

Annual Report 2023-24

About the Queensland Disaster Management Committee

The Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) is chaired by the Premier of Queensland 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, preparedness, 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.
- Prepare a State Disaster Management Plan.

Members:

- Premier (Chair)
- Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment (Deputy Chair)
- Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women
- Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works
- Minister for Police and Community Safety
- Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts
- Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice
- Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water
- Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

Attending Officials:

- Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury

- Director-General, Queensland Health
- Chief Health Officer, Queensland Health
- Director-General, Department of Energy and Climate
- Director-General, Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works
- Director-General, Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Communities and the Arts
- Director-General, Department of Education
- Director-General, Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
- Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Reconstruction Authority
- Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads
- 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
- Chairperson, Crisis Communications Network

2023-24 Meetings

Ordinary Meetings

- One (1) meeting
 - 13 October 2023

Extraordinary meetings

- Fourteen (14) extraordinary meetings
 - 1 November 2023
 - 11, 12, 13, 14, 18 (AM & PM), 19, 20, 21 December 2023
 - 23, 24, 25, 26 January 2024.

The Year in Review

July 2023

- Queensland's rainfall was 100.9% above the 1961-1990 average, with "very much above average" rainfall being experienced in the western districts, the gulf country and in areas extending from the northern to central coasts¹.
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for Bulloo Shire Council and Quilpie Shire Council².

August 2023

- The August to October period was Australia's driest three-month period on record since 1900.
- August rainfall was 77% below the 1961-1990 average for the state, the lowest for August since 2019.
- Queensland's mean maximum temperature was 2.83 °C above the 1961-1990 average, the second highest on record (since observations began in 1910) and the warmest since 2009³.

¹ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/qld/archive/202307.summary.shtml#extremes>

² https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/v2_activation_summary_southwest_queensland_flooding_4_june_-_7_july_2023.pdf

³ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/qld/archive/202308.summary.shtml#extremes>

September 2023

- September was an early and severe start to the bushfire season. Several months of below average rainfall and warmer than average winter temperatures contributed to the extreme catastrophic fire danger conditions for parts of the country between September to December, with significant fires burning across Queensland⁴.
- The 2023-24 Bushfire season had several bushfire events activated for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Two of the more significant bushfire events across northern and southern Queensland were:
 - Southern Queensland Bushfires, 8 September - 7 November 2023. Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for 17 Local Government Areas⁵.
 - Northern Queensland Bushfires, commencing 18 October 2023. Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for the Cook Shire Council, Flinders Shire Council, Mareeba Shire Council, McKinlay Shire Council and the Tablelands Regional Council⁶.
- The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' response to the 2023-24 Bushfire Season 2023 was known as Operation Melaleuca.

October 2023

- Between October to December parts of northern and central Australia were affected by frequent low-to-severe intensity heatwave conditions.
- In the last week of October, the Bureau of Meteorology reported more than 700 vegetation fires burning across Queensland. On 31 October, fire danger conditions reached extreme in the southeast interior of Queensland, experiencing maximum temperatures close to 40 °C and gusty winds. Smoke from ongoing fires resulted in periods of poor air quality across Queensland, impacting Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast⁷.

November 2023

- From 20 November to 1 December, Queensland received intense rainfall from a low-pressure trough. The average rainfall total for November was 50.9 % above the long-term (1961–1990) average, with several locations (St Lawrence, Moonie, Southwood and Frankfield) experiencing their highest November daily rainfall on record as a result of severe thunderstorms⁸.
- Between 21 and 29 November, more than 100 mm of rain was recorded at many locations in southern Queensland, with persistent showers and thunderstorms leading to localised river rises across the southern interior of Queensland⁹.
- Between 27 and 30 November, an upper-level low pressure system collided with warm and moist air from the north resulting in heavy rain, hail and lightning impacting Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales¹⁰.

⁴ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/qld/summary.shtml>

⁵ https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/Version_8_Activation_Summary_Southern_Queensland_fires_8_September_to_7_November_2023.pdf

⁶ https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/V5_Activation_Summary_Northern_Queensland_Bushfires_18_October_to_8_December_2023.pdf

⁷ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/qld/summary.shtml>

⁸ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/qld/archive/202311.summary.shtml#recordsRainDailyHigh>

⁹ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/qld/summary.shtml>

¹⁰ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/qld/summary.shtml>

- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for Balonne Shire Council, Bulloo Shire Council, Etheridge Shire Council and Maranoa Regional Council¹¹.

December 2023

Tropical Cyclone Jasper: 2 to 18 December 2023

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Jasper peaked as a Category 4 system in the Coral Sea before crossing the far north Queensland coast, in the vicinity of Wujal Wujal, as a Category 2 cyclone about 120 km north northwest of Cairns, at 8pm AEST 13 December. After landfall, the system was downgraded to a tropical low. The region south of the centre extending to Port Douglas experienced the strongest winds, with wind gusts estimated to 130 km/h.
- Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper brought damaging winds, intense rainfall, flooding and storm surge. Over 40,000 people were without power, with many reports of downed trees from Port Douglas to Daintree Village¹².
- Significant widespread and heavy rainfall accompanied ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper as it moved inland and weakened, stalling over the Cape York Peninsula¹³. The persistent rainfall resulted in widespread flooding, flash flooding, landslides, road closures and riverine flooding across the Daintree, Mossman, Barron, Murray, Mulgrave and Herbert Rivers¹⁴. Mass evacuations of communities, inundation to business and properties and damage to crops also occurred¹⁵.
- This rainfall fell in river catchments that were already wet due to earlier rainfall from Severe Tropical Cyclone Jasper's landfall and produced widespread flooding in the region.
- Multiple sites in Far North Queensland observed five-day rainfall accumulations (14 to 18 December) in excess of 1,000 mm¹⁶. The highest 5-day total (at the Bureau's station) was 1,933.8 mm at Whyanbeel Valley¹⁷.
- On 18 December, the Daintree River at Daintree Village reached 14.85 metres, well above the major flood level of 9 metres and the old flood record of 12.6 metres from 2019. At Cairns Airport, the Barron River was estimated (the gauge was not available) at 4.4 metres, exceeding the 1977 flood level of 3.8 metres¹⁸.
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for 18 Local Government Areas¹⁹.

Brisbane and Ipswich Severe Storms: 15 to 16 December 2023

- During the second half of December, southeast Queensland experienced widespread rainfall and frequent episodes of localised daily thunderstorms due to a series of low-pressure troughs²⁰.
- On 15 December, a cluster of severe thunderstorms brought destructive wind gusts and intense rainfall to southeast Queensland including Brisbane and Ipswich. Daily rainfall totals to 9am on 16 December exceeded

¹¹ https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-01/drfa_factsheet_-_v1_-_agrn_1097.pdf

¹² <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/qld/archive/202312.summary.shtml>

¹³ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/qld/archive/2023.summary.shtml>

¹⁴ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/qld/archive/202312.summary.shtml>

¹⁵ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/qld/summary.shtml>

¹⁶ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/qld/archive/202312.summary.shtml#recordsRainDailyHigh>

¹⁷ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/qld/summary.shtml>

¹⁸ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/qld/archive/202312.summary.shtml>

¹⁹ [https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-](https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/Version_16_Activation_Summary_for_Tropical_Cyclone_Jasper_associated_rainfall_and_flooding_13_to_28_December_2023.pdf)

[05/Version_16_Activation_Summary_for_Tropical_Cyclone_Jasper_associated_rainfall_and_flooding_13_to_28_December_2023.pdf](https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/Version_16_Activation_Summary_for_Tropical_Cyclone_Jasper_associated_rainfall_and_flooding_13_to_28_December_2023.pdf)

²⁰ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/qld/summary.shtml>

100 mm in parts of the Brisbane and Sunshine Coast area, with most of the rain falling in a short period of time. A wind gust of 169 km/h was recorded at the Archerfield Airport.

- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for Brisbane and Ipswich City Councils²¹.

South East Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall: 24 December 2023 to 3 January 2024

- A severe line of thunderstorms moved through southeast Queensland during the Christmas season with destructive winds, giant hail and locally intense rainfall in parts of the Gold Coast, Logan and Scenic Rim Local Government Areas.
- The intense storms forged a destructive path which saw large scale power outages, fallen trees and debris, significant impact to dwellings and buildings, signal faults on road networks and a tragic fatality on the Gold Coast.
 - Severe thunderstorms brought giant sized hail, well in excess of 5 cm diameter, to Gatton on 23 December and Burpengary on 24 December. The Bureau of Meteorology reported hail up to 15 cm in diameter at Burpengary²².
 - Severe thunderstorms brought more hail on 25 December to some areas in southeast Queensland, where 130,000 customers were left without power due to strong winds. The strongest wind gust recorded was 106 km/h at the Gold Coast Seaway.
 - A tornado left a trail of destruction across parts of the Gold Coast and the Scenic Rim in the evening on 25 December.
 - On 30 December, thunderstorms developed in areas north of Brisbane, with reports of flash flooding, large hail and damaging winds. The highest daily rainfall total recorded to 9am on 31 December was 127.6 mm at Beerburrum.
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for eight Local Government Areas²³.

January 2024

- Rainfall over large parts of the state were above average to very much above average for January²⁴.

South West Queensland Flooding: 6 to 23 January 2024

- Severe thunderstorms with locally heavy rainfall and damaging winds impacted across western Queensland.
- Moderate Flood Warnings were issued for the Paroo River and Bulloo Rivers, with Minor or generalised warnings elsewhere in the southwest.
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for Boulia Shire Council, Bulloo Shire Council, Diamantina Shire Council, Paroo Shire Council and Quilpie Shire Council²⁵.

