

Section four: Progress Reports



4.1 Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia Recovery Plan

The Recovery Plan has been prepared to guide the activities which will help ensure that impacted communities recover as quickly as possible from the devastating and widespread effects of Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

The Recovery Plan provides strategic guidance for the coordination and management of recovery, reconstruction and disaster resilience activities and initiatives undertaken by the Queensland Government, local governments, industry and other stakeholders after the event. It also provides strategies to work with affected communities in their recovery process.

The Recovery Plan identifies key recovery tasks, recovery milestones and estimated completion dates of the projects to be undertaken by Queensland Government lead and support agencies over the recovery and reconstruction phase.

Recovery phases

The recovery activities will be undertaken across three broad phases.

Phase one is already complete with post-impact recovery activities deployed immediately after the cyclone crossed the coast. Phase Two Recovery and Reconstruction is now underway and will conclude on 30 June 2017 when NDRRA funding timelines expire for this event, while Phase Three will see any outstanding recovery initiatives transition to agencies to be managed.



Disaster Recovery Coordinators

On 23 February 2015, Acting Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services was appointed as the interim Disaster Recovery Coordinator for two weeks before Acting Assistant Commissioner Brian Codd, Queensland Police Service took over the rebuilding task. The Disaster Recovery Coordinator coordinates the recovery process for affected areas, and the recovery and reconstruction efforts of government and non-government agencies.

Functional lines of recovery

Functional Recovery Groups (FRG) have been established to lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of State whole-of-government recovery across five lines of recovery. The roles and responsibilities of the FRGs are set out in the Recovery Plan and are summarised below. The following tables also set out the status of the progress of recovery for each FRG as reported by the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILP) as at 10 June 2015.

Human & Social

Role	Key responsibilities
To lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of human and social recovery activities in line with the Recovery Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of strategic advice on human and social recovery issues and services Coordination of human and social services to support the recovery effort delivered by state, local and Australian Government agencies, non government organisations (NGOs) and other relevant service providers Coordination of financial assistance to eligible applicants for the Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) and Essential Services Safety and Reconstruction (ESSR) Scheme under NDRRA or State Disaster Recovery Arrangements Coordination of the provision of personal support, counselling and specialised mental health services and facilitation of the redevelopment of social networks and community infrastructure to strengthen and build resilience.

Progress of recovery

- NDRRA financial assistance of \$15.63 million has been provided to individuals and families under the PHAS and ESSRS - *refer opposite*
- Of \$5.1 million NDRRA Category C Community Recovery funding approved over two years, \$3.3 million has been allocated for personal support and counselling and \$1.8 million has been allocated for community development in Rockhampton, Livingstone, Gladstone, North Burnett and Banana. Services are expected to be procured and operating late July 2015.
- Outreach continues from Rockhampton. To date, 4,966 people have been seen on 3,847 outreach visits. There has been 2,937 face to face contact hours and 6,156 referrals to non-government organisations
- Queensland Health is progressing recruitment of mental health staff to deliver services to those severely affected by the event for a two year period.

NDRRA financial assistance to individuals and families

	Paid (\$'000)	People assisted	Applications approved	Under assessment
Immediate Hardship Assistance	\$5,067k	28,148	12,568	-
Essential Household Content Grants	\$1,247k	3,092	1,252	-
Structural Assistance Grants ^{1,2}	\$554k	277	137 paid 29 pending payment	10
ESSR Scheme Grants ^{1,2}	\$60k	65	37	9
Red Cross Food Vouchers	\$8,700k	41,094	40,605 vouchers	-
Total	\$15,628k			

- Payments may be delayed due to clients deferring payment until completion of relevant contractor works.
- Applications may be delayed due to outstanding documentation required to support application.

(Source: DILP, 10 June 2015)

4.1 Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia Recovery Plan (continued)

Economic

Role	Key responsibilities
To advise the Government on economic impacts and provide information on needs of local government and industry getting the economy back to full production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of strategic advice on economic recovery issue and services Identification of economic impacts and key issue that inform recovery efforts Coordinate activities to assist in restoring the economy including assistance business, industry and regional recovery and renewal through targeted support and assistance.

