

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.

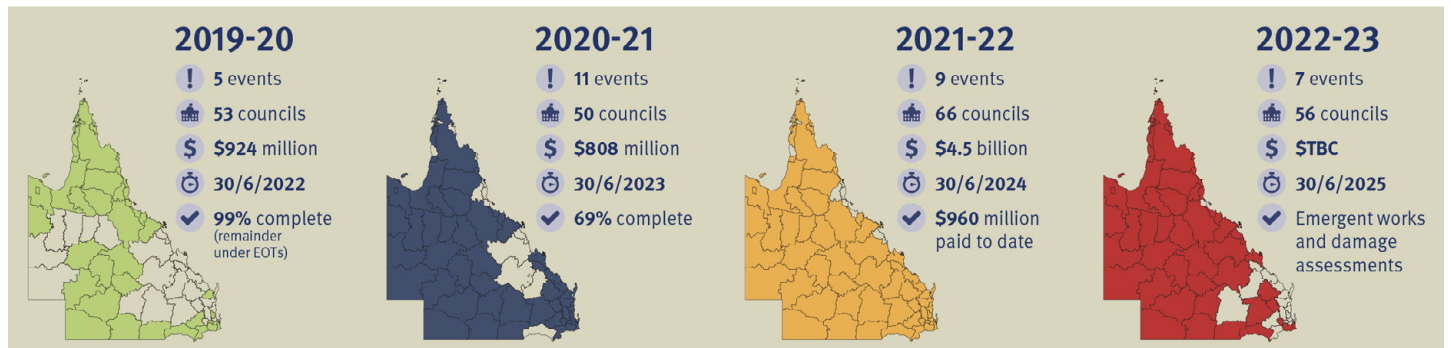
DISASTER ASSISTANCE

DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE GRANTS PROGRAM

QRA is currently administering a recovery and reconstruction program under the joint Commonwealth State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) worth in excess of \$6.2 billion arising from 32 events from the 2019-20 to 2022-23 disaster seasons in the delivery and/or acquittal phase.

CURRENT STATEWIDE PROGRAM

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



IN THE MARCH QUARTER

Once again, the first quarter of 2023 has seen Queensland affected by natural disasters, with both bushfires and severe flooding impacting the West and North of the state. By quarter’s end, 56 of the state’s 77 local government areas have been activated for disaster assistance across the 2023 disaster season and 76 LGAs have an active recovery program in delivery.

QRA has been on the ground supporting councils and communities with the long process towards recovery. This support has included the activation of disaster assistance, coordination of recovery efforts by state agencies and the development and lodgement of extraordinary disaster assistance package requests to ensure impacted communities get the support they need to recover.

During the quarter, QRA also continued to deliver on its core functions, including finalising the audit and lodgement of the State’s annual DRFA claim to the Commonwealth on 23 March 2023. This is an important annual milestone and, once accepted by the Commonwealth, will secure close to \$700 million revenue for the State.

QRA also took other steps towards improving the state’s resilience to natural disasters in March with the coordination and lodgement of more than 150 applications for a share of the Australian Government’s national \$200 million 2023-24 Round One of the Disaster Ready Fund.

RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY

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

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

QRA is pleased to outline some of the key activities and progress that has occurred during this quarter.

RECOVERY

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

Across the state it is evident Councils are recovering from cumulative and compounding events, along with many who are already dealing with other longer-term stresses like drought and COVID-19. The Queensland Recovery Plan is driving a collaborative approach across functions of recovery, all levels of government and the whole community to ensure recovery operations are appropriate to the scale of the disaster event.

THE 2022-23 DISASTER SEASON UPDATE

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Activations (DRFA)

The start of the new year saw activation of Queensland's fifth and sixth event, and activation of Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance for a total of 45 LGAs being activated for various disaster assistance.

WESTERN DOWNS BUSHFIRES

Rural communities in the Western Downs region were severely affected by bushfire activity occurring between 30 January – February 2023. DRFA assistance measures were activated, including CDO, REPA, Essential Services, Safety and Reconnection Scheme (ESSR), and Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS). As at end of February 2023, more than 290 applications had been received for financial support.

QRA Recovery provided in-person recovery planning and reporting support to the Western Downs Regional Council Local Recovery Group in Dalby. While an event-specific local recovery plan was not developed, QRA's Recovery team continues to work remotely with the Local Government recovery group as it supports community recovery on the ground with personal hardship payments and support.