²¹ https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-01/v1_activation_summary_brisbane_and_ipswich_severe_storms_15-16_december_2023_v1.pdf

²² <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/annual/qld/summary.shtml>

²³ https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/Version_12_Activation_Summary_South_Queensland_Severe_storms_and_rainfall_24_December_2023_to_3_January_2024.pdf

²⁴ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/qld/archive/202401.summary.shtml#:~:text=Rainfall%20was%20above%20average%20to,January%20daily%20rainfall%20on%20record>

²⁵ <https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-02/South-West-Queensland-Flooding-6-23-January-2024.pdf>

North Queensland Monsoon Trough: 12 to 22 January 2024

- A monsoon trough formed on 10 January 2024 and extended from the Top End of the Northern Territory to northern Queensland. The arrival of the monsoon was delayed, compared to the typical late-December onset, due to the El Niño event of 2023²⁶.
- After a drier than average December, January 2024 was the tenth wettest on record for northern Australia. With the first active monsoon period occurring in the first half of January, this resulted in extensive shower and thunderstorm activity across the tropical north²⁷.
- The total area average rainfall for northern Australia over the 2023–24 wet season (October 2023 to April 2024) was 628.0 mm, which was 34% above the 1961-1990 average of 476.4 mm, making the 2023–24 wet season the ninth wettest on record (compared to all years since 1900–2001)²⁸.
- The arrival of the monsoon brought heavy rainfall, gusty winds and cooler conditions across the tropics. Rainfall totals of greater than 100 mm were recorded across much of tropical northern Australia. Some areas in northern Queensland received more than 200 mm for the week ending 15 January, while a small area on the North Tropical Coast and Tablelands district received more than 400 mm. The highest weekly total was 798.0 mm inland from Innisfail²⁹.
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for Etheridge Shire Council.³⁰

Tropical Cyclone KIRRILY: 17 January to 5 February 2024

- Severe Tropical Cyclone KIRRILY peaked as a Category 3 system in the Coral Sea shortly before crossing the north Queensland coast in the vicinity of Balgal Beach, Rollingstone, about 50km northwest of Townsville, as a Category 2 tropical cyclone.
- As Severe Tropical Cyclone KIRRILY moved over the tropical coast and then inland across Queensland, it led to heavy falls, as well as widespread flooding for western Queensland.
- Severe Tropical Cyclone KIRRILY was a very significant event, with the effects felt from Townsville to the Wellesley Islands and Burke in the far north-west to Moreton Bay, Ipswich and the Lockyer Valley in the south-east.
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for 41 Local Government Areas³¹.

February 2024

- Rainfall over the central and western parts of Queensland were above average to “very much above average” and the highest on record for parts of the Gulf Country, with several sites having their highest February daily rainfall on record³².

²⁶ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/tropical-note/archive/20240116.archive.shtml>

²⁷ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/season/tropics/summary.shtml>

²⁸ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/season/tropics/summary.shtml>

²⁹ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/tropical-note/archive/20240116.archive.shtml>

³⁰ https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-02/V1_Activation_Summary_North_Queensland_Monsoon_Trough_12-22_January_2024.pdf

³¹ [https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-](https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/Version_11_1_Activation_Summary_South_Queensland_Severe_storms_and_rainfall_24_December_2023_to_3_January_2024.pdf)

[05/Version_11_1_Activation_Summary_South_Queensland_Severe_storms_and_rainfall_24_December_2023_to_3_January_2024.pdf](https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/Version_11_1_Activation_Summary_South_Queensland_Severe_storms_and_rainfall_24_December_2023_to_3_January_2024.pdf)

³² <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/qld/archive/202402.summary.shtml#recordsRainDailyHigh>

Tropical Cyclone Lincoln and associated rainfall and flooding: 15 to 19 February 2024

- As a long lasting system for more than ten days³³, Tropical Cyclone Lincoln briefly reached tropical cyclone intensity as it crossed the southern Gulf of Carpentaria coast, then headed west over northern Australia. Failing to redevelop off the Kimberley coast, the system turned south to cross the Gascoyne coast of Western Australia. The system brought daily rainfall totals of 100 to 200 mm near its path from Queensland's Gulf Country³⁴.

Resupply Operations: February to April 2024

- Long term flooding continued in western Queensland with numerous resupply operations conducted to support the Burketown, Doomadgee and Kajibbi communities in northwest Queensland.

March and April 2024

Tropical Cyclone Megan – 18-19 March 2024³⁵

- Tropical Cyclone Megan formed over the Gulf of Carpentaria, moving east across the northern Top End.
- Tropical Cyclone Megan quickly strengthened to a severe tropical cyclone (Category 3 intensity) on 17 March while tracking south towards the Northern Territory's coast.
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Megan made landfall on the Carpentaria coast, southeast of Port McArthur in the afternoon of 18 March as a Category 3 system. The system weakened while tracking south further inland through the Carpentaria district and was downgraded to a tropical low (ex-TC Megan) on the morning of 19 March.
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Megan brought damaging winds around the Gulf of Carpentaria coast and heavy rainfall with isolated daily falls up to 200 mm to 300 mm in the inland Carpentaria district after the landfall.

Southwest Queensland Flooding, March – April 2024

- The average rainfall for Queensland during March³⁶ was 28.2% above the 1961-1990 average and for April³⁷, was only 1% above the 1961-1990 average.
- In March and April 2024, southwest Queensland experienced significant flooding:
 - Major flood levels were recorded in multiple river systems across the region, including the Balonne, Warrego and Weir Rivers, and after weeks of heavy rain many areas of the outback resembled an inland sea.
 - While the widespread rain was welcome, the excess flooding was destructive to the rural road network, with several communities isolated temporarily.
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were activated for eight Local Government Areas³⁸.

May 2024

³³ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/tropical-note/archive/20240227.archive.shtml#:~:text=Tropical%20Cyclone%20Lincoln%20was%20a,Carpentaria%20coast%20on%2016%20February.>

³⁴ [http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/history/lincoln2024.shtml#:~:text=The%20system%20brought%20daily%20rainfall,\(WA\)%20for%20a%20period.](http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/history/lincoln2024.shtml#:~:text=The%20system%20brought%20daily%20rainfall,(WA)%20for%20a%20period.)

³⁵ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/tropical-note/archive/20240319.archive.shtml#:~:text=Severe%20TC%20Megan%20made%20landfall,morning%20of%20Tuesday%2019%20March>

³⁶ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/qld/archive/202403.summary.shtml#recordsRainDailyHigh>

³⁷ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/qld/archive/202404.summary.shtml#recordsRainDailyHigh>

³⁸ [https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-](https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/V1_Activation_Summary_Western_Queensland_Rainfall_and_Flooding_22_March_20_April_2024.PDF)

05/V1_Activation_Summary_Western_Queensland_Rainfall_and_Flooding_22_March_20_April_2024.PDF

- Nil of significance.

June 2024

- Nil of significance.

Disaster Management Activities

The following is a sample of activities undertaken to maintain or enhance Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements during 2023-2024:

Department of Education

- Providing governance and assurance, Department of Education's (DoE) Continuity and Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) operates to oversee the ongoing management of DoE's prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to disasters and emergencies.
- Delivery of annual Disaster Management Regional training and exercise program across the State, for all DoE regional response team members.
- Update and review of DoE Regional Disaster Risk Assessments to reflect new regional boundaries for six regions, and incorporate new damage datasets.
- Activation of the DoE Executive Coordination Centre, and Regional Coordination.
- Centres in response to six disaster events across Queensland that affected departmental assets, including:
 - Southern Queensland East Coast Low, Central Queensland Region and Darling Downs South West Region – July 2022.
 - South Western Trough and Flooding, Darling Downs South West Region – September 2022.
 - Southern Queensland Severe Weather, Central Queensland Region, Darling Downs South West Region and South East Region – October 2022 to November 2022.
 - Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding, Far North Queensland Region, North Queensland Region and Central Queensland Region – December 2022 to March 2023.
 - Western Downs Bushfires, Darling Downs South West Region – January 2023 to March 2023.
 - North Queensland Flooding, North Queensland Region – March 2023 (Burketown).
 - TC Gabrielle (Norfolk Island), Darling Downs South West Region – February 2022.

Department of Energy and Public Works

- Throughout 2023-2024 Members of the Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW) Energy Division were active members of the State Disaster Coordination Group, the National Electricity Market Emergency Management Forum (NEMEMF), the National Gas Emergency Response Advisory Committee (NGERAC) and other relevant working groups.
- In preparation for the 2023-2024 severe weather season the DEPW's Energy Division obtained assurance statements from all Government Owned Corporation (GOC) Generating Stations, Powerlink and Energy Queensland Limited (EQL) in relation to their preparedness.

- October 2023 DEPW Energy Division took part in the NEMEMF/NGERAC Exercise Kronos to explore emerging risks and issues in the context of the revised AEMO gas powers and responsibilities and the transition to renewable energy.
- October 2023 DEPW Energy Division took part in Exercise Wirraway to test Queensland's power system emergency management arrangements in preparation for the 2023-2024 severe weather season.
- From 1 November 2023 to 1 April 2024 DEPW's Energy Division Energy Emergency Team (EET) actively monitored Queensland's Power System, provided weekly Outlook Reports to the Jurisdictional Designated Officer (JDO), the Minister, Director General, and other relevant stakeholders, and managed tight supply demand balances on the advice of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and Queensland's National Electricity Market Responsible Officer (NEM RO).
- During September to November 2023 the DEPW Energy Division Energy Emergency Team (EET), Powerlink and EQL activated and liaised with The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) in response to the Queensland bushfires, Operation Melaleuca.
- December 2023 saw Machinery of Government Changes with the Energy Division moving from DEPW to the Department of Energy and Climate (DEC). Reporting and liaison with the SDCC continued through the former DEPW Disaster Coordination Unit.
- December 2023 DEC EET, Powerlink, EQL and CleanCo activated and liaised with the SDCC in response to Tropical Cyclone Jasper and subsequent flooding event in North Queensland. The Barron Gorge Power Station (CleanCo) was severely damaged during this event.
- December 2023 – January 2024 DEC EET, Powerlink, and EQL activated and liaised with the SDCC in response to the severe South East Queensland Storms.
- January 2024 DEC EET, Powerlink and EQL activated and liaised with the SDCC in response to Tropical Cyclone Kirrily.
- January – February 2024 DEC EET, Powerlink and EQL activated and liaised with the SDCC in response to flooding from Ex Tropical Cyclone Kirrily.
- April 2024 DEC EET ceased providing a weekly Queensland Power System Outlook Report to the Minister, Director General, and other relevant stakeholders.

