

Role of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) was established as a statutory body under the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* following the unprecedented damage caused by the Queensland Floods and Tropical Cyclone Yasi and associated rainfall and flooding in 2010-11.

A legislative amendment that came into effect on 11 June 2015 made the QRA a permanent part of the Queensland Government.

QRA manages and coordinates the Queensland 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.

In line with QRA's vision to build a more disaster resilient Queensland, QRA is the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy. In this role, QRA works collaboratively with other agencies and key stakeholders to improve risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

QRA contributes to the Queensland Government's objectives for the community – creating jobs and a diverse economy, protecting the environment and building safe, caring and connected communities by:

- administering funding under the joint Australian and Queensland Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and assisting local governments to achieve value for money outcomes in their reconstruction programs
- providing advice and support to local governments to build resilience into their disaster preparedness and reconstruction programs
- coordinating disaster recovery activities that help communities recover from disasters and build their resilience to future events.

QRA also manages a range of programs and projects to coordinate recovery and resilience initiatives in Queensland communities, including:

- NDRRA, as well as the state's input to natural disaster funding reform
- the Queensland Government's State Disaster Relief Arrangements
- the joint Australian and Queensland Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

- the Queensland Government's Community Resilience Fund (CRF)
- Get Ready Queensland
- the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Studies
- the Flood Warning Gauge Network Review
- the Burnett Catchment Flood Risk Reduction Strategy
- the North Stradbroke Island Bushfire Management Plans and
- state recovery planning documents.

The QRA's Chief Executive Officer Brendan Moon is also the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator (SRPPC), whose role is to assist in the rapid recovery of communities following natural disasters, bridging the gap between response and recovery.

The SRPPC works collaboratively in the disaster recovery and resilience environment to coordinate the efforts of government and non-government agencies, linking policy development with on-the-ground recovery.

In response to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, the QRA developed the *State Recovery Plan 2017-2019: Operation Queensland Recovery*, which provides the framework for a community-led approach to recovery, supported by local governments and state agencies.

In late 2017, the QRA amended and released the Queensland Recovery Plan (which details the complex and often lengthy processes of recovery required from natural disasters) and updated the *Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience*. The Strategy aligns with international best practice – the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction 2015-2030 and is underpinned by its four Key Objectives:

- Queenslanders understand their disaster risk
- Strengthened disaster risk management
- Queenslanders are invested in disaster risk reduction
- There is continuous improvement in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

The Strategy will drive the identification of opportunities and disaster risk management policy options to build safe and connected communities, support all Queenslanders, including those with vulnerabilities, deliver resilient infrastructure, stimulate economic growth, ensure sustainable management of natural resources and enable responsible development.

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