Progress of recovery

NDRRA financial assistance to primary producers, small business & not for profits (NFPs) of \$2.3 million paid as follows:

		Paid (\$'000)	Applications paid	Under assessment
Primary producers	Freight subsidies	\$0.2k	1	-
	Natural Disaster loans	-	-	7
	Category C Grants	\$1,680k	269	95
Small business/ NFPs	Natural Disaster loans	-	-	6
	Category C Grants	\$649k	102	32

Building

Role	Key responsibilities
To lead, coordinate and action temporary accommodation solutions for displaced people; repair and reconstruct state building assets; and provide building advisory services to support community recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation of solutions to address immediate and longer-term temporary accommodation needs of community members and the recovery workforce Assessment and coordination of the repair and restoration of State public buildings Support and provide advice to the recovery supply chain including contractors, subcontractors and material suppliers.

Progress of recovery

Recovery complete

- All 99 emergency housing assistance requests have been finalised
- All 1,403 units of damaged social housing accommodation are operational
- All 147 damaged government assets have been restored to service
- All schools and other government facilities have been made safe and operational.
- The Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC), the Insurance Council of Australia and Industry Groups continue to support the recovery of impacted communities through facilitation of advice and dissemination of information.

Environment

Role	Key responsibilities
To guide the Government in achieving sustainable and resilient environmental recovery and coordinate activities which the make best use of resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification and monitoring of impacts on the environment and the provision of strategic advice to inform recovery efforts Coordinate and prioritise the rehabilitation of impacted ecosystems, wildlife, natural resources, cultural heritage values and heritage places Consideration of strategies to reduce future impacts on the environment.

Progress of recovery

- All 77 national parks affected by Tropical Cyclone Marcia have since been fully re-opened. During May, the final three parks that had previously been partly reopened were fully opened.
- 350km of fire lines have been repaired and reinstated, 100 hectares burnt near communities and infrastructure to reduce fire risk and 469 piles of timber and debris burnt to reduce fuel load.
- Minor repairs have been completed to a groundwater monitoring site in the Don and Dee Rivers ahead of full restoration. Repairs to damaged surface water gauging station scheduled during July.
- Water quality data for sampling taken during the event is currently being analysed and quality assured.

Roads and Transport

Role	Key responsibilities
Coordinates the efficient and effective delivery of road and transport recovery activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the state-controlled roads and transport response and reconstruction, including assessing damage, prioritising and delivering recovery and reconstruction activities and considering resilience and disaster mitigation measures as part of the works.

Progress of recovery

- DTMR districts are currently responding with emergent repairs and detours where necessary
- All damaged roads have reopened or have alternative access routes in place
- DTMR responded with emergent repairs and detours where necessary during the 60-day emergent works period
- The majority of reconstruction works arising from the 2015 events are expected to planned, designed and let to market by late 2015
- Options to replace and realign the Burnett River Bridge and its approaches are currently being investigated. A consultant has been appointed to finalise the options analysis, business case and undertake design by the end of December 2015.

(Source: DILP, 10 June 2015)

4.2 Program spotlights

2013 events Completion of \$1.9 billion program

Queensland has reached another significant milestone in its recovery from major natural disasters with more than \$1.9 billion of works related to the 2013 disaster events now completed.

The State was impacted by five cyclone, flooding and bushfire disaster events in 2013, with Tropical Cyclone Oswald and its associated rainfall causing the most widespread and significant damage.

Tropical Cyclone Oswald crossed the western coast of Cape York Peninsula on 22 January 2013. Weakening to a low pressure system, ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald moved inland and down the coast over the following seven days producing damaging winds, including mini-tornados, extreme rainfall, and flooding across the State. Tragically, six deaths occurred related to the event.

The cyclone and its associated rainfall and flooding closed more than 5,800km of State controlled roads, impacted close to 40% of the State's rail network and caused damage as far north as Torres Strait Island, west to Cloncurry and all the way through central and south-east Queensland. The Wide Bay Burnett region - in particular Bundaberg, North Burnett and South Burnett - was severely impacted by the event.

For many of the 59 Councils affected by the 2013 events it's been back-to-back reconstruction programs for more than four years. When Tropical Cyclone Oswald hit, the State was already dealing with the \$8 billion+ recovery from the series of cyclone and flooding events that ravaged communities in 2011 and 2012.

Inclusive of the 2013 events, councils and state agencies have now managed and completed major reconstruction programs over the past four years worth more than \$10 billion.