Department of Environment, Science and Innovation

- The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) maintained its operational plans, response capacity and business continuity arrangements, tested plans, and participated in multi-agency exercises, including for bushfire response, maritime environmental emergencies, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear scenarios.
- DESI remained involved in the review and updating of Queensland contingency planning documents including the State of Queensland Multi-Agency Response Plan to Chemical Biological Radiological incidents, and associated subplans; the National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies; the Queensland Coastal Contingency Action Plan; and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Biosecurity Plans. These review processes will continue into 2024-25.
- DESI proactively engaged with a range of regulated sites with risk exposure to extreme wet weather, including high risk waste management and other hazardous sites.
- Additional contingency planning doctrine will be developed in 2024-25 with regards to water contamination incident prevention, management, and recovery.

- DESI continued to provide representation and support to disaster districts and led proceedings for the State Environment Functional Recovery and Resilience Group and the Coastal Hazard Inundation Committee. DESI also supported several State and national contingency planning committees, including in association with disaster risk, heat, bushfire, chemical biological and radiological incident management, maritime environmental emergencies including for oiled wildlife as the lead combat agency, and biosecurity.
- DESI updated the Tropical Cyclone Storm Tide Warning-Response System Handbook, which is now with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) for finalising.
- DESI (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)) works year-round with partner organisations to implement a range of on-ground bushfire hazard mitigation activities including planned burning, road and fire line maintenance, mechanical treatment of vegetation in high-risk areas, and communication with national park users and neighbours and the broader community.
- Between 1 July 2023 and 14 May 2024, QPWS undertook 305 planned activities and treated approximately 257,000 hectares of Queensland's parks and forests. Planned activities will continue ahead of the 2024-25 bushfire season, provided conditions remain favourable.
- QPWS also responded to 317 bushfires that impacted approximately 911,778 hectares.
- In response to the findings of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) K'gari (Fraser Island) Bushfire Review Report released in early 2021, DESI in conjunction with QFES continued to improve prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery capability to meet bushfire management challenges.
- DESI has now actioned all recommendations it is responsible for and continues to work with QFES and QPS on three joint recommendations.
- DESI continued the three-year rollout of new air monitoring stations and smoke sensors into Queensland communities currently without local measurements of PM_{2.5} concentrations during bushfire smoke exposure events, increasing network coverage by a further 10 locations in 2023-24 for a current total of 96 monitoring locations.
- In conjunction with QFES and the Queensland Museum, DESI continued to improve Queensland's preparedness, response, and recovery capability in response to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (RCNDA) and leading the closure of two recommendations: recommendation 4.5 on downscaled climate projections, and recommendation 16.1 on Australian flora and fauna data distribution.
- DESI also maintained the storm tide and wave monitoring network and provided technical advice on storm tide to the State Disaster Coordination Centre during cyclonic events this season.
- In response to the impacts of ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper, DESI worked closely with the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council, contributing to the deployment of staff and equipment to Wujal Wujal with QPWS boats being used to transport food and emergency supplies, funding for critical plant and equipment purchases to enable the resumption of essential waste services, and staff to assist with cleanup and support and guidance regarding waste and wastewater management.
- The Wet Tropics Management Authority also partnered with Jabalbina First Nations Peoples to form an Elders working group to provide input into planning the short-term return of the community to habitable housing and the longer-term planning for building resilience for the Wujal Wujal community.
- In response to the findings of the 2022-23 IGEM review into Queensland's disaster management arrangements, DESI has expanded the remit of the State Environment Functional Recovery and Resilience Group, to better support the State Recovery and Resilience Group in relation to coordinating environmental recovery and resilience activity.

- In 2023-24, and in conjunction with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, DESI continued to ensure the efficacy of planning and implementation activities, working with a broad range of stakeholders to improve the collection of impact information and expand the scope and activation of environment recovery and resilience funding programs (e.g., for coastal hazard mitigation, environmental clean-up support, and improving the condition of water catchments and associated ecological processes and cultural values).
- The DESI Advance Queensland Regional Futures initiative has supported the Queensland Connects program, which involved team-based exploration of innovative opportunities to improve disaster preparedness and resilience across Queensland. Queensland Connects is modelled on the internationally regarded Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program - an initiative that brings together local leaders to solve a significant challenge or unlock an economic opportunity.
- The resilience cohort of the program was jointly funded by the Advance Queensland initiative and the Australian Government via the \$7 million Tourism Recovery Package under the National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.
- Regional Futures also supports Noosa Shire Council to establish a Fire Air Traffic Management command centre for bushfire resilience. This project is helping to save lives, infrastructure, and communities through operational deployment of new technologies and seeking to inform legislative changes to enable drones and planes to fly in air space at the same time.

Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works

Housing

- During 2023-24, the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (DHLGPPW) provided emergency accommodation support for the community in response to Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, Associated Rainfall and Flooding; Western Downs Fires; Southern Queensland Fires; North Queensland Fires; South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall and Tropical Cyclone Jasper, Associated Rainfall and Flooding. During this season, the department implemented a range of accommodation solutions, including recovery parks, caravans and amenities to meet the housing recovery needs of impacted communities.
- In preparation for the 2023-24 disaster season, the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works reviewed its plan for temporary emergency accommodation to provide the most appropriate options for people displaced as a result of a disaster event, following the closure of an evacuation centre.

Disaster Coordination Unit

- In preparation for the 2023-24 disaster season, Public Works, DHLGPPW reviewed and updated event reporting processes, the Disaster Management and Business Continuity Plans, and undertook an Executive Leadership Team business continuity exercise.
- DHLGPPW provided disaster reporting during Tropical Cyclone Jasper, South East Queensland Storms, South East Queensland Rainfall (Jan) and Tropical Cyclone Kirrily.
- DHGLPPW officers attended the State Disaster Coordination Centre undertaking Liaison Officer function during Tropical Cyclone Jasper and South East Queensland Storms.
- DHGLPPW coordinated the activation of the Building Functional Recovery and Resilience Group meetings as required.
- Public Works undertook a debrief following events to identify areas of success and areas for improvement.

QBuild

- To prepare for the 2023-24 disaster season, QBuild utilised its Disaster Management Guideline and regional plans to assess its operational response to an earthquake through a desktop emergency exercise.
- During 2023-24 as of 14 May 2024, there were 12 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) declared events. Four of these required considerable assistance from Public Works through QBuild:
 - Southern Queensland Bushfires, 8 September – 7 November 2023.
 - South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall, 24 December 2023 – 3 January 2024.
 - Tropical Cyclone Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding, 13 – 28 December 2023.
 - Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, associated rainfall and flooding, 25 January – 26 February 2024.
- In response to the Southern Queensland Bushfires, 8 September – 7 November 2023:
 - QBuild were engaged by the then Department of Housing to provide emergency temporary accommodation at the old Tara Caravan site for persons displaced as a result of the bushfire event.
- In response to the South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall, 24 December 2023 – 3 January 2024:
 - Before the declaration of this event as a DRFA event, QBuild conducted assessments at the request of customer agencies, starting on Boxing Day. QBuild also oversaw and managed remedial works on 265 government assets.
 - Following the declaration of a DRFA event, with specific dates allocated for each LGA, the Department of Education requested retrospective rapid damage assessments (RDAs) for their affected assets, totalling 85.
- In response to Tropical Cyclone Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding, 13 - 28 December 2023:
 - QBuild completed 1,024 RDAs on government assets. QBuild managed and undertook remedial works on 344 government assets.
- In response to Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, associated rainfall and flooding, 25 January - 26 February 2024:
 - QBuild completed 45 RDAs on government assets. QBuild managed and undertook remedial works on 539 government assets.

Queensland Development Code (Building Policy)

- To increase the resilience of local governments and the community, DHLGPPW has published a new mandatory part to the Queensland Development Code (QDC) which prescribes the design, construction and maintenance requirements for Public Cyclone Shelters.
- To assist local government to identify the best available locations for the community to shelter during the passage of a cyclone or severe wind event DHLGPPW has published site selection and technical guidance regarding places of refuge.

Planning Group

- The Minister for Planning has authority to declare an ‘applicable event’, which ensures that the State Government is able to make advance preparations or respond to emerging circumstances that affect a state interest under the *Planning Act 2016* (the Planning Act).
- In 2023-24, the Minister for Planning declared an ‘applicable event’ for both Tropical Cyclone Jasper and ex-Tropical Cyclone Kirrily. The applicable events and subsequent declaration of use and extension of period notices ensured the impacted communities, local governments and other assessing authorities were able to respond to the impacts of the Tropical Cyclone events.

- The planning framework under the Planning Act further supports the state or a local government to deliver suitably-located emergency housing on a temporary basis in response to an event (as defined under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*) without needing to seeking a planning approval to change the use of the premises.

Department's high-level achievements in the 2023-24 Disaster Season

Southern Queensland Bushfires

- *QBuild:*
 - October 2023, a fire event burnt through Tara, resulting in approximately 57 house structures destroyed by fire.
 - 31 October 2023, a request for assistance was received.
 - 1 November 2023, QBuild commenced civil works, with the initial request the installation of 8 dongas.
 - 15 November 2023, a request to provide 7 x Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) residences was received. Design of the site was amended to accommodate the new housing.
 - MMC residences commenced arriving on site on 28 November 2023, 9 working days after the request.
 - Civil works undertaken during this period included, building pads, electrical, hydraulic and draining works.
 - The site was handed over following the finalisation of all major construction activities on 21 March 2024.
 - Displaced residents commenced occupying temporary housing solutions in time for Christmas 2023.
- *Housing:*
 - As at May 2024 the department had supported 236 people (63 households) across 112 Emergency Housing Assistance Requests in emergency hotel/motel (48 households) or caravan (15 households) accommodation in the Western Downs.
 - The timely deployment of 23 caravans and ablutions to Tara Showgrounds saw residents impacted by the bushfires provisioned with safe and secure accommodation following damage and/or destruction of their residences.
 - With support and assistance from the Western Downs Council, the department established the Tara Accommodation Recovery Park (TARP) on the site of a disused caravan park owned by the council. Tara Accommodation Recovery Park (TARP) has been established to meet the short-medium accommodation needs of Tara residents whilst longer term accommodation solutions are settled following the Queensland Bushfires in October 2023. Given the complexities associated with any proposed Tara solution it is likely that the TARP will be required to be in operation for several years. As a comparison the Gympie Recovery Accommodation Park continues to provide accommodation for disaster impacted residents following the flooding events of 2022.
 - The Tara response saw the first disaster recovery housing use of 7 units of transportable accommodation, manufactured by QBuild through the Modern Methods of Construction program.
 - As at 24 May 2024, 16 households (28 people) were accommodated at Tara Accommodation Recovery Park (TARP) across 24 units of accommodation.

