

Annual Report 2021-22

About the Queensland Disaster Management Committee

The Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) is chaired by the Premier of Queensland, or her nominee, and comprises a core group of Ministers, supported by their Directors-General (Assisting Officials) and assisted by other Ministers, senior officers, and representatives from other government agencies (from all three levels of government) and non-government organisations as required. Additional support is provided through the State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) and the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC).

The QDMC serves as the disaster management policy and decision-making committee for Queensland. Its role is to ensure the development and implementation of effective disaster management for the State and to provide clear and unambiguous senior strategic leadership in relation to the four phases of disaster management: prevention, preparation, response and recovery. The QDMC allows direct Ministerial participation in the strategic management of disaster events, resulting in faster, better-informed decision-making during a disaster event.

Secretariat support is provided by the Queensland Police Service, with additional support from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Governance

The QDMC is established under section 17 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (DM Act) and its functions are prescribed in section 18 and include:

- Develop a strategic policy framework for disaster management for the State;
- Ensure effective disaster management is developed and implemented for the State;
- Identify resources inside and outside the State that may be used for disaster operations;
- Provide reports and make recommendations about matters relating to disaster management and disaster operations; and
- Prepare a State Disaster Management Plan.

Members:

- Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Chair)
- Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (Deputy Chair)
- Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
- Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement
- Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts
- Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing
- Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment
- Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
- Minister for Transport and Main Roads
- Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water

Attending Officials:

- Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet

- Director-General, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
- Director-General, Department of Energy and Public Works
- Director-General, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
- Director-General, Department of Education
- Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury
- Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Reconstruction Authority
- Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Director-General, Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
- Chief Health Officer, Queensland Health
- Commissioner, Queensland Police Service
- Commissioner, Queensland Ambulance Service
- Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Emergency Service

Observers:

- Inspector-General Emergency Management
- Chief Operating Officer, Local Government Association of Queensland

2021-22 Meetings

Ordinary meetings

- One (1) meeting
 - 11 October 2021

Extraordinary meetings

- Seven (7) meetings
 - 27th February 2022 9am
 - 27th February 2022 2.30pm
 - 28th February 2022 9.00am
 - 1st March 2022 9.30am
 - 2nd March 2022 9.00am
 - 3rd March 2022 9.00am
 - 4th March 9.00am

The Year in Review

July 2021

COVID-19

- The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Queensland was on 29 January 2020. On 2 February 2020, the SDCC moved its activation level to 'Stand Up' in response to the COVID-19 threat and to provide support to the Queensland State Health Emergency Coordination Centre. The World Health Organisation declared a Global Pandemic on 12 March 2020. A Disaster Declaration for Queensland was approved on 22 March 2020. The SDCC moved to 'Stand Down' on the 29 April 2022, ending the longest single event-activation in the history of the SDCC (817 Days).

December 2021***Tropical Cyclone (TC) Ruby – 9-15 December***

- On 9 December, 2021 a tropical low formed in the Solomon Sea. The system developed into a category 1 TC which was moving on a South East direction.
- The system passed out of the Australian sphere on 13 December and continued toward New Caledonia as a Category 2 system.
- As a result of the distance of the system away from the Queensland coast, no significant weather impacts were observed.

Tropical Cyclone Seth – 23 December – 7 January 2022

- The system originally developed in the Timor Sea and tracked across the Northern Territory entering the Gulf of Carpentaria on 28 December. The system was slow moving as it crossed Cape York Peninsula before it entered the Coral Sea on 29 December. While in the Coral Sea, the system reached Category 1 level and was named TC Seth. TC Seth peaked at Category 2 intensity late on 31 December.
- Late on 1 January, the system had de-intensified to below Category 1 while it moved down the Coral Sea, looping back toward the Queensland Coast. On 7 January, the remnants of the system crossed the Queensland Coast near Hervey Bay.
- TC Seth delivered heavy rainfall with associated flooding to the south eastern parts of Queensland, hazardous surf conditions and coastal inundation in southern Queensland coastal areas, and wind gusts of 152 km/h were recorded at Frederick Reef. Intense flooding was recorded at the Mary River

January 2022***Tropical Cyclone Tiffany – 8-7 January 2022***

- In the Coral Sea on 8 January, a Tropical Low formed and intensified into a Category 1 TC on 9 January. This system was named TC Tiffany. The system further intensified into a Category 2 system while moving toward the coast of Queensland north of Cairns.
- TC Tiffany crossed the coast near Cape Melville on January 10 before it lost strength. On January 11 the system entered the Gulf of Carpentaria and quickly re-intensified back into a Category 2 TC as it headed west into the northern Territory.
- Eventually a weakened system developed into a rain-bearing depression would continue into Western Australia before looping around toward the South Australia and Northern Territory border. Impacts in Queensland included 24hr rainfall totals of up to 170mm in the Daintree and Mossman River catchments.

Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai Island Volcano Eruption and Tsunami 15 – 16 January 2022

- For several weeks, the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai Island under sea Volcano had been experiencing minor eruptions. However on 15 January 2022, a significant eruption occurred which led to Tsunami warnings being issued for the east coast of Australia, Lord Howe, and Norfolk Islands.
- The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issued a total of 35 Tsunami Warnings for parts of Australia including: 17 Marine Threat Warnings to areas outside of Queensland territories and 16 Marine Threat

Warnings for Queensland territories (13 of these warnings also included Land Tsunami Threat Warnings for Norfolk Island and/or Lord Howe Island).

- The SDCC Watch Desk coordinated with agencies from other impacted states to prepare for potential significant notifications and operations in the event of a land based threat to mainland areas.

February – March 2022

Heavy Rain and Flooding, South East Queensland 22 February – 7 March 2022

- A series of low-pressure systems combined with moist tropical air contributed to an extreme multi-day rainfall event that resulted in riverine and flash flooding across south-eastern parts of Queensland and northern New South Wales.
- Between Friday 25 February and Sunday 27 February, the slow moving weather system began to deepen resulting in persistent heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms.
- This persistent rain in catchments with saturated soils caused major flooding in many areas, including densely populated areas. Close to 180,000 customers lost power during the event, and around 30,000 dwellings, businesses, or vehicles were damaged. It is estimated around 10% of the population of Queensland were directly affected by this event.
- Over 50 locations in south-eastern Queensland and north-east New South Wales recorded more than 1 metre (1,000 mm) of rain in the 7 days ending 1 March. This rainfall, coupled with saturated soils in catchments, caused major flooding across many catchments in south-eastern Queensland and eastern New South Wales.
- A total of 17 Local Government Areas (LGAs) issued Emergency Alert messages during this event with a total of 94 individual requests to warn the public of the risks. These warnings (issued by the SDCC Watch Desk) as well as over 500 BoM issued Weather Warnings disseminated by the SDCC to stakeholders assisted in keeping warnings and information flowing to impacted areas around the state.
- Further to this the SDCC monitored over 13,200 requests for SES assistance and provided operational, logistics, and planning assistance to impacted local governments.

May 2022

Queensland Severe Weather– May 2022

- May 2022 was the 5th wettest on record in Queensland. Rainfall impacts were exacerbated in some areas by already saturated catchments. This saw BoM issue a Flood Watch across numerous catchments.
- The widespread rain resulted in over 2,300 requests for SES assistance, the majority for leaking roofs and sandbag requests. Thirty-seven Emergency Alerts were issued during May, mostly to warn people of the risks of flash flooding associated with the heavy rainfall.
- The SDCC Watch Desk analysed almost 370 BoM issued Flood Warnings during May before notifying relevant stakeholders. This included: 101 at Major Flood levels and 118 at Moderate Flood levels

Activations

66 of the state's 77 LGAs were activated for assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022. The DRFA is a jointly funded program between the

Australian Government and state and territory governments, through which the Australian Government provides financial assistance to support state governments with disaster recovery costs.

Declarations

There was one Disaster Declaration made pursuant to section 69 of the *DM Act* during the reporting period. Disaster declaration was made on 22 March 2020 and remained in force/extended until it expired on 24 June 2022.

There were three Disaster Declarations made pursuant to section 64 of the *DM Act* during the reporting period.

- Disaster declaration (Gympie) was made on 26 February 2022 and ended on the 12th March 2022.
- Disaster declaration (Maryborough) was made on 27 February 2022 and ended on the 13^h March 2022.
- Disaster declaration (Brisbane) was made on 27 February 2022 and ended on the 13th March 2022.

Disaster Management Activities

The following is a sample of activities undertaken to maintain or enhance Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements during 2020-21:

Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services

- The former Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP) supported the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services engagement in national policy discussions on strategic responses and protection against the impact of COVID-19 on people with disability, through the Disability Reform Ministerial Council.
- In 2021-2022, the former DSDSATSIP issued a series of regular e-newsletters, called eBlasts, which, among other information, communicated key information to the disability sector and community in relation to emergency management including: workshops on planning for emergencies and disasters, details of South-East Queensland COVID-19 lockdowns, disability service provider updates on COVID-19, and the South-East Queensland severe weather and flooding events in early 2022.

