



## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 7 February 2019  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MTA Queensland's Flood Assistance

The intense destruction that has been unleashed by the monsoonal trough on North and Far North Queensland's people and businesses has been truly tragic. We are seeing this type of natural disaster more frequently and we will continue to stand together and support each other every time. So as the flood waters slowly retreat, we know the heartbreak and work ahead is just at the beginning.

#### MTA QUEENSLAND SUPPORT

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) want our members, and businesses who use the training services of the MTA Institute, to know we do care and are here to help.

Ms Kellie Dewar, Deputy CEO and General Manager for Member Services, said "It is our responsibility, as it has always been, that in times of natural disaster, MTA Queensland will be there for our members in whatever capacity we can. The MTA Queensland head office number is 07 3237 8777 and our admin team is taking calls in member services and Ted and Evangeline are available in the industrial relations department. We will make further enquiries on behalf of members, where we are not able to directly assist, or perhaps we can simply help by assisting with completing forms or grant applications."

The Chairman of the MTA Queensland Board, Mr Paul Peterson said, "The members affected by these floods are our top priority. Mark Billingsley, our North Queensland Board Director is available on a local level as is new Area Manager for the North, Ray Bolton. Their phone numbers can be accessed by calling the head office number."

#### Motor Trades Association of Queensland

Address: Freeway Office Park, Building 8, 2728 Logan Road Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113 (Postal: PO Box 4530, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113)  
Telephone +61 7 3237 8777 | Toll Free 1800 177 951 | Email [info@mtaq.com.au](mailto:info@mtaq.com.au) | Website | [www.mtaq.com.au](http://www.mtaq.com.au)

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Federal Grants

The **Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment** may be available for people in the Burdekin, Cook, Douglas, Townsville and Wujal Wujal local government areas, who have been adversely affected by this flood, allowing for a one-off payment of \$1,000 per adult and \$400 per child. The fastest way to apply is over the phone on 180 22 66 or 131 202 for languages other than English. More information, including the documents required, is available [here](#).

The Australian government's **Disaster Recovery Allowance** may be available for individuals in the Burdekin, Cook, Douglas, Townsville and Wujal Wujal local government areas, who can show a loss of income as a direct result of the flood. This is a short-term payment for a maximum of 13 weeks, payable from the date income ceased. It is a taxable payment, but individuals can request withholding of voluntary tax deductions. If a person receives the Disaster Recovery Allowance, they may also be able to access Beneficiary Tax Offset which reduces the amount of tax payable. Contact the Australian Taxation Office to find out more about this. The fastest way to apply is over the phone on 180 22 66 or 131 202 for languages other than English. More information, including the documents required, is available [here](#).

### Queensland Grants

Varying types of financial assistance has been extended to the people affected by the North and Far North flooding including:

- [Burdekin Shire Council](#), North Queensland
- [Charters Towers Regional Council](#), North Queensland
- [Cook Shire Council](#), Far North Queensland
- [Douglas Shire Council](#), Far North Queensland
- [Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council](#), North Queensland
- [Townsville City Council](#), North Queensland
- [Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council](#), Far North Queensland

Click the links above to see the Queensland grants available for each Shire Council.

The **Emergency Hardship Assistance Grant** will help cover the costs of essential items such as food, medication, clothing and temporary accommodation for people directly impacted by this weather event. Up to \$180 per person, to a maximum of \$900 for a family of five or more, is provided to people experiencing genuine financial hardship as a result of flooding. The grant may not be available to all Shire Councils listed above. Apply online at [Community Recovery Portal](#) or by phone on 1800 173 349.

Where a home and/or essential contents have been damaged as a direct result of the flood and the damage is not insured or under-insured for this type of disaster (or a person is unsure

### Motor Trades Association of Queensland

Address: Freeway Office Park, Building 8, 2728 Logan Road Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113 (Postal: PO Box 4530, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113)  
Telephone +61 7 3237 8777 | Toll Free 1800 177 951 | Email [info@mtaq.com.au](mailto:info@mtaq.com.au) | Website | [www.mtaq.com.au](http://www.mtaq.com.au)

of the insurance status) they may be eligible for financial support. These grants may not be activated for all the Shire Councils listed above, and are income tested and have eligibility criteria.