- Housing and Homelessness Services, Service Delivery remain active participants on all required human and social, disaster management groups to fulfill to the department's requirement as lead functional agency for temporary emergency accommodation.

Cyclone Jasper

- ***QBuild:***
 - Cyclone Jasper resulted in considerable damage to the Wujal Wujal and Ayton Community.
 - QBuild assisted with recovery efforts to the 91 social homes that were impacted – with 36 damaged, including the Police Station and Wujal Wujal community store.
 - QBuild staff arrived in Wujal Wujal on 1 January 2024 to commence recovery efforts. No essential services were available for four weeks.
 - Over 50 QBuild staff were involved in recovery efforts, working weekends and public holidays.
 - QBuild completed all rectification work on the Wujal Wujal Police Station that was heavily impacted, with the asset returned to Queensland Police Service in March 2023
 - QBuild were engaged to undertake rectification work on the Wujal Wujal Community Store. All work was completed, with the asset returned to the community on 8 April 2024.
 - QBuild decanted Wujal Wujal on 12 April 2024, following completion of recovery efforts.
- ***Housing:***
 - In response to TC Jasper, as of 6 June 2024 over 23,500 nights of accommodation has been booked to support impacted residents with Emergency Housing assistance. Over 1200 people have been supported through this accommodation.
 - To supplement reduced accommodation alternatives to support displaced residence, the department has implemented Flexible Housing Solutions (FHS) across communities in both Southwest and Far North Queensland. This strategy has seen the deployment of Flexible Housing Solutions, including caravans and amenities into impacted localities including 49 caravans into Far North Queensland. As of 6 June 2024, 20 households continue to be supported with FHS (caravans and ablutions) on their own- or thirty-party sites, whilst they navigate their recovery.
 - Wujal Wujal was fully evacuated after TC Jasper made landfall, the lowest house received five metres of water through it. There are 91 social housing homes in this community. All homes were impacted to some degree during the event and subsequent flooding. Considerable work was undertaken by QBuild to return properties to repatriate residents back into the community, as part of the cross-government planning processes. As at 6 June, 2024, 74 families have returned to community with all other families and individuals being supported through ongoing pathway planning.

2021-2022 Southeast Queensland Flooding and Rainfall Event

- ***Housing:***
 - Housing continues to deliver Flexible Housing Solutions and Rental Support Grants to eligible Queenslanders who were displaced from their residences during the 2021-2022 Southeast Queensland flooding and rainfall events.

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

- The Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) conducted an annual review and update, including an update of critical services, of the:
 - DJAG Disaster Management Plan.
 - Communications Disaster Management Plan.
 - Local Area Manager Disaster Toolkit.
 - Business Continuity Management Policy.
 - ICT Disaster Recovery Plan.
- Undertook an annual review and scenario testing of Business Continuity across all business areas in DJAG. The tests undertaken included preparations for extreme weather events and consideration of ICT capability/capacity.
- Continued as a member of the State Disaster Coordination Group.
- Contributed to the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC), ensuring currency of key contacts and reporting requirements with other member agencies and the SDCC Response Team.
- Ensured planned maintenance was in place for DJAG's critical building services, being power generators and uninterruptable power supplies.
- Nominated appropriately experienced staff to work at the SDCC in logistics and public information roles (where required and where available).
- Engaged the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (through QBuild) to undertake roof inspections, clear gutters, downpipes, and stormwater drains of DJAG facilities at high-risk locations, prior to storm season.
- Ensured that District Disaster Management Committee Introductory Training was undertaken by DJAG's primary and secondary representatives for the Brisbane District.
- Ensured that DJAG media and communication officers undertook online training courses on Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements and District Disaster Coordination Centre Public Information Capability.
- Continued to facilitate and promote the Community Recovery Ready Reserves Workforce program; providing essential human and social recovery support to the community during disaster recovery (coordinated by Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts as the lead agency).

Department of Transport and Main Roads

- The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) continues to support whole-of-government disaster management across the planning, preparation, response and recovery (PPRR) spectrum. This includes attendance/representation as required at Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC), State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG), and as Chair of the Roads and Transport Functional Recovery and Resilience Group (FRRG).

- TMR is an active contributor to and participant in disruptive event response. The TMR Liaison Officer attends the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC), supporting the Public Information Capability and the whole-of-government Crisis Communications Network (CCN).
- TMR delivered its annual department-wide pre-season awareness training with the Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), local Councils and other stakeholders. Exercises were weather/fire-impact focused, and tested TMR's response and communication protocols between internal and external stakeholders, including collaboration with cross-border stakeholders where applicable.
- TMR's bushfire management and fuel mitigation activities are undertaken in coordination with QFES, other state agencies and adjoining landholders. This includes prescribed burning, grazing, weed management, slashing and mowing, and vegetation clearing in the state-controlled road corridor.
- In 2023-2024, approximately 8856km of preventative bushfire fuel treatment has been reported in the state-controlled road corridor which includes 146 prescribed burns. These burn areas occurred across all TMR districts and regions except for North West district and South Coast region.
- Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) engaged with QIT+ to utilise and adapt the Guardian Incident Management System (IMS) for maritime emergencies, including maritime environmental emergencies and severe weather events, as a learning from multiple marine pollution responses and exercises. The IMS has been rolled out across MSQ and thoroughly tested. The system has been used successfully in 'real time' during three cyclones in the 2023-24 severe weather season.
- MSQ revised the maritime Extreme Weather Event (EWE) contingency plans for Queensland ports as part of pre-season 2023-24 preparedness. This revision allowed for the following:
 - Incorporating the Australian Warning System (AWS) in preparation for the 1 November 2023 Queensland Warning System go-live date.
 - To provide greater consistency in EWE documentation across all ports, whilst still providing for the individual risk-profiles of different regions and ports.
- MSQ has continued its annual training activities to maintain Queensland's ship-sourced oil spill response capability. This included:
 - Delivery of Phase One of Exercise Dumaresq, in collaboration with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW). This exercise is focused on training and testing cross border marine pollution response scenarios with Phase One focused on the jurisdictional issues that arise as a result of an incident, including command and control arrangements. Phase Two (operational) will be held in October 2024.
 - Continued engagement with the AMSA as part of MSQ's ongoing commitment to wider national response capability for ship-sourced pollution incidents. This included attendance at Exercise Thalassarche, in Hobart with participants from across Australia, focusing on oiled wildlife response.
 - Delivery of a regional exercise program which involves a functional exercise for either marine pollution or extreme weather in each MSQ region (Brisbane, Gladstone, Mackay, Townsville, and Cairns). These involved testing and training for both incident management as well as equipment deployment.

- Delivery of marine pollution training for agency members and response partners across Queensland including field equipment deployment and incident management training.
- Delivery of two marine pollution response equipment training in remote areas, in particular for Torres Strait Sea Rangers and other local stakeholders. This training occurred in August 2023 and May 2024 and provided an opportunity for Rangers to learn how to use equipment in MSQ's remote spill kits.
- Queensland Rail has effective emergency and disaster management processes, plans and business continuity plans (BCP) that are regularly tested to respond to disasters and rail emergencies.
- Queensland Rail conducted and attended exercises with external agencies, such as, disaster management groups, local government, state government departments, and emergency services. The main objective of these exercises is to test Queensland Rail plans, discuss interoperability with external agencies and provide an understanding to external agencies on Queensland Rail response and recovery process to a rail emergency or a severe weather event (including cyclone, flooding, storms) and derailments.
- Queensland Rail undertakes severe weather season preparation activities annually. These activities include resource allocation, the availability of stores and equipment, staff response and recovery training, the review of disaster management plans and liaising with external agencies to ensure minimal disruption to customer and freight services. Preparation activities also include the conduct of regular bushfire and fuel mitigation activities in coordination with the Rural Fire Service, external agencies, adjoining landholders and other government departments.
- Queensland Rail provided Rail Liaison Officers (RLOs) to the affected disaster management groups, TMR and the SDCC during declarations of disaster during 2023-2024. RLOs provided regular updates on the response and recovery activities on the impacted rail network. This also included regular liaison with other rail operators that operate on the During declarations of disaster during 2023-2024 network.
- Regular updates/communication was also provided to customers whose services were disrupted due to the severe weather events experienced during the 2023-2024 season. Queensland Rail provided alternate services (buses/coaches) to impacted customers on the rail network where possible.
- CITEC liaised with telecommunications providers about the availability and restoration of telecommunication critical infrastructure.
- CITEC is the provider for the Community Recovery team and:
 - Configured and provided iPads, laptops, and network routers to establish Disaster Recovery Hubs in regions. These devices provide connectivity and data processing capabilities on the ground.
 - Created user accounts for Ready Reservist staff. This initiative ensures that personnel involved in disaster recovery efforts have the necessary access and credentials to contribute effectively to the ongoing operations.
 - Established a significant point of presence in Gabba Towers for Community recovery activities by enabling extra ICT infrastructure. Most of this work was performed during the Christmas-New Year closure period.
 - Facilitated additional workspace for Ready Reservist staff including providing 240 desktop PCs and 65 laptops to Gabba Towers.

- Government Wireless Network liaised with Telstra and QFES to deploy Cell-on-Wheels (COWs) to support public safety agencies' local communications and operations.
- ICT Strategic Sourcing/1 William St Contract Directorate conducted service provider tests and checks for the activation of the SDCC (State Disaster Coordination Centre) at Kedron and monitored performance delivery during the operational period.
- Smart Service Queensland (Smart Service) is the primary point of contact for Queenslanders accessing Queensland Government services through phone (13QGOV), qld.gov.au (online) and the Queensland Government Service Centres and Queensland Government Agent Program.
- Smart Service is critical in Queensland's response to disasters such as severe weather events, including:
 - Answering calls for State Emergency Services (SES) and the Community Recovery (CR) Hotline.
 - Contacting Community Recovery Assist customers to assist applicants in impacted areas applying for grants.
 - Providing status updates to grant applicants.
 - Providing 24/7 support to Queenslanders in disasters, and scaling resources to meet peaks in service demand.
- Queensland Shared Services processed disaster recovery payments, up to 7 days per week, as required. They also processed pays for Ready Reservist staff.
- The First Nations Digital Program worked with Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and Disaster Recovery Unit to activate Starlink portable internet connections, providing network connectivity for staff performing recovery activities that enabled residents to return to the community following tropical cyclone Jasper.

Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

- In preparation for the 2023-24 wet season, the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (RDMW) reviewed and updated its Disaster Management plans and handbooks.
- The department's Dam Safety Regulator ensured that all 114 Emergency Action Plans for referable dams were approved and in place before the wet season.
- Between June 2023 and May 2024 flooding and weather events triggered 41 EAP activations across Queensland.
- 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 October 2023 for the Queensland Bushfire event and maintained an activation status until the end of April 2024 in response to TC Jasper, TC Kirrily and the severe weather events in Southeast Queensland.
- On 24 October 2023, the department's Water Supply Regulator provided summer season disaster preparedness, incident reporting information and advice to all drinking water service providers in Queensland.
- The department's Water Supply Regulator communicated with affected drinking water service providers and provided drinking water status reports to inform DRDMW sitreps to the SDCC, in connection with:
 - Declared bush fire emergency, October-November 2023.

- TC Jasper and associated prolonged Queensland rain event, December 2023 and January 2024.
- TC Kirrily, January 2024.
- Following TC Jasper, the department's Water Supply Regulator staff participated in onsite disaster response and recovery activities to restore Douglas Shire and the Wujal Wujal township's drinking water and sewerage services.
- On 21 December 2023, RDMW was engaged via the State Disaster Coordination Centre to respond to requests from councils in North Queensland to support the recovery of water and wastewater infrastructure following the flood impacts of Ex TC Jasper.
- These arrangements were activated with the establishment of a Mutual Aid Coordination Cell (MACC) that was led by Urban Utilities based in southeast Queensland.
- The MACC includes water sector representatives from Urban Utilities, Unitywater, Seqwater, Queensland Water Directorate with additional representatives included from Townsville City Council, Mackay City Council and Cairns City Council with further support from Mareeba Shire Council.
- With the MACC being stood down from 23 January 2024, DRDMW set up the NQ Water Sector Recovery Coordination Group along with representatives from across state and local government to centralise communication, escalate issues and monitor the execution of the plans to continue the support in Douglas Shire and Wujal Wujal.

Seqwater

- Seqwater maintains and exercises an Emergency Response Plan that coordinates the South East Queensland drinking water supply network and integrates that essential water supply within disaster management stakeholders.
- Seqwater actively participates in disaster management group exercises and contributes to local and district disaster planning.
- Furthermore, Seqwater participates as a member of the State Disaster Coordination Group (SDCG) under the State Disaster Plan.
- Seqwater reviews, exercises and provides annual assurance to the Regulator, within the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, for 25 dam safety Emergency Action Plans and two Flood Mitigation Manuals.
- Within the reporting period Seqwater managed operations, including flood mitigation, throughout two declared flood events.
- Seqwater also participated in the state's bushfire mitigation program, completing 26 hazard reduction burns within the period.

Sunwater

- Sunwater is represented on the State Disaster Coordination Group with capacity to support the Queensland Disaster Management Committee on request.
- Sunwater is an active member of and liaises with Local Disaster Management Groups and District Disaster Management Groups in relation to its Emergency Action Plans. Sunwater Regional LDMG representatives participates in preparatory LDMG exercises.

- A busy wet season tested Sunwater’s people, processes and systems, particularly as part of the State’s broader responses to ex-TC Jasper in December 2023, closely followed in January 2024 with Cyclone Kirrily. Sunwater’s Operations Centre was activated to ‘Flood On’ and stood up for each of these cyclone events for a total of two and eight consecutive days of 24-hour operations respectively. Significant inflows across our service areas resulted in the activation of 9 Emergency Action Plans.
- Other activities Sunwater pursued in the 2023-24 year included:
 - From August 2023, Sunwater’s emergency notifications were updated to align with the Australian Warning System alert levels – Advice; Watch and Act; and Emergency.
 - In October 2023, Sunwater carried out a series of siren tests at Kinchant, Teemburra, Paradise, Coolmunda, Callide and Fairbairn dams.
 - In October 2023, a desktop training exercise was undertaken for several dams in Sunwater’s Northern and Central regions, covering response process and EAP documentation, roles and responsibilities, decision making, communication and interdependency between various response teams within Sunwater.
 - Sunwater’s annual wet season preparedness campaign (\$100,000) ran from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024, involving community events (Disaster Ready Mackay, Nogo November, Fred Haigh Open Day), paid TV, print and social media advertising.
 - On 28 November 2023, about 60 Sunwater staff participated in Exercise Freyje, a full-day sessions that tested key functions and capabilities across the business to respond to severe weather event scenario impacting assets in Central Queensland.
 - Lessons learned from the Rookwood Weir project during multiple flood events have resulted in Sunwater’s Operations Centre staff having a more active role in forecasting flows for this asset.
- In preparation for the 2023-24 Disaster Season, Sunwater:
 - Conducted a business impact analysis of its pipelines and pump stations that supply power stations.
 - Ensured preventative maintenance works orders were automatically generated pre-cyclone season to facilitate preparedness activities including generator test runs, fuel supplies, depot and asset cleanups, check on critical spares, inventory and supplies, ensuring drains and cross drains on channels are clean, staff rosters.
 - Undertook selective hazard control burning around critical assets and installation of electronic fire rating signs at some Sunwater sites.
 - EAP activations.

Mount Isa Water Board (MIWB)

- Mount Isa Water Board manage over \$175 million in bulk water treatment, distribution, and storage assets, as well as managing the R48 Reserve as Trustee on behalf of the Queensland Government. Management of the system includes during declared natural disasters and disruptions to critical infrastructure caused by electricity disruptions.
- The Mount Isa Water Board Emergency Management Framework continues to evolve by updating preparedness and response to emergencies, including severe weather conditions. It includes the overarching emergency management principles, policies, procedures, training, exercising, reporting, and review requirements. It continues be used in conjunction with, and supplemented by:

- MIWB's Site Based Emergency Management Plans.
- Triggered Action Response Plans (TARPs).
- Business Continuity Plans.
- During 2023-24, there were two emergency action plan activations.
 - The first occurred in October 2023 which was due to a bushfire that encroached on infrastructure at Lake Moondarra.
 - The second activation occurred during a flooding event in March 2024.
- MIWB continues to work closely with Colinta Holdings to instigate hazard-reduction burns after the wet season. The burn-off areas encompass significant areas of the R48 Reserve land and the Lake Julius pipeline road. MIWB has also been tidying bushtracks to allow QFES easier access to the R48 Reserve in the event of uncontrolled fires.
- The FY23-24 Capital Works Program completed extensive upgrades to the Lake Julius system and continued to replace high-risk poles on the 66kV overhead line (OHL) from Mount Isa to Lake Julius. The pumping assets at Lake Julius, as well as the 66kV OHL, are often subjected to severe weather events, such as lightning strikes and excessive wind. The continual replacement of the at-risk poles will reduce the risk of failure during these events.

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB)

- There were no EAP activations during 2023-24 and the flood operations centre was not activated.
- GAWB completed its annual fire break and access track maintenance program on GAWB owned agistment land along with conducting independent land condition assessments to determine fuel loads and identifying areas that require a controlled burn. GAWB's Grounds & Catchment team also completed hazard identification inspections on all GAWB owned assets.
- In collaboration with local rural bush fire brigades and agistees GAWB conducted a total of A total of eight (8) controlled burns in the reporting period, covering approximately 789ha.
- In 2023-24 GAWB completed the following activities:
 - 5-yearly renewal of the Lake Awoonga Emergency Action Plan completed and approved by the regulator in August 2023.
 - Awoonga Dam Emergency Exercise October 2023.
 - Participation in LDMG meetings.
 - Implementation of a suite of Emergency Action Plans, including Cyclone Preparedness Plan.
 - Engagement with residents in relation to the Pikes Crossing Emergency Muster Point October 2023.
 - Fire and evacuation drills at main GAWB buildings.
 - Refresher training in the use of Guardian – LDMG software.

Department of State Development and Infrastructure

- The Department of State Development and Infrastructure (DSDI) notes the Coordinator-General owns land in State Development Areas (SDAs) across Queensland. SDAs are clearly defined areas of land established by the Coordinator-General to promote economic development in Queensland. They typically take the form of one of the following:
 - Industrial hubs for development requiring larger footprints strategically located close to ports or major rail and road networks.
 - Infrastructure corridors for the co-location of infrastructure.
 - Major development sites and public works.
- The land owned by the Coordinator-General in three SDAs is actively managed with regards to fire risk, with inspections undertaken and appropriate fire management and mitigation actions implemented.
- Within the Gladstone SDA:
 - The majority of Coordinator-General land is currently under cattle grazing which manages fuel loads in those areas.
 - Coordinator-General employees liaise with relevant leaseholders to undertake controlled burns and maintain fire breaks.
 - If required, Coordinator-General employees establish contracts with the local Rural Fire Brigade to undertake hazard reduction controlled burns and maintain strategic firebreaks.
- Within the Townsville SDA:
 - Areas of Coordinator-General land are currently under cattle grazing which manages fuel loads.
 - Coordinator-General employees liaise with relevant leaseholders to undertake controlled burns and maintain fire breaks.
 - If required, Coordinator-General employees establish contracts with the local Rural Fire Brigade to undertake hazard reduction controlled burns and maintain strategic firebreaks, including fuel load reduction slashing.
- Within the Abbot Point SDA:
 - A large part of Coordinator-General land is covered by the Kaili Valley Wetlands which requires minimal management.
 - Parts of the remaining land are currently under cattle grazing which manages high fire fuel loads.
 - If required, Coordinator-General employees liaise with relevant leaseholders to be fire prepared, undertake controlled burns and maintain fire breaks.
 - Control burns were undertaken successfully in August 2023 to manage fuel loads by fire trained contractors, including local indigenous contractors to maintain strategic firebreaks.
- In 2023-24 the Coordinator-General conducted hazard reduction burns on over 450 hectares of CG-owned land.

