



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 July

Throughout July, QRA continued to be on the ground supporting councils and communities with the long process towards recovery from these current and prior events. This support has included the activation of disaster assistance, development of guidelines to implement the wide range of special funding packages approved for the event, coordination of recovery efforts by state agencies and early assistance with the development of state and local recovery plans.

QRA and its partner agencies completed its largest reconstruction monitoring assessment since the 2011 floods, checking on almost 8,600 homes and commercial buildings, across 19 flood-impacted local government areas impacted by the severe rainfall and flooding earlier in the year. These assessments indicated the long path to recovery is well underway with almost 40 per cent of properties visited no longer showing signs of damage.

At month-end, Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier, Minister responsible for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Steven Miles and State Recovery Coordinator Major General Jake Ellwood released the State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022–24. The Plan provides a blueprint for government, industry and communities to work together to help Queenslanders recover from the 2021-22 summer of flooding, and to make Queensland safer and stronger in the face of future floods and associated natural disasters.

The State also experienced its first disaster event for the 2022-23 financial year, with South Burnett and North Burnett Local Government Areas (LGAs) activated for disaster assistance for flooding from the East Coast Low of 20-23 July 2022.

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 2020, 2021 and 2022 disaster seasons are currently in delivery or acquittal with an estimated value of \$5.8 billion.

In addition to DRFA, QRA is currently administering 17 other state, Commonwealth and jointly-funded grant programs with a capped value of \$183 million, focused on disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

Status of Active Grants Programs administered by QRA

	Prior Events in delivery	2020 Events	2021 Events	2022 Events
NUMBER OF EVENTS	-	5	11	9
\$5.8B Delivery Program	\$164M Program	\$923M Program	\$802M Program	\$3,900M Program
Deadline for Delivery	Complete	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2024
Time Elapsed	Remainder being delivered under EOT's	100% 0.0% 100.0%	50% 0.0% 100.0%	- 0.0% 100.0%
% Completion	98% complete	77% complete	28% complete	\$223M grants paid

*% complete represents delivery progress reported by delivery agents. This may reflect greater progress than inferred by spend due to program efficiencies.

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 July 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.

2021–22 Disaster Season

Activations wrap up

The end of the 2021–22 severe weather season resulted in 66 of Queensland’s 77 Local Government Areas (LGAs) activated for a range of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). This equates to 64% of the State’s

77 LGAs, which is the highest percentage in Queensland’s past four disaster seasons.

42 LGAs were activated twice or more, with four LGAs activated 4 times in 2021–22.

Activations summary

Event Year	Event Activations	Councils Activated	Activation in Total	Councils activated more than once	% Councils activated more than once
2018-2019	9	59	96	30	51%
2019-2020	5	53	66	33	62%
2020-2021	11	50	72	24	48%
2021-2022	9	66	132	42	64%

Disaster Assistance activation and extensions

Local government areas significantly impacted by the Southern Queensland Flooding May 2022 event were activated for DRFA primary producer, small business and not-for-profit organisation recovery grants. Additionally, an extension was granted this month to extend the Resilient Homes Fund and other exceptional category C & D packages to include this event.

A further extension for the Clean-up package has been granted to include Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth and Southern Queensland Flooding May 2022

The activations and extensions are granted under the jointly funded State-Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

	Last Season 2021–22 Overview	This season 2022–23 (July 2022)
Events	9	1
LGAs activated	66	2
LGAs activated (multiple events)	42	0

The 2022–23 Disaster Season has already started

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Activations (DRFA)

In July the first event of the 2022-2023 disaster season, has been activated, the Southern Queensland East Coast Low, July 2022.

Southern Queensland East Coast Low, 20-23 July 2022.

Intense and isolated rainfall from an off-shore system fell on already saturated catchments which contributed to flooding in the South Burnett and North Burnett Local Government Areas (LGAs), with both LGAs activated for relief measures under DRFA, to assist the cost of cleaning up and repairing roads and other public infrastructure damaged by the rainfall and flooding event.

