



*Image: TC Jasper, Cairns
(Source: Courier Mail)*

Greg Scroope
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Qcoast Knowledge and Information Sharing Forum, 6 August 2024

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a dense, green forest. The river is a deep blue-green color, and the surrounding land is covered in thick, vibrant green trees. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this Country.

We recognise and honour their ancient cultures, and their connection to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to them, their cultures, and to their Elders, past and present.

Current statewide program

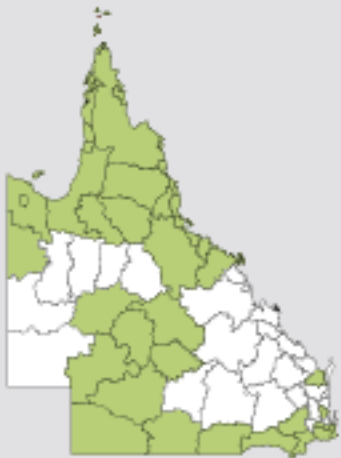
! 46 events

🏛️ 76 councils with an active program

\$ \$10.7 billion

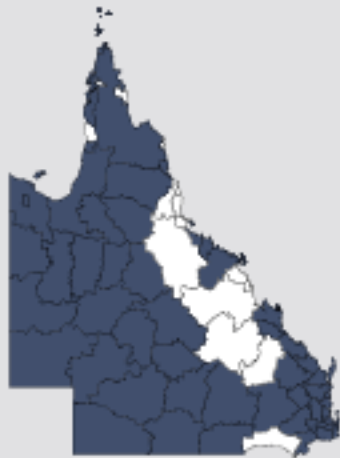
2019-20

- !** 5 events
- 🏛️** 53 councils
- \$** \$874 million
- 🕒** 30/6/2022
- ✓** 79% complete
(remainder under EOTs)



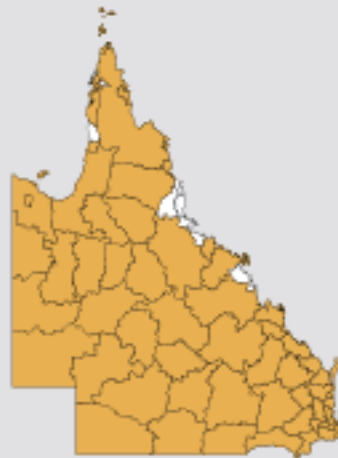
2020-21

- !** 11 events
- 🏛️** 50 councils
- \$** \$773 million
- 🕒** 30/6/2023
- ✓** 95% complete
(remainder under EOTs)



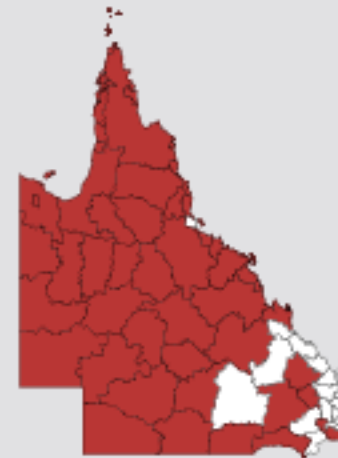
2021-22

- !** 9 events
- 🏛️** 66 councils
- \$** \$5.1 billion
- 🕒** 30/6/2024
- ✓** 56% complete



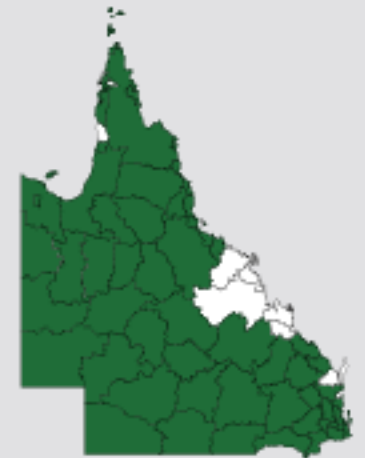
2022-23

- !** 8 events
- 🏛️** 57 councils
- \$** \$1.4 billion
- 🕒** 30/6/2025
- ✓** 28% complete



2023-24

- !** 13 events
- 🏛️** 66 councils
- \$** \$2.5 billion
- 🕒** 30/6/2026
- ✓** 1% complete



