Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Queensland State Budget 2011-12

Rebuilding Queensland after the natural disasters of the summer of 2010-11

Queensland Government

Message from the Premier and the Treasurer

Fortune and fate have challenged Queenslanders in many ways over the years but we have stubbornly and persistently hung on to our fighting spirit.

It was this fighting spirit that was much in evidence this summer, when natural disasters swept through our State destroying those things which we hold most dear.

Queenslanders sought solace in each other. There were families with whom we had to re-connect, homes and businesses that needed to be rebuilt, friends and strangers to be thanked for their help.

The process of rebuilding is well underway but it's an enormous task that will take time, money, patience and yet more of that indomitable Queensland spirit.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority, led by Major General Mick Slater, started the rebuilding task with Operation Queensland – an over-arching reconstruction plan for a synchronised, methodical and logical approach to the re-build.

In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, total funding of up to $6.8 billion has been allocated on initial estimates. The Commonwealth will fund up to 75% and the Queensland Government will contribute the balance of the funds.

Already we can see the signs of significant progress. Major supply roads and rail routes have re-opened, schools are operating, ports and mines are functional and communities are reconnecting.

However, there is much more to do.

To that end, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority is positioning the State to recover and to better deal with disasters.

Already, by the end of this financial year more than $1 billion of reconstruction money will have been injected into the Queensland economy.

This includes a first – where to date 56 of the State's 73 Local Government Authorities have been advanced $419 million to identify and to begin works on major projects. Traditionally this would have been paid after the works were complete and in some cases up to 18 months to two years later.

These advances are part of the Authority's unprecedented all-State balancing act of achieving a speedy recovery, with appropriate accountability and at the same time ensuring taxpayers receive value for money.

The Authority's legislated monthly reporting process reviews reconstruction and recovery progress.

Together, we are rebuilding Queensland better than ever.

Anna Bligh
Premier of Queensland
and Minister for Reconstruction

Andrew Fraser
Treasurer and Minister for Employment,
Economic Development and Innovation

The Queensland Government rescue helicopter in action. Photo: EMQ

The immediate response

Despite the devastation brought by flood waters and cyclonic conditions which saw the activation of National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), as the waters receded and the cyclone dissipated, there was an unprecedented outpouring of public generosity and goodwill from the Queensland community. The strength demonstrated by the community is the foundation upon which the reconstruction task – Operation Queenslander – will build.

The immediate counter disaster responses for affected communities included disaster co-ordination centre operations, hazard analysis and modelling, warnings management, SES deployment, rescue operations, evacuations and evacuation centre management. The Government established 74 evacuation centres across Queensland accommodating nearly 7,000 people. Pre-emptive evacuation of tens of thousands of people from threatened areas and 43 helicopter rescues ensured loss of life was minimised. More than 250 hospital patients were evacuated by air to Brisbane and thousands were evacuated from Cairns, the Cassowary Coast and Hinchinbrook regions.

In the days and weeks immediately after the flooding and cyclone disasters, the Queensland Government implemented an extensive community recovery response, deploying a large number of government and non government staff to affected towns and cities across the state. During the summer, 41 community recovery centres were established to provide personal support and disburse emergency assistance grants to people affected by the disasters, ensuring that people were able to meet their immediate needs.

On 29 December 2010, the Premier launched a disaster relief appeal to help people affected by wide-spread flooding in Queensland. The appeal was extended to assist people affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasi. As of 3 June, $266 million has been donated to the fund. Payments from the fund have been made to over 28,500 individuals and families in prioritised rounds.

A vast amount of material aid to the value of $6.7 million was donated in the aftermath of the disasters and managed separately via the State Disaster Co-ordination Centre database through a referral system to emergency relief agencies and local councils.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority) was formally established on 21 February 2011 to manage and co-ordinate the Government's program of infrastructure reconstruction and recovery within disaster-affected communities.

Getting back in business:

The Recovery

After immense effort, much of Queensland has recovered from the event of the summer. The vast majority of the infrastructure affected has been reopened, communities are rebuilding and the economy is recovering. However, there is much to be done, rebuilding and recovering from the lasting effects of the disasters.

As at 3 June 2011, payments of $36 million in NDRRA personal hardship grants had been made to individuals and families.

Significant progress has been made in restoring services from damaged assets. State government agencies have expended some $290 million to repair assets and bring them back into service. For example, all of the 411 schools affected have been re-opened at their original location at a cost of $52 million.

A damaged asset may be made operational but still require major repairs as a result of the disaster. The reconstruction phase will include major repairs to assets that have temporarily been restored to serviceability. For example 18 of 84 sewerage schemes that have been restored to operations as at 3 June will require permanent repair or replacement.

