



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:

Stronger, safer, resilient Queensland communities.

OUR PURPOSE:

Coordinate action to improve the resilience of Queensland communities and facilitate locally-led disaster recovery.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

In August



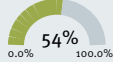
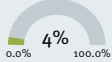

In August, QRA continued to be on the ground supporting councils and communities with their recovery efforts from recent disaster events, including initial support following the first disaster event activation for the 2022–23 financial year that had occurred for South Burnett and North Burnett Local Government Areas (LGAs) in July 2022. A core focus of the disaster assistance grants program in August has been to progress the close-out of recovery and reconstruction completed by delivery partners up to 30 June 2022 and monitor the ongoing progress of works in delivery. QRA has also continued to work with delivery agents to progress the development and approval of 2022 Event reconstruction submissions.

Throughout August, QRA also supported the State Recovery Coordinator, Major General Jake Ellwood as he moved around affected communities to step them through the newly released State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022–24. A key component of the Plan are the special funding packages approved for the 2022 flooding events. During August, there was significant progress realised in the rollout of these packages, including the release of guidelines and progress of expressions of interest to approvals in the Voluntary Home Buy Back Program.

Disaster Assistance and Resilience 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 almost \$20 billion Works for 25 events from the 2022, 2021 and a number of earlier disaster seasons are currently in delivery or acquittal with an estimated value of \$5.2 billion. This takes into account works being completed under EOT from prior events including the estimated \$84M DTMR Cunningham’s Gap project.

Status of Active Grants Programs administered by QRA

|  | Prior Events | 2021 Events | 2022 Events |
|--|-----------------------|---|--|
| NUMBER OF EVENTS | 5 | 11 | 9 |
| \$5.2B Delivery Program | \$282.5M Program | \$837M Program | \$4,082M Program |
| Deadline for Delivery | Complete | 30 June 2023 | 30 June 2024 |
|  Time Elapsed | Remainder under EOT's |  54% |  4% |
|  % Completion | 43% complete | 33% complete | \$243M grants paid |

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 in the month of August 2022.

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.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Activations - 2022–23 disaster season

There were no disaster event activations in August 2022.

To date in 2022–23, there has been one disaster event activation the Southern Queensland East Coast Low, July 2022.

| | 2022–23 (as at August 2022) |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Events to date | 1 |
| LGAs activated | 2 |
| LGAs activated (multiple events) | 0 |

QRA is currently working on pre-season preparedness and organising activations training for the wider Recovery team ahead of the traditional 2022–23 disaster season.

Engagement with Local Governments and the community

Members from Recovery and Get Ready Queensland attended the City of Gold Coast *Weathering the Storm: how your business can survive* a disaster breakfast forum with speakers from DESBT, QFES, Chamber of Commerce, Aus Industry and the new GC Business Disaster Resilience Network. QRA presented briefly on QRA and GRQ and then facilitated a discussion on: *“How to incentivise businesses to commit to disaster preparedness”*. The discussion was a good learning opportunity and provided QRA with the future ability to strategise in the resilience and recovery space as it relates to the business community.

Recovery is engaging with NEMA around forward planning and engagement opportunities with Local Governments as a collective effort. This will facilitate greater cohesion between agencies. It is intended to provide Local Governments with clarity on the differences and similarities around roles and responsibilities between QRA and NEMA.

Resilience and Recovery Officers are undertaking general engagement with Local Government key contacts to build relationships and to discuss resilience, recovery and generally disaster management for their region, as well as future opportunities for support.

Follow-up assessments provide snapshot of South East Queensland flood recovery

QRA staff visited almost 100 Goondiwindi homes and businesses over 3 days in August to check in with residents following last year’s Western Queensland flooding.

This comes after QFES completed initial damage assessments in December and QRA conducted follow up assessments in April, to monitor recovery and reconstruction progress. During the visit staff collected information about property damage, recovery progress and provided additional pathways for support if needed.



Images above: QRA staff meeting with Goondiwindi residents.

State Recovery Coordinator Update

Following the release of the State Recovery and Resilience Plan on 1 August, Major General Jake Ellwood continued to meet with representatives from local government areas affected by the Southern Queensland Flooding. The Major General talked about the SRRP and how he hopes it will ensure a strong recovery from the floods and enhance community resilience.

On 9 August, the SRC and CEO of QRA, Brendan Moon, attended a function in the Gold Coast suburb Elanora, one of the most flood-impacted areas on the Gold Coast. They joined the Governor of Queensland for a morning tea to thank local frontline services, community groups and City of Gold Coast staff for their efforts over the past six months.