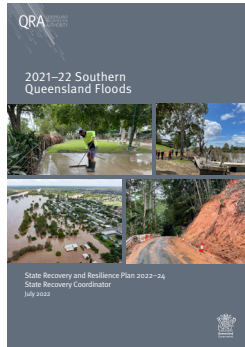
The Wide Bay Burnett region communities were activated four times last disaster season, with this most recent event compounding the impact and adding to the ongoing reconstruction and recovery efforts.

State Recovery Coordinator Update

Since March 2022 Major General Ellwood, the State Recovery Coordinator (SRC), supported by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and Queensland’s Functional Recovery Groups, has met with local leaders, industry and communities to gather valuable insights into their experiences and understand their recovery priorities and challenges.

This has accumulated in a comprehensive report into February’s south-east Queensland floods, the *2021–22 Southern Queensland Floods State Recovery and Resilience Plan*, which shows both the scale of the disaster and the work underway to recover.

The Plan documents local activities, regional recovery and resilience priorities, and state and Commonwealth government initiatives and funding to provide a single coherent pathway to recovery. This plan finds a way forward for strong recovery and enhancement of community resilience to mitigate the effects of future flooding events.



The SRC expressed his appreciation for the **“buy-in and valuable feedback from the five key Functional Recovery Groups and the action plans from the vast majority of the 23 impacted Local Government Areas. I believe the SRRP provides an effective plan to enhance recovery and embrace resilience as a planning element for future weather events throughout Queensland.”**

The Premier acknowledged the Plan builds upon **“Queensland’s nation-leading approach to disaster management, recovery and mitigation which are engrained into our ways of working and goes beyond this to provide a blueprint for all levels of government, industry, and communities to work together to not only recover Queensland from the 2021–22 summer of flooding, but to make our communities safer and stronger in the face of future floods.”**

Darling Downs and South-West Queensland Council of Mayors

This month the SRC was pleased to join QRA’s CEO Brendan Moon to participate in the Darling Downs and South-West Queensland (DDSWQ) Council of Mayors meeting in Goondiwindi.

The meeting provided an opportunity to come together, discuss opportunities and hear the progress being made across DDSWQ regions following a devastating disaster.

QRA continues to work with key stakeholders across multiple projects to help councils and communities to recover, reconnect and rebuild from the recent floods and previous natural disasters.



Deloitte Report - Southern Queensland Flooding

An independent Deloitte Report into this year’s South East Queensland floods has revealed an estimated total cost of \$7.7 billion to Queensland.

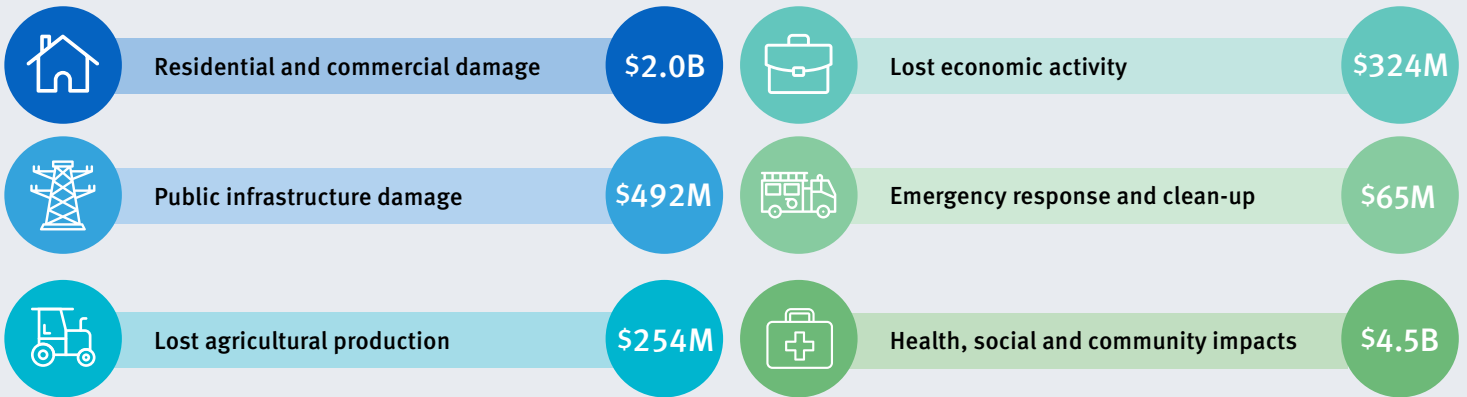
The Deloitte Report considered the social, financial and economic costs of the 2022 South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding Event that hit 23 local government areas. Deloitte took a broad range of factors into consideration including human and social impacts; damage to residential, commercial and public infrastructure as well as industry disruption; emergency response and clean-up and environmental factors. The report estimates more than 500,000 people were affected by the floods in some way with an estimated human and social cost of \$4.5 billion.

