endorsement of 13 recovery sub-plans by local government (of which seven were assisted by QRA) and 16 local recovery sub-plans are currently in development.

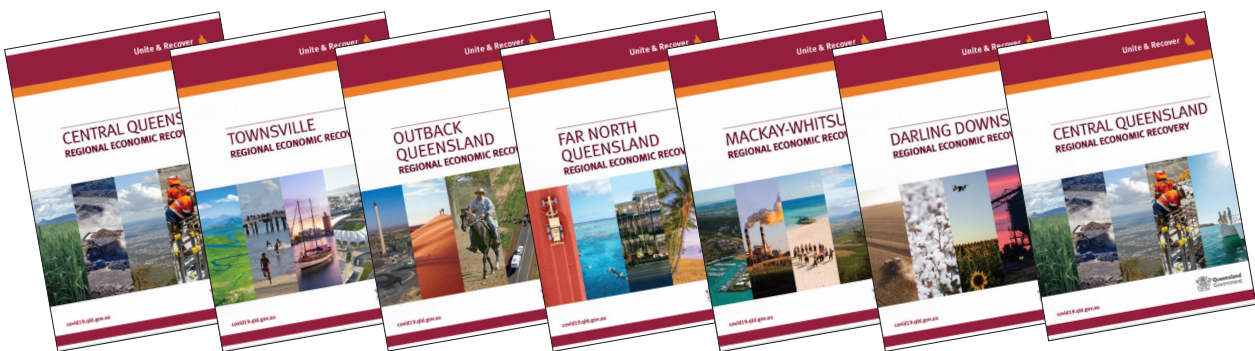
55 Council Recover sub-plans are underway or endorsed.

COVID-19 Local Recovery Plans

QRA is working with 28 local governments across the state to develop COVID-19 local recovery plans.

- 17 local recovery plans have been completed and endorsed by Aurukun, Barcaldine, Cairns, City of Gold Coast, Gladstone, Goondiwindi, Hinchinbrook, Isaac, Livingstone, Logan City, Maranoa, Moreton Bay, Noosa, Somerset, Toowoomba, Whitsunday and Yarrabah councils.
- 11 local recovery plans are under development.

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.



RESILIENCE

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

Resilience grant programs



National Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

The final round of the joint State-Commonwealth NDRP program allocated \$14.9 million to 76 approved projects from 54 councils and 14 organisations and agencies in 2017-18. The program aims to build disaster resilience across the State. As at 31 October 2020, 55 projects were complete and the remaining 21 projects are due to be delivered 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 under the State-funded QDRF (\$9.5M, 65 projects) and the joint State-Commonwealth funded PCF (\$1.15M, 10 projects). As at 31 October 2020, 28 projects were complete, 44 were in progress, two were yet to commence and one project has been withdrawn.

Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF)

Queensland’s commitments under the National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction are being delivered via the \$13.1 million QRRRF. The fund consists of \$8.3 million in State Government funds and \$4.8 million from the Australian government.

The first round of the QRRRF allocated funds to 67 projects across 13 recipients in 2019-20. A list and interactive map of the successful projects is available on the QRA website.

The 2020-21 QRRRF funding round is expected to open for applications in February/March 2021 with \$19.1 million of funding from the Queensland and Australian Governments available for allocation.

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**
- Phase 2 of the statewide rollout of regional resilience strategies commenced early October 2020 and the project team is on track to visit stakeholders in all state regions by end of 2020.



Resilience projects and activities



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 actions.
- Work progresses on multiple actions and deliverables, many forecasting completion by early 2021.
- A desktop flood preparedness exercise was successfully conducted on 19 November 2020, involving 30 participants representing four LGAs, two disaster districts, the Bureau of Meteorology and Seqwater. A post exercise report is being finalised including actions and recommendations for follow up.
- QRA and the Brisbane River catchment councils have collaboratively produced a *'Regional Guideline for Flood Awareness Mapping and Communication'* document which addresses action CAR2.3 of the SFMP. Final publication is expected in December 2020.
- The QRA project team is finalising the *'Framework for the economic assessment of flood management projects'* which will address action FM7 of the SFMP with publication expected in January 2021.
- The QRA project team is now drafting final reports for the *'Cumulative Impact Assessment'* which addresses action LU1 of the SFMP. The report is expected to be finalised in February 2021.

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 \$8 million Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project has seen the appointment of project managers for the North West and Far North areas of operation.
- The 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, is underway.



Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (RCNDA)

- The Royal Commission's final report and recommendations were released in late October 2020. The report contains 80 recommendations across 20 themes focusing on improvements to national preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery arrangements, including clarification of roles and responsibilities of all levels of government, warning systems and community education, and improvements to firefighting capabilities and resource sharing.
- QRA is contributing to a whole-of-government response to the report's recommendations.

Review of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

- Emergency Management Australia (EMA) is leading a review of the DRFA in consultation with States and Territories across the following key areas:
 - National comparison of state and territory DRFA assistance measures;**
 - Streamlining the Category C activation process; and**
 - Reviewing the assurance arrangements for the DRFA.**
- Key progress on each of the reform measures include:
 - **National comparison of state and territory DRFA assistance measures** - The Commonwealth is pursuing increasing consistency in recovery measures available between states.
 - **Streamlined Category C activation process** - An updated Category C activation process, which removes the need for states to meet the strict criteria previously applied, will be in place for the 2020-21 disaster season. Jurisdictions are also working on 'off-the-shelf' Category C packages to enable fast and efficient delivery of recovery measures.
 - **Review of assurance arrangements for the DRFA** - QRA is continuing to participate in the review of assurance arrangements.

GET READY QUEENSLAND (GRQ)

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

Get Ready Queensland Schools Competition

On 3 December 2020, the Get Ready Queensland Team, Ambassador Johnathan Thurston, and Sunshine Coast Regional Council visited Peregrin Springs State School, the winners of the 2020 Get Ready Queensland Schools Competition. The winning students of Class 4D earned their school a special visit from program Ambassador and Rugby League legend Johnathan Thurston.

The visit included a presentation on disaster preparedness and local risks before the students moved to the oval for a game of Get Ready Queensland's giant Snakes and Ladders and footy with JT.

The visit attracted media coverage from Channels Seven and Nine (WIN) during the evening news bulletins and helped raise the profile of Get Ready Queensland and the Schools Competition initiative.

The 2020 Get Ready Queensland Schools competition received nearly 100 entries from 31 Queensland Local Government areas, with participation from over 1,500 students.



Image: Grade Four students from Peregrin Springs State enjoyed a visit from Get Ready Queensland Ambassador Johnathan Thurston as the winners of the 2020 Get Ready Queensland Schools Competition.



Images: (L) The morning was wrapped up with games on the oval including Get Ready Queensland's Giant Snakes and Ladders game.

(R) Students were highly engaged during a presentation from The Get Ready Queensland team, Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Johnathan Thurston about local risks and the importance of being prepared.



Image: Get Ready Queensland Ambassador Johnathan Thurston enjoys the day with winners of the 2020 Get Ready Queensland Schools Competition.

Carpentaria Shire Council visit

As part of Get Ready Queensland's commitment to support regional councils with limited program funding, the Get Ready Queensland team visited Karumba this month for Carpentaria Shire Council's community event.

The Get Ready Queensland team joined Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service, Council, and community groups to speak to locals about their local risk and experience with disasters.

The team set-up an interactive marquee which challenged children to make decisions about what to include and leave out of their emergency kit and evacuation kit. The marquee was an effective tool for helping children put their knowledge to the test and start a conversation with their parents/carers about their experience with disasters in the local area.

Council reported the event was attended by approximately 100 people, one of the best attendance rates council has received in the Karumba community.

Survey to councils

Queensland councils have been invited to provide their feedback on the Get Ready Queensland Program through an online survey.

The survey asks councils to reflect on the effectiveness of the program in their community, communication about the program by QRA, state-wide resources, the Get Ready Queensland website, the MARS Portal, acquittal process, and areas of improvement for the program.

Feedback from the survey will be used to plan priorities for the 2021-22 funding round. The survey closes 18 December and findings will be analysed in early 2021.

The Get Ready 2020 State-wide advertising Campaign (12 October to 15 November 2020)

The annual Get Ready Queensland advertising campaign finished in November 2020 and market research is currently being undertaken across the state to determine the effectiveness of the campaign.

The focus of this year's campaign was to promote three key steps to get ready and to encourage community members to play their part to take pressure off our frontline services. Advertising channels included television, Coles radio, social media and electronic retail panels.

The market research will inform whether the campaign creative will be used again in 2021-22.



Image: The Get Ready Queensland team set up an interactive marquee which challenged children to decide which items to include and leave out of their emergency and evacuation kits.