Local governments have also acted swiftly to restore services to their communities. To assist local governments in these efforts and to ensure that reconstruction work is not delayed by liquidity or cash flow problems, the Authority has provided significant funding advances to all local governments that sought them, determined on the basis of initial damage estimates for each local government.

By the end of 2010-11, it is expected councils will have received funding advances of approximately $450 million.

	November 2010 – March 2011	As at 3 June 2011
Roads	9,170 kilometres of Queensland's state-owned road network affected	6,627 kilometres of Queensland's state-owned road network made operational
Rail	4,748 kilometres of Queensland's state-owned rail network affected	4,421 kilometres of Queensland's state-owned rail network made operational
Bridges and culverts	89 state-owned bridges and culverts with major damage statewide	64 state-owned bridges and culverts made operational
Schools	411 Queensland schools affected	411 Queensland schools recovered and operating from original location
National Parks	142 National Parks affected statewide	90 National Parks recovered
Power	More than 460,000 homes and businesses have had their power reconnected	
Evacuation centres	6,812 people housed in evacuation centres (December to April)	12 Referral and Information centres operational
Property impact	136,209 residential buildings affected (over 5000 uninhabitable or vacated) and 148,908 buildings affected	

Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal Fund	$266 million donated to Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal with more than $102.6 million distributed to around 28,500 individuals and households, including $10 million to St Vincent de Paul for local distribution

Minerva Mine near Springsure at the height of the flood, left, in February and, right, the same mine after resuming full operation.

Funding amounts may also include new expenditure and expenditure arising from other events to provide a total picture of activity.

Build it back better:

$0.2 million to repair sport and recreation facilities across the region

$2.9 million to support community recovery across the region

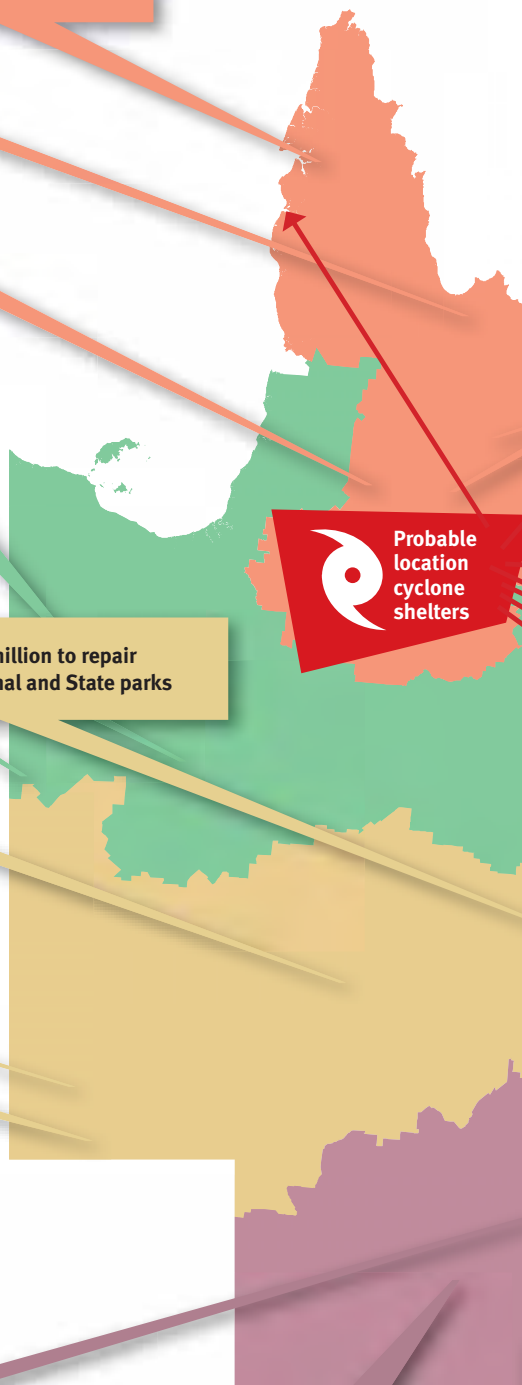
$7.4 million to repair National and State parks and to undertake coastal hazard mapping

Electricity being restored in Tully.

$25.5 million to repair the Wills Developmental Road

$1.3 million to repair National and State parks

$2.2 million to support community recovery across the region



$1.2 million to repair National and State parks

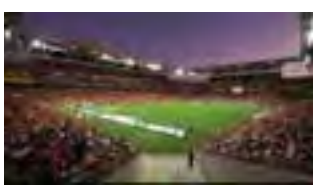
Restoring Queensland's mines. Transitional Environmental Programs allowed mines to restore operations quickly, with appropriate environmental safeguards

$2.3 million to repair sport and recreation facilities across the region

$95 million to restore road access to remote communities in Western Queensland

Brisbane's Sydney Street ferry terminal. Design competition underway.

