

Northern Territory Implementation Plan

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement.
2. The objective in the National Partnership is to proactively reduce the risk and limit the impact of disasters associated with natural hazards on Australian communities and economies.
3. The initiative will deliver on the priorities, five-year outcomes and 2030 goals of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework across Australia's built, social, natural and economic environments. It aims to reduce existing disaster risk, minimise the creation of future disaster risk and equip decision-makers with the capabilities and information needed to reduce disaster risk and manage residual risk.

PART 2: TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

4. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, and Northern Territory (NT), represented by the Chief Minister of the NT.
5. As a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction, the purpose of this Implementation Plan is to provide the public with an indication of how the project is intended to be delivered and demonstrate the NT's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the National Partnership.
6. This Implementation Plan will cease on completion or termination of the National Partnership, including final performance reporting and processing of final payments against performance milestones.
7. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth and State Ministers responsible for it under the overarching National Partnership.
8. The Parties to this Implementation Plan do not intend any of the provisions to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to the plan and its full implementation.

PART 3: STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN TERRITORY IMPLEMENTATION

Project information

9. The NT will deliver projects aimed at fulfilling the four priorities of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework. The funding model referred to in this Implementation Plan will be known as the NT Risk Reduction Program (NTRRP).
10. The priorities for funding under the NTRRP are:
 - i. **Understanding Disaster Risk:** Take meaningful action to reduce existing disaster risk and minimise creation of future disaster risk.
 - ii. **Accountable Decision Making:** Enable accountable decision-making across all sectors to respond to immediate and long-term disaster risk and actively manage the potential creation or exacerbation of disaster risk.
 - iii. **Enhanced Investment:** Enhance investment in disaster risk reduction to build resilience.
 - iv. **Governance, Ownership and Responsibility:** Strive for transparent, sustainable and accountable governance, ownership and responsibility for disaster risk management.

Governance

11. The management of grants for the NTRRP applications will progress through:
 - i. **NT Risk Reduction Program Manager (NTRRP Manager):** The NTRRP Manager oversees the compliance with the NPA Implementation Plan and will facilitate the effective management of the NTRRP and associated funding. The NTRRP Manager will provide strategic budget advice as it relates to the program and produce reporting and program analysis for presentation to the Steering Committee and the Territory Emergency Management Council (TEMC). The NTRRP will cover the salary and administrative costs associated with this position.
 - ii. **NTRRP Assessment Panel (Assessment Panel):** The Assessment Panel will consist of a minimum of three members from separate NT Government agencies. The Assessment Panel ensures that projects align with the Project Objectives outlined in Table 2 – Program Logic and makes final recommendations to the Steering Committee.
 - iii. **The Steering Committee (Steering Committee):** The final oversight of the governance of the NTRRP will be conducted through the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from the Department of the Chief Minister, NT Police Fire and Emergency Services and the Department of Treasury and Finance, responsible for:
 - i. Final approval of projects
 - ii. Approval of variations to projects
 - iii. Approving initial and milestone payments of grants managed under the fund
 - iv. Approval of Milestone Reports to the Commonwealth made in accordance the National Partnership Agreement requirements.
12. The management of NTRRF grants will be undertaken through an online grants management system, GrantsNT. GrantsNT is the sole grant management mechanism in use by the NT Government and is an end-to-end grant management process which facilitates:
 - i. Applications for grant funding
 - ii. Payments to grant applicants, including periodical payments

- iii. Acquittal of grants
 - iv. Inform on reporting milestones; and
 - v. Assurance in performance reporting.
13. GrantsNT is not yet configured to manage NT Government agencies, however system enhancements are planned to facilitate the management of these NTRRP grants. An alternative system will be in place pending these upgrades. All correspondence and records will be stored on an approved NT Government records management system.
14. The NTRRP will receive quarterly progress reports on delivery of the NTRRP. Reports will detail the status, progress and achievements of milestones.

Estimated costs

15. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the jurisdiction is \$5.22 million payable in accordance with milestones set out in the National Partnership. All payments are exclusive of GST.
16. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 1. The budget is indicative only and the NT retains the flexibility to move funds between components and/or years, as long as outcomes are not affected. The Commonwealth contribution can only be moved between years with the agreement of the Commonwealth.

Table 1: Estimated financial contributions

(\$ million)	2019-20*	2020-21*	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Understanding Disaster Risk	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	1.305
Accountable Decision Making	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	1.305
Enhanced Investment Governance, Ownership and Responsibility	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	1.305
Bushfires NT Headquarters	6.433	0	0	0	0	6.433
Total estimated budget	7.477	1.044	1.044	1.044	1.044	11.653
less estimated Commonwealth contribution	1.044	1.044	1.044	1.044	1.044	5.22
equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	6.433	0	0	0	0	6.433
Total Commonwealth contribution	1.044	1.044	1.044	1.044	1.044	5.22

*First two years conducted concurrently.