Department of Tourism and Sport

Tourism

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper, Associated Rainfall and Flooding

- The Department of Tourism and Sport (DTS) led the delivery of the \$29.15 million Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement package jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments. The packages targeted support to areas impacted by ex-TC Jasper and associated flooding which also rely heavily on tourism as a contributor to local economy. Components of the package include:

- **Tourism Recovery Assistance Grant:**

The \$1.6 million Tourism Recovery Assistance Grant provided financial assistance of up to \$50,000 (excluding GST) for eligible medium to large tourism business businesses in the defined disaster area to contribute towards the costs of initial clean-up, repairs and reinstatement of tourism operations.

- **Tourism Exceptional Assistance Grant:**

The \$10 million Tourism Exceptional Assistance Grant provided financial assistance to tourism operators which were closed to trading for a minimum of 14 days as a result of being isolated, or having a usual area of operation isolated, as a direct result of Tropical Cyclone Jasper. The grant supported extraordinary costs for re-establishment of their businesses and continuation of employment.

- **Building Resilient Tourism Infrastructure Fund:**

The \$10 million Building Resilient Tourism Infrastructure Fund provides funding of between \$30,000 and \$250,000 (excluding GST) to businesses and tourism operators to support eligible infrastructure projects such as flood prevention infrastructure and purchasing plant and equipment such as alternative power or other relevant resources (e.g., solar power with battery storage, small flooding mitigation levies).

- **Marketing, Events and Visitor Incentive programs:**

The Visitor Incentive Initiative delivered by Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) provided incentives for visitors to return to impacted regions through discounted flights, accommodation and tourism experiences. The initiative included a partnership with Experience Oz to deliver the Tropical Dollars trade incentive, offering discounts on tours, experiences and attractions across the region, as well as airline and accommodation discounts with Virgin Australia, Qantas, Jetstar and Webjet, Qantas Hotels and Holidays, My Queensland and Luxury Escapes.

Funding was also provided to support marine operators to transport people from Cairn to Port Douglas during the period of closure for the Captain Cook Highway.

The Events incentive delivered by TEQ identified existing events and new initiatives across the region's 2024 events calendar to drive tourism to Tropical North Queensland. The approach aimed to boost marketing activities for significant events in the region, utilising the appeal of the event to drive higher visitation and increased Overnight Visitor Expenditure. Some of the events supported under this program include Crankworx Cairns, Port Douglas Carnivale and Savannah in the Round.

An awareness campaign with the message 'It's Tropical Holiday Season' was delivered above and beyond existing Queensland marketing activity, showcasing real people participating in real experiences with local operators to give travellers the confidence to visit the region. The campaign

was promoted across TV, social, print, out-of-home advertising and radio to spread the message that 'Cairns and Tropical North Queensland is open for business and best place for an Easter holiday'.

- **Tourism Recovery Officer:**

A dedicated Tourism Recovery Officer was based in Tourism Tropical North Queensland for six months to assist tourism operators access assistance and support.

- **South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall:**

DTS provided funding to TEQ to support targeted marketing activity in collaboration with Brisbane Economic Development Agency to drive visitation to the impacted regions of Scenic Rim and Logan.

TEQ provided support to impacted operators on the Gold Coast through a Holiday Voucher program.

- **Ex Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, Associated Rainfall and Flooding:**

DTS provided funding to TEQ to support targeted marketing activity in collaboration with Townsville Enterprise Limited to drive visitation to the region.

Ongoing Work

- **Queensland Tourism Resilience Platform:**

The Queensland Tourism Resilience Platform maps 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. It includes economic analysis for each region, including preparation of socioeconomic spatial data.

- **Tourism Business Resilience Program:**

The Tourism Business Resilience Program (the Program) consists of 12 projects delivered by Regional Tourism Organisations and local tourism organisations under a targeted scope to support communities in disaster-prone areas of Queensland. The program included delivery of 18 crisis communications workshops for eligible tourism businesses to undertake: regional planning exercises; improve communication and response actions and help plan for, and recover from, future disaster events; delivery of a Crisis Communications toolkit for businesses and regional tourism organisations; and development and release of a QR code to assist visitors to understand how to access critical information before, during and after a disaster.

- **Queensland Connects:**

Using an innovation acceleration model, Queensland Connects has partnered with DTS, the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to deliver the Solving Disaster Resilience Challenges with Open Innovation initiative. This initiative brings together regional and local industry representatives from 2021-22 activated regions to identify shared disaster risk and resilience issues and innovative solutions.

Sport and Recreation

- **The Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program (the SR Recovery Program) provides ongoing support to not-for-profit sport and active recreation organisations, with funding of up to \$5000 for immediate clean up and to re-establish facilities and activities after disasters.**

- **During 2023-2024, the SR Recovery Program was activated during the following occasions:**

- **Tropical Cyclone Jasper.**

- South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall.
- Tropical Cyclone Kirrily.
- Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding.
- DTS also administers the Sport and Recreation Recovery Grant that supports not-for-profit sport and active recreation organisations to repair or replace equipment or facilities damage during Tropical Cyclone Jasper, South Queensland Severe Storms and/or mitigate against future damage due to similar disaster events.

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

Season Summary

- The Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (DTATSIPCA), through the Community Recovery branch, responded to 7 extreme weather events across 25 Queensland Local Government areas (LGA) and delivered human and social supports and services.
- DTATSIPCA also delivered psychosocial support to communities impacted by 6 non-weather-related incidents or crises, such as the Russell Island House Fires (August 2023) and the tragic death of Redbank Plains grandmother, Vyleen White (February 2024).
- DTATSIPCA delivered emotional, financial and practical support for Queenslanders affected by:
 - Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, associated rainfall and flooding (25 January - 26 February 2024) (TC Kirrily).
 - South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall (24 December 2023 – 3 January 2024) (SEQ Severe Storms).
 - Tropical Cyclone Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding (13 – 28 December 2023) (TC Jasper)
 - Northern Queensland Bushfires (18 October – 8 December 2023).
 - Southern Queensland Bushfires (8 September – 7 November 2023).
 - Toowoomba Bushfires (November 2023).
 - Western and Darling Downs Bushfires (October 2023).
 - Bundaberg and Gladstone Bushfires (October 2023).
- Across these events (as at 20 May 2024), DTATSIPCA:
 - Opened 62 Community Recovery Hubs, Pop-up Hubs and Support Services, servicing over 38,000 visitors.
 - Delivered over 22,000 instances of psychological first aid.
 - Deployed over 460 Queensland Government Ready Reserves.
 - Received almost 118,000 calls to the 24/7 Community Recovery Hotline (1800 173 349).
 - Established the dedicated Community Recovery Lifeline Hotline (1800 116 671) which supported over 2,600 callers.
 - Received over 1.1 million visitors to the Community Recovery webpages (www.qld.gov.au/disasterhelp).
- DTATSIPCA provided personal financial assistance through jointly funded state/Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA):

- As at 20 May 2024, 278,338 grant applications (including 170,433 Emergency Hardship Assistance (EHA) grant applications) were received throughout the 2023-2024 season, with 188,679 payments totalling over \$78.3 million, benefitting 377,081 people.
 - By comparison, in the 2022-2023 year, 1,708 grant applications were received (including 986 EHA applications), 814 payments totalling \$440,365 have benefitted 1,473 people.
- DTATSIPCA continues to provide medium and long-term support services to people affected by the events, through our funded neighbourhood centres and support partners such as UnitingCare Lifeline, Australian Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul, GIVIT, Centacare, and more.
- Ongoing support services are located within affected areas and are targeted to meet the needs of each community.
- DTATSIPCA is employing up to 12 Queensland Government Community Recovery Transition Lead positions under DRFA Category A to support communities with transitioning from short- to medium-and-long term recovery and resilience activities.
 - These Transition Leads are located in South East, South West and Far North Queensland and provided targeted support to local Councils and recovery organisations as they help their communities to rebuild and recover.
 - Additional Transition Leads for the Far North Queensland region are expected to commence in July 2024.
- The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments are jointly funding the extraordinary DRFA Category C human and social packages for a number of 2023-2024 season events.
 - A Category C package for the Southern Queensland Bushfires 2023 (including Western Downs and Darling Downs, Toowoomba, and Gladstone and Bundaberg events) includes a \$6.24 million Human and Social Recovery Package over three years. Implementation is expected to commence in 2024-25 which will provide:
 - Community Grants Coordinators (\$1.2M).
 - Community Recovery Connect Workers (\$2.25M).
 - Flexible Funding Grants (\$450,000).
 - Community Recovery and Resilience Officers (\$2.34M).
 - A Category C package for the Southern Queensland Bushfires 2023 (including Western Downs and Darling Downs, Toowoomba, and Gladstone and Bundaberg events) includes a \$6.24 million Human and Social Recovery Package over three years. Implementation is expected to commence in 2024-25 which will provide:
 - Psychosocial and Mental Health Supports (\$4.5M).
 - Community Recovery Services (\$7.585M).
 - Flexible Funding Grants (\$6.5M).
 - First Nations Community Recovery for TC Jasper only (\$1.2M).
 - Community Recovery and Resilience Officers (\$3.150M).

Preparation Activities

- DTATSIPCA undertook a series of preparedness activities to prepare for the 2023–2024 disaster season, including:

- Undertaking lessons learned processes from the 2022–2023 season, to inform future practice.
 - Reviewing and refreshing communication materials and conducting preparedness activities, including through Get Ready Week.
 - Reviewing local options for potential Recovery Hubs and/or Coordination centres within regional disaster districts, including through collaboration with local government
 - Reviewing and updating ICT stock and implementing continuous system improvements to ensure scalability and availability of grants processing systems.
 - Reviewing and refreshing State Human and Social Recovery and Resilience Group and State Human and Social Recovery Committee membership, district human and social recovery plans, and business continuity arrangements.
 - Reviewing and updating procedures, guides, templates, and website content.
 - Producing the State Human and Social Recovery and Resilience Plan.
 - Developing and maintaining Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with key providers and agencies, including the new Community Recovery Data Sharing MoU to allow human and social recovery partners the opportunity to access data via Community Recovery that will enable more streamlined service delivery and uplift the recovery process.
- Corporate activities:
 - DTATSIPCA has a strong focus on ensuring timely and effective administration of finance, human resource, property and procurement processes associated with disaster responses.
 - In the 2023-2024 season, DTATSIPCA delivered human resource advice and wellbeing support to serve the community during a response.
 - DTATSIPCA maintained a Queensland Government Ready Reserve pool; trained and ready for deployment as needed.