CQ cattle producers back on the road.



Suncorp Stadium Roars into business.

$192 million to repair the Warrego and Landsborough highways

$1.4 million to repair National and State parks

The Reconstruction

Helicopter rescue crew on the ground in Tully.

Supporting the Cassowary Coast

- $15 million to restore Cardwell foreshore and repair jetties at Dunk Island and Clump Point
- $5 million to repair the Bruce Highway at Cardwell

Operation Clean Up **is helping clear debris from farms and tourism businesses affected by Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi**

$72.5 million for work on the Kennedy Developmental Road which extends from Far North to Central Queensland

$18.5 million for slope stabilisation works on the Captain Cook Highway

$10 million for Tully State High School

$3 million to repair Tully Hospital Nurses Quarters

$2.2 million for the restoration of the Strand in Townsville

Mackay Whitsunday Roads Recovery Program
$340 million to repair or to construct new assets including Fursden Creek Bridge – $40 million

$144 million to repair sections of the Bruce Highway between Cardwell and Gin Gin

Cleaning up in Emerald.

$3.9 million to support community recovery across the region

$84 million to repair transport crossings of the Great Dividing Range at Toowoomba and Cunningham's Gap

$9.6 million to restore essential education services

$5.1 million to support community recovery across the region

$4.2 million to repair sport and recreation facilities across the region

$5.3 million to support community recovery across the region

$18.7 million to repair National and State parks and riverside parks in Brisbane

$5.8 million to repair sport and recreation facilities across the region

Rebuilding Grantham, using new powers to fast-track planning schemes

$170 million to repair the Warrego Highway

Restoring the River City

- Restoring the Queensland Cultural Centre precinct, public spaces in South Bank precinct, Suncorp Stadium, the Queensland Tennis Centre and the Maritime Museum
- $145 million to reconstruct the ferry terminals on the Brisbane River and replace the Riverwalk

Queensland State Budget 2011-12, Operation Queenslander – Rebuilding Queensland after the natural disasters of the summer of 2010-11

The recovery program in detail

Supporting people, families and the community

To ease the hardship experienced by people affected by the weather events, a number of programs are in place including:

- NDRRA grants and loans to not-for-profit community groups – $1.2 million approved to date to 171 applicants for assistance
- $83 million Queensland Natural Disaster Jobs and Skills Package – to date more than $27.8 million has been allocated to assist 2,544 Queenslanders, including 1,075 green jobs in the recovery and 1,318 priority skills places
- $20 million for the *Rural Resilience Package*
- $36 million for the *Community Recovery and Well-being Package*.

As part of the recovery program 10 multi-function category-5 cyclone shelters will be built, similar to this one at Redlynch State College, north west of Cairns.

Supporting businesses

Getting the State's economy moving is a prime objective of the Government, ensuring Queenslanders have employment security to be able to rebuild their lives.

- NDRRA grants and loans to small businesses – $39.4 million approved to date to 4,275 applicants for assistance
- NDRRA grants and loans to primary producers – $49.2 million approved to date to 5,097 applicants for assistance
- $13 million *Tourism Industries Support Package*.

The clean-up continues on Cunningham's Gap

Rebuilding communities

Rebuilding the physical infrastructure damaged or destroyed is a critical objective for the next two to three years. This includes roads but also important community assets such as sporting facilities.

- $2.9 billion for state controlled roads
- $2.7 billion for local government controlled assets, including the $315 million *Queensland Local Council Package*
- $14.5 million for the *Sport Flood Fight Back Scheme*
- $1.7 million for the *Racetrack Recovery Assistance*.

Preparing for the future

Rebuilding and replacing infrastructure and community facilities is vital to the continued prosperity and well being of Queenslanders. However, we also need to learn from the past and improve the way we plan and prepare for natural events.

- $60 million to construct 10 additional Category 5 Cyclone shelters in Queensland communities ($30 million donated by the Emirati State of Abu Dhabi)
- $11.6 million for key projects across Queensland restoring gauging station and groundwater monitoring bore networks, clearing debris and material from high risk areas of State land, undertaking water quality assessments and mapping coastal hazards as well as restoration and recovery of critical infrastructure throughout national parks and state forest
- $6.9 million for *All Hazards Information Management Program* to improve access to and co-ordination of information during disasters
- Streamlined planning processes to anticipate and address issues faced by communities living in disaster prone areas.

Rosalie emerges from the flood waters.

Forecast Expenditure

In the period between November 2010 and early March 2011, the Commonwealth and State NDRRA were activated in all local government areas in Queensland. These arrangements provide for funding to individuals and families, local governments and state government agencies, small businesses, primary producers, charities and non-profit groups in the form of grants, subsidies and concessional loans.