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL QUEENSLAND MONSOON AND FLOODING, 20 DECEMBER 2022 – MARCH 2023

Severe, continuous rainfall starting in December 2022 and continuing into 2023 has caused significant long-term flooding and isolation for many councils in North West Queensland. Among the 45 councils that have been activated for the disaster event, Burke Shire Council, Boulia Shire Council, Carpentaria Shire Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council, and Mount Isa City have been most heavily impacted and have needed immediate support.

Communities have experienced both direct impacts from the event, as well as indirect impacts as a result of extended and multiple periods of physical isolation due

to flood water impacting road and air access; with most roads closed resulting in no public access to the area, and numerous airfields and airports unavailable for long periods, impacting critical resupply.

Remote primary producer properties have experienced long-term isolation (some since December 2022), meaning significant income loss as well as direct impacts from flooding such as significant stock losses, critical infrastructure, and fencing damage. A number of key roadhouses and accommodation providers on access roads to these council areas have also been directly impacted, and the lengthy repair timeframes and potential loss of trade will cause significant impacts.



Aerial view of flood-impacted road access in Burke Shire Council

Burketown and Doomadgee were isolated from the rainfall events in early March, with both townships isolated by road for weeks in March and early April. At the Albert River flooding peak on the weekend of 11/12 March, the residents of Burketown and vulnerable residents of Doomadgee were evacuated by rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft to accommodation in Mt Isa, and supported by Community Recovery staff deployed to establish a Recovery Hub in the city.

The town of Camooweal in the Mt Isa City Council area was isolated for some time due to the Barkley Highway being cut by flood waters. The community of Kajabbi in Cloncurry Shire was also isolated due to floodwaters.

In Boulia Shire Council, the community of Urandangi was significantly impacted by floodwater and long-term isolation, with residents needing to be evacuated during the flood level peak. QRA officers have been working with council to ensure the recovery process is as timely and efficient as possible. Other affected councils were also contacted to determine how they were dealing with the flood recovery situation and were offered support.

Department of Transport and Main Roads and impacts Local Governments have undertaken a range of emergency road works in the region to enable access for response and recovery personnel, and other agencies are reporting significant environmental impacts including riverine damage, weed and pest dispersal impacts, coastal pollution impacts,

QRA Resilience and Recovery Officers were deployed to Mount Isa to assist the District Disaster Management Group with preparing the transition to recovery, and were able to meet with Burke Shire Council Deputy Mayor, Director of Community & Communications, and their Local Recovery Coordinator over a number of days to initiate their disaster recovery process. A Resilience and Recovery Officer then travelled to Burketown for three days in late March to assist council with the development of a local event-specific recovery plan. Recovery staff continue to assist impacted Local Governments in the region, as well as liaising and coordinating immediate and longer-term recovery activities with State agencies under their Functional Recovery Groups.

QRA representatives attended meetings with Carpentaria Shire Council Mayor in late March to discuss impacts to their local government area and possible recovery needs. Council reported psychological impacts to community members due to extended isolation and no access to community, loss of income and jobs due to accumulative effects of the previous North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough event in 2019, the impacts of COVID-19 community isolation and associated impacts, and now the Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding event.

The tourism and small business sectors have reported impacts on business owners, exacerbated due to the accumulative effects of multiple events since 2019.

Regional Liaison Officers are now on site in the region to support councils with Counter Disaster Operations and Restoration of Essential Public Assets.

In the first week of April, QRA CEO Jake Ellwood and the Queensland Deputy Premier the Hon. Steven Miles, supported by QRA Recovery and Liaison staff visited Doomadgee and Burketown, to hear first-hand from councils their experiences during the flood event and how the recovery process is progressing.

Some recovery priorities already identified by NW regional councils include:

- Repair and betterment of road infrastructure
- Human and social support for affected residents, business owners and rural landholders
- Support for the recovery of the heavily-impacted tourism sector, and broader support for economic recovery for small businesses and primary producers
- Enhancements to telecommunications, identified as deficient during the disaster event
- Restocking of grazing herds and rural property reparation.

To date, with seven LGAs severely impacted, resulting in the immediate development of extraordinary recovery program under Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). The suite of exceptional assistance will target the significant and emerging issues being seen across heavily impacted LGAs including Boulia, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Mornington and Mount Isa.