The impact to homes and commercial businesses has been estimated at \$2 billion with approximately 18,000 homes or businesses impacted. Of that, the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) reported more than 97,000 residential and commercial claims had been lodged with a total value of \$1.36 billion leaving approximately \$646 million in uninsured residential and commercial losses.

The economic impact on Queensland small businesses was significant with more than 4500 affected and total damage of approximately \$324 million.

The floods also had a major impact on Queensland’s agricultural sector with more than 2250 primary producers affected across 17 local government areas at the time of the report with losses estimated to be more than \$250 million.

QRA commissioned this report which builds on the prior body of knowledge and experience following a similar report commissioned after the 2019 North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough event. The report used information collected from government agencies in the first two months following the disaster in conjunction with data from agencies like the ICA and Australian Bureau of Statistics.



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

Over a four-week period in June/July the Queensland Government has completed its largest reconstruction monitoring assessment since the 2011 floods, checking on almost 8,600 homes and commercial buildings, across 19 flood-impacted local government areas impacted by the severe rainfall and flooding earlier in the year. These assessments provide a status update on recovery and opportunity to check on impacted residents and, where required, arrange further support.

Results from the monitoring assessments show almost 40 per cent of homes visited and commercial buildings impacted by the South East Queensland floods, are no longer showing signs of damage and repairs have started on almost one-third of the properties still damaged.

This data has been disseminated to Councils and State Agencies to help inform their recovery activities and to identify communities that may require additional support.

QRA will conduct a six-month assessment in October 2022 to continue to monitor the progress of reconstruction and recovery.



Update on Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance

QRA is continuing to work with our 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.



RESILIENT HOMES FUND

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

More than 3,900 homeowners whose property was inundated have registered their interest in the Resilient Homes Fund.

The Resilient Homes Fund is the biggest single disaster support package in Queensland’s history. Funding will be used to retrofit, raise, or buy back eligible at-risk properties within the 39 local government areas impacted by the Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (10 November – 3 December 2021), Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth (29 December 2021 – 10 January 2022), and Southeast Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (22 February – 5 April 2022), and Southern Queensland Flooding, 6 - 20 May 2022 disaster events.

Under the package, a range of household resilience measures have been approved to support Queensland homes directly impacted by the floods, including:

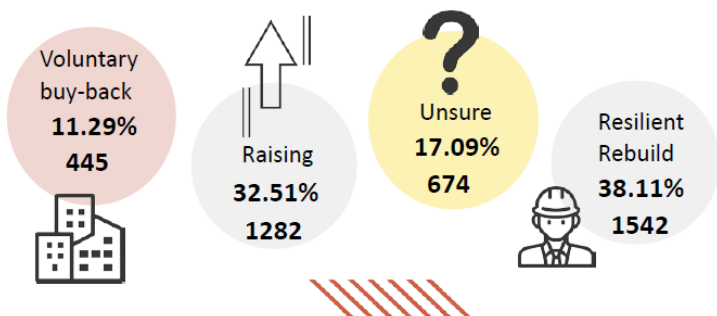
1. Industry and Community Education Program
2. Resilient Household Rebuild Program
3. Home Raising Program
4. Voluntary Home Buy-Back Program
5. Property Level Flood Information Portal.

The Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW) will deliver initiatives 1-3 and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) will deliver initiatives 4 and 5.

The voluntary property buy-back program is to be considered on a case-by-case basis, where other mitigation options do not suitably address the risk, where no other option is identified as viable, and is an option to mitigate the risk to life and property in areas that are susceptible to frequent and severe flooding. Discussions have commenced with the first group of residents eligible for the voluntary buy-back program, with valuations planned to commence in mid-August 2022.

Brisbane City Council 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.

Consultation will continue over the coming months with people who have registered interest for voluntary buy-back. Further details: [Resilient Homes Fund Eligibility and funding factsheet](#).



Extraordinary disaster assistance grants extended

Primary Producers in Balonne, Gympie, Lockyer Valley, Somerset, Southern Downs and Western Downs local government areas can now access grants for a range of clean-up and recovery activities, including salvaging crops and making repairs to damaged fencing.

Small business owners and not-for-profit organisations in the already listed local government areas, in addition to Moreton Bay and Toowoomba, can now access grants for clean-up and repair of flood damaged assets, including damage to equipment, flooring and walls in premises.

The assistance is made available through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



RESILIENCE

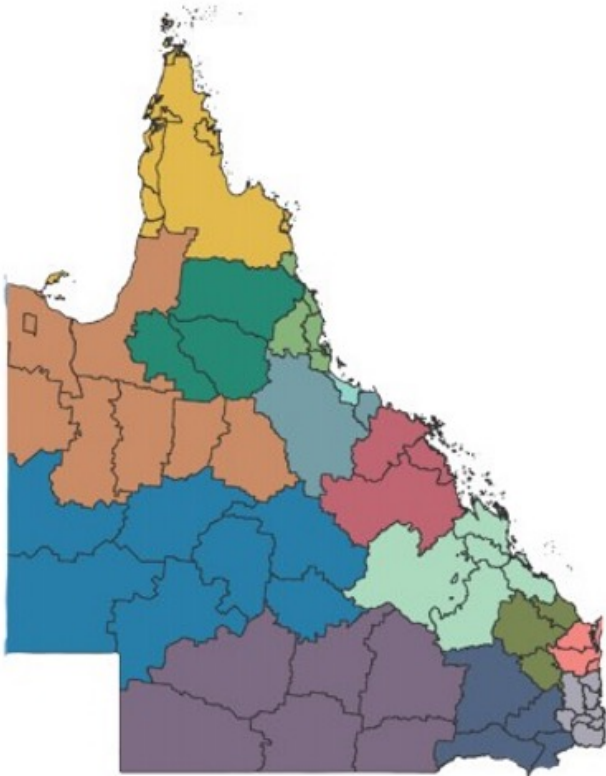
QRA is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of whole-of-government policies for managing flood risks and improving the resilience of communities and facilitating mitigation against potential disasters.

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.

At the end of July 2022, 10 strategies have either been endorsed or noted and one strategy is being prepared for distribution to regional stakeholders for their feedback. Additionally, resilience pathways for South East Queensland have been identified and incorporated into the 2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods State Recovery and Resilience Plan. It is anticipated all remaining strategies will be completed by 31 August 2022.



