



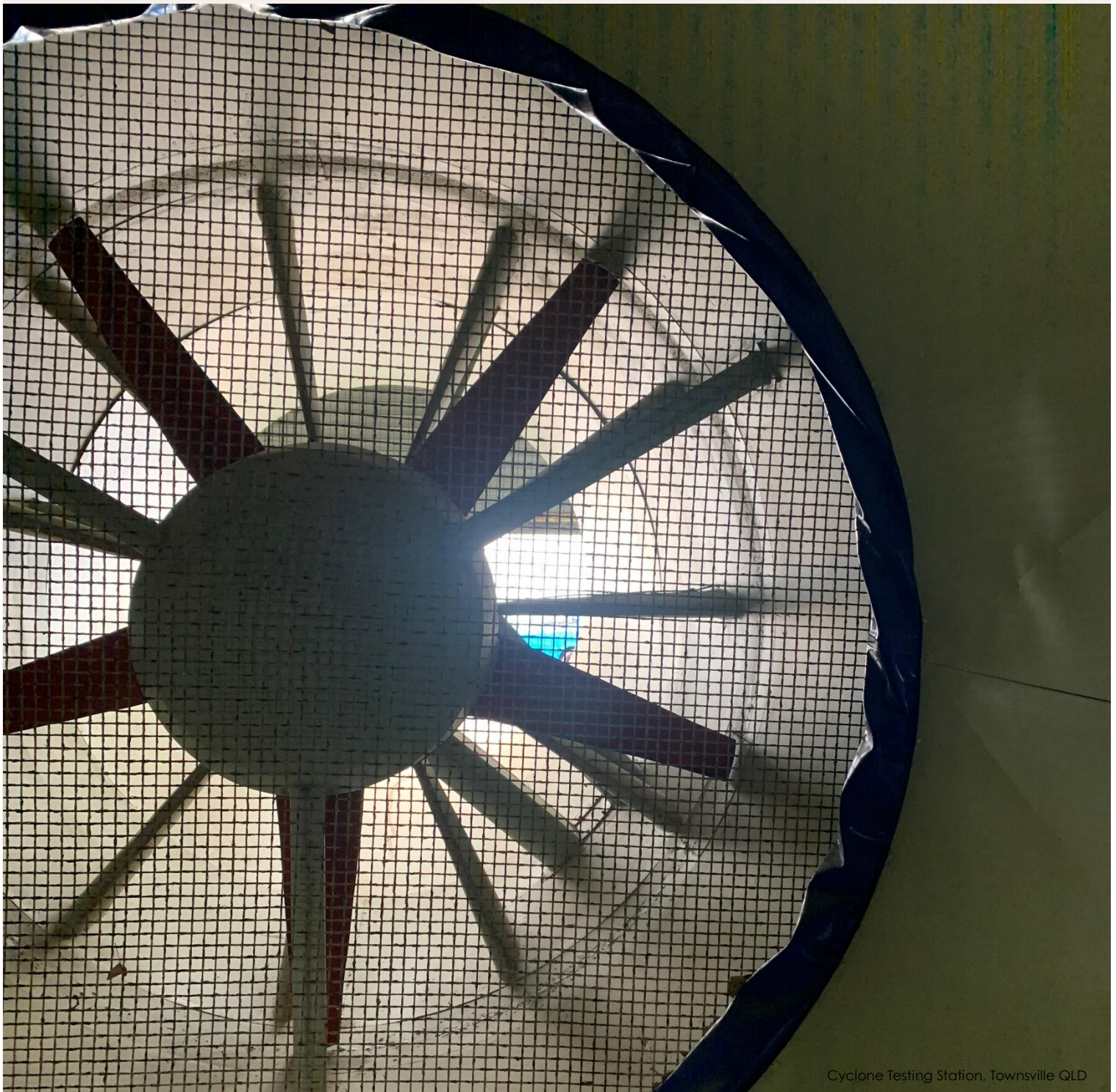
Australian Government  
National Recovery and Resilience Agency



# North East Implementation Working Group

Meeting 3, Friday 21 May

Townsville, QLD



# Third Meeting of the North East Implementation Working Group.

On Friday 21 May 2021 the North East Implementation Working Group (IWG) met in Townsville to discuss challenges small businesses in the region face, as well as the region's mental health concerns. The group addressed these challenges and concerns, discussing a holistic and best way forward in implementing solutions in line with the strategic priorities identified in the Strategy.

## Outcomes of the Discussion

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (the Agency) provided a brief update on its broadened role as well its new initiatives including the \$600 million Preparing Australia Program and the \$40 million North Queensland Strata Title Resilience Pilot Program ([recovery.gov.au/about](https://recovery.gov.au/about)).

Updates on the five grant programs announced in the 2020-21 budget, and the new second stream opportunity under the Resilience and Recovery \$20 million program was provided ([recovery.gov.au/locally-led-recovery](https://recovery.gov.au/locally-led-recovery)).

The successful outcomes of the Grant Writing Workshops held earlier in the year were discussed. The Agency announced the online grant writing and social media marketing tutorials that will soon be available.

The Small Business Recovery Centre and the Department of Industry Innovation and Science gave an overview of the support available to small businesses, the challenges and successes with delivery and outreach, and future opportunities. The group also noted that the mental health strains of running a business need to be better addressed. The Small Business Recovery Centre have been working to address some of these issues.

The meeting held a group discussion on the big issues and opportunities in mental health within the region. Partnerships are key, and mental health outreach works better when it is subtle and integrated with existing community events. The group highlighted that although awareness around mental health is being raised, soft entry modelled programs or events for mental health have a more successful uptake in the region.

## Site Visits

### **Townsville's Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC).**

The group heard about the challenges faced and what worked well in managing the impacts of the 2019 monsoon trough and other disaster events in the Townsville region. The group was able to witness the complexity involved in managing a disaster response, coordinating the services involved and the importance of the Disaster Dashboard which is a key tool for communicating information during an event (which feeds into social media posts) to ensure consistent messaging.

### **James Cook University's Cyclone Testing Station (JCU CTS).**

The group learnt more about the important work the CTS is doing to minimise loss and suffering and educate individuals and communities impacted by severe weather events. The group was able to witness some of the tests being conducted to inform the future design of houses and buildings in cyclone prone regions with the hopes to reduce damage and potentially reduce insurance premium prices.

JCU also manages the North Queensland Strata Title Inspection Program which complements the North Queensland Strata Title Resilience Pilot Program - which the Agency is responsible for.

## Photo Ops