- The [Essential Household Contents Grant](#) may be available for items such as beds and whitegoods that have been lost or damaged. Grants of up to \$1,765 for single adults and up to \$5,300 for couples/families may be available. Apply by completing the [online application form](#) or by phone on 1800 173 349.
- The [Structural Assistance Grant](#) is a one-off payment that may be available as a contribution towards repairs to a home to make it secure and safe. Grants of up to \$10,995 for single adults and up to \$14,685 for couples/families are available. Apply by completing the [online application form](#) or by phone on 1800 173 349.
- The [Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Grant](#) may be available to reconnect essential services and is available in two parts:
  - o Inspection: up to \$200 towards a safety inspection for each essential service needing reconnection (electricity, gas, water and sewerage or septic system)
  - o Repair: up to \$4200 towards repair work to enable essential services to be reconnected (for example, electrical rewiring).

Apply by completing the [online application form](#) or by phone on 1800 173 349.

If identification cards or paperwork cannot be accessed, help is available to [replace lost or destroyed documents](#).

## EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

If you require [support services to help your family recover](#) from the disaster, such as psychological or mental health support, family welfare help, business assistance or community advice, the Queensland Government provides information for:

- [Managing stress after a disaster](#) – This information outlines how to recognise reactions to a disaster and learn how to take care of yourself with advice on how to overcome stress and who to contact for help.
- [Support Groups](#) – This information lists not-for-profit organisations who provide post-disaster emotional support and crisis hotlines.
- [Family relationships after a disaster](#) – This information helps with understanding a family's most common reactions after a disaster and what to do to help recover, including where to go for support.
- [Business support](#) – This information assists with disaster resilience and recovery for businesses.
- [Regional community support services](#) – This information provides brochures and information with key support services in the regional community.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

### Motor Trades Association of Queensland

Address: Freeway Office Park, Building 8, 2728 Logan Road Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113 (Postal: PO Box 4530, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113)  
Telephone +61 7 3237 8777 | Toll Free 1800 177 951 | Email [info@mtaq.com.au](mailto:info@mtaq.com.au) | Website | [www.mtaq.com.au](http://www.mtaq.com.au)

**For more information:**

Lysa Dugandzic | Marketing & Communications Manager | 0428 510 163 | [lysad@mtaq.com.au](mailto:lysad@mtaq.com.au)

**Background:**

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (**MTA Queensland**) is the peak body representing the interests of employers in the retail, repair and service sectors of Queensland's automotive / mobility industry. There are some 15,500 automotive value chain businesses employing in excess of 90,000 people, that generate more than \$20 billion annually. The Association represents and promotes issues of relevance to the automotive / mobility industry to all levels of Government and within Queensland's economic structure.

The Association is the leading automotive training provider in Queensland offering nationally recognised training, covering technical, retail and the aftermarket sectors of the automotive industry through the **MTA Institute** - a registered training organisation. It is the largest private automotive apprentice trainer in Queensland employing experienced trainers who are geographically dispersed from Cairns to the Gold Coast and Toowoomba to Emerald. The MTA Institute in the last financial year accredited courses to more than 2,000 apprentices and trainees.

**MTAiQ**, Australia's first automotive innovation hub established by MTA Queensland, is an eco-system that supports innovation for mobility and the motor trades.

**Motor Trades Association of Queensland**

Address: Freeway Office Park, Building 8, 2728 Logan Road Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113 (Postal: PO Box 4530, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113)  
Telephone +61 7 3237 8777 | Toll Free 1800 177 951 | Email [info@mtaq.com.au](mailto:info@mtaq.com.au) | Website | [www.mtaq.com.au](http://www.mtaq.com.au)