

### **A difficult start to the year**

As the first widespread wave of COVID-19 transmission took hold in Queensland in early 2022, the University encouraged most staff to work from home for the first 6 weeks of the year. Staff and students started returning to campus in large numbers in mid-February, just in time for the start of the academic year.

However, the sense of normality was short-lived as a severe weather event inundated South East Queensland in late February, causing major flooding across multiple UQ sites, including our St Lucia and Gatton campuses. This led to the closure of all UQ sites across South East Queensland for a week and resulted in a one-week pause to teaching in Semester 1.

Through this challenging time, our staff aided nearly 2,000 students who had no power at home – and also found emergency accommodation for 370 students who simply couldn't return home due to flooding. Meanwhile, teams worked around the clock to protect vital infrastructure and manage