To date, a \$12 million Category D package has been approved including Extraordinary Disaster Recovery Grants for primary Producers, Small Business and Non-Government Organisations, and a Coordinated Livestock Support and Disposal Package aimed to assist with extraordinary costs of undertaking Livestock Welfare activities.

Additional DRFA Category C & D packages are awaiting State and Commonwealth approval, and a third package of medium to long term recovery support is currently under development.



QRA staff inspecting road damage in Burke Shire Council



QRA CEO Jake Elwood meeting with council staff

Other 2022/2023 season events have included:

- Southern Queensland Severe Weather, 18 October – 23 November 2022
- Southern Queensland East Coast Low, 20-23 July 2022
- South West Queensland Trough and Flooding, 7-15 September 2022
- South East Queensland Severe Storms, 22-23 September 2022

Damage Assessment Reconstruction Monitoring (DARM) update

FOLLOW-UP DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS PROVIDE SNAPSHOT OF SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND FLOOD RECOVERY

QRA, assisted by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE), Australian Red Cross (ACR), Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), have undertaken three DARM operations across 17 local government areas since the flooding (at 3-months, 6-months, and 12-months post-event), to monitor the progress of reconstruction and recovery.

Over three weeks in February, QRA officers, supported by officers from NEMA, QFES, DRA and DCHDE, visited more than 3,600 homes, across 15 local government areas, that were affected in the 2022 South East Queensland flood to monitor recovery progress. The operation collected information on structural damage, insurance matters, and referred any urgent community recovery matters to DCHDE.

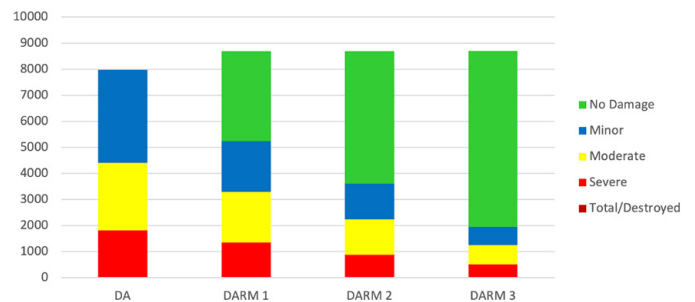


QRA staff undertaking the damage assessment operation 12 months following the South East Queensland flooding events in 2021-22

Of the 8,698 homes and businesses damaged following the severe flooding in early 2022, 6,744 are no longer damaged (78%). However, 1,954 properties remain damaged with 944 deemed uninhabitable. Of the 1,954 properties that still remain damaged, 739 have had work commenced.

Associated data and maps on the latest DARM operation have been disseminated to impacted local governments and associated state agencies to assist in understanding the progress or reconstruction and recovery, and to assist in identifying those in the community who may require continuing or additional support.

South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 22 February - 5 March 2022
DARM Rate of Recovery

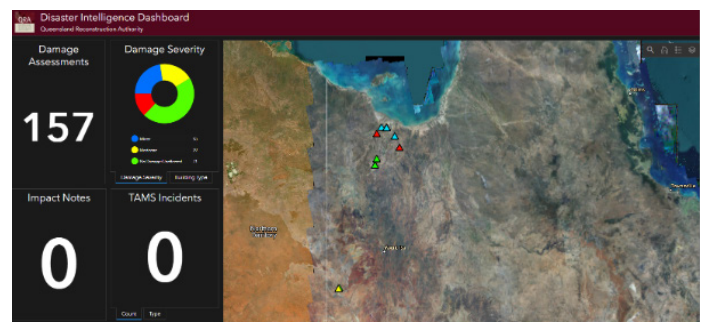


Graph showing the damage assessed during the three DARM operations since the flooding (at 3-months, 6-months, and 12-months post-event)

DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS IN THE WESTERN DOWNS BUSHFIRE IMPACTED AREAS AND FLOODED AREAS OF NW QUEENSLAND

QFES undertook Rapid Damage Assessments of properties, homes, structures and community infrastructure in the directly impacted areas of the Western Downs Regional Council following the bushfires in that region. At the end of February, almost 120 damage assessments have been undertaken in that area.

Following the lowering of flood levels in the impacted areas of North West Queensland, QFES staff have been able to undertake initial or Rapid Damage Assessments of properties, homes, structures and community infrastructure in the most-impacted Local Government Areas. At the end of March, more than 150 damage assessments have been undertaken in Burke and Boulia Shire Council areas, providing critical and timely information of any impacted properties to assist response and recovery agencies with their activities.



