

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

July 2015

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Major General Richard Wilson AO (Ret'd)
Chairman
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Dear Major General Wilson

It is with pleasure that I present the July 2015 Monthly Report – the 53rd report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority).

The Authority was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (the Act) following the unprecedented natural disasters which struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11. The role of the Authority has since been extended a number of times to cover historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland. In June 2015, a Bill was passed by Parliament to extend the Authority beyond 30 June 2015 to enable the Authority to continue the work of helping communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters that have devastated Queensland over recent times.

The Authority is charged with managing and coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our State and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.

The Authority is managing a total program of works for events from 2009 through to 2015 with an estimated total cost of more than \$13 billion.

The Authority is currently assisting with the damage assessments from the recent 2015 events and progression of the 2014 and 2015 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases. With relevant works now completed, the Authority is also focused on gathering and assessing completion documentation to close out the 2013 event and other works completed by 30 June 2015 for acquittal in the next claim due to the Commonwealth in early 2016. To date, more than \$10.8 billion of the program has been acquitted in completed Commonwealth claims.

The July report provides an update on the progress of recovery. As at 30 June 2015:

- a cumulative value of \$18.4 billion in submissions have been received by the Authority
- a cumulative total of \$18.2 billion has been processed by the Authority
- a cumulative value of \$12.5 billion of the total works program (2009 to 2015) has been reported to the Authority as being in progress or delivered by delivery agents as at 31 May 2015.

On 30 June 2015, a key milestone in the State's reconstruction effort was reached with the deadline passing for councils and state agencies to complete close to \$2 billion of works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other 2013 events. Whilst formal reporting of completion will occur over the coming months, councils and state agencies have consistently indicated that all relevant works were completed on time other than a limited number of projects impacted by weather for which extension of time requests have been submitted to the Commonwealth. The July report profiles the completion of the 2013 event works, including works allocated Betterment funding to improve the resilience of damaged assets. The report also profiles the recent completion of two projects undertaken with special Category D NDRRA funding following the 2011 events— Brisbane's ferry terminals project, whereby seven commuter terminals were rebuilt with more resilient, permanent structures; and flood mitigation works on the Gowrie Creek catchment to ensure the city of Toowoomba is more resilient to future flooding events.

The July report also tracks the progress of recovery by the functional recovery groups established under the Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia Recovery Plan (the Recovery Plan). The Recovery Plan was adopted following Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia to guide the activities which will help ensure that impacted communities recover as quickly as possible from the disaster.

I commend the report to you and recommend its release to the Minister and the public pursuant to Section 41 of the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011*.

Yours sincerely

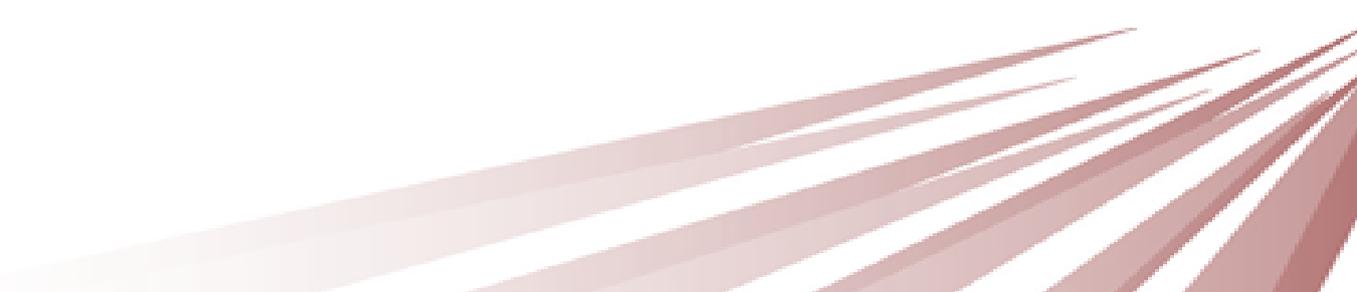


Frankie Carroll
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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Section one:
Introduction



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Queensland has been struck by a series of unprecedented natural disasters in recent years. Between November 2010 and April 2011, extensive flooding caused by periods of extremely heavy rainfall and destruction caused by a number of storm cells including Cyclones Tasha, Anthony and Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi and subsequent monsoonal flooding, resulted in all of Queensland being declared as disaster affected. Since 2011, the State has also repeatedly faced additional large scale natural disasters including a series of events through 2012, Tropical Cyclone Oswald in late January 2013, Tropical Cyclone Ita and other events in 2014 and most recently Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority) was established on 21 February 2011 under the *Queensland Reconstruction Act 2011* (the Act) to manage and coordinate the recovery effort for the disaster events of the summer of 2010-11. The Authority also administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) activated disaster events and works closely with local governments to ensure the effective recovery of Queensland communities.

The Act as passed included a sunset clause to wrap up the Authority after two years, recognising that the focus of the Authority was to fast-track rebuilding efforts and get Queensland back on to a business-as-usual footing as quickly as possible. The Act was extended in 2012 and again in 2013 following Tropical Cyclone Oswald. In June 2015, the Authority's sunset clause of 30 June 2015 was repealed as part of the *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* enabling the Authority to continue the critical work of helping communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of continuing natural disasters that have devastated Queensland over recent times.

1.2 Purpose

The Authority's mission is **to reconnect, rebuild and improve Queensland communities and its economy.**

The Authority is charged with managing and coordinating the Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities, with a focus on working with our State and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.

The Authority operates with reference to recovery and reconstruction plans established by the State in response to the 2011 disaster events, Tropical Cyclone Oswald in 2013, Severe Tropical Cyclone Ita in 2014 and most recently Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015. An overview of the Tropical Cyclone Marcia Recovery Plan and status of recovery is provided in Section 4.1.

1.3 Timing

The Authority's priorities are currently assisting councils and State agencies to complete their reporting and progress through the close out and acquittal phase of their program of works from Tropical Cyclone Oswald and other events of 2013, with reconstruction and Betterment fund works having occurred prior to 30 June 2015.

The Authority is also assisting with the damage assessments from the recent 2015 events and progression of the 2014 and 2015 events through the damage assessment, submission preparation and approval and delivery phases.

