

# National **Recovery** **and Resilience** Agency



## **Implementation Working Group**

### Meeting Five

*December 2021*



## Fifth Meeting of the Implementation Working Groups

Earlier this month, the Implementation Working Groups (IWGs) held their fifth meeting. The North West IWG came together in Burke Shire on 1 December 2021, and the North East IWG met virtually on 7 December 2021.

An ambitious agenda focussed the meeting's discussions on the implementation of *After the flood: A strategy for long-term recovery* (the Strategy), the vision of the IWGs for the next twelve months and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency's (the Agency) future mandate.

### Outcomes of the Discussion

To support the development of the Implementation Plan, the Agency facilitated workshops with the North East and North West IWG on 7 and 8 October 2021 respectively. The Implementation Plan was drafted from the outcomes of these workshops, and identifies measurement of success against each of the five pillars in the Strategy and the future priorities of each IWG.

The IWGs discussed how their efforts directly support **performance measure 2.2** – *delivery of measures underpinning the Strategy for long-term recovery in those areas impacted by 2019 North Queensland monsoon event*, as outlined in the Agency's [Corporate Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25](#).

Further information on the Implementation Plan can be found in the [Implementation Plan Communique](#) listed on the Agency's [webpage](#).

Members reflected on the key lessons from the 2019 Northern Queensland Monsoon trough (2019 Monsoon Trough), specifically, what worked well in the regions recovery and what could have been done better.

### Lessons Learned from the 2019 Monsoon Trough and Recovery Efforts

- The Commonwealth and Queensland government's rapid '*boots on the ground*' response was an important factor during this event and in responding to future events.
- The Prime Minister's visit to affected regions encouraged communities.
- Impacted regions and communities need to set the pace of recovery - every region is unique.
- Consideration needs to be given to disaster impacted Indigenous communities to increase inclusion of their engagement.
- Quick activation of disaster recovery funding is crucial to assist recovery needs.
- The important role of the Recovery Support Officers (RSOs) in connecting with other stakeholder groups to broaden the region's networks.
- Communities impacted require earlier access to mental health support to prevent further decline in mental health issues.
- Small business support, for all impacted industries, must be considered.
- The importance of data in recognising and further developing recovery indicators to accurately measure recovery.

### The Next Meeting

The group will meet again in early 2022.