Department of Education

- Completed disaster risk assessments across seven regions, aligning to the Queensland Emergency Management Risk Framework;
- Developed and implemented a Central Disaster Management plan and seven Regional Disaster Management sub plans;
- Provides governance and assurance, through the Continuity and Disaster Management Committee, which oversees, monitors and improves the department's capability to prevent, prepare, respond to and recover from disasters and emergencies; and

- Facilitates the delivery of annual Disaster Management Regional training across the State, for all regional response team members. This includes exercises incorporating lessons learnt methodology focusing on response and recovery complexities.

Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW)

- As an integral part of the Queensland disaster management arrangements, is committed to supporting Queensland during a disaster. DEPW maintains a robust internal business continuity and disaster management framework that is reviewed annually as part of the seasonal preparedness cycle.
- DEPW through QBuild, continues to represent the Queensland Government from a State-owned infrastructure perspective on the District Disaster Management Groups.
- QBuild maintains a Rapid Deployment Register for a fast and measured approach to response and recovery of Queensland State-owned assets and infrastructure to limit the disruptions that a disaster event has on the community.
- DEPW participated in training at the SDCC to ensure preparedness for potential activation.
- DEPW continued to manage the inspection and maintenance program of State-owned cyclone shelters, throughout the 2021-22 period to ensure readiness for activation.
- DEPW provided assistance and advice to client agencies to support the repair and restoration of existing leased office accommodation impacted by TC Debbie.
- The DEPW Disaster Coordination Unit provided internal disaster management training and education to regionally based QBuild staff to further support disaster responses and recovery, particularly in rural and remote regions.
- DEPW staff received internal face- face training, including role-specific training for Liaison Officers to District Human and Social Recovery Groups and District Disaster Management Groups to support the 23 Disaster Districts across Queensland. Online training was offered to all staff who undertake a role in disaster management to update their currency of the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements.

Department of Environment and Science (DES)

- DES reviewed its operational plans and business continuity arrangements, tested these plans, and participated in multi-agency exercises, including state coordination reporting, TC response, and state-wide recovery governance.
- A new Business Continuity Management framework was implemented in the period.
- DES, in conjunction with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, continued to ensure the efficacy of planning and implementation activities of the State Environment Functional Recovery Group, working with stakeholders to streamline the collection of impact information and expand the scope and activation of recovery funding programs (e.g. environmental clean-up support and biodiversity conservation initiatives, particularly for turtle and dugong species impacted by 2022 southern Queensland flooding).
- DES proactively engaged with a range of regulated sites with risk exposure to extreme wet weather, including high risk waste management and other hazardous sites.

- As a result of dislodged pontoons polluting the environment in the 2022 southern Queensland flooding, DES in collaboration with Maritime Safety Queensland, commenced work to improve the standards for rebuilt and new pontoons.
- DES also continued the rollout of new air monitoring stations and smoke sensors into Queensland communities which are currently without local measurements of PM2.5 concentrations during bushfire smoke exposure events. Work will continue into 2022-2023.
- The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P) within the DES works year-round to implement a range of on-ground bushfire hazard reduction activities, including planned burning, maintenance of over 35,000 kilometres of roads and fire lines, and mechanical and chemical treatment of vegetation in high-risk areas.
- During the 2021-22 period, QPWS&P completed 435 prescribed burns over an area of 358,563 hectares. This was achieved through a mix of on-ground burning and an expanded aerial planned burning program, particularly in South East Queensland. The area covered by the prescribed burns was lower than anticipated due to widespread and unusually prolonged wet conditions driven by the La Niña weather pattern;
- responded to 131 bushfires during the bushfire risk period (30 August to 3 December 2021);
- responded to the South East Queensland flooding event with Rangers assessing and closing affected parks and infrastructure. Teams were mobilised to repair affected areas, recover pontoons and clean up beaches of debris;
- finalised the development of the QPWS&P Bushfire Management Risk Framework and commenced implementation which includes bushfire risk analysis to inform the development of priority park and forest fire strategies and planned burn program; and
- implemented Phase 2 of the Bushfire Recovery Project for priority threatened species in Great Sandy National Park – Cooloola section, with support from the Australian Government after the 2019 South East Queensland wildfire event.
- QPWS&P continues to include First Nations partners in its fire training program to enable management partners to attain recognised national competencies in fire management roles.
- Following bushfires on K'gari (Fraser Island) in late 2020, and in response to the findings of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) K'gari (Fraser Island) Bushfire Review Report released in early 2021, DES in conjunction with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services continued to improve prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery capability to meet bushfire management challenges.

