



Rebuilding a stronger, more resilient Queensland



The capacity
to prepare for,
withstand, respond
to and recover
from disasters

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Section 1

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A local resident sits outside his home surrounded by flood waters on 6 January, 2011 in Rockhampton (Source: Getty Images).

Section 1: overview

Purpose

Queensland's reconstruction and recovery after the devastating weather events of 2010-11 presents a unique opportunity to rebuild a stronger, more resilient Queensland. It offers a chance to enhance the resilience of our communities, economy and environment and to build a better Queensland.

The Queensland Government and its reconstruction and recovery partners, are committed to enhancing the disaster resilience of the State – ensuring we are prepared for future events, we respond appropriately when they occur and we rebound after an event.

The purpose of this paper is to provide:

- an overview of resilience in a disaster management context and initiatives that have been implemented at an international, national, state and local level to build disaster resilience
- details of the strategic resilience projects being delivered throughout Queensland in response to the disaster events of 2010-11.



State Emergency Services in service: Central Queensland (Getty Images)

Background

During the summer of 2010-11 Queensland experienced a series of natural disasters that will long be remembered. The floods that devastated central and southern Queensland coupled with the destruction wrought by Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi resulted in the entire State being declared disaster affected and the tragic death of 37 people.

The Australian and Queensland Governments have committed approximately \$6.8 billion to rebuilding the State. To monitor and co-ordinate the Government's program of reconstruction and recovery the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the Authority) was established on 21 February 2011.

The Authority operates under the auspices of a comprehensive and integrated recovery and reconstruction plan for the State – *Operation Queensland: The State Community, Economic and Environmental Recovery and Reconstruction Plan 2011-2013*. Its mission is to 'reconnect, rebuild and improve Queensland, its communities and economy'. This is supported by four strategic objectives, two of which specifically focus on resilience:

- build a resilient Queensland and support resilient Queenslanders; and
- enhance preparedness and disaster mitigation.

As part of Operation Queensland, six lines of reconstruction were also established to co-ordinate key aspects of the reconstruction and recovery effort:

1. Human and Social
2. Economic
3. Environment
4. Building Recovery
5. Roads and Transport
6. Community Liaison and Communication.



Volunteers turn out in force to clean up West End, Brisbane (Source: The Sunday Mail).

To support implementation, sub-committees were convened for each line of reconstruction that drew membership from across the not-for-profit sector, industry, the private sector and tiers of government.

Much of Queensland is well on the way to recovery. The majority of our infrastructure has been re-opened, the economy and the environment are recovering and communities are rebuilding. Our ability to rebound quickly from recent events is illustrated in **Table 1** below.

Disasters are a feature of the Queensland environment and scientific evidence indicates that with climate change the frequency of more extreme weather events is likely to increase in the coming years.

It is imperative our response to the events of 2010-11 is used to enhance the resilience of Queensland and it is critical all Queenslanders continue to develop a shared understanding of the part they play in developing their own disaster resilience and that of the communities in which they live.

International experience has shown communities develop resilience when the people most likely to be exposed to hazards invest in their own preparedness.

Table 1: Damage impact and recovery statistics

	November 2010 – March 2011	As at 9 September 2011
Roads	9,170 kilometres of Queensland’s state-owned road network affected	8,482 kilometres of Queensland’s state-owned road network recovered
Rail	4,748 kilometres of Queensland’s Rail network affected	4,596 kilometres of Queensland’s Rail network recovered
Bridges and Culverts	89 state-owned bridges and culverts with major damage	89 state-owned bridges and culverts with major damage recovered
Schools	411 Queensland schools affected	411 Queensland schools operating from original location
National Parks	138 National Parks closed due to natural disaster	123 National Parks re-opened
Premier’s Disaster Relief Appeal	More than \$276 million donated to Premier’s Disaster Relief Appeal with more than \$251 million distributed to individuals.	
Personal Hardship and Assistance Grants	More than \$42 million has been paid to individuals, families and householders.	
Small Businesses, Primary Producers and Not-for-Profit Organisations Grants and Loans	More than \$121 million in grants has been paid to small businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations and more than \$12 million in concessional loans to small businesses and primary producers.	
Sport Flood Fight Back Scheme	More than \$13 million in funding for infrastructure and/or equipment to assist organisations to re-establish sport and recreation services.	