Damage assessment information from recent flooding in North West Queensland available internally to disaster management and recovery agencies via the QDMA 'Share' portal and QRA's Disaster Intelligence dashboard

Engagement with Local Governments, other stakeholders, and the community

QRA Resilience and Recovery Officers have been busy responding to the activated events in February and March (and continuing), with most non-urgent engagement with stakeholders rescheduled for later this year.

Prior to the Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding event, QRA officers participated in a workshop for the newly established Community Recovery Community of Practice for the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE). The workshop was facilitated by a number of that department's Community Recovery and Resilience Officers (CRRO), and the focus is to support effective community-led initiatives, facilitate linkages, collaboration, and partnerships between stakeholders. QRA intends to continue attending and supporting the Community Recovery Community of Practice, give the benefits it will provide to the delivery of DCHDE's recovery programs.

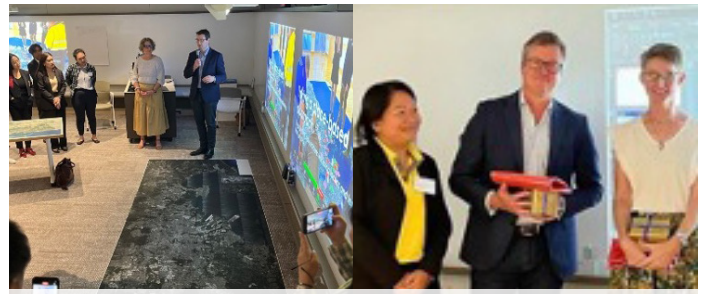
Local government engagement in February and early March included visits to Mt Isa, Boulia, Diamantina, Barcoo, Winton, and Longreach local government areas to discuss disaster impacts, damage, and recovery progress as a result of the early weather events associated with the Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding event that occurred in late December, early January and February.

The team also met with Mackay, Whitsunday, Isaac, Western Downs, Balonne, Goondiwindi and Southern Downs to discuss Regional Resilience Strategies and Regional Action Plans. Discussions included what support, if any, council may require with the implementation of any actions or projects outlined in the strategies.

Officers continue to undertake Disaster Funding Arrangements (DFA) training where applicable and provide support to councils on the status of their 2022-23 Get Ready Queensland activities.

QRA officers assisted councils to prepare submissions for the first round of the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF), which is a flagship disaster resilience and risk reduction initiative, committing \$1billion over five years, from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028.

In early February the Resilience and Recovery division was invited to speak to a visiting delegation of academic and senior government officials from Thailand as part of the Mekong – Australia Partnership Short Term Awards – Thailand: Responding to the Climate Change Challenge. Two QRA Directors met with and presented to the delegation about the QRA's resilience and recovery programs, and particularly about Queensland's flood risk management framework. The delegation is supported by DFAT and the University of Queensland.



QRA Recovery staff participating in presentations and workshops with academic and senior government officials from Thailand as part of the Mekong – Australia Partnership Short Term Awards

Recovery Officers attended an event organised by Australian Red Cross and hosted by South Burnett Regional Council, where psychologist David Younger gave a presentation and lessons learned on the Psychological Impacts of Disaster Events on Communities. North Burnett Regional Council welcomed representatives from QRA, NEMA, QRIDA, Queensland Health, counsellor Danita Potter and many other local council members and community leaders, all who were impressed with the information provided. A major insight shared was the importance of context, with communities facing multiple challenges including the aftermath of COVID-19, the Queensland rental crisis and increased homelessness, the increased cost of living on top of the impacts of a natural disaster.

Redlands City Council staff recently visited the QRA offices in Brisbane to discuss their local government recovery planning and resilience activities.



QRA Recovery staff attending a workshop session with South Burnett Regional Council, meeting with stakeholders from Redlands City Council, and travelling to meet with councils across north-west Queensland in January

State Recovery Coordinator

The State Recovery Coordinator (SRC) Register assists in informing the appointment by the Premier of SRCs to coordinate recovery operations following a disaster and is updated annually.

After consultation with external stakeholders, this SRC register of nominated individuals has now been updated for the 2022-23 and the future 2023-24 Disaster Season.

