



2019 Queensland Monsoon Trough After the flood: A strategy for long-term recovery

The National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency was tasked by the Prime Minister with designing, developing and coordinating a long-term plan for the recovery of the region of North Queensland severely impacted by the 2019 monsoon trough event.

The Agency has consulted widely with farmers, businesses, industries and communities, as well as government agencies and non-government organisations, to design and develop the strategy.

The region told us its vision is for a future where:

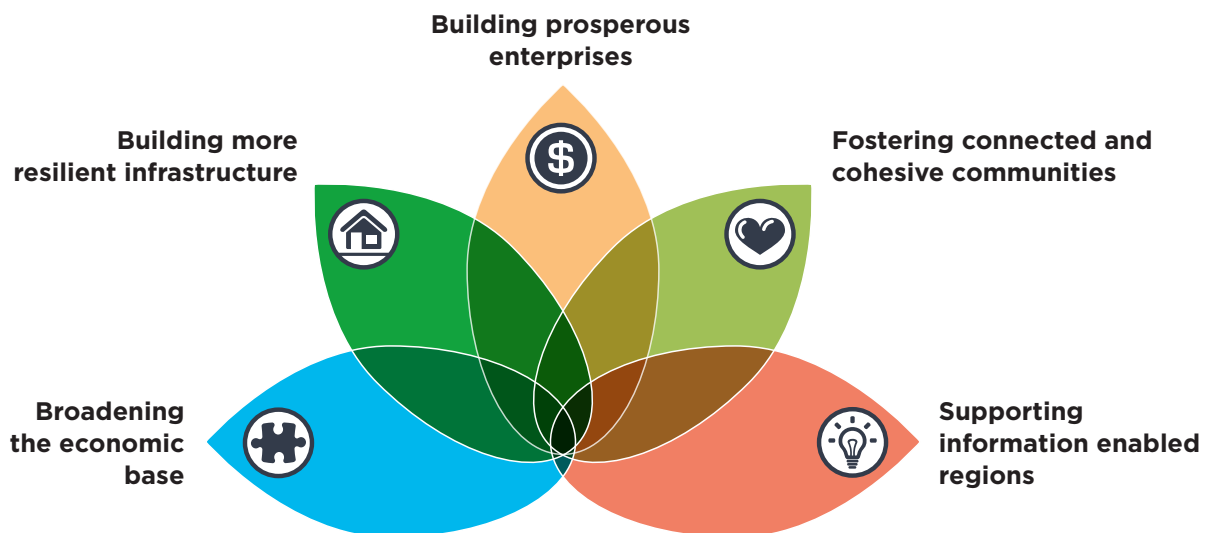
the **economy** is profitable, innovative and diverse

the **community** is vibrant, healthy and empowered, with a sense of belonging

the region is an attractive place for **people** to stay (or relocate), raise families and grow old






the **environment** is valued, proactively managed, and left in better condition for future generations.

We have identified five strategic priorities to help achieve the sustainable future that the community has told us it wants:



The strategy is a blueprint. It is intended to be used by all levels of government, community, business and industry organisations—working together—to make North Queensland’s future strong and sustainable.



 Broadening the economic base	 Building more resilient infrastructure	 Building prosperous enterprises	 Fostering connected and cohesive communities	 Supporting information enabled regions
<p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Broadening the base in the agricultural sector</i> • <i>Broadening the base outside the agricultural sector</i> • <i>Place-based approaches</i> 	<p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Water infrastructure</i> • <i>Supply chain infrastructure</i> • <i>Telecommunications and electricity</i> 	<p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fostering innovation</i> • <i>Best practice management for improving business fundamentals</i> • <i>Rebuilding the herd and managing the environment</i> 	<p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mental wellbeing</i> • <i>Leadership and local capability</i> • <i>Community services</i> 	<p>Focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improved collection and availability of information</i> • <i>Building skills and using information</i> • <i>Disaster planning and management</i>
<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivise and facilitate investment • Improve information collection and sharing • Facilitate opportunities for collaboration 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify gaps and opportunities • Ensure collaborative planning • Incentivise and coordinate investment 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect business with the best available, regionally relevant information to secure long-term change • Create opportunities to innovate, share ideas and design regionally relevant solutions • Support innovation and technology that improves business natural disaster management • Invest in natural capital and business training to achieve long-term sustainability and profitability 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure health services coordinate and increase cross-sector collaboration • Focus on preventive health measures • Support and fund community infrastructure and events • Support and invest in local leadership capability • Build disaster management capability • Encourage the delivery of innovative educational opportunities for regional areas 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure information is captured and shared • Build skills and digital capability • Improve collection and use of disaster related information

Recovery in Action

It's a long road to recovery for those affected by the 2019 monsoon trough, and it's a road we will continue to take together. The Agency will remain in close consultation with the affected region to implement the strategic priorities identified above.

To coordinate efforts, Implementation Working Groups will be established to bring together local representatives from government, business and the community. These groups will help develop plans to implement priority activities, timeframes and funding sources to achieve the strategy's objectives. This will include consideration of how this work will support existing initiatives focussed on recovery within the region.



Clockwise from top left: Livestock road-train heading towards Mount Isa; Brahman cross cattle. With over 450,000 head of cattle lost, 6,000km of formed and 29,000km of unformed farm roads affected and major rail corridors cut off, the impact of the monsoon event had a massive impact on the entire regions' beef supply chain; 2019 Winton Outback Festival; and Palm Creek Plantation in the Burdekin Shire is the only commercial achacha plantation in Australia.

Ongoing commitment and investment from everyone with a stake in the region will make the strategy a success. The Australian Government has committed more than \$3.3 billion to support communities following the event, and is focusing \$58 million of this funding to assist implementation of the strategy. This investment directly reflects what affected communities told us they need.

Economic Diversification



\$9 million for projects that support emerging industries, expand small-scale industries or add value for existing industries and their supply chains to generate economic and employment opportunities.

Telecommunications and energy improvement



\$15 million to support locally-led solutions that improve access to reliable and affordable telecommunications and energy services to support business and community growth.

Managing Disaster Risk



\$12 million for improved disaster risk management planning and risk mitigation activities. The funding will be available for individuals, enterprises, industries and communities to increase risk management capability and capacity building.

Resilient Kids



\$2 million to support preventative mental health measures for children in the flood-affected areas. Children will be equipped with the skills to identify the early signs of mental stress, talk about mental wellbeing and know where to turn for help.

Recovery and Resilience Grants



\$20 million for locally-led solutions that support the strategy's objectives through Local Government Areas. Flood-affected individuals, businesses and communities will be actively involved in the regions' recovery and make sure that local needs are the top consideration.

For more information email cg@droughtandflood.gov.au
or visit www.droughtandflood.gov.au