On 24 August QRA held a staff farewell for the SRC on his last day in QRA's Brisbane office ahead of completion of his tenure as SRC on 7 September 2022.

His leadership, kindness and compassion for his colleagues and the wider community will be his legacy from his time working with QRA.



Images above and clockwise: Major General Jake Ellwood continued to meet with representatives from local government areas affected by the Southern Queensland Flooding.

QRA CEO Brendan Moon thanking SRC Jake Elwood for his contribution as SRC.

RESILIENT HOMES FUND

Update on Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance (DRFA)

The QRA is continuing to work with state and Commonwealth partners on the roll out of exceptional circumstances packages, jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, to support Queensland communities in their recovery from significant weather events during the 2021–22 disaster season.

The QRA secured more than \$2 billion in extraordinary assistance packages under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), to provide support to communities in need following the Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, Ex TC Seth, SEQ Rainfall and Flooding and Southern Queensland Flooding 6 May 202–20 May 2022).

This includes:

- **\$741 million Resilient Homes Fund** will help bolster the resilience of homes affected by flooding this disaster season, through retrofitting, house raising or the voluntary buy-back of homes at high risk of loss of life from future floods. More than 4500 registrations of interest have been received since registrations of Interest opened on 12 May 2022.
- **\$177.7 million for human and social initiatives** including psychosocial-mental health services and emotional wellbeing support, incorporating \$121.1 million for short to medium term flexible housing and accommodation solutions and rental support and security initiatives
- **\$200 million for economic recovery** including loans for medium to large businesses, funding for Industry Recovery Officers, grants for rural landholders as well as support for small businesses and tourism operators
- **\$86.9 million for environmental recovery** including flood risk management, riparian recovery, weed and pest management, biodiversity conservation and restoration of environmental assets
- **\$180 million to rebuild and recover and improve the resilience of community, recreational and sporting assets.** On 24 June 2022, expressions of interest opened for the \$105 million community and recreational assets program which closed on 31 July 2022.
- **A \$150 million Betterment Fund** will increase the resilience of our essential public infrastructure, so the next inevitable disaster doesn't have the same impact. On 2 July 2022, the program was opened to eligible councils and state agencies.

In addition, twenty-four of the affected councils have already received at least a \$1 million injection to assist with urgent recovery and clean-up works.

Guidelines for all of these extraordinary assistance packages under the DRFA have recently been approved, and the availability of funding support is being urgently implemented by the respective State Government departments, agencies or authorities.

To support uptake of the assistance in these packages, QRA's Resilience and Recovery Officers have met in person with more than half of the impacted local governments to ensure they are ready to fully utilise these important programs in the coming months to support immediate and longer term recovery. Further meetings with the remaining impacted councils are proposed for September.

\$741 million Resilient Homes Fund - Registrations of Interest still open

More than 4,500 homeowners have registered their interest in the Resilient Homes Fund, including more than 4000 homeowners from an eligible local government area whose property was inundated. This includes 497 people registering their interest in the Voluntary Home Buy-Back program, 1306 in the house-raising and 1,615 in the retrofit, with 664 people unsure which option is best suited to their individual needs.

The QRA is delivering initiatives for Voluntary Home Buy-Back Program and Property Level Flood Information Portal. The Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW) are delivering the Industry and Community Education Program, Resilient Household Rebuild Program, and Home Raising Program.

Voluntary Home Buy-Back Program

Buy-back priority is being given to the most vulnerable and at-risk property owners, with 128 eligible homeowners now approved for the program in Ipswich, Logan, Brisbane, and on the Fraser Coast, Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Moreton Bay LGAs. Property valuations for the program started in mid-August in Goodna, Ipswich, with offers to be made from next month. Valuation inspection have begun in Logan with valuers engaged to carry out further valuations in September. The QRA and EPW RHF project team are working together, under the direction of the Program Board to deliver a coordinated approach and the sharing of data for the best customer experience.

Brisbane City Council (BCC) has agreed to administer the voluntary home buy back for those eligible properties in the Brisbane local government area. Workshops occurred mid-July which identified initial tranche of priority properties, with independent valuations and negotiations to commence shortly. BCC will continue consultation with people who have registered interest for voluntary buy-back over the coming months.



Further details: [Resilient Homes Fund Eligibility and funding factsheet.](#)

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.