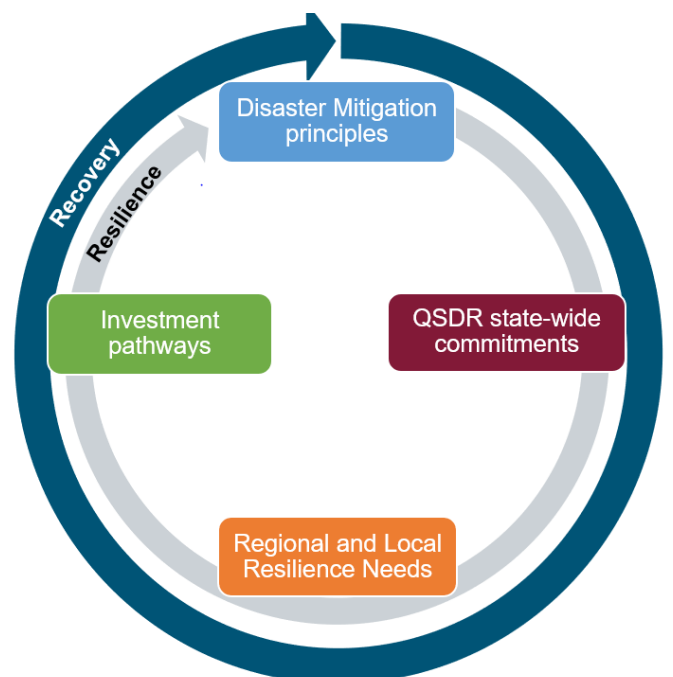
Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR)

The Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR) provides an overarching framework to guide how we can work together to strengthen disaster resilience in Queensland communities. QRA is currently reviewing and updating the QSDR, in consultation with key stakeholders to reflect Queensland’s significant progress in resilience initiatives and develop new strategic commitments and actions that will strengthen disaster resilience over the next five years.

QRA acknowledges recovery provides a springboard for resilience, during July, we have continued stakeholder engagement to refine and mutually agree disaster resilience state-wide strategic commitments and actions, which will be incorporated to the updated Strategy will be launched by the end of 2022.

The strategy will aim to reduce risk at the same time as recovery by aligning resilience priorities to funding opportunities when feasible.

This is already occurring with councils using their Local Resilience Action Plans to support investment decision making when applying for the 2021–22 Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund and the North Queensland Natural Disaster Mitigation Program.



Statewide assessment of flood risk

The statewide assessment of flood risk is a high priority action of the Queensland Flood Risk Management Framework, which will provide a better understanding of the status of flood risk management across the state and identify “gaps” or issues that need to be addressed for the purpose of informing future investment in flood risk management.

A key element of the statewide assessment is stakeholder input into and validation of the methodology, evaluation criteria and weighting, and the assessment outputs. Eight external engagement workshops comprising industry, State and Local Government representatives were held from 4 – 8 July 2022.

The workshops were well received with a high level of interest and engagement across all attendees. A considerable amount of constructive feedback was received, and a need identified to undertake additional consultation with stakeholders who were not able to attend.



Flood warning infrastructure – preparedness

QRA, in conjunction with the Bureau of Meteorology, continue to partner with stakeholders to explore opportunities to improve and share information from flood warning infrastructure as part of disaster preparedness and planning.

This month QRA undertook a big map exercise with Noosa, Gympie, Fraser Coast, Bundaberg, North Burnett and South Burnett council areas, and colleagues from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. All stakeholders participated to navigate potential challenges and foresee how best to work together to build the greater Wide Bay’s situational awareness prior to and during severe weather events.

In conjunction with the Bureau of Meteorology QRA mapped out ways to further improve flood warning infrastructure with representatives from the Balonne Shire, Maranoa Regional and Western Downs council areas. The Bureau provided updates on flood warning services and was grateful for councils’ suggestions for improvements to the flood warning infrastructure network.

There are hundreds of cameras and gauges like the ones pictured spread across the region. Together, officers are exploring opportunities for a regional approach to regional asset management and maintenance.

Information gathered from a fit for purpose asset can then be shared from that location with partner agencies, to ensure everyone has shared situational awareness during disaster seasons.

