

New South Wales 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 that Parties aspire to enhance Australian communities' resilience to natural disasters.
2. This Implementation Plan will address New South Wales' risk priorities by building on existing knowledge and programs. Dedicated flood and bush fire programs will support the management of the significant risks from these hazards. Funding will also be allocated for significant state level natural disaster resilience projects and to support recruitment, retention and training of emergency management volunteers. A new program, the Community Resilience Innovation Program, will be implemented to build disaster resilience within communities through activities that identify community needs, mobilise partners and create innovative solutions that can be grown, sustained and replicated through New South Wales.

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 New South Wales, 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 New South Wales' 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 NEW SOUTH WALES IMPLEMENTATION

Project information

8. The project elements planned, as set out in table 1, are:

(a) Community Resilience Innovation Program (CRIP)

The CRIP is a new program designed to build disaster resilience within communities through projects that identify community needs, mobilise partners, and create innovative and effective solutions that can be grown, sustained and replicated. The CRIP supports grass roots initiatives designed to encourage community sector cooperation, collaboration and education by bringing together local community organisations with agencies that have emergency services responsibilities to enhance local community capacity and resilience.

(b) Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme (EVSS)

The EVSS provides grants to volunteer units and agencies to support the recruitment, retention and training of emergency management volunteers.

(c) State Emergency Management Projects (SEMP)

The SEMP program funds emergency management projects of state significance that support measures to address key natural disaster risk knowledge gaps and enhance emergency management capability on a state-wide basis.

(d) Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme (BFRMGS)

The BFRMGS funds bush fire mitigation risk priorities assisting local communities to better prepare for bush fires, through maintaining and improving fire trail networks and fire towers, and some community resilience projects. It complements state funded programs delivered by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) to reduce bush fire hazards. The BFRMGS is administered in a partnership between the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services (MPES) and the RFS under a Memorandum of Understanding.

(e) Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme (FRMGS)

The FRMGS provides financial support to councils and eligible public land managers to make informed decisions on managing flood risk and reducing loss by preparing floodplain studies, risk management plans and associated works. Funding is allocated through the existing Floodplain Management Program managed by the Office of Environment and Heritage under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Police and Emergency Services.

(f) Disaster Welfare Non- Government Volunteer Agencies Training Support Funds

Funding is provided under a Funding Agreement to non-government agencies in the New South Wales Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan to the New South Wales Emergency Plan to assist with the provision of maintaining and training volunteers throughout New South Wales.

(g) Implementation Plan Officer

Wages for a senior project officer to manage all aspects of the Implementation Plan including projects funded under the National Partnership Agreement.

(h) National Capability: Register. Find. Reunite

NSW 2014 – 2015 contribution towards the annual operational costs of *Register.Find.Reunite* managed by the Australian Red Cross.

Table 1: Project elements

No.	Title	Short description	Planned start date	Planned end date	Dependent on projects
1	CRIP	Grants funding for community activities that enhance disaster resilience	June 2014	2016-17	Independent project
2	EVSS	Grants funding for recruitment, retention and training of emergency volunteers	June 2014	2015-16	Independent Project
3	SEMP	Grants funding for emergency management projects of state significance	June 2014	2016-17	Independent project
4	BFRMGS	Grants funding for bush fire mitigation risk priorities	June 2014	2014-15	Offered in conjunction with the NSW Bush Fire Mitigation Program
5	FRMGS	Grants funding for flood mitigation activities	June 2014	2016-17	Offered in conjunction with the NSW Flood Mitigation Program
6	Disaster Welfare Non Government Volunteer Agencies Training Support Funds	Funding to support emergency management training for volunteers	July 2014	June 2015	Independent project

7	Implementation Plan Officer	Wages and on costs for a project officer to manage projects funded from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program	1 July 2013	30 June 2015	Independent project
8	Register. Find Reunite	NSW contribution to annual operational costs.	1 July 2014	30 June 2015	National capability

Estimated costs

9. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the jurisdiction is \$13.572 million (\$6.786m per year for two years) payable in accordance with reporting requirements and milestones set out in Part 4 of this Implementation Plan. All payments are exclusive of GST.
10. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 2. The budget is indicative only and New South Wales 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
Community Resilience Innovation Program	1.000	1.500	2.500
Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme	1.000	1.000	2.000
State Emergency Management Projects	1.730	3.019	4.749
Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme	2.600	2.600	5.200
Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme	7.100	5.000	12.100
Implementation Plan Officer	0.120	0.120	0.240
Disaster Welfare Non-Government Volunteer Agencies Training Support Funds	0	0.250	0.250
National Capability Project Register Find Reunite	0	0.105	0.105
Total estimated budget	13.550	13.594	27.144
less estimated Commonwealth contribution	6.786	6.786	13.572
equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	6.764	6.808	13.572
Total Commonwealth contribution	6.786	6.786	13.572

Program logic

11. The way in which these project elements will achieve the outcomes and objectives set out in the National Partnership is detailed in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Program logic