The 2013 event program was not only delivered on time but also with innovation and efficiencies. Of note, North Burnett Regional Council was presented with the Local Buy State Procurement Award for Collaboration at The Government Procurement Professional Awards in March 2014, recognising the significant contribution that staff made towards procurement and project delivery of its event program.

The 2013 events also marked the establishment of the \$80 million Betterment fund. The funding was allocated to 232 projects impacted by the events across the State to improve the resilience of infrastructure. The benefits of the betterment works have already been realised with a number of completed projects withstanding serious impacts with little damage or disruption when put to the test by the cyclone and flooding events of 2014 and 2015.



Aerial view of Bundaberg under flood, January 2013



*Damage to Capricorn Highway at Neerkol Creek, January 2013
(Courtesy www.themorningbulletin.com.au).*



Damage to Don Tallon Bridge, Bundaberg following 2013 flood event, which was recovered within two weeks of the event, restoring a crucial cross-river link for the Bundaberg community.



A section of Browns Road (North Burnett Regional Council) washed away following the 2013 floods (above); and the completed realigned road (right)



Landslips and damage to the Burnett Highway (Mount Morgan Range) following Tropical Cyclone Oswald (left); and following reconstruction works (right)

4.2 Program spotlights (continued)

Brisbane City Council Completion of Ferry Terminals project



The upgraded Holman Street ferry terminal at Kangaroo Point was officially opened on 23 June 2015, marking the end of Brisbane City Council's ferry terminal replacement program.

The January 2011 floods damaged all of Brisbane City Council's CityCat and City Ferry terminals. To return service as soon as possible, Council replaced the seriously damaged terminals with temporary terminals.

Seven temporary terminals were built to pre-flood standards meaning that in the event of another major flood, it was likely it would need to be rebuilt again.

Works to replace the seven terminals with more resilient, permanent structures were delivered as part of a Category D (exceptional circumstances) funding package.

The new terminals are designed to withstand a one-in-500-year flood event with the designs incorporating robust piers engineered with the capacity to deflect heavy objects in flood waters, and gangways that detach at the shore end in the event of a flood, allowing it to swing behind the pontoon and avoid being struck by debris.

The Holman Street and the Maritime Museum ferry terminal at Southbank were the final two ferry terminals in the program to be completed, being re-opened and returned to normal services on 23 June. Earlier in June, the North Quay terminal in the Brisbane CBD had also been completed and reopened.

Other ferry terminals replaced under the program at The University of Queensland (St Lucia), Regatta (Toowong), QUT Gardens Point (CBD) and Sydney Street (New Farm) were progressively opened in April and May 2015.

The works were delivered by McConnell Dowell Constructors.



(Left to right): Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, Brisbane Councillor Peter Matic and Authority Chair Maj-Gen Richard Wilson at the Holman Street ferry terminal



The completed QUT Gardens Point ferry terminal



Sydney Street terminal opened

4.2 Program spotlights (continued)

Toowoomba Regional Council Completion of 2011 event Category D works on Gowrie Creek

Toowoomba Regional Council has completed \$25 million worth of flood mitigation projects that will ensure the city is more resilient to future flooding events.

Images of devastating flash flooding through the Toowoomba central business district became one of the iconic memories of the devastating floods in Queensland in January 2011.

Council Infrastructure Service Committee Chair Cr Carol Taylor said after the 2011 floods it became clear that Council needed to bring forward some flood mitigation projects that would have been delivered over a longer period of time.

“The Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry clearly stated in its final report that councils had a responsibility to mitigate future flood impacts,” Cr Taylor said.

The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments approved \$20 million in NDRRA exceptional circumstances Category D funding while Council contributed \$5 million to the flood mitigation projects.



Toowoomba under flood - January 2011



Completed works - Garnet Lehman detention basin



Without the Category D funding, Council would not have been able to fast-track the projects which formed part of Toowoomba’s overall Gowrie Creek Catchment Management Strategy. Council’s original Strategy was to complete the series of flood mitigation works by 2023.

The delivered projects help improve public safety and provide increased property protection in future flooding events to the residential, commercial and industrial areas in and around the Toowoomba CBD.

Some of the key projects delivered with the NDRRA funding include new detention basins at Ballin Drive Park and Garnet Lehman Park and East Creek channel works to increase capacity between James Street and Creek Street by upgrading the Mary Street culvert.

All work on the program was completed in June 2015.

Left: Completed works at Ballin Drive detention basin (top) and Mary Street culvert, East Creek channel works (bottom)