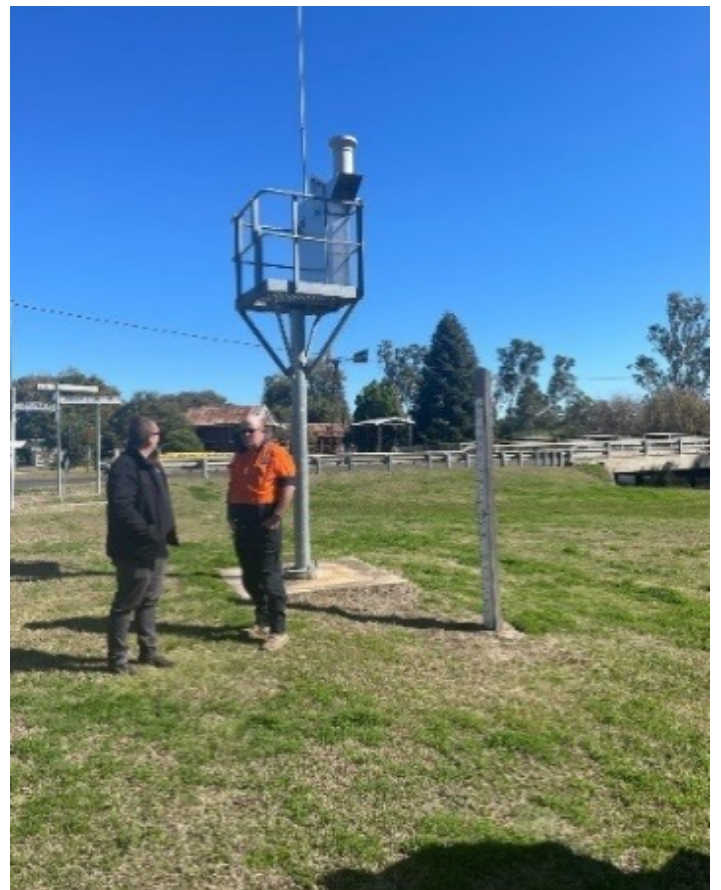


Image: Flood warning infrastructure.

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.

Half of all Queenslanders are ready for the next natural disaster

62% of Queenslanders have a plan for when extreme weather hits, while 50% have a dedicated emergency kit. That is according to the latest research undertaken by Get Ready Queensland.

GRQ commissioned statewide research in 2022 to help understand the attitudes and behaviours of Queenslanders when it comes to preparing for storm, flood, bushfire or cyclone.

Results show that Queenslanders largely understand their local risks and most are confident they can prepare, cope, and recover from a natural disaster.

However, there is still work to be done. Comparing the results to 2020, levels of preparedness have remained relatively stable, even though 20% more Queenslanders reported being impacted by extreme weather.

The research report shows people across the state want help to get ready, including easier information on how to prepare and timely reminders to do it.

GRQ will use the research outcomes to inform the 2022 advertising campaign and future engagement approaches. The results will also be shared with local councils to help tailor their own activities more effectively.

The research will be carried out again in 2024, to observe longer-term trends.