As the most disaster-prone state in Australia and with on-going disaster impacts across the state, QRA is continually considering new ways to improve the safety and resilience of Queensland communities. This includes building trusted, reciprocal and robust relationships with community leaders, thought-leaders, and local, state, Commonwealth and international partners, and participating in a wide range of activities to inform our policies.

Building Resilient Communities

The region-specific resilience strategies prioritise resilience building and mitigation projects to enhance economic resilience, improve infrastructure, advance disaster recovery operations and increase government capability and capacity. The Resilient Queensland Implementation project has been successfully finalized.

The project resulted in:

- The delivery of 11 regional resilience strategies.
- local resilience action plans were developed for 75 councils, identifying more than 4,400 total actions to enhance disaster resilience which also identified potential funding opportunities.
- More than 450 regional stakeholders directly contributed to the strategy and action planning process

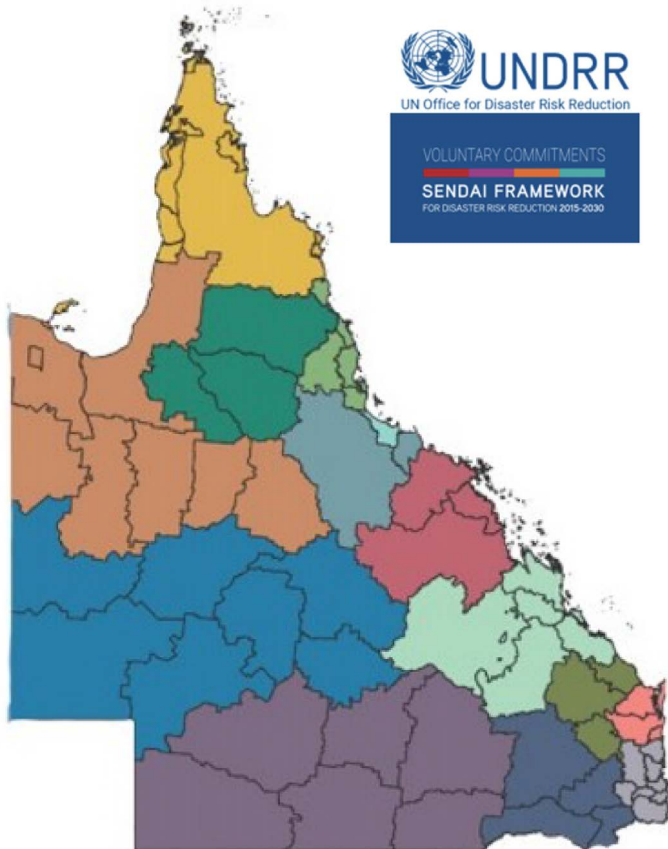
Additionally, resilience pathways for South East Queensland have been identified and incorporated into the *2021–22 Southern Queensland Floods State Recovery and Resilience Plan*.

Research and Disaster Resilience

QRA is building links to the research sector for the benefit of Queensland Communities through a number of avenues. These include supporting the Disaster Challenge run by Natural Hazards Research Australia and participation at conferences.



The Disaster Challenge is asking young career researchers to engage a transient sector of the community with disaster preparation information. The topic has strong links to our Get ready Queensland Program. QRA team members have been mentoring finalists with the winner of the challenge set to be announced on 13 October 2022. We look forward to sharing the innovative ideas that arise from the challenge.



Australian Disaster Resilience Conference. Representatives from QRA attended the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2022 in Adelaide on 24 and 25 of August. The Australian Disaster Resilience Conference is the nation's premier event focused on contemporary disaster resilience practice and research. Attendance at the conference ensures that QRA team members are able to ensure policy and practice will align with best practice research occurring across the country. Additionally, the team were able to build connections with key disaster management stakeholders from other jurisdictions across the country for the purposes of collaborative learning which will in turn support community outcomes.

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.

Get Ready Queensland improves inclusivity

August saw the completion of two key projects delivering on a commitment to make GRQ's resources more inclusive for Queenslanders.

18 GRQ website pages have been rewritten to ensure readers with lower literacy, or for whom English is a second language, can more easily access important preparedness information. The refreshed pages include:

- Understanding Risk
- Prepare An Emergency Plan
- Pack An Emergency Kit
- Alerts And Warnings
- Types Of Disasters.

GRQ also finalised new designs for three printable resources, which will be used by community members, councils, and other stakeholders across the state. These are the:

- Dangerous Weather Emergency Plan
- Dangerous Weather Checklists
- Dangerous Weather Conversation Cards.