Department of Employment, Small Business and Training

Small Business Disaster Hub

- The Small Business Disaster Hub (the hub) is a suite of online resources published on the Business Queensland website. It was developed during the 2019–21 response to the 2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flooding event.
- The hub is an important “aggregation point” for online information that helps small businesses prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.
- The hub gives business owners fast and efficient access to the most up-to-date federal, state and local government information about natural disasters and disaster-related grants and support services that are available to small businesses.
- 18,967 users accessed the Small Business Disaster Hub web pages between 1 July 2023 and 19 May 2024.
- DESBT has received Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) funding to support Small Business Disaster Hub improvements in 2024.
- The project is adopting a human-centred design (HCD) methodology to review and update the hub.

- The project aims to streamline information, create more personalised user experiences and provide multilingual content to better support Queensland's culturally and linguistically diverse small business owners.

Tropical Cyclone Jasper

- DESBT received more than 1400 responses to the DESBT Disaster Impact survey and over 900 direct small business contacts with the department during Tropical Cyclone Jasper.
- Senior DESBT staff presented at a free Webinar on 21 December 2023, hosted by Advance Cairns, TTNQ and Cairns Chamber of Commerce, raising awareness of activations and supports for small business affected by Tropical Cyclone Jasper flood event.
- DESBT worked closely with QBuild and TAFEQ in relation to the closure and safe reopening of FNQ TAFEQ facilities during Tropical Cyclone Jasper.

SEQ Thunderstorms

- In relation to the SEQ Severe Thunderstorms, DESBT received more than 1200 responses to the DESBT Disaster Impact survey, and 670 direct small business contacts.

Queensland Bushfires 2023-24

- With respect to the Queensland Bushfires 2023-24, DESBT received 10 completed Disaster Impact surveys; and eight small businesses requested contact, all of which were contacted and assisted.

DESBT Disaster and Emergency Planning

- During the year, the department carried out reviews of internal disaster and emergency management plans and communications processes, the Rapid Response Group Terms of Reference, as well as carrying out regular updates of its Business Continuity Plans.

Inspector-General of Emergency Management

- The Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management's (IGEM) Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Program maintained its bi-annual program of reporting, including an additional iterative round of reporting which was undertaken in July 2023 with the public report released to the IGEM website. IGEM also completed additional reporting in November 2023 that related to the nine recommendations from the South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding February to March 2022 Review with an allocated timeframe for completion of 1 November 2023.
- On 7 November 2023, IGEM hosted the third annual Queensland Disaster Management Research Forum (the Forum). The theme for the Forum was "Think Bigger" and focused on sharing the work of early career researchers from across Qld universities. 170 representatives from across the research, disaster management, government and non-government sectors attended the Forum in person, with another 42 joining the virtual livestream. The office will host another Forum in November 2024.
- The Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management's 2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Review Report 3: 2018–19 (the Monsoon Trough Review) contained 14 recommendations including Recommendation 12, which outlined the requirement to conduct "...a formal, independent report provided on the effectiveness of the recovery after 3 years". In preparing the 2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Event: Formal, independent report on the effectiveness of recovery after three years (the Report), the IGEM wrote to the 39 Local Disaster Management Groups and seven District Disaster Management Groups within the impacted area, as well as key partners from federal and state agencies and nongovernment organisations to gain stakeholder input for the report. The report has been finalised and will be released on to the IGEM website.

- On 18 April 2024, the Inspector General of Emergency Management was provided terms of reference to undertake a review of the 2023-2024 Severe Weather Season. This Review will have regard to the severe storms, tropical cyclones, tropical lows, flooding and bushfires that occurred between 1 October 2023 – 30 April 2024. An interim report will be provided on 30 July 2024 and the final Review Report will be provided to government by 29 September 2024.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

- In January 2022, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and its partners moved to a year-round, three-year rolling program of mitigation, known as Operation Sesbania. Activities undertaken to support preparedness include mitigation burning, mechanical fuel management (e.g. slashing), firebreak management and community engagement activities. Between 1 July 2023 and 14 May 2024, over 450 completed activities have been reported by QFES and its partners and captured in the Sesbania Dashboard.
- QFES continued to implement the Queensland Bushfire Plan (a hazard-specific plan under the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan). Implementation of the plan has focused on continuing to drive and embed Queensland bushfire management arrangements at the state, regional and local level. These arrangements contribute to Queensland understanding its bushfire risk and the development of appropriate mitigation strategies.
- QFES continues to contract a Large Aerial Tanker (LAT), based in Bundaberg, through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC), between September and November each year, with the ability to extend contracts to align with continuation of high fire risk.
- From 1 August 2023 to 31 January 2024, the QFES aerial fleet conducted over 22,039 drops, totaling 40.5 million litres of suppressant and fire retardant.
- As a result of the Independent Review of QFES, and the Inspector-General of Emergency Management's subsequent Review of Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements, certain disaster management functions started transitioning to the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Reconstruction Authority on 30 October 2023. The full transition of these functions is to be completed by 1 July 2024.
- During 2023-24, QFES published the 2023 State Disaster Risk Report (SDRR) in November 2023 under the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework. The SDRR provides the results of a risk assessment at state and regional levels and incorporated high-resolution climate data and projections out to the end of the century.
- In July 2023, QFES conducted Exercise Ignis, with the aim of exploring the arrangements described in the Queensland Bushfire Plan in relation to a catastrophic bushfire. The exercise involved 144 participants, who represented 41 agencies both government and non-government. Exercise Ignis had five objectives, which covered a range of areas namely, roles and responsibilities of response entities, identification of trigger points, examining information flows and examining issues associated with public information.
- QFES delivers an annual Bushfire Preparedness campaign, which aims to raise the community's awareness of their bushfire risk and encourage action to prepare themselves and their property. The 2023 campaign ran from June to September, and included advertising on television, digital and social media, billboards, online video and search engine marketing.
- QFES partnered with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and national agencies to host the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) 2023 Asia Pacific Earthquake Response Exercise (APERE) in Brisbane, part of QFES' INSARAG commitments. Thirty countries participated, with 290 registered participants attending. The aim of the exercise was to strengthen the preparedness and response to a catastrophic earthquake, including concurrent and compounding events, in accordance with local, state and national plans, through an immersive, face-to-face simulation.

Queensland Police Service

- On 30 October 2023 the overarching responsibility for disaster management functions transitioned from the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) to the Queensland Police Service (QPS).
- QPS has established the Emergency Management and Coordination Command to support disaster response and coordination. The command provides strategic direction and oversight for state-wide disaster management, supporting disaster operations to ensure the Queensland community is kept safe and is supported in their recovery.
- Over the 2023-24 higher risk weather season, QPS worked closely with QFES and other disaster management partners to ensure there was no degradation of service delivery.
- From November 2023 to March 2024, QPS coordinated the response to eight significant severe weather events:
 - Queensland low pressure trough (20 November – 1 December).
 - Tropical Cyclone Jasper and associated rainfall and flooding (2-18 December).
 - Brisbane and Ipswich Severe Storms (15-16 December).
 - South Queensland severe storms and rainfall (including South-east Christmas/Boxing Day Storms) (24 December – 3 January).
 - South West Queensland Flooding (6-23 January).
 - North Queensland Monsoon Trough (12-22 January).
 - Tropical Cyclone Kirrily and associated rainfall and flooding (25 January – 26 February).
 - Tropical Cyclone Lincoln and associated rainfall and flooding (15-19 February).
- Queensland also experienced significant bushfires the length and breadth of the state. The Western Downs region was particularly affected with several structures being destroyed and the most significant of these fires being the Tara fire in October 2023. The QPS supported the lead agency, QFES throughout this period.
- Disaster management in Queensland remains locally led, with local governments best placed to provide disaster management at the community level, due to their localised knowledge and understanding of social, environmental, and economic issues.
- QPS continues to support local governments through district and state level groups with prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities to enhance capability and support the effective performance of local government disaster management responsibilities.
- Issues identified from post-event debriefs for affected disaster districts will be used to inform training and exercising in preparation for the 2024-25 higher risk weather season and to support the continuity of service and targeted operational response and coordination during any concurrent events.
- QPS delivered training to 9,912 disaster management stakeholders in accordance with the Commissioner's responsibilities under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* through the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework. Courses are available to all disaster management stakeholders to support the effective performance of their role.
- This included training to newly elected local government officials following the March 2024 local elections.
- QPS delivers and supports a comprehensive program of disaster management exercising across local, district and State levels. In November 2023, QPS conducted cross border exercise with NSW in Goondiwindi.

- QPS continues to implement recommendations from the IGEM Review of Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements, which was released in May 2023.
- QPS has developed an approach to the review and renewal of the State Disaster Management Plan and the Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Disaster Management Guideline.

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Overview

- The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) is the State's lead agency responsible for disaster recovery and resilience policy and is responsible for managing and coordinating the Queensland Government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities.
- QRA undertook a variety of disaster management activities, summarised below, to prepare for, respond to and lead recovery efforts over the 2023-24 disaster season.
- The Queensland government disaster management reforms will expand QRA's prevention, mitigation and preparedness responsibilities with the transition of State-level Hazard and Risk, certain Community Engagement and Education projects and activities and Community Awareness Campaigns from the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) to QRA.