In January the Queensland Police Service (QPS) reached out seeking QRA's involvement in a familiarisation session for the QFES/QPS support which is provided to a SRC following an event – known as the deputy SRC. The session involved senior QPS and QFES emergency services staff who have been nominated to be support staff to an SRC. QRA briefed the group on the SRC's role and responsibilities, and have agreed to continue to regularly brief nominees to ensure they are prepared to support any major event.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Disaster Recovery Programs

QRA has recently completed a significant package of fifteen evaluations of recovery programs which supported the recovery from the Central Queensland Bushfires in 2018, the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough in 2019, as well as the Queensland Bushfires in 2019. Evaluations have been made public-available on the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) Knowledge Hub website.

QRA will work with agencies in implementing recommendations and findings from these programs into future disaster recovery programs. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) have already incorporated recommendations from the North West Queensland Beef Recovery Package into current programs. QRA is also attending Community of Practice Workshops with Community Recovery and Resilience Officers to discuss recommendations from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE) disaster recovery programs.



RESILIENT HOMES FUND

QRA is working collaboratively with local councils and other Queensland Government departments to support the delivery of the largest household resilience program of its kind in Australia.

The \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund will aim to help Queensland homeowners whose homes have been affected by flooding in the 2021-22 disaster season to make their homes more resilient to future flooding.

The Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW) is delivering the Resilient Retrofitting and House-raising component of the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund, whilst QRA is managing the Voluntary Home Buyback (VHBB) program together with local governments.

As at 27 March 2023, more than 6050 people have registered for the Resilient Homes Fund including 657 who have expressed a preference for the VHBB. To date, 549 homeowners have been approved to take part in the VHBB scheme in twelve local government areas (Brisbane, Fraser Coast, Gympie, Ipswich, Logan, Lockyer Valley, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Goondiwindi, Somerset, Gold Coast and Noosa).

Valuations and presentations of offers to homeowners have continued, in consultation with local governments. As at 27 March 2023, 483 valuation inspections have been undertaken across the eight local government areas and 442 offers have been presented to homeowners with 305 having been accepted. Valuations and offers are continuing to be rolled out across the flood impacted areas.

Through the voluntary home buy-back of flood impacted properties QRA is committing to support safer, stronger and more resilient Queensland communities.

Property Level Flood Information Portal

Delivery of Property Level Flood Information Portal ("the Portal") continues, with procurement progressing.

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

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

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

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

Flood-impacted councils across Queensland will share in a total of \$18.25 million to improve flood resilience through flood studies, risk assessments and other special projects.

A total of 36 councils will receive funding for 127 projects through the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements in response to the 2021-22 disaster season.

This funding will allow councils to invest in flood studies, flood risk management plans, and flood warning intelligence systems, so they're better prepared for the threat of natural disaster.

This package is one of three made available through the \$31 million Flood Risk Management Program, which is being administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

Other packages under the program include support for community engagement and education around disaster preparedness; and for remote sensing technology to create 3D maps and models of environments, to better understand potential risks.

The Flood Risk Management Program is part of the greater \$721 million extraordinary disaster assistance package delivered jointly by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments through the DRFA following the 2021-22 season to address the medium and long-term recovery and resilience needs of Queensland communities.

LiDAR Capture (WP2)

\$6M in funding has been approved for the Department of Resources to capture Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data and the creation of a floor level database through Work Package 2 (WP2) of the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) under the QRA administered \$31M Flood Risk Management Program.

Detailed analysis of flood risks is vital to support flood intelligence in preparing for the onset of wide-scale flooding within the national best practice approach to flood risk management.

QRA has worked with the Department of Resources to determine the LiDAR extents required to support Council flood risk management projects such as flood studies and flood risk management studies and plans, and total flood warning systems funded under Work Package 3 of the Flood Risk Management Program.

The program will collect LiDAR for over 50,000 square kilometres, which equates to an area three quarters of the size of Tasmania and provided funding that exceeds the amount spent by the State on LiDAR capture over the preceding decade.

RESILIENCE

QRA is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for disaster recovery, managing flood risks and improving the disaster resilience of communities.

The QRA has been involved in the following key activities during the final quarter of 2022.

IGEM Review – Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements

The Queensland Government requested the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) conduct a review of Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA).

The review is examining the structures and governance relevant to the QDMA and will inform the transition of disaster management functions to the Queensland Police Service and other relevant agencies, including the QRA.

Disaster Ready Fund

The Disaster Ready Fund repurposes the Emergency Response Fund (ERF), established by the previous Commonwealth Government, by turning it into a dedicated ongoing source of funding for natural disaster resilience and risk reduction measures.

