

QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

October 2013

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the page, consisting of several overlapping, radiating lines in various shades of maroon and red, creating a sense of movement and depth.

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Major General Richard Wilson AO
Chairman
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Dear Major General Wilson

It is with pleasure that I present the October 2013 Monthly Report – the 32nd report to the Board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority).

The Authority was established under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* following the unprecedented natural disasters which struck Queensland over the summer months of 2010-11. 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.

Following the widespread damage caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald in early 2013, the jurisdiction of the Authority was expanded by the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Amendment Bill 2013* to cover this and other disaster events which occurred in the 2012-13 disaster event period, provide the Authority with a stronger focus on community resilience and extend the term of the Authority until 30 June 2015.

The Authority continues to monitor the progress of reconstruction and provide the resourcing and support necessary to build the momentum of reconstruction and enhance the resilience of communities for potential disasters. Whilst maintaining focus on the entire program, the Authority's current priorities are on progressing the remaining program of works from the 2011 and 2012 disaster periods, fast-track the progress to reconstruction works from the recent 2013 events and assisting councils and State agencies close out their completed works for the 2010 disaster period.

The October report provides an update on the progress of the program of works managed by the Authority. As at 1 October 2013:

- an additional \$265 million in submissions have been received by the Authority since last month
- an additional \$333 million has been processed by the Authority since last month
- a cumulative value of \$9.2 billion of the \$14.0 billion works program has been reported to the Authority as being in progress or delivered by delivery agents as at 31 August 2013.

The October report also provides an update on the \$80 million jointly funded program for Betterment projects open to LGAs affected by the 2013 events. The Betterment fund was announced in February 2013 for the restoration or replacement of essential public assets to a more disaster resilient standard than their pre-disaster standard. The October report profiles recently approved Betterment projects for Lockyer Valley Regional Council - Thistlethwaite Bridge.

The report also provides an update on the progress of the five functional recovery groups established in February 2013 under the Queensland 2013 Flood Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan) in response to the damage impacts of Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

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



Graeme Newton
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, 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.

On 21 February 2011 in response to the 2011 disaster events, the Queensland Government established the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority) under the *Queensland Reconstruction Act 2011*. The Authority's role was subsequently extended to cover historical and continuing disaster events in Queensland and, on 26 September 2012, the State Government announced the initial extension of the term of the Authority's operations to June 2014.

The Authority has since been given responsibility to administer Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) for the large scale natural disaster caused by Tropical Cyclone Oswald in late January 2013 and additional events which have occurred in the 2012-13 disaster event period. The *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Amendment Bill 2013* was passed on 14 February 2013 to expand the jurisdiction of the Authority to include these recent events, provide the Authority with a stronger focus on community resilience and extend the term of the Authority to 30 June 2015.

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.

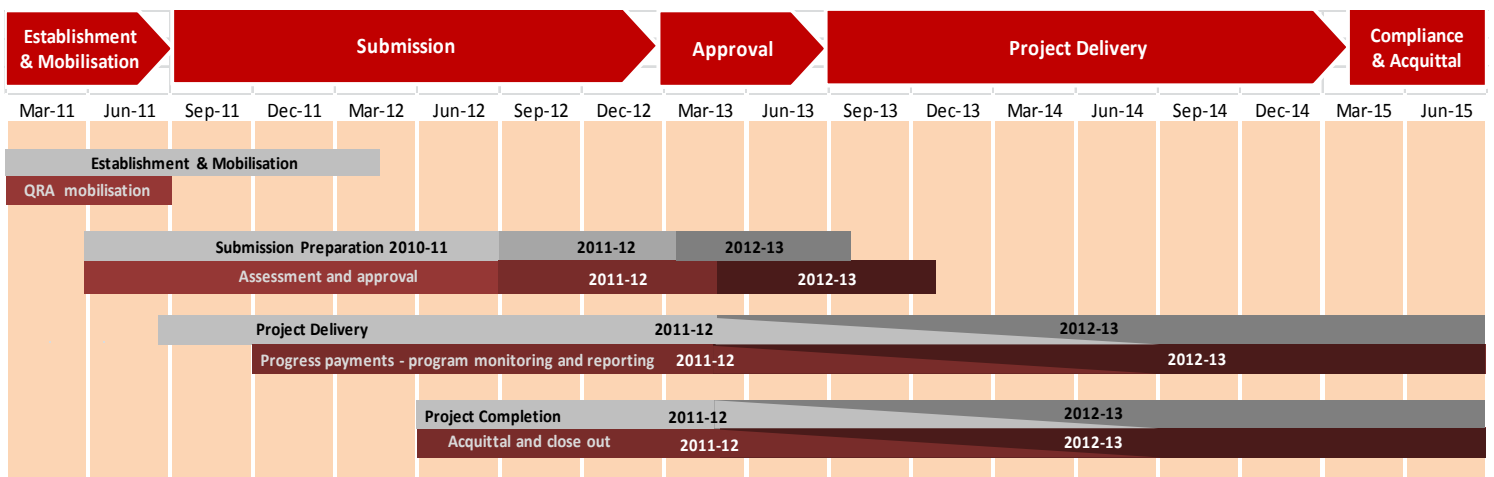
The Authority operates with reference to recovery and reconstruction plans established by the State in response to the 2011 disaster events and more recently following Tropical Cyclone Oswald. The Queensland 2013 Flood Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan), approved on 25 February 2013, provides strategic guidance for the coordination and management of recovery, reconstruction and community resilience activities undertaken across the State after Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

Five functional recovery groups have been established under the Recovery Plan to manage and coordinate recovery initiatives across impacted regions. The Authority provides support to, and reports on progress of the groups against their key tasks with decentralised responsibility for delivery across responsible agencies for each functional recovery group. The functional recovery groups follow from the lines of reconstruction established following the 2011 disaster events, the key tasks of which are now substantially complete.

1.3 Timing

The Authority's priorities are currently assisting councils and State agencies to progress their remaining program of works from the 2011 and 2012 disaster periods, with the bulk of the reconstruction work occurring prior to June 2014. Concurrently, the Authority is focused on accelerating the submission and application approval process for the recent 2013 events with a view to fast-tracking the 2013 program of works into project delivery phase as soon as practicable.

With the period to deliver works for the 2010 disaster period now complete (at 30 June 2013), the Authority is assisting delivery agents with the reporting of final expenditure and close out of the completed program of works for 2010 events.



Source: the Authority at February 2013