Preparedness

Get Ready Queensland

- 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.
- During the 2023-24 disaster season, Get Ready Queensland used social media toolkits to support locally led preparedness messaging. Toolkits covered cyclone preparation, the If It's Flooded Forget It (IIFFI) campaign, and disaster preparedness for pets and received positive feedback from the community and stakeholders.
- The IIFFI campaign transitioned from QFES to QRA and ran from 19 November 2023 to 7 April 2024, emphasising vehicle safety, urging motorists not to risk driving through floodwater.
- The IIFI campaign was extended ahead of six forecast severe weather events which saw an additional 5,000 radio spots purchased. An additional two radio ads were specifically developed to target First Nations audiences.
- Get Ready Queensland supported community recovery messaging, including through a video by ambassador Jonathan Thurston promoting financial assistance programs for those affected by Cyclone Jasper.
- Annual funding through Get Ready Queensland is provided for all local governments to assist with engagement activities with their community and localised preparedness campaigns.
- The Bushfire Communication Toolkit brings together a wide range of ready-to-use bushfire messaging around bushfire awareness, bushfire preparedness, bushfire myths, bushfire recovery, rebuilding after bushfire, and bushfire resilient homes. This initiative was in partnership with state partners and is available on the Get Ready Queensland website.

Flood Warning Infrastructure

- QRA continues to roll-out new and upgraded infrastructure to improve flood warning services across the 23 councils hardest hit by the 2022 Queensland floods, from Balonne through to Gladstone.

- The \$7 million investment was made available through the Australian Government's Emergency Response Fund (ERF) commitment of \$75 million for the Queensland flood recovery and resilience activities following the February-March 2022 flood events.

Training

- QRA's Regional Liaison Officers (RLOs) and Resilience and Recovery Officers (RROs) provide local and regional liaison and recovery connection services to local governments and relevant state agencies.
- RLOs provide training to improve stakeholder knowledge of end-to-end disaster funding arrangements including Commonwealth government funding programs, including training on the financial eligibility and cost reimbursement arrangements of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to councils all year round as part of their service delivery.
- RROs monitor and report on recovery progress for State Recovery Plans, including data compilation and review.
- RROs support stakeholders in the planning, design, development and implementation of locally led and owned resilience and recovery and undertake projects to enhance recovery and resilience capabilities for local government and state agencies.
- RROs support DRFA activations by gathering impact information to inform funding packages.

Funding

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

- In 2023-34, 66 of Queensland's 77 local government have been provided access to immediate financial assistance to support disaster recovery from 13 disaster event, including Personal Hardship Assistance, support for essential services safety and reconnection, reconstruction of essential public assets and counter disaster operations.
- A suite of DRFA Category C and D exceptional circumstances funding packages valued at more than \$247 million have been developed for the following events:
 - South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall, 24 December 2023 - 3 January 2024.
 - Tropical Cyclone (TC) Jasper, 13 - 28 December 2023.
 - Southern Queensland Bushfires, 8 September - 7 November 2023.
- This includes package such as:
 - Rural Landholder Recovery Grants programs.
 - Small Business Support package.
 - Agricultural Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers.
 - Cyclone Industry Recovery and Resilience Officers.
 - Local Recovery and Resilience Grants.
 - Exceptional Circumstances Recovery Grants for Primary Producers, Small Business and Not-For-Profits.
 - Tourism Recovery and Resilience Program.
 - Community Health and Wellbeing package.
 - Mental Health Program.

- Recovery Project Managers program for Douglas & Wujal Wujal, and for Scenic Rim.
 - Environmental Recovery packages.
 - Clean-up Programs.
 - Sport and Recreation Community Facilities.
- QRA continues to work with the Australian Government and state agencies to develop further funding packages to support the recovery and resilience of communities hardest hit.

Resilience

- QRA also administers a range of non-DRFA resilience funding programs, including the Queensland Risk Reduction and Resilience Fund (QRRRF), North Queensland Resilience Program, Disaster Ready Fund (DRF), and the Emergency Response Fund.
- The DRF Round One (2023-24) provided \$84 million in Commonwealth funding to 50 projects to support risk reduction, including 40 projects for councils, three for state agencies, five for non-government organisations and two for universities. Project delivery has commenced.
- QRA submitted 134 project applications to the National Emergency Management Agency for Commonwealth funding through under the DRF Round Two (2024-25). Outcomes are expected from July 2024.

Recovery

Recovery Operations

- *Interim Emergency Relief Sub-committee:*
 - The Interim Emergency Relief Subcommittee (ERSC) was established following recommendations of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management (IGEM) Review of Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA).
 - Following TC Jasper, QRA stood up the Interim ERSC to ensure a coordinated and collaborative disaster response. A coordination cell deployed geographically close to the District Disaster Management Centre led to greater situational awareness, the ability to ground truth requests and provide support to Councils directly, and to build lasting relationships with the District Staff. This also supported a smoother transition from response to recovery.
 - Queensland Police Service (QPS) has since taken on the lead of the Interim ERSC.
- *State Recovery Coordinators:*
 - Two Deputy State Recovery Coordinators were appointed to provide leadership in the regions most effected at either end of the State:
 - QPS Assistant Commissioner Ben Marcus led the recovery response to the severe storms in South East Queensland on Christmas night.
 - QFES Deputy Commissioner Mike Wassing led the recovery of communities impacted by ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper in the Far North.
- *Disaster Intelligence Dashboards:*
 - QRA utilised their Disaster Intelligence Dashboard during the Tropical Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily and related flooding events, and the Southern and Northern Queensland Bushfires to assist with damage assessments and recovery efforts during disaster events.

- The Dashboard has a multi-hazard application and was developed and made available to Functional Recovery Groups and other partners providing real-time situational awareness from multiple state and federal departments, including the Bureau of Meteorology, QFES, and the Queensland Department of Resources.
- *State Recovery and Resilience Plan:*
 - QRA is leading the development of a State Recovery and Resilience Plan, covering the impacts of all disasters in the 2023-24 disaster season, focussing on both short and long term recovery, and opportunities to build resilience to future disasters.
- *Local Recovery and Resilience Plan (LRRP):*
 - RROs support stakeholders in the planning, design, development and implementation of locally led and owned resilience and recovery. Event specific LRRP's are developed when its deemed necessary by the Local Recovery Group or Local Disaster Management Group. The event specific LRRP coordinates priority recovery action to drive immediate, short, medium and long term efforts. QRA recently support Western Downs Regional Council with the development of an event specific LRRP in response to the Southern Queensland Bushfire event.

Recovery Progress

- QRA conducted Damage Assessment and Reconstruction Monitoring (DARM) activities following the severe disaster events of 2023-24.
- 11,505 initial damage assessments were carried out in disaster-affected communities in the immediate aftermath of the events with minor damage to 1,549 properties, moderate damage to 1,234, severe damage to 394 and 195 properties destroyed.
- QRA undertook the first DARM operation to monitor recovery progress of properties impacted by Tropical Cyclone Jasper, Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, and the South Queensland storms in late April and early May. Additional DARM on the recovery progress from the Southern Queensland Bushfire event will be undertaken using satellite imagery. Once the data is cleansed, it will be disseminated to Councils and State Agencies to assist in the recovery efforts.
- On 10 June 2024, QRA is planning a 2023-24 High Risk Weather Season After Action Debrief with the Interim State Recovery and Resilience Group members on recovery activities undertaken during the 2023-24 high risk weather season.
- This debrief will focus on the five largest disasters of the 2023-24 season and focus on strategic and systems level reflections, not the detail of individual operations.
- The findings of the debrief will be briefed to participants, the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator and Leadership Board ahead of 2024-25 disaster season.

Queensland Treasury

- Queensland Treasury (QT) continued to provide high level financial and economic management advice as required.

Queensland Health

- Following the COVID-19 response, Queensland Health's preparedness priorities have been reviewing and updating disaster plans; including the Queensland Health Disaster and Emergency Incident Plan and Queensland Health Heatwave Management Sub-Plan.

- The State Health Emergency Coordination Centre (SHECC) was activated in response to the Western and Darling Downs Fires event in October 2023 supporting Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service with response and recovery to affected communities.
- The SHECC was also activated concurrently for Tropical Cyclone Jasper, Tropical Cyclone Kirrily and the South Queensland Severe Storms and Rainfall across December 2023 to January 2024.

Queensland Corrective Services

- During the 2023-24 disaster season, Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) established a framework for Disaster and Emergency Management Arrangements (DEMA) and activated local incident management arrangements in response to Tropical Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily supported by the Incident Coordination Centre in Brisbane.
- Low-risk prisoners at the QCS Innisfail Work Camp played an important role in helping the town prepare for Tropical Cyclone Jasper by assisting the State Emergency Services (SES) and Cassowary Coast Regional Council. The prisoners worked in the community to prepare for storm season, clearing drains and gutters, cutting trees to prevent major damage and filling sandbags. The prisoners were also available to the Council to assist further as required. Other QCS correctional centres also assisted in preparations, with prisoners at Maryborough Correctional Centre filling sandbags for the SES.
- QCS officers from Townsville Correctional Complex (TCC) worked with prisoners to assist with the Tropical Cyclone Kirrily clean up. Prisoners from Townsville Men's Low Security Farm and Winton, Boulia and Julia Creek work camps were deployed to the Billabong Sanctuary, which suffered significant damage when Tropical Cyclone Kirrily made landfall. Prisoners from the low security farm already have strong ties to the Sanctuary as they previously assisted in growing and harvesting eucalyptus trees for the Sanctuary's resident koalas.

Disaster Management Priorities for 2024-25 are as follows:

- Review the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan and Disaster Management Guideline.
- Continue implementation of the Queensland Government's Response to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.
- Continue implementation of disaster management and emergency services reforms, including:
 - The transition of Volunteer Marine Rescue and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard groups to the new Marine Rescue Queensland.
 - Uplift in resourcing for the State Emergency Service.
- Continue implementation of the recommendations from the Inspector-General of Emergency Management's Review of the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements, including:
 - Establishing the State Disaster Management Group.
 - Formally establishing the State Recovery and Resilience Group.
 - Formalising the Emergency Relief Working Group.
 - Clarifying the roles of the State Recovery Coordinator and the State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator.
- Undertake exercising and training across the Disaster Management System to ensure disaster preparedness, particularly to support new Local Disaster Management Group Chairs following the 2024 local government elections.

Abbreviations

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| 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 |
| DESBT | Department of Employment and Small Business Training |
| DHLGPPW | Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works |
| DJAG | Department of Justice and Attorney General |
| DM Act | Disaster Management Act 2003 |
| DoE | Department of Education |
| DRDMW | Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water |
| DRFA | Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements |
| DSDI | Department of State Development and Infrastructure |
| DTATSIPCA | Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts |
| DTS | Department of Tourism and Sport |
| 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 |