Under NDRRA arrangements, the Commonwealth Government will fund up to 75 per cent of eligible costs, currently estimated at $6.7 billion. The Queensland Government will contribute the balance of the funds allocated under the NDRRA.

The Queensland Government is also funding some non-NDRRA recovery programs to the extent of $128 million. These include the Sport Flood Fight Back scheme, cyclone shelters and repair works to rail lines.

The current total forecast expenditure on disaster-related projects and initiatives is therefore $6.8 billion over four years. Queensland will end up being liable for around $1.8 billion in damage costs when the loans provided are redeemed.

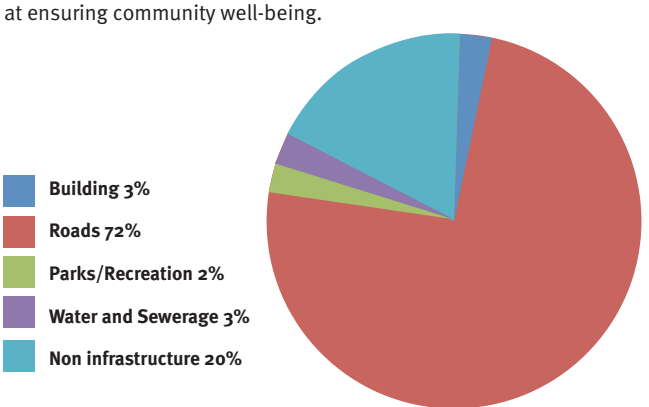
The total amount and distribution of the funds across the years are estimates and will be refined as detailed planning continues at the local level.

Funding $million	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	TOTAL
for State initiatives	637	1,542	975	900	4,053
provided to local governments	465	1,263	1,017	–	2,746
TOTAL	1,102	2,805	1,992	900	6,799

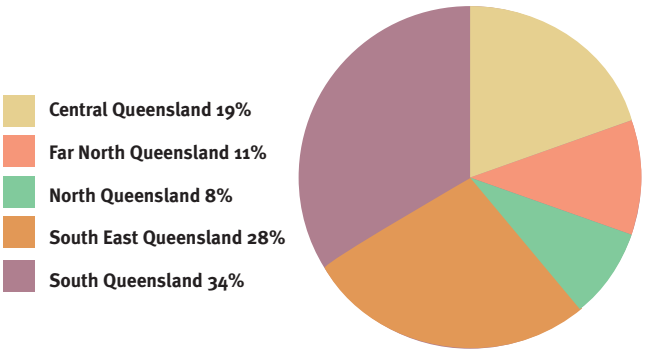
Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

The majority of recovery and reconstruction work in Queensland will involve restoration of essential public assets – mainly local and State controlled roads.

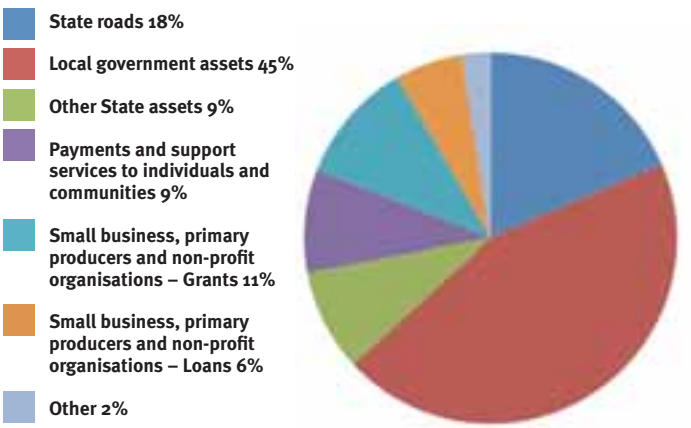
Non-infrastructure projects include grants and concessions to individuals, businesses and community groups and programs aimed at ensuring community well-being.



Total estimated expenditure by type of expenditure



The estimated regional allocation of expenditure on major infrastructure reflects the effects on each region.



A total of $1.1 billion has been allocated in 2010-11.

The scale and complexity of the task of rebuilding Queensland warrants robust and effective governance arrangements. The Australian Government's contribution to the reconstruction effort is provided by means of a National Partnership Agreement (NPA).

The NPA outlines the Commonwealth Government's funding commitment and associated governance arrangements, including the responsibilities of the Reconstruction Inspectorate announced by the Prime Minister on 7 February 2011.

The Inspectorate will work with and through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to provide assurance on expenditure ensuring tax payer's value for money.

Front cover: Repair and reinforcement works on Cunningham's Gap – the essential inland road link between South East Queensland and southern capitals.

Back cover: The main rail line west to Winton was washed out at several sites, including Alpha, pictured, during the December floods, left, and re-opened in February, right. Image digitally enhanced by David Law.

OPERATION QUEENSLANDER

Queensland Government