Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

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Abstract:
An abstract with 100-300 words

The new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) apply to disaster events from 1 November 2018, with the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) Determination 2017 applying to natural disasters occurring prior to 31 October 2018.

With Queensland’s extensive experience in managing disasters and the work undertaken by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) since 2011, many of the processes that have been rolled out nationally are already in place in Queensland, so the state is well placed to manage implementation of the DRFA.

The Queensland Government is determined to ensure our local governments and the communities they serve are not disadvantaged by the new arrangements.

More broadly, Queensland continues to be the most disaster impacted state in Australia, having just experienced 10 activated natural disaster events in one year, the first time since QRA was established in 2011.

QRA is working to make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia, through implementation of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, which leads the nation for building community resilience to natural disasters.

Keywords: Funding, Disasters, Natural Disasters, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Resilience, QSDR

Queensland is the most disaster-impacted state in Australia. Since the establishment of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) in 2011, our state has been impacted by more than 60 significant natural disaster events resulting in loss of life and billions of dollars of damage to public infrastructure.

QRA ensures the efficient and effective coordination of natural disaster reconstruction efforts across Queensland and has administered more than $15.6 billion in restoration funding under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and the State Disaster Relief Arrangements for natural disaster events occurring since 2009.

The new DRFA applies to disaster events from 1 November 2018, with the NDRRA Determination 2017 applying to natural disasters occurring prior to 31 October 2018.

The reforms include improved autonomy for states and territories in how they deliver works, the ability for local governments to use their own labour, plant and equipment, and the ability to
allocate efficiencies realised in delivery of reconstruction programs to resilience and mitigation projects.

With Queensland’s extensive experience in managing disasters and the work undertaken by QRA since 2011, many of the processes that have been rolled out nationally are already in place in Queensland, so the state is well placed to manage implementation of the DRFA.

The Queensland Government is determined to ensure our local governments and the communities they serve are not disadvantaged by the new arrangements.

We are also seeing a tipping point in terms of the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, with 2018-19 being the first year since QRA was established in 2011 to witness 10 activated natural disaster events in one year. Work commissioned for the Australian Business Roundtable indicated that on the current trend, Queensland’s annual cost of natural disasters may exceed $18.3 billion annual by 2050, not including the effects of climate change.

In 2017, the Queensland Government released the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR), which:

- sets the strategic direction for the realisation of the Queensland Government’s vision to make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia
- enables the harnessing of local, cultural and historical knowledge to deliver tailored strategies to embed an ongoing pursuit of resilience that will create stronger, safer, healthier and more secure communities
- encourages the development and strengthening of relationships across all levels of government and within communities to facilitate a coordinated and collaborative approach to building disaster resilience
- identifies the key components required to reduce disaster risk and build resilience across Queensland
- provides the framework to align disaster resilience activities with Queensland Government priorities, including the State Infrastructure Plan, the Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Queensland Government’s objectives for the community
- embraces the use of evidence-based and coordinated disaster risk reduction activities, aligned with international best practice.

QRA is working to make Queensland the most disaster resilient state in Australia, through implementation of the QSDR, which leads the nation for building community resilience to natural disasters.

Acknowledgements
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References
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• Deloitte Access Economics 2016, The economic cost of the social impact of natural disasters, report commissioned by the Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience and Safer Communities.