

Australian Capital Territory Implementation Plan

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective in the National Partnership is to have Australian communities that are resilient to natural disasters.
2. This Implementation Plan will address the Australian Capital Territory's risk priorities as described in the Territory Wide Risk Assessment by building on existing knowledge and programs. Dedicated projects will support the management of the risks. Sound risk management is of key importance in increasing the effectiveness of natural disaster resilience.

PART 2: TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Minister for Justice, and the Australian Capital Territory, represented by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.
4. As a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience, the purpose of this Implementation Plan is to provide the public with an indication of how the program is intended to be delivered and demonstrate the Australian Capital Territory's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the National Partnership.
5. This Implementation Plan will cease on 30 June 2015 or on completion or termination of the National Partnership, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against performance benchmarks or milestones.
6. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth and State Ministers responsible for it under the overarching National Partnership.
7. 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 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY IMPLEMENTATION

Project information

8. The project elements planned are shown in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1: Project elements

No.	Title	Short description	Planned start date	Planned end date	Dependent on projects
1	Natural Disaster Resilience Capability Program	Reduce the impact of natural disasters by improving emergency management capability across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Projects will be agreed by all agencies in a collaborative rather than competitive approach to address agreed priorities.	1/07/14	30/06/2015	Independent project
2	Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Program	Reduce the impact of natural disasters by supporting emergency management volunteers.	1/07/14	30/06/2015	Independent project
3	Territory-wide Risk Assessment	Complete, publish and promote the ACT Territory-wide Risk Assessment	On sign-off by Minister (expected May 2014)	ongoing	Independent project

9. The projects will leverage existing structures and networks and partner with those who effect change in program administration consistent with the NSDR.

Estimated costs

10. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the ACT is \$2.610 million payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Part 4 of this Implementation Plan. All payments are exclusive of GST.
11. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 2. The budget is indicative only and the ACT 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)	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Natural Disaster Resilience Capability	2.000	2.000	4.000
Natural Disaster Resilience Grant Scheme	0.510	0.510	1.020
Territory-wide Risk Assessment	0.100	0.100	0.200
Total estimated budget	2.610	2.610	5.220
less estimated Commonwealth contribution	1.305	1.305	2.610
equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	1.305	1.305	2.610
Total Commonwealth contribution	1.305	1.305	2.610

Program Logic

12. The project elements detailed in this Implementation Plan will achieve the outcomes and objectives of the National Partnership by:
- (a) finalising a Territory-wide risk assessment that is consistent with a revised National Emergency Risk Assessment Guideline, when agreed;
 - (b) communicating risk to the community through the publication of a Territory-wide risk assessment;
 - (c) increasing disaster resilience by enhancing emergency management capability that addresses priorities identified in the Territory wide risk assessment through the Natural Disaster Resilience Capability Program; and
 - (d) increasing disaster resilience by supporting emergency management volunteers through activities addressing the key issues of attraction, training, support and retention through the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Program.

Risk management

13. 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 Australian Capital Territory Context

14. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to relevant ACT context, in particular the risk priorities identified in the Territory wide risk assessment; previous NDRP projects; key hazard plans, in particular bushfire, extreme heat and storm).
15. The ACT has also considered the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (NSDR), National Disability Strategy 2010-2020; National Emergency Management Volunteer Action Plan – 2012; and the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.

16. The ACT is proposing to use collaborative capability and competitive grants programs that allow for the tailoring of projects to meet ACT priorities while promoting innovation. These programs will be conducted in accordance with probity, accounting and project management requirements of the ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety to ensure projects that best meet the criteria are funded. Projects will be assessed by a panel of experts.
17. Projects undertaken through this Implementation Plan will promote and maximise coordination of, and cooperation between, organisations and applicants seeking similar outcomes and encourage involvement with the private sector.
18. The full benefit of projects may be beyond the timeframe of the current National Partnership.

PART 4: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

19. To qualify for the associated payment, the ACT must meet the following milestones:

Table 3: Performance milestones

Milestones	Due date	Payment
Commonwealth agreement to the ACT Implementation Plan which demonstrates ACT's strategy to achieving the outcomes and outputs of the National Partnership	n/a	\$0.65m
Commonwealth acceptance of ACT report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	August 2014	\$0.65m
Commonwealth acceptance of ACT report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	October 2014	\$0.65m
Commonwealth acceptance of ACT report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	April 2015	\$0.65m

Performance indicators

20. Specific performance indicators to be reported against by the ACT in relation to the objectives, outcomes and outputs of all program elements are as follows:
 - (a) projects approved, funding agreements signed and projects completed as at the milestones due dates;
 - (b) implementation of activities that address risks identified in the Territory-wide Risk Assessment; and
 - (c) implementation of activities that contribute to the attraction, support and retention of emergency management volunteers.

Reporting

21. The ACT will report against the agreed performance indicators in accordance with Table 3 of this Implementation Plan.

22. Circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought from jurisdictions. Such requests should be kept to the minimum necessary for the effective assessment of the project. Requests should not place an undue reporting burden on jurisdictions or portfolio agencies.

Review and Evaluation

23. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed in conjunction with the review of the National Partnership with regard to progress made by the Parties in respect of achieving the agreed outcomes.

Sign off

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Implementation Plan as follows:

Signature  Date 11.6.14

Simon Corbell MLA
Australian Capital Territory Minister for Police and Emergency Services


Signature Date 19.6.14

The Hon Michael Keenan MP
Commonwealth Minister for Justice