Project elements	Outputs	Outcomes	Project Objectives	Responsibilities
Community Resilience Innovation Program	Local strategies developed and trialled incorporating partnerships that engage the community in preparedness for natural disasters	Strengthening resilience to natural disasters through community engagement and partnerships	Improve local community engagement in community-focussed activities that enhance disaster resilience	New South Wales
Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme	Training, recruitment and retention activities of emergency volunteers	Requisite number of trained emergency volunteers	Reduce community vulnerability and enhance community safety	New South Wales
State Emergency Management Projects	Activities that enhance emergency management capability across New South Wales including evacuation guidelines for aged care, education for asbestos management and continued development of a comprehensive New South Wales flood database.	Enhanced emergency management capability Improved knowledge of state-wide natural disaster gaps	Increase the capability for natural disasters that have a state-wide impact	New South Wales
Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme	Bush fire mitigation activities including maintenance of fire trails and fire towers	Improved access for fire fighting	Increase the protection of communities from bush fires	New South Wales

Project elements	Outputs	Outcomes	Project Objectives	Responsibilities
Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme	Flood mitigation activities including preparation of flood studies, risk management plans and building works associated with levees, detention basins, flood gates and flood warning systems	Increased number of councils with completed flood studies and flood management plans	Increase the protection of communities from floods	New South Wales
Disaster Welfare Non-Government Volunteer Agencies Training Support Funds	Training to emergency volunteers delivered by organisations that deliver disaster welfare services as outlined in the New South Wales Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan	Sufficient number of emergency volunteers trained in provision of welfare services to meet requirements	Community receives appropriate assistance from volunteers trained in welfare services	New South Wales
Implementation Plan Officer	A staff member dedicated to management and administration of a large number of projects funded under the NDRP	Projects are administered in accordance with MPES practices and audit requirements	New South Wales continues to provide a wide range of projects that address the priorities of the NSDR	New South Wales
Register, Find Reunite	NSW contribution to annual operational costs	NSW continued use of the national system	People displaced in disasters are reconnected with family and friends	National Capability

Risk management

12. Risk management of Natural Disaster Resilience Program funding is largely incorporated in the MPES Risk Plan which recommends a three yearly internal audit of grants administration. The last audit, conducted in 2013, recommended the implementation of a grants administration database and a Grants Administration Policy and Procedures Document. These are both being progressed by the Implementation Plan Officer. A new projects module has also been incorporated into the MPES SAP finance system.

Relevant New South Wales Context

13. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to the New South Wales' context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction are set out in Table 4.

Table 4: Links with existing reforms or projects

Proposed project elements	Existing projects	Complementary nature of activities
Community Resilience Innovation Program	National Strategy for Disaster Resilience Community Engagement Framework	Funded projects will support the principles of the Framework.
Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme	National Emergency Management Volunteer Action Plan, 2012 New South Wales 2021 State Plan	Funded projects will be consistent with the National Emergency Management Volunteer Action Plan, 2012 and address one or more of the seven focus areas of the Action Plan. Funds will be used to address Goals 24 and 28 in New South Wales 2021 state plan.
State Emergency Management Projects	NSW State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment	Activities that consider strategic priorities identified in the NSW State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment 2011.
Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme	Bush Fire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Grants Programs NSW State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment	The NSW Rural Fire Service delivers a variety of programs to reduce bush fire hazards and upgrade and maintain fire trails. The BFRMGS will be delivered alongside these programs to maximise program value and reduce red tape.
Floodplain Risk Management Grant Scheme	State Floodplain Management Program	The Office of Environment and Heritage delivers funding to councils to undertake flood mitigation activities. The FRMGS will be delivered alongside this program to maximise program value and reduce red-tape.
Register.Find.Reunite	Register.Find.Reunite National Capability	NSW funding contribution towards operational costs.

PART 4: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

Milestones

14. To qualify for the associated payment, New South Wales must meet the following milestones:

Table 5: Milestones

Milestones	Due date	Payment
Commonwealth agreement to the New South Wales Implementation Plan which demonstrates New South Wales' strategy to achieving the outcomes and outputs of the National Partnership	n/a	\$3.393m
Commonwealth acceptance of New South Wales report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	July 2014	\$3.393m
Commonwealth acceptance of New South Wales report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	December 2014	\$3.393m
Commonwealth acceptance of New South Wales report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	April 2015	\$3.393m

Performance Indicators

15. The following performance measures will be collected for CRIP, EVSS, SEMP, BFRMGS and FRMGS and reported in the milestone reports as required:
- (a) projects approved, funding agreements signed and projects completed as at the milestone due dates;
 - (b) implementation of activities that address risks identified in the NSW State Risk Assessment;
 - (c) implementation of activities that contribute to the achievement of the priority outcomes of the NSDR; and
 - (d) implementation of activities that contribute to the attraction, support and retention of emergency management volunteers.

Reporting

16. New South Wales will report against the agreed performance indicators in accordance with Table 5 of this Implementation Plan.
17. 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


18. 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 agreement as follows:

Signature  **Date** 19/6/14

The Hon Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services

 **Date** 26/6/14

Signature

Date

The Hon Michael Keenan MP, Minister for Justice