

# Victoria: 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 Victoria, represented by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.
5. As a schedule to the National Partnership, 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 Victoria'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 VICTORIA'S IMPLEMENTATION

#### Project information

9. The project elements planned in Victoria for 2019-2024 are as follows:

- (a) Implementing the Risk and Resilience Grants Program (RRGP) - a grants program open to applications from the public providing Commonwealth funds of up to 50% of the total project cost
  - (b) Funding for a suite of priority risk and resilience activities identified in State-wide and regional strategic plans and risk assessments.
10. Both the grants program and priority activities will focus on three key themes throughout the life of the NPA:
- a. Climate change adaptation and risk reduction  
Funding under this theme will support climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives that reduce disaster risk.
  - b. Designing for risk and resilience in infrastructure  
Funding under this theme will support initiatives that strengthen the resilience of Victorian infrastructure including government and community infrastructure.
  - c. Managing local and regional risks and building resilience  
Funding under this theme will support initiatives that improve understanding of local or regional disaster risks, strengthen accountability for and governance of regional risks, and/or support initiatives that are seeking to directly reduce disaster risk at a local or regional level.
11. To maintain the relevance and maximise the benefits of the program, Victoria will review these themes throughout the five-year lifecycle of the NPA and may seek approval of a revised implementation plan. In particular, consideration will be given to the ongoing criticality of these themes following the release of findings from the following inquiries:
- The Inquiry into the 2019-20 Victorian Fire Season by the Victorian Inspector-General of Emergency Management;
  - The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements; and
  - The CSIRO Inquiry on Climate and Disaster Resilience.
12. A small allocation of National Partnership funds will be made towards Victoria's costs in administering this funding.

### **Risk and Resilience Grants Program**

- 13. Under the RRGP, assessment panels comprised of subject-matter and emergency management experts will be used to determine the priority of project applications.
- 14. To be eligible, applicants will need to be able to demonstrate that their project contributes to at least one outcome under the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.
- 15. Projects will be prioritised according to the following criteria to ensure that the individual projects, and the program as a whole, fulfils the objectives, outcomes and outputs of the National Partnership:
  - a. Risk priority (or need priority in the case of capability/capacity projects)
  - b. Value of outcomes or outputs
  - c. Direct benefits to a Victorian community
  - d. Ease of implementation and delivery
  - e. Additional benefits gained through collaboration.
- 16. For research projects, applicants must also provide evidence that one or more emergency management end-users have expressed interest in the results of the project.
- 17. All grants will be subject to monitoring and evaluation. The program will be conducted in accordance with probity and other requirements established by the Victorian

Government and ensure that projects are allocated funding according to a merit-based process.

### State and Regional Priority Projects

18. This funding stream will provide critical funds for State and regional priority projects.
19. Projects will be identified by a panel of subject-matter experts, selected for inclusion by the Victorian Government's peak emergency management committee – the State Crisis and Resilience Council, and approved by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.
20. Recommendations on priority regional initiatives will be sought from Regional Emergency Management Planning Committees where possible.

### Estimated costs

21. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the jurisdiction is \$16.704 million payable in accordance with milestones set out in the National Partnership. All payments are exclusive of GST.
22. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 2. The budget is indicative only and Victoria 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 2: Estimated financial contributions**

(\$ million)	Year 1*	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
RRGP	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	12.5
State and regional priority projects	3.682	3.682	3.682	3.682	3.682	18.404
Administrative costs	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5
Total estimated budget	6.682	6.682	6.682	6.682	6.682	33.408
less estimated Commonwealth contribution	3.341	3.341	3.341	3.341	3.341	16.704
<i>equals</i> estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	3.341	3.341	3.341	3.341	3.341	16.704
<b>Total Commonwealth contribution</b>	<b>3.341</b>	<b>3.341</b>	<b>3.341</b>	<b>3.341</b>	<b>3.341</b>	<b>16.704</b>

\* Due to the workforce impacts of the COVID-19 response, year one of NPA funding will be rolled over into year two.

### Program logic

23. The project elements detailed in this Implementation Plan will achieve the outcomes and objectives stated in the National Partnership by:
  - a) Empowering Victorian communities and the private sector to take on shared responsibility for disaster risk reduction via the Disaster Risk Reduction Grants Program including:
    - a. improving public awareness of and engagement on disaster risks and impacts;
    - b. supporting and enabling locally led and owned placed-based disaster risk reduction efforts; and

- c. empowering communities, individuals and small businesses to make informed and sustainable investments.
- b) Strengthening existing governance, ownership and responsibility for risk reduction within the Victorian Government by enhancing governance pathways for pursuing disaster risk reduction projects and regular reporting on disaster risk outcomes.
- c) Embedding risk reduction and resilience requirements into relevant guidelines, standards and specifications.
- d) Enhancing investment in the highest priority disaster risks and mitigation opportunities at both State and regional levels.

### Risk management

- 24. A risk management plan is in place. Risks have been actively identified, entered into a risk log and categorised in terms of impact and likelihood.

### Relevant State Context

- 25. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to Victoria's context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction are listed below:
  - a. Victoria is undergoing significant emergency management planning reform. The development of Municipal, Regional and State Emergency Management Plans by the end of 2020 will ensure funded activities at the local level align with the broader regional and state risk context.
  - b. Climate change presents a significant challenge for disaster risk management in Victoria. Climate change is leading to changes in the frequency, intensity, duration and timing of extreme weather and climate events as well as the challenges associated with rising sea levels and temperature rises. The Victorian Government is committed to delivering strong and lasting action on climate change. The National Partnership provides an opportunity to build on the success of Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020 which has been:
    - i. building a detailed understanding of Victoria's exposure to climate change risks and impacts
    - ii. catalysing partnerships for integrated and effective responses to climate change
    - iii. tackling immediate priorities to reduce climate change risks.

### Sign off

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

Signature 

Date 29/05/2020

[By state/territory Minister]



Signature

Date 12.6.20

[By Commonwealth Minister]