In-kind Contribution

17. The NT Government has committed \$6.433m for the construction of a new Bushfires NT Headquarters. The Headquarters provides a central location to bring together the planning, mitigation, wildfire response, compliance, enforcement and volunteer support functions. The Headquarters will be completed late May 2020.
18. Bushfires NT's role is to support land managers in maintaining and implementing fire management strategies; strengthen community capacity and resilience in fire management; support bushfire management research development and innovation; engage the broader community in fire management; administer the Bushfires Management Act 2016 and participate in bushfire management as necessary.
19. The Headquarters will centralise key functions, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of fire management operations across the Northern Territory. As a land management agency, Bushfires NT staff and volunteers significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction through the application of rural fire management practices, bushfire mitigation activities and the maintenance of response capabilities. Staff and volunteers work proactively with rural land owners, community members and service providers to strengthen resilience thereby actively reducing risk posed by bushfires.
20. The NT Gamba Grass Action Program (GGAP) will be conducted out of the new Headquarters. Gamba grass poses a major fire risk to the NT. Gamba is a highly invasive weed that creates high fuel loads and can cause uncontrollable, hot and intense fires. The goal of the GGAP is to encourage and assist compliance by providing information, resources, advice and practical assistance to the community in managing gamba. The GGAP also directs compliance through a permit and compliance order program.
21. The creation of a Gamba fire mitigation unit allows a dedicated focus on the GGAP, reducing the risk to life and property caused by unmanaged gamba grass, and the costs being invested into firefighting and fire mitigation response. The new Headquarters will facilitate the effective function of the unit by co-locating the Weeds and Bushfires Compliance teams at a central site in the rural area.
22. The Headquarters will also reduce risk to the community from fire by establishing an incident control centre for the management of wildfires in the rural area using improved communication systems. The facility will link volunteers, staff, aerial resources and ground contractors during wildfires and emergencies, enabling a more effective monitoring of fire grounds and aerial fire response.
23. The Headquarters incorporates a training centre for volunteers, including a more suitable area for practical fire suppression training. The increased risk to firefighters associated with Gamba grass fires has necessitated greater emphasis on volunteer training and development of new, higher level courses.
24. The NT will provide the Commonwealth with updates on planned risk reduction activities undertaken from this facility in annual NPA performance reporting.

Program logic

25. The way in which these project elements will achieve the objective and outcomes set out in the National Partnership is detailed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Program logic

Project element	Output	Outcomes	Project Objectives	Responsibilities
Understanding Disaster Risk	An improved understanding of disaster risk across all sectors of the community	<p>Decision makers in the NT understand and act upon their responsibilities relating to disaster risk information.</p> <p>The NT is supported by national and jurisdictional capabilities that enable the creation, capture and sharing of useful disaster risk information.</p> <p>Disaster risk information is freely disclosed, shared and integrated into risk planning across sectors in the NT.</p>	<p>Delivery focuses on projects that identify risks and better understanding disaster risks to social, cultural, physical, economic and environmental domains across the NT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve awareness of, and engagement on, disaster risks and impacts in the NT. ➤ Identify and manage data, information and resource gaps. ➤ Reduce technical barriers to data and information sharing and availability. ➤ Integrate plausible future scenarios into planning ➤ Improve access to cohesive disaster risk information and communication capabilities to deliver actionable disaster risk data and information. ➤ Long-term and solution-driven research, innovation and knowledge practices, and disaster risk education. ➤ Improve disclosure of disaster risk to all stakeholders. 	NT

Project element	Output	Outcomes	Project Objectives	Responsibilities
Accountable Decisions	Decision-makers are equipped to respond to immediate and long-term disaster risk and actively manage the potential creation or exacerbation of disaster risk.	<p>Public, private and community sector decision-makers actively address disaster risk and other risks.</p> <p>Decision-making processes and models, including cost benefit analyses, appropriately address current and future disaster risks.</p> <p>Priority NT disaster risks are identified and actively mitigated.</p> <p>Integrated and robust frameworks are used to assess and reduce disaster risk in all environments, but particularly infrastructure, land use and development planning in the NT.</p>	<p>Delivery of programs focuses on projects that will equip decision-makers with the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities to make timely and informed decisions to reduce disaster risk and manage residual risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify disaster risks and mitigation opportunities in the NT. ➤ Build the capability and capacity of decision-makers to address disaster risk in policy, program and investment decisions. ➤ Establish incentives, and address disincentives and barriers in reducing disaster risk. ➤ Planning and development practices that help the NT adapt to rapid social, economic, environmental and cultural change. ➤ Promote compliance with, and embed resilience requirements into relevant NT standards, codes and specifications. 	NT