- The DRFA is a joint funding initiative of the Australian and State government to provide disaster relief and recovery payments and infrastructure restoration to help communities recover from the effects of natural disasters and terrorist acts.
- In Queensland, this program is managed on a whole-of-government basis by QRA.
- There are four categories of relief measures under the Queensland Disaster Funding Guidelines:
 - **Category A and B** relief measures are designed to assist those within the community who do not have the resources to provide for their own recovery. This includes Counter Disaster Operations, Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets, Disaster Assistance Loans and Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme measures.
 - **Category C** for special disaster assistance grants and Community Recovery Package and **Category D** for exceptional circumstances assistance may be required to support the recovery of the impacted community.

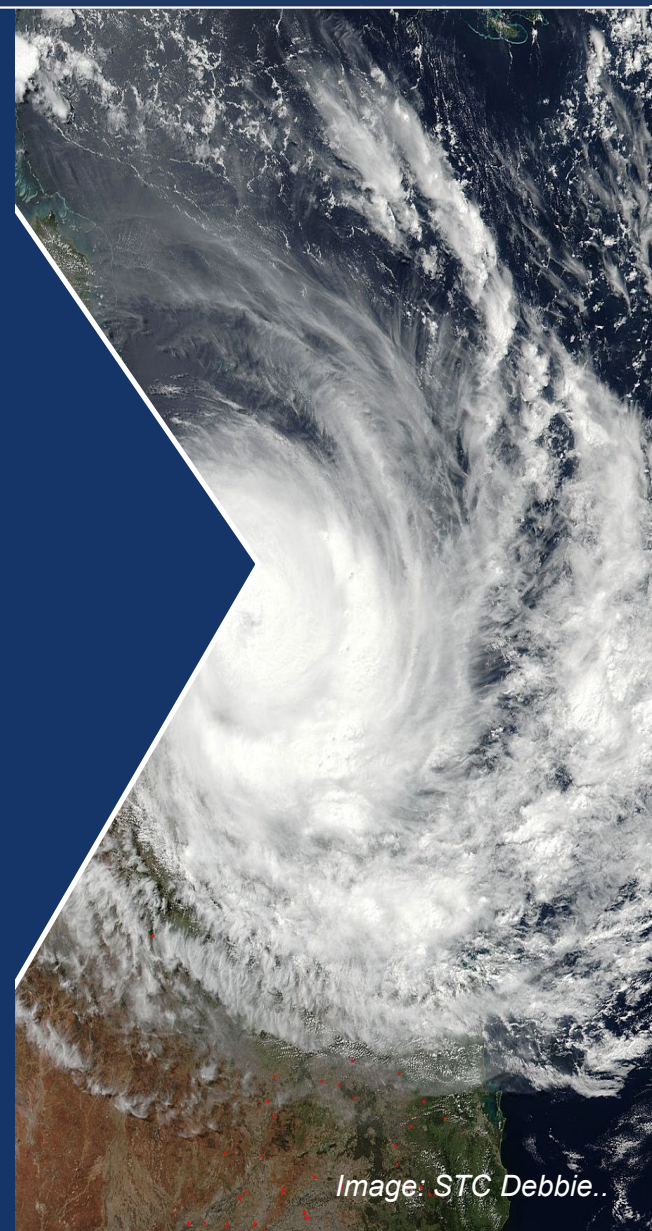


Image: STC Debbie..

Cat C/D Environmental packages

Year / Event	Funding	Details
2017 STC Debbie	\$35.0M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streambank and riparian recovery. • Clean-up of beaches, recreational parks, rivers and waterways.
2019 Monsoon Trough	\$46.12M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River and coastal recovery • Weeds and pest management
2019 Queensland Bushfires	\$1.0M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Trails Restoration
2022 Southern Queensland Floods	\$99.9M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Recovery - \$38.9 million • Flood Risk Management - \$31 million • Clean-up Grants - \$30 million
2022-23 Monsoon and Flooding	\$15M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Waters Clean-up and Recovery Program - \$6.5 million • Biodiversity and Invasive Species Management Program - \$3.5 million • National Park Recovery Program - \$3.5 million • Environmental Investigations Program - \$1.5 million
2023-24 South Queensland Storms & TC Jasper	\$71.3M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental recovery (\$51.3M) riparian recovery, weed and pest management, biodiversity conservation, and restoration of environmental assets in national parks • Clean-up program (\$20M) extraordinary clean-up activities of rivers, waterways, beaches, community and recreational assets and National Parks and to support removal and disposal of disaster related debris



The Environment FRRG is chaired by the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Science.