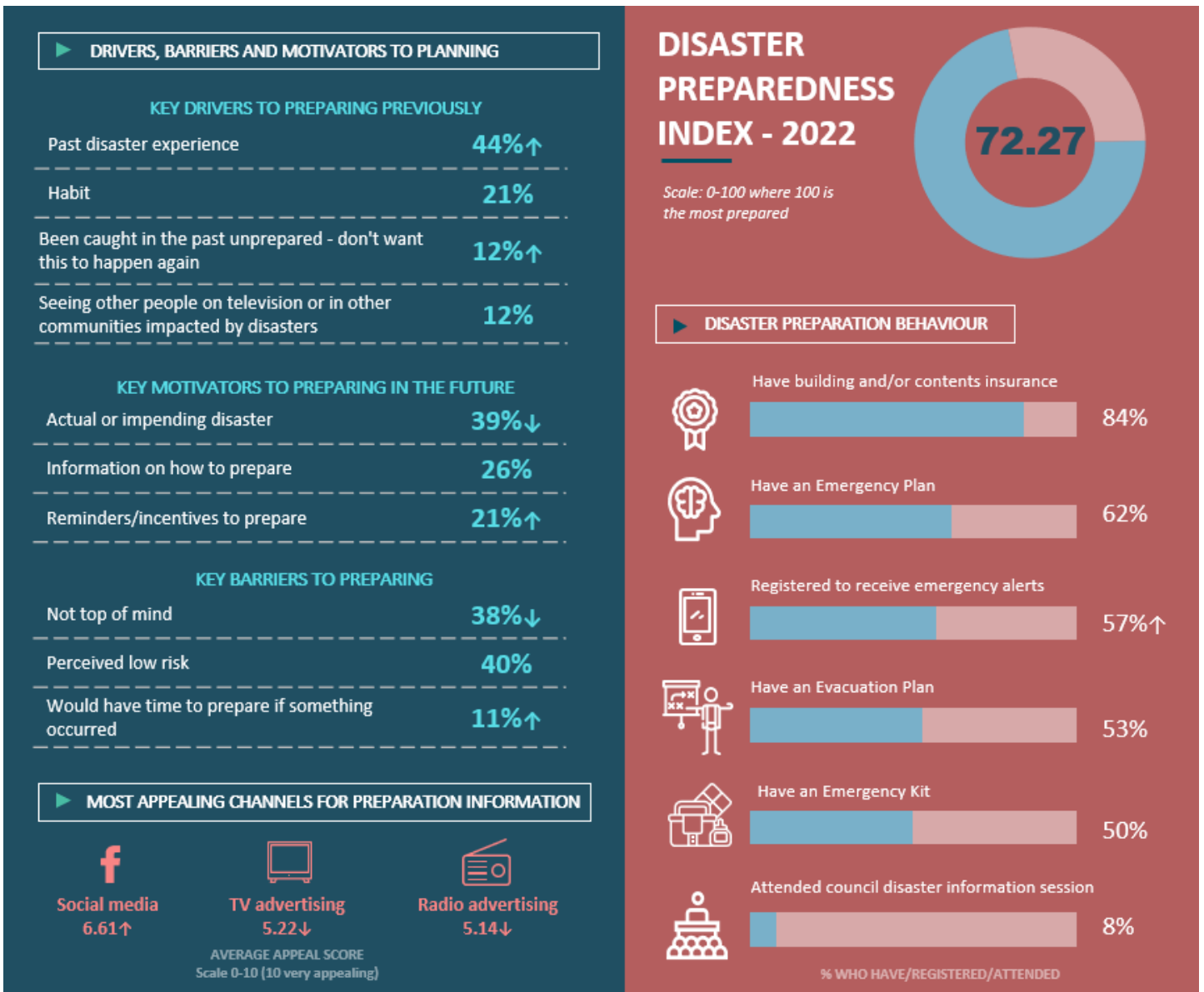


Image: Snapshot of key outcomes from the 2022 GRQ statewide research.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

A BLUEPRINT TO RECOVER FROM THE 2021–22 SUMMER OF FLOODING

Even in a state as disaster-prone as Queensland, the summer of 2021–22 was as intense as it gets when it comes to severe rainfall and flooding.

Not since the devastating summer of 2011 have local communities experienced such devastating downpours and a prolonged sequence of natural disasters that blanketed usual sunny skies and put neighbourhoods, and in some cases entire towns, underwater.

No amount of hyperbole can overstate the weather Queenslanders witnessed between November 2021 and May 2022. Brisbane recorded its highest six-day rainfall total in history (793 millimetres), while the Mary River in Gympie peaked at almost 23 metres, breaking records standing for a century.

Once the prolonged storm season had eventually run dry, 13 lives were tragically lost, 9000 homes were damaged, and Queensland was left with a \$3.8 billion reconstruction and recovery bill – part of an estimated \$7.7 billion in social, financial and economic losses according to a new independent report from Deloitte

These numbers highlight why a coordinated response to recovery is so vital, and that framework is found in the *State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022–24*, developed by State Recovery Coordinator Major General Jake Ellwood.

The Major General handed down the plan and associated report Monday 1 August 2022 alongside Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Steven Miles, and QRA CEO Brendan Moon.

The *State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022–24* provides a blueprint for government, industry and communities to work together to help Queenslanders recover from the 2021–22 summer of flooding, and to make Queensland safer and stronger in the face of future floods and associated natural disasters.