Each item was designed in consultation with representatives from diverse communities, including Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities, people with lived experience of disability, and people working with community members with low literacy. The resources are available on the GRQ website and council hub, where local government engagement teams can tailor the templates for their own communities' needs.

The resources will be reviewed again in 2023, after seeking further feedback from communities and stakeholders.

GRQ delivers new funding round

Communities across Queensland will again benefit from locally led disaster resilience projects, with 2022–23 funding for all local governments in the state.

The program aims to help communities prepare for future disasters and severe weather events through targeted initiatives delivered by councils, such as community engagement, advertising, new warning equipment and online disaster dashboards.

This year, Get Ready Queensland offered councils a self-certification option to quicken the application and funding provision process. Funding has been delivered across two tranches with councils provided funding in time for Get Ready Queensland week 2022.



STEP 1: UNDERSTAND YOUR WEATHER RISKS

Know what dangerous weather can happen to your home so you can be ready.

Learn about your weather risks at getready.qld.gov.au/understand-your-risk

✓ Tick what dangerous weather could happen where you live:

| | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUSHFIRE | <input type="checkbox"/> FLOODING | <input type="checkbox"/> STORMS | <input type="checkbox"/> HEATWAVE | <input type="checkbox"/> CYCLONE |
| Fire season is July – February. Check your council's website for fire areas. | Rain or ocean tides cause flooding. Check council's website for flood areas. | Storm can happen anytime, any time. | Heatwaves are deadly. Drink water, stay in shade, wear light clothes, a hat and sunscreen. | Cyclone season is November – April and can impact community close to the ocean. |

By understanding your weather risks, you can have a plan to stay safe at home or leave quickly in an emergency.

Important emergency phone numbers
Add these numbers into your mobile phone because you might need them quickly.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Police – Fire – Ambulance | 000 |
| SES (State Emergency Service) | 132 500 |
| Poisons Information Line | 13 11 26 |
| Local Council Name | Add council's phone number: _____ |
| School name | Add the school's phone number: _____ |



Image: Get Ready Queensland's new Dangerous Weather Emergency Plan.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

CENTRAL WEST STUDENTS GET READY FOR DISASTER SEASON

A recent Get Ready Queensland central west school tour was a grand undertaking that positively impacted many young Queenslanders.

The road trip reached around 200 kids across more than 1000 kilometres of central west schools, including Blackall State School, St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School Blackall, Tambo State School and Jundah State School, with interactive and engaging activities, games and presentations captivating the students involved.

Travels like this though are not unique for QRA’s flagship disaster education and preparedness program, which runs year-round to build greater resilience across the Sunshine State and assists communities in preparing for natural disasters.

Since 2013 Get Ready Queensland has been helping Queensland families better understand their disaster risk and prepare for the rolling annual threat of flooding, cyclones, bushfires, and other severe weather events.

And recent research tells us these efforts are working. They’re making a difference.

More than 60 per cent of Queenslanders say they get ready ahead of disaster season and have an emergency plan in place.

This can prove an absolute difference-maker, with the potential to save property and lives.

However, no matter the increase in community disaster preparedness, the endeavours of Get Ready Queensland remain ongoing, and regional visits like this central west schools circuit are crucial to taking resilience levels even higher.

Hands on, immersive learning is the key here – in real-world surroundings, fun and colourful throughout, and children participating in the sessions feel accomplished and confident they can put the teachings into action at home.

This includes understanding risk, developing a household disaster plan, and carrying out practical safety measures with their families such as packing an emergency kit.

Like all successful disaster response and recovery efforts, delivery hinges on many agencies working cohesively, so it’s only suitable the Get Ready Queensland school visits bring together various local emergency services members to stand up on a different kind of frontline.

For this tour those included ambulance and police officers, firefighters, and SES volunteers.

Ask any of the kids what their highlight was though and certainly most of them would say it was getting up close with the emergency vehicles on grounds at the schools.

Whether checking out a fire truck’s pump and hose, an ambulance’s treatment unit, or strapping on the life jackets to role play in an SES boat, the children absorbed it all.

And they can now distinguish the unique sirens of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Ambulance Service and the Queensland Police Service too.

These are experiences that will live in the memories of young minds for a long time, reminding them the importance of disaster response and recovery

Because for children and their families in remote and rural parts of Queensland, disaster education is a vital part of overall community safety.