From 1 July 2023 onwards, the Disaster Ready Fund will be providing up to \$200 million per annum for natural disaster resilience and risk reduction initiatives and up to \$1 billion over five years.

Under round 1 of the fund, Queensland has identified 115 projects seeking a Commonwealth contribution of \$175.5 million. The Commonwealth will notify states and territories of successful projects by June 2023.

GET READY QUEENSLAND (GRQ)

GRQ is a year-round, community resilience program that helps Queenslanders prepare for disasters. The program integrates a state-wide research driven awareness campaign led by QRA, alongside a grass roots grants program providing \$2M across Queensland's 77 councils and the Weipa Town Authority to deliver locally-led disaster preparedness initiatives.

Helping Queenslanders explore disaster risk and vulnerability

GRQ has started a two-year project aimed at reframing Queenslanders' perceptions of flood risks. The program has been allocated Category D Disaster Recovery Funding to deliver a suite of tools and a behaviour change campaign to help people explore their vulnerabilities.

Over the past few months, the team has undertaken significant work to conceptualise the approach, including:

- literature and resource review
- subject matter expert engagement
- project scoping.

Representatives from Moreton Bay Regional Council, Ipswich City Council and Somerset Regional Council have provided insights into local flood hazards and community attitudes to help build context. A research company has been commissioned to undertake a broader study to reveal fixed views and behaviours relating to flood risk and how GRQ could re-frame these perceptions.

Ultimately, the project will look to increase critical awareness about personal and community disaster risk and empower local authorities to engage communities to promote positive behaviours.

Award nominations open to highlight Queensland resilience

Queenslanders can once again celebrate those who go above and beyond to strengthen disaster resilience, with the Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards launched for 2023.

The awards are an opportunity to recognise projects that help make communities safer, more connected and better prepared, across seven categories:

1. business
2. community
3. government
4. local government
5. mental health and wellbeing
6. school
7. photography.

The Queensland judging panel will be looking for projects that:

- go beyond business as usual and community expectations
- promote or encourage sharing the responsibility for disaster resilience/community safety

- engage the community
- foster inclusive approaches to disaster resilience.

Queensland winners will be announced as part of the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference in Brisbane, August 2023, ahead of the National Awards later in the year.

Entries close 5 June 2023. Information on referrals and submissions is available on the [GRQ website](#).



GRQ Resilient Australia Awards open for 2023

GRQ Branding Guidelines spruced-up

GRQ is making it easier for local governments to understand how to use the program's brand elements on their disaster preparedness materials and displays. The GRQ branding guidelines have been refreshed, reducing instructions from 42 pages to 12, adding more clarity and practical examples for using the name style, Queensland Government logo, colour palette, imagery style and acknowledgement.

All local governments receive GRQ grant funding to deliver local disaster preparedness initiatives and it is a requirement to properly acknowledge Get Ready Queensland and the state government. Clearer guidelines simplify this process for council staff, taking the guesswork out of what, where and how to use GRQ elements.

The Branding Guidelines refresh is part of GRQ's commitment to continuously improving how the program supports local governments in their resilience-building efforts. Council's GRQ coordinators will be trained on the new guidelines at the next GRQ Local Government Community of Practice.



Title page of the Get Ready Queensland Branding Guidelines

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

FLOOD ASSISTANCE FLOWS AS WATERS RECEDE

Following Queensland’s record-breaking monsoon the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has established an extraordinary assistance package to ensure the long-term recovery of communities in the region.

The record flood levels that inundated the region since Christmas 2022 past Easter 2023, displaced residents who were forced to evacuate and isolating those who chose to remain.

In response, a support package of up to \$12 million was established for primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profits in the hardest hit flood-affected communities across northern and western Queensland.

Eligibility for this disaster assistance extends across the Boulia, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Mornington and Mount Isa council areas and is jointly funded through the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Primary producers can apply for recovery grants up to \$75,000, while small businesses and not-for-profits have access to grants up to \$50,000.

Funding is also available to councils and primary producers for immediate livestock support, including emergency fodder and carcass disposal.

QRA Chief Executive Officer Major General Jake Ellwood accompanied Deputy Premier Steven Miles on a visit to the region on Monday 3 April 2023, to meet with local councils and get a first-hand look at the devastation.