It’s the result of many months of work and substantial collaboration between councils, state agencies and community groups, coordinated by the State Recovery Coordinator and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

At its core the plan asks three fundamental questions:

- How does Queensland recover, rebuild and reconnect affected communities?
- Which people, industries and infrastructure need support, and what support is needed?
- How can increased resilience be fostered for future disasters?

These questions, however, reveal complex answers due to the immediate and ongoing human impact borne from the disasters and resulting destruction.

Because while some communities saw extreme inundation, others suffered shocking isolation. Some lost all their belongings, while others lost their crops, their livelihoods, and in 13 tragic circumstances, their lives.

Through this heartbreak though we now see hope for a recovery and rebuild that reinforces the broadest of protections for Queenslanders against any range of threats and brings a level of disaster immunity that sets a new benchmark for the world.

To do this we need to focus on collaborative approaches. Recovery efforts that are locally led, regionally coordinated and supported with state resources – guided by concentrated community leadership that’s adaptable and shares the goal of making resilience business as usual.

The companion document to the *State Recovery and Resilience Plan 2022–24* does exactly this, pulling together various local recovery plans from Queensland councils to create an unmatched level of transparency when it come to community disaster response.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

A BLUEPRINT TO RECOVER FROM THE 2021–22 SUMMER OF FLOODING CON’T.

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.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SWIFT REPAIRS REOPEN GYMPIE ROAD

Swift action from Transport and Main Roads (TMR) restored access on a busy north Brisbane road when damage under the surface dramatically revealed itself two weeks after the South East Queensland floods.

From 23 to 28 February 2022, Brisbane recorded 792.8mm, which is 78% of the annual average of 1011.5mm. For the first time in Brisbane’s recorded rainfall history, there were three consecutive days with daily totals of more than 200mm.

On 18 March 2022, a depression in the pavement of the northbound lanes appeared on Gympie Arterial Road over Downfall Creek at Chermiside. A TMR road inspector crew attended site and after excavating the pavement, discovered significant erosion had occurred under the road pavement due to flooding two weeks earlier.

The road crew went into action and for safety needed to close northbound lanes on one of Brisbane’s heavily trafficked roads. The cavity beneath the road was about two lanes wide, and two metres deep.

After an inspection, engineers gave the culvert the all-clear and works commenced to saw cut the relieving slab and excavate remaining damaged, loose road fill. Replacement backfill materials (rock and lean-mix concrete) could then be placed as soon as possible. TMR worked with an asphalt provider to urgently source materials.

Works were completed and the road reopened about midday on Sunday 20 March 2022, in time for peak hour traffic on Monday.

Throughout the works, TMR worked with Brisbane City Council and TransLink to minimise the impact on the surrounding road network and public transport.

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



Image: Gympie Arterial Road – erosion under pavement (evening of 18 March 2022)



Image: Gympie Arterial Road – loose materials being excavated.



Image: Gympie Arterial Road – completed emergency works.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

MULGOWIE ROAD SUFFERS SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE

Darling Downs suffered significant damage to the state-controlled road network as a result of extreme rainfall in Queensland’s southeast in February and March 2022, with many roads impacted by multiple rain events this season.

This includes Mulgowie Road, a 29-kilometre road that services many high-producing farms and runs parallel to Laidley Creek.

During the February 2022 event, there was significant scouring at Laidley Creek, which resulted in cracking, scouring and potholes on Mulgowie Road.

The creek scouring occurred to depths of eight metres less than two metres from the road edge, creating a significant risk to the travelling public. As a result, the lane closest to the scouring was closed to traffic and temporary traffic lights were installed to help manage the one-way traffic flow.

Damage to the road surface from the scouring has been repaired to ensure road safety is maintained.

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is undertaking damage assessments and planning to determine appropriate treatments, however it is expected this will take some time due to the widespread nature of the events.

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



Image: Mulgowie Road – Laidley Creek scouring damage (February 2022).



Image: Mulgowie Road – measuring pothole depths (February 2022).



Image: Mulgowie Road – road crew repairing cracks with sealant (March 2022).