Project element	Output	Outcomes	Project Objectives	Responsibilities
Enhanced Investment	Enhance investment in disaster risk reduction to build resilience.	<p>Existing and future disaster risk reduction investments target high priority locally and nationally significant disaster risk.</p> <p>Investment in disaster risk reduction is designed to maximise broader outcomes including increased productivity, improved connectivity, and social inclusion.</p> <p>Investments in disaster risk reduction and resilience limit future disaster recovery costs.</p>	<p>Delivery focuses on projects that pursue investment in disaster risk initiatives to minimise the cost of disasters when they occur (<i>i.e. Build Back Better</i>) and promote resilience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pursue collaborative commercial financing options for disaster risk reduction initiatives. ➤ Develop disaster risk reduction investment tools to provide practical guidance on investment mechanisms in the NT. ➤ Leverage existing and future NT and Australian government programs to fund priority risk reduction measures. ➤ Identify additional current and future potential funding streams. ➤ Improve the accessibility, variety and uptake of insurance in the NT. ➤ Empower Territory communities, individuals and small businesses to make informed and sustainable investments. 	NT

Project element	Output	Outcomes	Project Objectives	Responsibilities
Governance, Ownership and Responsibility	Transparent, sustainable and accountable governance, ownership and responsibility in disaster risk management.	<p>Understanding of responsibility in reducing disaster risk across all communities and sectors.</p> <p>Mechanisms are in place nationally to identify and reduce disaster risk arising from cross-sector interdependencies.</p> <p>Transferred ownership of disaster risk through commercial exchanges is transparent and acknowledged.</p> <p>All sectors and communities are engaged in a national mechanism to connect and guide efforts to reduce disaster risk</p>	<p>Delivery focuses on projects that support or improve emergency management governance and culture to reduce disaster risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support and enable Territory-led and owned disaster risk reduction efforts. ➤ Incentives for improved transparency of disaster risk ownership through personal and business - transactions. ➤ Consistent reporting on disaster risk reduction efforts and outcomes in the NT. ➤ Create clear governance pathways for pursuing disaster risk reduction projects. 	NT

Risk management

26. Risk will be managed in line with AS/ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management Standards and Guidelines. An overarching risk management plan will be prepared at the Governance level and reviewed regularly. Any risk registers for projects will be prepared as part of the application and approval process and monitored throughout the project life cycle.

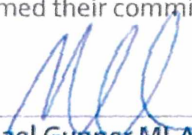
NT Context

27. Natural disasters have long been a regular feature of the landscape of the NT; it is recognised that they will become more regular and intense as climate change takes effect. Disaster management in the NT is challenged by a geographical area of 1.4 million square kilometres and a population of less than a quarter of a million people, providing a small funding base.
28. The NT will leverage all available opportunities to understand the risks, invest wisely and provide an effective governance framework. The NDRRF priorities are being incorporated into the TEMC's Strategic Plan to produce outcomes which focus on the reduction of risk from disasters.
29. The NT recognises the importance of risk reduction in minimising vulnerability and enhancing the capacity and capability in effectively managing natural disasters. Consideration of vulnerability, risk reduction, response and recovery activities starts at the local level, supported and informed by planning at the regional and Territory level. Local communities are better served in having a comprehensive understanding about hazards and risks, including who is most vulnerable, and potential impacts or consequences of hazard events. As part of the NT's aim to reduce risk, Bushfires NT is building a strategy for identifying and reducing risk in remote communities. This project will report on the level of bushfire risk in remote communities and provide recommendations to inform future decision making to address future risks.
30. An understanding of risk will inform prevention, planning, response and recovery activities and enable people, communities and decision-makers to take action to reduce risk. It aims to prevent loss, minimise vulnerability and improve the ability to plan for and respond to disaster events and quickly recover when they occur. For example, the NT Department of Environment and Natural Resources plans to develop a Flood Planning Tool which streamlines the delivery of hydrological and hydraulic models with real-time and forecast rainfall data. This is a more effective way to identify risk, improve town planning and enhance planning during emergencies.

Sign off

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signature



Date

- 1 JUN 2020

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia



Signature

Date 12.6.20

The Honourable David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management