Communities from Cape York and the Gulf of Carpentaria in the north to Mount Isa and Diamantina in the west have been left with monumental clean-up and recovery tasks

DRFA assistance to councils and agencies across all affected areas will reimburse them for costs incurred in counter disaster operations and provide funding for the restoration of essential public assets such as damaged roads, floodways and bridges.

In addition, personal hardship assistance is available for flooded communities in Boulia, Burke, Doomadgee and the township of Camooweal in Mount Isa.

To date, 45 of Queensland’s 77 local government areas have been activated for DRFA assistance in response to these extended monsoon floods.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring wherever and whenever disaster strikes, our communities receive the assistance they need to get back on their feet and look forward to a brighter tomorrow.



Aerial view of the Burketown Floods – 17 March 2023



Stranded livestock – 17 March 2023



Major General Ellwood with Doomadgee CEO Troy Fraser and Deputy Premier Steven Miles – 4 April 2023

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS RAMP UP

Repairs are ramping up across southern Queensland in a road reconstruction program of up to \$350 million following last year’s devastating South East Queensland floods.

Rainfall equivalent to 80% of Brisbane’s annual average fell in just five days in late February 2022, causing significant state road damage across 22 local government areas. This included numerous major landslips, widespread road damage and scouring around bridges and culverts.

As soon as it was safe to do so, Transport and Main Roads (TMR) had crews assessing road damage and making urgent repairs to restore access for communities and businesses. Some damage was exacerbated by subsequent rainfall and flooding across southern Queensland in late April and May 2022.

Due to the widespread and severe nature of the event, inspections have been required along thousands of kilometres of the road network to assess the full extent of damage and determine the best value-for-money repair treatments. Scoping and design of repairs is ongoing, with more than 100 road reconstruction projects to be progressively delivered over the next 18 months.

Work is already underway on priority projects, with more than \$77 million spent on SEQ floods road repairs to 28 February 2023, and construction is expected to hit full swing in the second half of this year. Most works will be targeted to be delivered by June 2024.

Key repair sites include:

- **Gold Coast–Springbrook Road** – Reconstruction works are underway at the major landslip site at the one-way section and other sites along this road, including scaling to stabilise and remove large amounts of loose earth, installing soil nails and placing shotcrete on the up and downslope of damaged sites. The section from Neranwood Park to Pine Creek Road is expected to be closed until early 2024, with detours via Pine Creek Road.
- **Beechmont Road** – Upslope stabilisation works at the large embankment failure between Bottletree Lane and North Road have been completed, and a temporary single-lane side track is providing access outside the weekday construction times of 8.30am to 2.30pm. Works are continuing downslope to stabilise and rebuild the second lane up to the current road surface. Works at the major damage site are expected to be completed by June 2023. Works at another site closer to Nerang–Murwillumbah Road have been completed and this section returned to two-way traffic.



Gold Coast–Springbrook Road – works in progress at main slip site (December 2022)



Beechmont Road – works in progress at major embankment failure site (February 2023)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

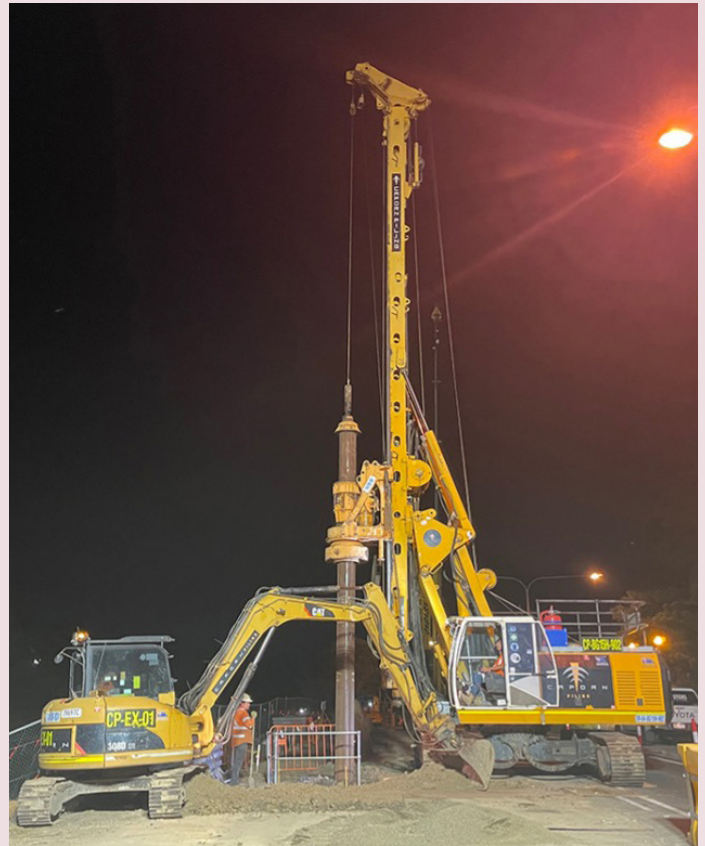
SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS RAMP UP