Lead agency

Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI)

<https://www.desi.qld.gov.au/>

The Environment Functional Recovery and Resilience Group is chaired by the Director-General of DESI.

Membership

- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Department of Environment, Science and Innovation
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
- Department of Resources
- Department of State Development and Infrastructure
- Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
- Local Government Association of Queensland
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
- Queensland Health
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

Advisors

- AgForce
- Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC)
- Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS)
- Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA)
- Ergon Energy
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)
- National Parks Association of Queensland
- Natural Resource Management (NRM) Regions Queensland
- Queensland Conservation Council (QCC)
- Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF)
- Queensland Resources Council (QRC)
- Queensland Urban Utilities (QUU)
- River Improvement Trusts
- Seqwater
- SunWater
- Waste Recycling Industry Association of Queensland (WRIQ)
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Changes we've seen in environmental recovery over the past decade

Environmental recovery now has:

- a lead Functional Recovery Group – DES DG chair
- funding availability
- partnership approach with natural resource managers and farming communities
- a focus on resilience



Image: Lamington National Park near Binna Burra following the Southern Queensland Bushfires, September 2019.

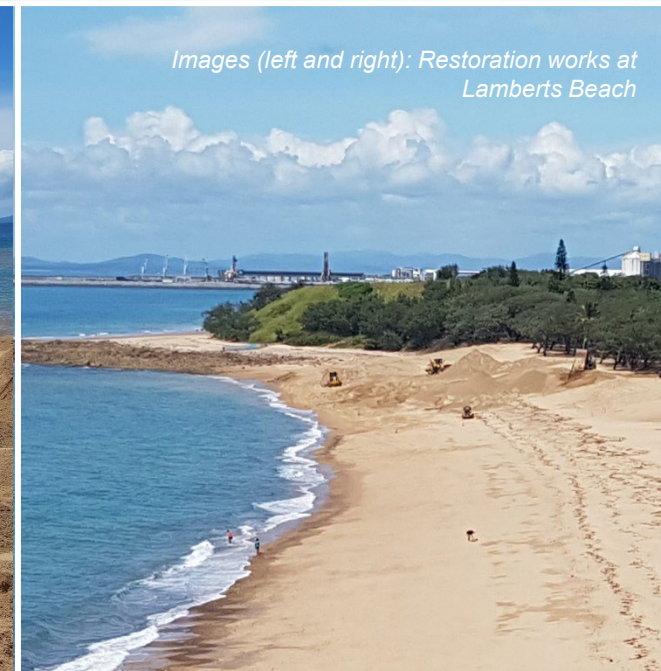
Lamberts Beach was extensively damaged during STC Cyclone Debbie in 2017.

Mackay Regional Council was able to secure State and Commonwealth funding for a major restoration of the well-loved beach.

The project includes importing and spreading sand, associated fencing and re-vegetation works and returned the beach to pre-cyclone conditions and provide resilience against future cyclones.



Image: Drone vision over Lamberts Beach showing beach erosion after STC Debbie



Images (left and right): Restoration works at Lamberts Beach

2010-2021

Past challenges

Achievements

Reactive	➔	Proactive
Collaboration	➔	Partnerships
Climate change	➔	Climate adaption
Costs of disasters	➔	Resilience funding
Technology and innovation	➔	Evidence and data
Community education	➔	Community engagement

2022-2027

Current challenges

Aspirations

Culture

- Resilience is everyone's responsibility – growing need for strengthened coordination and cooperation across Government and sectors
- Resilience to be seen as more than returning to business as usual or maintaining business continuity for all hazards

- Address systemic disaster risk by effectively coordinating across stakeholders and sectors
- Embed disaster risk reduction and resilience into decision making and governance structures