In the most disaster-affected state in Australia, the Get Ready Queensland initiative ensures regions like the central west are well equipped to tackle anything Mother Nature throws our way.

Across four significant flooding events during the 2021–22 storm season, 39 of Queensland’s 77 local government areas were impacted, and now we’re in the midst of one of the biggest recovery operations in the state’s history.

This extensive reach will bring with it new best practice for all councils involved, with contributions already made to the companion document by Fraser Coast, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Goondiwindi, Ipswich, Moreton Bay, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Toowoomba and Western Downs.

Fuelling the encompassing state recovery program is a record \$2.1 billion in joint Australian-Queensland Government funding, including the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund, the \$150 million betterment fund, and a \$28 million flood risk management package.

We can never stop natural disasters from occurring, but with the right investments made and support provided we can reduce disaster impacts, for the benefit of every Queenslanders.



Blackall State School.



Jundah State School.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

BOWENVILLE–NORWIN ROAD SUFFERS REPEAT DAMAGE

The Darling Downs suffered significant damage to the state-controlled road network as a result of repeated rain events in December 2021 and then again in February, March and May 2022.

One of the most significantly impacted roads was Bowenville–Norwin Road, a 26-kilometre connection between the Warrego Highway at Bowenville and Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road at Norwin.

During the rainfall of December 2021, Bowenville–Norwin Road suffered potholes and pavement ruts, which were repaired with pothole filling and patching in January 2022.

In February 2022, the South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event caused further damage to Bowenville–Norwin Road. A subsequent deluge in March 2022 not only restricted crews repairing the impacts from the February event, but also exacerbated the damage.

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) closed the road to all traffic in some locations as it was presenting considerable safety hazards. TMR contractors were attending to potholes and carrying out repairs as resources allowed, however the continued rain restricted the effectiveness of the repairs.

Bowenville–Norwin Road is in a rural location neighbouring many produce and cotton farms. Nearby farmers contacted TMR to advise their harvests urgently needed to be transported from their properties, requiring heavy vehicle access to the road. The continued rain throughout March meant the road was heavily impacted, however TMR was able to reopen it for local access only. This allowed the neighbouring farms to continue their harvest program.

The Southern Queensland Flooding event in May 2022 further exacerbated damage to the road. TMR carried out emergency damage assessments, and the road was identified as a candidate for betterment funding. TMR contractors are undertaking temporary repair works to bring the road back to a safe environment for road users, while betterment funding avenues are being investigated.

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



Images above: Bowenville–Norwin Road. Pothole after rain in December 2021 and subsequent repairs in January 2022.



Image: Bowenville–Norwin Road – water over the road during March 2022.



Images above: Bowenville–Norwin Road. Further damage after rain in late January 2022



Image: Bowenville–Norwin Road. Significant damage to the road surface after combined weather events (May 2022).

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

TMR MAKES SAME DAY REPAIRS TO REOPEN KEY BRUCE HIGHWAY ROAD LINK

Following three previous extreme weather events in Queensland’s south east in 2021–22, the region was again impacted by heavy rain in May 2022, with Transport and Main Roads (TMR) making swift repairs to reopen a key road link.

Many of the same roads in the Wide Bay Burnett were affected during each disaster event, including the Bruce Highway, which is Queensland’s major north–south road corridor and services a large portion of the state. On average, 5126 vehicles travel on the section of the Bruce Highway from Gin Gin to Benaraby each day*.

During the Southern Queensland Flooding event in May 2022, this section of the Bruce Highway was closed to traffic on 13 May 2022 due to flash flooding.

Water levels dropped below the road surface on the afternoon of 13 May 2022 and a road inspection identified that this section of the Bruce Highway was damaged at various locations, with pavement scour, rutting and potholes requiring urgent repairs.

TMR’s RoadTek crews prioritised the clean-up and temporary pavement repairs to allow the Bruce Highway to be opened to traffic later that evening.

Damage assessments are ongoing to determine the extent of further repairs required across the Wide Bay Burnett.

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

* Calculated annual average from 2020



Image: Bruce Highway (Gin Gin–Benaraby). Pavement rutting south of Rosehill Road.



Image: Bruce Highway (Gin Gin–Benaraby). Pavement shoving north of Takilberan.



Image: Bruce Highway (Gin Gin–Benaraby). Emergency works



Image: Bruce Highway (Gin Gin–Benaraby). Silt build-up on road shoulder at Cabbage Tree Creek.