- **Lamington National Park Road** – significant landslips at multiple locations. Parts of the road are open under stop/slow traffic arrangements while reconstruction works are undertaken, including removing fallen debris, stabilising the slope with soil nails, installing shotcrete, rehabilitating the road and pavement, and drainage works. One site has been completed and work is expected to be completed at other sites in mid-2023.
- **Brisbane Road (Bundamba)** – The road is open, with one eastbound lane closed for safety, while repairs are made to land subsidence adjacent to the rail corridor. More than 20 large piles have been installed to a depth of approximately 12 metres below the road level and rock gabions placed at the toe of the embankment to provide further stability and reinforcement. Works are expected to be completed in May 2023.
- **Bowenville–Norwin Road** – Multiple flooding events caused significant pavement damage and debris on the road. Pavement repairs are continuing while reconstruction works are designed and developed for construction completion by June 2024.
- **Gore Highway (Toowoomba–Millmerran)** – Pavement damage and scouring to the approaches at Pampas Bridge were repaired in March 2022 and the road reopened to traffic. Further reconstruction works will be designed and developed for construction completion by June 2024.
- **Brisbane Valley Highway (Geoff Fisher Bridge)** – Floodwaters dislodged surfacing on the relieving slab and caused a deep embankment scour on the approach. Emergency works were undertaken to restore the road, which reopened on 12 March 2022.
- **Bruce Highway (Gympie–Maryborough)** – Emergency works were undertaken in March 2022 to restore access after heavy rainfall caused widespread pavement damage. Further reconstruction works will be developed for construction completion by June 2024.

TMR continues to monitor the network and prioritise critical damage sites to maintain safety until full reconstruction can be completed.

In addition to repairs, TMR is working with other state and Commonwealth agencies on opportunities to build back better at key sites where natural disaster damage has significant community impacts. These projects will be delivered through the Commonwealth and Queensland Government’s \$170 million Betterment Fund for road resilience initiatives, to be delivered by TMR and local government authorities in areas impacted by severe weather events in 2021–22.

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



Brisbane Road – piling works in progress (February 2023)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

CASE STUDY – MACKAY–EUNGELLA ROAD REOPENED AFTER LANDSLIPS

Thanks to a swift response from Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to clear major landslide debris blocking Mackay–Eungella Road on Eungella Range, 24-hour access to the road has been restored.

Heavy rainfall and flooding across the region, including 668mm in two days at Mount Charlton and more than 1000mm in a week reported at Finch Hatton, resulted in a series of landslips that temporarily closed the road from 16 January 2023.

Mackay–Eungella Road is the main link between Mackay, the rural townships of the Pioneer Valley and tourist area of Eungella Range.

Immediately following the event, TMR fast-tracked emergency works, including removing large rocks and debris, to reopen the road for intermittent access under traffic control within just eight days.

Access windows were subsequently extended, enabling road users to travel Eungella Range under traffic control from 5.30pm to 6am nightly and all day on Sundays. TMR ensured 24-hour access for emergency vehicles, and detours for travel between Eungella and Mackay were in place during construction hours.

Further clearing and stabilisation works were undertaken to enable 24-hour access to be restored from 25 February 2023. This included debris removal and stabilising embankments above the roadway by securing and removing loose boulders, vegetation and other material to reduce the risk of further slips. Crews also repaired damaged bitumen, drainage, scours, headwalls and kerbs.

Access remains via single lane under traffic control, to ensure the safety of roadworkers and motorists and progress repairs to reopen both lanes.

Geotechnical investigations are ongoing to determine where further works may be required.

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



Mackay–Eungella Road – landslide site (January 2023)



Mackay–Eungella Road – shoulder scour (January 2023)



Mackay–Eungella Road – emergency works in progress (January 2023)



Mackay–Eungella Road – multiple landslips caused by Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding event (January 2023)



Mackay–Eungella Road – emergency works in progress (January 2023)