Environment

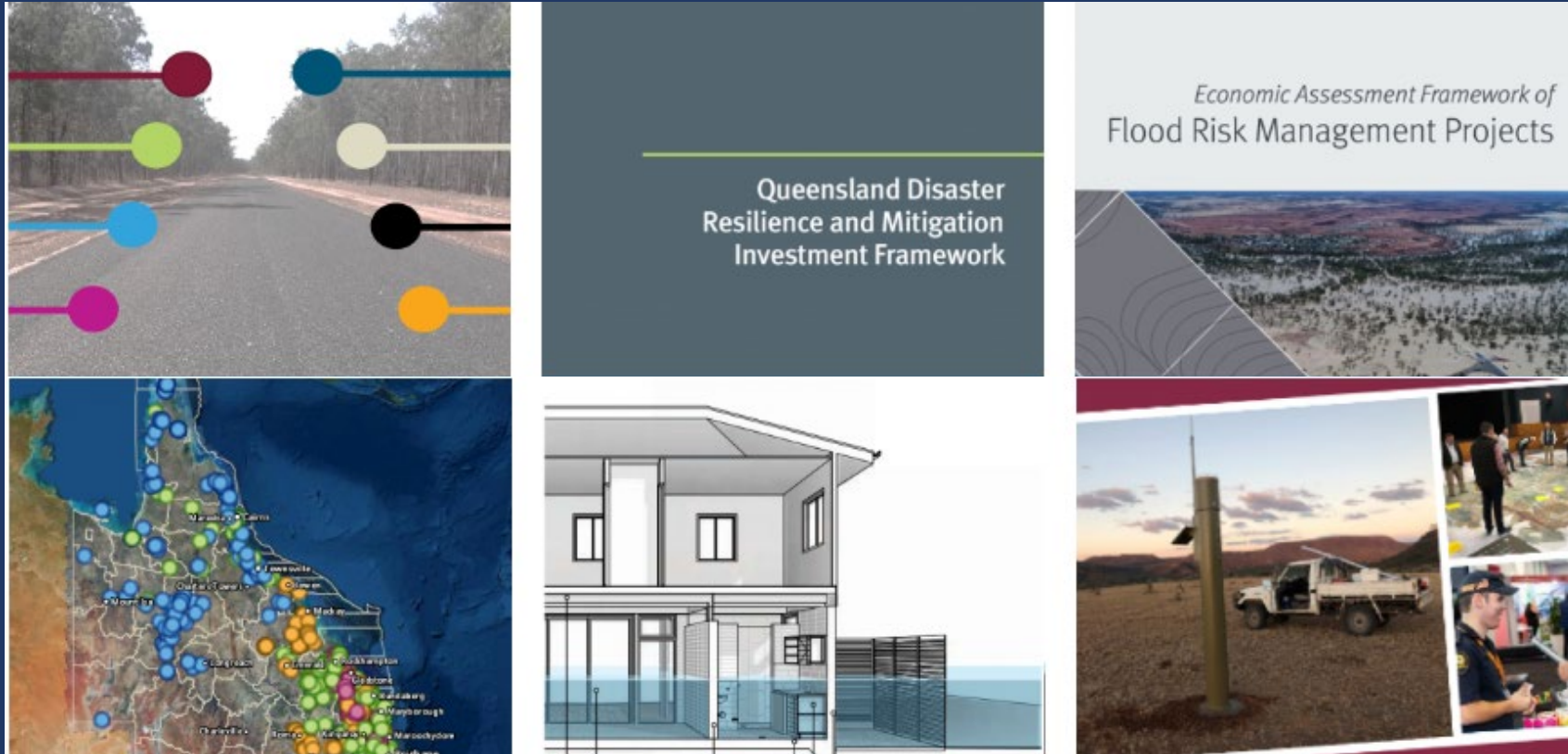
- Unprecedented change in both the current and future operating environment
- Adapting, managing and responding to climate change