Department of Housing

- During 2021–22, the Department of Housing provided emergency accommodation support for the community in response to the 2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods. More than 780 households were supported with case management and alternative accommodation options during this event.

Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG)

- Annual review and scenario testing Business Continuity Plans were undertaken across all business areas in DJAG. The tests undertaken included preparations for extreme weather events, COVID-19 issues and consideration of information communications and technology capability/capacity.
- Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plans and Regional Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plans which outline the methodology and approach to dealing with critical incidents and emergencies across the Queensland Courts in the Brisbane precinct and regional court complexes, enabled the courts' functions to sustain a major interruption by the activation, timely coordination, management and execution of various response and business continuity plans.

Department of Resources

- A total of 29 Resources staff were deployed as part of the Community Recovery Ready Reserve in response to the following events: South-East Queensland Rain and Flood Event, Ex-TC Seth Flooding Event, Southern Queensland Flooding event and the Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event and staffing for COVID-19 Vaccination Hubs in Cairns and Inglewood .
- Undertook collaboration and consultation with four separate Regional Councils, LDMGs, DDMGs and affected community groups, to enable appropriate feed back and input into the annual review and development of the department owned Referable Dams Emergency Action Plans
- Four Emergency Action Plans reviewed, updated and submitted to the regulator prior to the 2021/22 wet season.
- Undertook pre wet season inspections on all of the departments Referable Dams prior to the 2021/22 wet season.
- Three Emergency Action Plans activated on a number of occasions due to flooding during the 2021/22 wet season.
- Appropriate messaging, warnings and sitreps distributed to all relevant stakeholders during these activations.
- Previous post wet season evaluation and learning were incorporated into 2021/22 Emergency Action Plans annual reviews.
- Annual Emergency Action Plan training and scenario exercise undertaken November 2021.
- Wet season sitreps for abandoned mines including wet season preparedness with readiness of pump and telemetry systems.
- Active water management across abandoned mine sites to prevent uncontrolled release of contaminated water.
- For the 2021/22 financial year, Department of Resources' bushfire risk reduction activities on state land included 111 hazard reduction burns over 3651 hectares, and 527 other bushfire mitigation actions including maintenance activities across 1600 kilometres of fire trails.
- Specific guidance and information on 'cleaning up after floods and storms' and 'fires' is available on the [asbestos.qld.gov.au](https://www.asbestos.qld.gov.au) website under general information (Cleaning up after floods and storms > Asbestos, Fires > Asbestos).

Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (RDMW)

- In preparation for the 2021-22 wet season, the RDMW developed and approved its Disaster Management framework and plans and undertook a desktop emergency exercise.
- RDMW has a representative nominated to all the District Disaster Management Groups across the state.
- The department's Dam Safety Regulator ensured that all Emergency Action Plans for referable dams were approved and in place before the wet season.
- The RDMW surface water monitoring network is confirmed as fully operational in accordance with the ISO 9000 quality system prior to each wet season.
- The department activated its emergency management plans in January 2022 for the Wide Bay and Burnett weather event and again in February 2022 for the South East weather event.
- It provided intelligence reporting to the SDCC on referable dams and drinking water quality issues.
- Seven DRDMW Ready Reserves were deployed at various sites in Southeast Queensland to support Community Recovery.

Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP)

DSDILGP has Economic Functional Recovery Group (EFRG) responsibilities under the State's disaster management arrangements. It is noted the EFRG:

- advises the Queensland Government on the economic impacts of disaster events such as cyclones, bushfires and major flooding events
- provides information on the needs of local government and industry in responding to the events and getting the economy back to full production
- membership includes representatives from relevant peak bodies and industry groups, affected local councils, and State representatives supporting recovery
- during the 2021-22 season, stood up in response to the Southern Queensland Flooding 6 – 20 May and met three times.

DSDILGP notes the Coordinator-General (CG) owns land in State Development Areas, and a majority of the CG-owned land is currently under cattle grazing leases which manages fuel loads in those areas, highlighting:

- leaseholders also undertake controlled burns, maintain fire breaks, and notify neighbours appropriately
- for areas that are not grazed, the CG engages the local Rural Fire Brigade to undertake hazard reduction controlled burns and maintain strategic firebreaks
- in 2021-22 the CG conducted hazard reduction burns on over 130 hectares of CG-owned land.

Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport**Tourism**

- Delivering the \$7 million Tourism Recovery and Resilience Package (the Package) funded through the DRFA Category C. The Package targets support to areas of the State that rely heavily on tourism as a

contributor to local economy, to assist in recovery from the devastating impacts of the 2021-22 extraordinary flood events on the tourism industry, and to build the long-term sustainability of the tourism industry in these regions. Components of the Package include:

- \$5 million Building Resilient Tourism Infrastructure Grants: Grants were provided for eligible tourism businesses to assist in delivering activities and infrastructure that build resilience, reduce risk, support business continuity and accelerate recovery and ability to resume operations following future events.
- Eligible tourism businesses must be located and operate within the 37 declared affected LGAs and be a private sector business or a not-for-profit organisation.
- The minimum grant available was \$20,000 up to a maximum \$150,000 to assist tourism businesses who were directly impacted by one or more of the three nominated extraordinary disasters in any of 37 declared LGAs for initiatives that supported recovery processes and helped improve resilience such as flood prevention infrastructure and purchasing plant and equipment such as alternative power or other relevant resources.
- There were 32 projects successful requesting \$3,589,024 (excluding GST) in funding for projects with a total estimated value of \$4,794,070 (excluding GST) as proponents also contributed to project costs.
- The 32 projects are spread across 9 of the 11 eligible Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) regions, noting Tourism Whitsundays and Townsville Enterprises Limited did not have any declared disaster affected LGAs.
- Some of the projects that were funded include flood resilience and erosion protection, embankment stabilisation, greater use of solar power and battery storage, a new bridge and improved accessible pathways.
- \$1 million Queensland Tourism Resilience Platform: Funding will be used to expand the existing Regional Tourism Product by capturing data from the 37 LGAs impacted by the 2021-22 extraordinary events, mapping existing tourism products, experiences and infrastructure against disaster metrics to assist in identifying gaps for development, and building local industry resilience to future natural disasters.
- There have been 23 Queensland Tourism Resilience Platform workshops to date across Queensland. The Queensland Tourism Resilience Platform will include an economic analysis for each region, including preparation of socioeconomic spatial data.
- \$800,000 Tourism Business Resilience Program: Funding delivery of crisis communications workshops for eligible tourism businesses to undertake regional planning exercises with key agencies, to improve communication and response actions and help plan for and recover from future disaster events. Tourism Industry Resilience Grants to assist RTOs and Local Tourism Organisations in impacted regions to deliver local disaster resilience planning and capability building activities.
- Over \$230,000 has been provided for 12 local and RTO projects under a targeted program to support communities in disaster-prone areas of Queensland.
- Some of the successful projects include:
 - Gladstone Area Promotion and Developments Limited for the Gladstone Tourism Operators Emergency Response and Disaster Recovery Plan.
 - Lockyer Chamber of Commerce Industry and Tourism for the Floods to Flourish Project.

- Southern Queensland Country Tourism for the Tourism Industry Resilience and Business Continuity Planning Project.
- Gold Coast Tourism Corporation for Destination Gold Coast's Crisis Communications Program.
- Outback Queensland Tourism Association for the Balonne Shire Tourism Business Mentoring Program.
- Moreton Bay Region Industry and Tourism for the Building Tourism Industry Resilience in the Moreton Bay Region Project.
- Discovery Coast Tourism and Commerce for the Discovery Coast Tourism Resilience Project.
- Tourism Tropical North Queensland Limited for the Weatherproofing Far North Queensland Tourism Businesses Project.
- Straddie Chamber of Commerce for the Weathering the Risk Project.
- Visit Sunshine Coast for the Sunshine Coast Disaster Ready Project.

Innovation

- Delivering the \$200,000 Solving Disaster Resilience Challenges with Open Innovation (the Initiative). Using an innovation acceleration model, Queensland Connects, in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, the DES, and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, are bringing together regional and local industry representatives from 2021-22 activated regions to identify shared disaster risk and resilience issues and innovative solutions.
- The Initiative commenced following the completion of Team Queensland's participation in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program (REAP) and involves an adaptation of the REAP Framework at a localised level in regional Queensland.
- The Initiative involves cohorts of influential leaders from across five stakeholder groups (entrepreneurs, corporates, research, risk capital and government) coming together to define a 'Must Win Battle' that will shift the dial on jobs and opportunities in a specific region or industry. Three cohorts have been run through the Initiative to date, with each cohort taking 12-18 months to progress.

Sport and Recreation

- Sport and Recreation activated the Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program to support not for profit sport and recreation organisations to re-establish their facilities after a disaster.
- Sport and Recreation is administering the Community Recreational Assets Recovery and Resilience program, a joint Australian and Queensland Government initiative to assist 141 Queensland sporting clubs and eight local council to repair and rebuild after major flooding and rain events since late 2021.

Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts

- During the 2021–2022 disaster season, Community Recovery Ready Reserves were deployed across the state to provide jointly funded State/Commonwealth grants and psychological support through community recovery partners to affected communities as a result of the Southern Queensland Flooding, May 2022; South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, February 2022; Ex TC Seth, January 2022; Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, December 2021.

- The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments are jointly funding the extraordinary Category C and D package under the DRFA, supplementing the existing social service system, which includes a \$177.7 million Human and Social Recovery Package, providing:
 - Flexible Funding Grants (\$20 million over two years from 2022-23),
 - Community Health and Wellbeing Package (\$24.6 million over two years from 2022-23),
 - Accommodation package (\$121 million over two years from 2022-24),
 - Community Recovery and Resilience program (\$12.08 million over two years from 2022-23).Community Recovery supported the human and social and practical support needs of approximately 168,000 people in hotel and home quarantine across Queensland including the provision of wellbeing calls by Smart Service Queensland and responding to nearly 6,000 referrals resulting in the provision of 12,032 requests for practical assistance.

Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training (DYJESBT)

- DYJESBT delivered the Get Ready Small Business campaign through radio and digital advertising to promote the importance of disaster preparation and business continuity for small businesses in Queensland's north and far northwest. The campaign encouraged the use of Small Business Disaster Hub resources on the Business Queensland website and participation in local engagement activities. This included information events and expos in Townsville and Port Douglas, local outreach activities across all 14 LGAs and a series of Get Ready webinars.
- DYJESBT led delivery of support package initiatives, including the establishment of a Small Business Recovery Centre (SBRC) in Townsville; regional roadshows and local outreach activities; funding for local projects; the rollout of Small Business Disaster Recovery grants and development of a Small Business Disaster Hub on the Business Queensland website as well as an app.
- During October-November 2021, SBRC ran a minor advertising campaign aligned to the whole-of-Government Get Ready program managed by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, as part of the finalisation of Business and Industry Support Package initiatives, with the centre itself wrapping up at the end of 2021.

Inspector-General Emergency Management

- The Office of the IGEM completed the Locust Plague Capability Review 2021 to assess the capability of the existing disaster management arrangements at a systems level, to manage a locust plague in the Roma Disaster District; and
- IGEM participated in the development of the Griffith University Resilience in Practice Symposium in October 2021, including the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Recovery in Practice Exercise; Resilience in Practice Discussion Panel, and the Flood Resilience Forum.
- IGEM convened a multi-university researcher forum, with representatives from the University of Queensland, University of Sunshine Coast, Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University, to help inform the K'gari (Fraser Island) Bushfire Review Report 1: 2020-21.

Office of Industrial Relations

- During the 2022 floods that affected the Logan and Mt Gravatt regions the South West Gold Coast region Workplace Health and Safety Queensland inspectors conducted 97 advisories. No enforcement actions were recorded.
- The proactive site visits undertaken were to provide education, advice activities and guidance to some of the 'persons conducting a business or undertaking' that had been affected by the flooding for when the workplaces started to return to their working activities.
- No power was connected at the workplaces at the times of the visits and no enforcement actions were undertaken.
- The main focus areas were Rocklea, West End, Sumner Park, Slacks Creek, Acacia Ridge, Springwood and the surrounds which were some of the hardest hit areas.
- Two complaints and five incidents were received relating to the March 2022 floods. No enforcement notices were issued.
- Seven advisories were undertaken with stakeholders relating to the March 2022 floods.
- The Work Health and Safety Regulator approved the continuation of a class exemption under Part 11 of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (Regulation) to exempt licensed asbestos removalists from the requirement under section 466 of the Regulation to notify the Regulator before carrying out licensed asbestos removal work if the work is necessary due to flooding or severe weather conditions. This exemption recognises the need to expedite the initial clean-up including the removal of asbestos containing material following a severe weather event.
- The Statewide Strategic Plan for the Safe Management of Asbestos in Queensland 2022–2025 includes the initiative, 'Engage with government agencies to ensure timely review and revision of emergency and natural disaster management planning to incorporate best-practice asbestos guidance'.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

- In January 2022, QFES and its partners transitioned to a year-round bushfire mitigation program known as Operation Sesbania. This three-year rolling program replaced Operation Cool Burn, which traditionally ran from the beginning of April to the end of August each year. Operation Sesbania enables the planning and operation of bushfire mitigation activities undertaken by QFES and its partners to be conducted year-round across Queensland in line with varying local conditions and needs.
- Through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, QFES established a contracted Large Air Tanker service for a four-year period, beginning on 1 September 2021. The four-year contract is a collaboration between the Queensland and Victorian governments with the follow-on contracted period in Victoria referred to as a 'dovetail' service. The aircraft remains in Australia for the entire four-year period reducing mobilization and demobilization costs.
- QFES continued to work extensively with its partners to implement the Queensland Bushfire Plan. This work included reinvigorating the State Bushfire Committee, formerly the State Inter-Departmental Committee for Bushfire Management, and enabling the committee to undertake a more strategic leadership and governance role with regard to bushfire management in Queensland. QFES also continued to drive and embed Queensland's bushfire management arrangements.