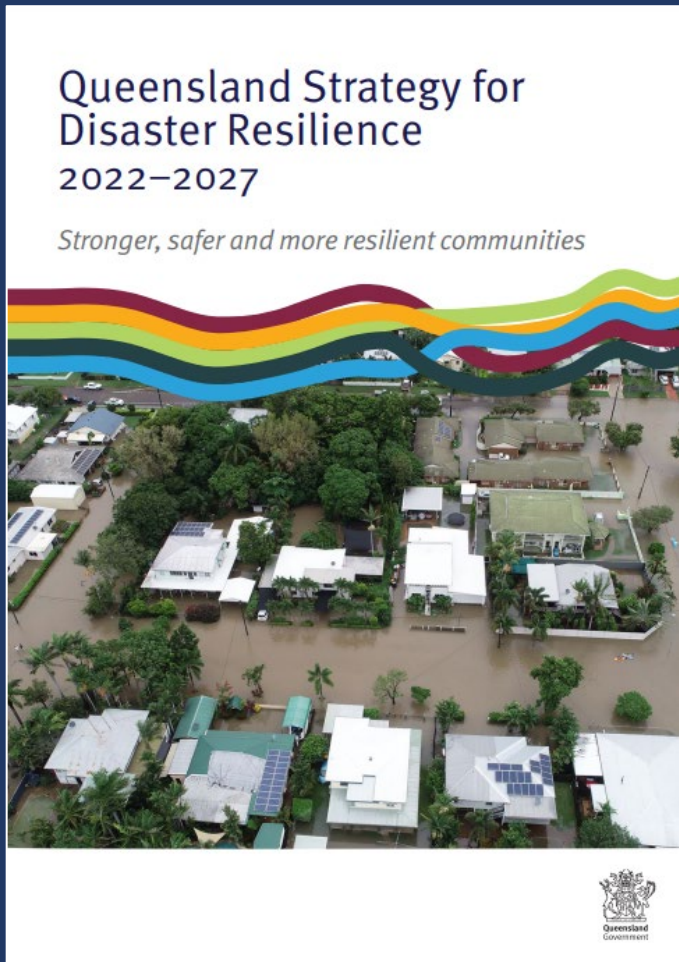
- Identify innovative opportunities to make communities, infrastructure and environments stronger and more adaptable
- Clear understanding of potential risks to empower everyone to make informed decisions to better prevent, prepare and respond, and minimise recovery efforts

Investment

- Narrowing window for preparedness, recovery and learnings with natural hazards becoming more frequent and intense due to a changing climate
- Insurance costs are increasing due to disaster risk

- Ensure Queensland has a reliable and continuous operation of critical infrastructure despite stresses and shocks that may occur
- Align investment pathway opportunities to local needs to build long-term resilience to future disasters



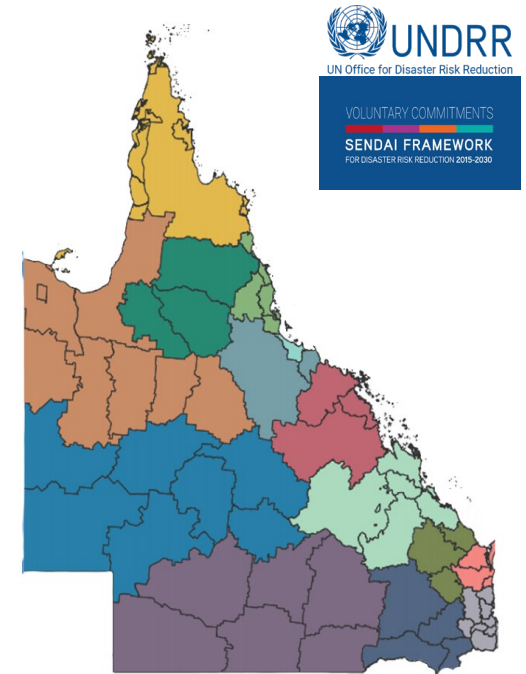


Our statewide strategy for disaster resilience has:

- **4 objectives**

- 1** we understand the potential disaster risks we face
- 2** we work together to better manage disaster risk
- 3** we seek new opportunities to reduce disaster risk
- 4** we continually improve how we prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters

- **19 strategic commitments**
- **52 actions.**



Regional Resilience Strategies have been delivered statewide, and every council has a Resilience Action Plan – with 4400 local resilience actions identified statewide.

www.qra.qld.gov.au