Queensland Police Service (QPS)

- The QPS provides the chairperson and Executive Officers for each of the states twenty-three District Disaster Management Groups.
- QPS provides an Executive Officer and Secretariat to the QDMC and co-chairs the SDCG.
- QPS provides representation on state level disaster management forums.
- QPS staffs the SDCC in times of activation fulfilling numerous roles within Command, Operations, Logistics and Intelligence.
- QPS also maintained the State Police Operations Centre in response to Covid-19 pandemic supporting Queensland Health.

Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA)

- The QRA is the state's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery and resilience policy.
- QRA manages and coordinates Queensland's program of recovery and reconstruction funding within disaster-impacted communities and delivers best practice administration of public reconstruction and resilience funds.
- QRA undertook a variety of disaster management activities, summarised below to prepare for, respond to and lead recovery activities over the 2021-22 disaster season.
- The Get Ready Queensland program is a year-round, all hazards, resilience building initiative coordinated by QRA to help Queenslanders and Queensland communities prepare for natural disasters.
- From Sunday 10 October to Saturday 20 November 2021, the Get Ready annual advertising campaign was in market. The campaign included tactics across several communication channels including a television advertisement, a 30 second radio advertisement and two digital videos targeting new arrivals to Queensland encouraging everyone to take the following three steps to Get Ready:
 1. Know your local disaster risk
 2. Prepare a household plan
 3. Pack an emergency kit
- QRA commissioned Market and Customer Research to evaluate the effectiveness of the 2021 Get Ready Queensland annual advertising campaign, noting an improvement in brand recognition.
- Get Ready Queensland also provided \$2 million in grant funding across all Queensland local governments to fund locally led disaster resilience and preparedness activities.
- Get Ready Queensland also launched an immersive video series in partnership with the BoM to show the impacts of extreme weather and encourage disaster preparedness in Queensland communities.

Flood Warning Infrastructure

- In 2021-2022, QRA in conjunction with BoM, Department of Transport and Main Roads, and local governments across Queensland completed delivery of 180 new flood warning infrastructure assets for 28 councils as part of the \$8 million Flood Warning Infrastructure Network (FWIN) project to benefit communities of the Far North, North-West and Townsville and surrounds.

Exercises and Training

- In October 2021, QRA, Griffith University and the Former National Recovery and Resilience Agency, (now the National Emergency Management Agency), conducted a scenario-based recovery exercise,

'Flood-Ex 21 Recovery in Practice'. The exercise examined recovery practices and identified potential recovery activities to support a community after a flood event. Participants represented 17 State Agencies, 4 local governments, 4 statutory authorities and 2 not-for-profit organisations.

- QRA, in collaboration with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, delivered Disaster Funding Arrangements training across Queensland.

Resilience

- In 2021-22, the Queensland Risk Reduction and Resilience Fund provided funding to 53 projects with the aim of reducing disaster risk and limiting the impact of disasters associated with natural hazards and or improving understanding of disaster risk and disaster risk planning to the value of \$19.1 million. This included \$10.8 million of Commonwealth Government funding, and \$8.3 million of Queensland Government funding.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

- In 2021-22, the QRA activated 9 DRFA events to support 56 LGAs and their associated communities with their response and recovery activities, as a part of this process, a \$2 billion exceptional circumstances package was developed and funded to provide funding for impacted:
 - Business and industry;
 - Housing and accommodation; including the first of its kind Resilient Homes Fund;
 - Infrastructure Betterment;
 - Primary Producers and Rural Landholders;
 - Community development, health and wellbeing; and
 - Community, sporting and recreational not-for-profit organisations.

Recovery Operations

- QRA provided support to Local Governments across Queensland in their recovery operations as requested and participated in Recovery Group and Local Disaster Management Group Meetings.
- QRA coordinated and produced 13 Whole of Government disaster dashboards for the South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event.
- QRA and our recovery stakeholders developed the 2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods State Recovery and Resilience Plan (SRRP), which provides decision makers and the public with an understanding of the roles of the state government, local governments and communities in recovery from the 21-22 events, and outlines opportunities for improved resilience outcomes.
- QRA assisted 16 Local Disaster Management Groups and or Recovery Groups with the development of event specific local recovery plans, which informed, and were included in the 2021-22 Southern Queensland Floods State Recovery and Resilience Plan (SRRP).
- QRA developed and coordinated input into 28 State Recovery Coordinator Reports for the three significant events that impacted Queensland over 2021-22.
- QRA convened meetings of the Leadership Board Sub-Committee (Recovery) to drive recovery objectives across Queensland.

Recovery Progress

- In December 2021, Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring (DARM) was conducted in the Goondiwindi Local Government Area following the flooding in Central, Southern and Western

Queensland in November 2021, resulting in 488 properties being assessed. In April 2022, a further 132 properties were followed up to confirm recovery progress.

- In June and July 2022, DARM was conducted in South East Queensland resulting in assessments of 8,691 impacted properties to monitor recovery progress.

Queensland Treasury

- Queensland Treasury provided high level financial and economic management advice as required.

Seqwater

- Each year Seqwater plans and prepares to respond to a range of events. An annual program including document review, training and simulation exercises is undertaken to optimise resilience, preparedness, and continuous improvement.
- In 2021-22 Seqwater prepared and submitted Seqwater's Flood Mitigation Manuals Annual Preparedness Report 2021 to the Dam Safety Regulator. Completed emergency response desktop exercises and trained selected incident controllers and emergency management team members.
- The Seqwater Flood Operations Centre was mobilised on 11 occasions during the 2021-22 wet season for managing flood releases at its gated dams (Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine dams).
- Seqwater undertook 26 prescribed burns over 1600 hectares on Seqwater owned lands.
- Cyber security has become an increasingly important part of Seqwater's threat planning and preparedness. The cyber security landscape is becoming increasingly sophisticated and Seqwater employs a range of strategies to keep its critical technology systems safe and reliable.
- completed two disaster preparedness exercises focused on a cyber security event (Hydra and Typhoon)
- prepared cyber security provisions to meet changes to the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018
- trained engineering staff to respond to critical cyber security events
- continued to utilise software that detects and prevents cyber threats to critical Seqwater water systems

Sunwater

- Sunwater is represented on the SDCG with capacity to support the QDMC on request. Sunwater liaises with Local Disaster Management Groups and District Disaster Management Groups in relation to its Emergency Action Plans.
- Sunwater undertakes seasonal preparedness work instructions both for bushfire season and storm and flood season. This forms part of Sunwater routine operations and is embedded within its Asset Management system.
- Between November 2021 and May 2022 five flooding and weather events triggered EAP activations for several of Sunwater's dams and the Woongarra Balancing Storage including activation of their Operations Centre.
- Sunwater improved its flood forecasting and flood risk situational awareness informational systems and trained its hydrologists to use the upgraded system.

- Selected hazard reduction burns and vegetation clearing occurred across the industrial pipelines, irrigation schemes and urban water supply infrastructure, where and when conditions allowed.
- An audit program initiated in late 2021 included a review of national and state emergency messaging guidelines to compare how similar organisations communicate emergency management information.

Disaster Management Priorities for 2022-23 are as follows:

- Continue to oversee recovery for disaster events in active delivery during the year.
- Influence and enhance the development of national relief, recovery and resilience policy through partnerships with government and industry stakeholders.
- Department on Innovations will implement The Queensland Connects Resilience Cohort (Cohort 4) to help areas across Queensland become more resilient. In this cohort, the following seven risk-based teams will be established to drive the focus of the 'Must Win Battle' and identified initiatives:
 - Extreme heat (fire).
 - Extreme heat (drought / heatwave).
 - Inundation (flood / storm / cyclone / sea).
 - Urban environment resilience (grey / green).
 - Community Capacity Building.
 - Connectivity (tech / cyber disruption).
 - Innovative communications and connections.

Abbreviations

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
CG	Coordinator-General
COVID-19	SARS-CoV-2 virus
DARM	Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring
DEPW	Department of Energy and Public Works
DES	Department of Environment and Science
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney General
DM Act	Disaster Management Act 2003
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
DSDSATSIP	Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
DSDILGP	Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
DYJESBT	Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training
ERFG	Economic Functional Recovery Group
IGEM	Inspector General Emergency Management
LGAs	Local Government Areas
QDMC	Queensland Disaster Management Committee
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
QPS	Queensland Police Service
QRA	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
QPWS&P	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
RDMW	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
REAP	Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program
RTO	Regional Tourism Organisation
SBRC	Small Business Recovery Centre
SDCC	State Disaster Coordination Centre
SDCG	State Disaster Coordination Group
TC	Tropical Cyclone