

Queensland Implementation Plan 2013-15

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 enhance Australian communities' resilience to natural disasters.
2. Queensland will work together with local government, state agencies, business and the non-government sector to build community resilience to natural disasters to achieve the outcomes and objective of the National Partnership.
3. This Plan details how Queensland will strategically implement a program of natural disaster resilience activities by linking the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience with state risk priorities identified through the *Queensland State-wide Natural Disaster Risk Assessment*.

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 Justice, and the State of Queensland, represented by the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience.
5. 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 Queensland'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 the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against performance benchmarks or 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 QUEENSLAND IMPLEMENTATION

Project information

9. The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience is a key consideration in the delivery of this Implementation Plan. In particular, it recognises the shared responsibility of governments, community leaders, the not-for-profit sector and educational institutions to improve disaster resilience.
10. For 2013-14 and 2014-15, Queensland will fund a competitive grants program called the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP). The NDRP is a mechanism used by Queensland to allocate funds in an equitable manner with maximum benefit towards both State-wide and regional natural disaster resilience priorities in Queensland.
11. In 2013-14 NDRP was launched as part of a coordinated Disaster Mitigation and Resilience joint application package that also included the State funded Royalties for Regions and Local Government Flood Response Subsidy programs. There were two application components to this package with one for flood mitigation projects and all other projects submitted on an application for all hazards mitigation and resilience funding (excluding floods).
12. This joint release of funding programs allowed for applicants to submit one application for flood mitigation proposed projects across three funding programs.
13. The funding priorities for flood mitigation proposals as part of this package were for projects that:
 - a) were supported and informed by a completed flood management study and, where relevant, consider the potential impact of communities downstream
 - b) aimed to improve infrastructure and flood resilience outcomes (such as levees and detention basins) that protect people and property, and essential services such as water and sewerage treatment plants, hospitals, major transport facilities such as airports
 - c) reflect the needs of the catchment as a whole and provide evidence that they have been developed collaboratively across relevant councils or other organisations
 - d) address outstanding needs from the events of 2010-11 and January 2013.
14. The funding priorities for projects as part of this joint package under the all hazards mitigation and resilience funding (excluding floods) are linked with the objectives and outcomes of the National Partnership. Queensland's NDRP funding priorities are detailed below:
 - a) mitigating against or building resilience to Queensland's highest natural hazard risks as identified in the 2012 State-wide Natural Hazard Risk Assessment (in order of highest damage):
 - i. flooding (including flash flooding)
 - ii. tropical cyclone winds and storm surge
 - iii. thunderstorm wind gusts, downbursts and tornadoes
 - iv. hail storms
 - v. bushfires
 - vi. landslides, earthquakes and tsunamis
 - b) enhancing community preparedness for natural events through community education and awareness training

- c) build partnerships between sectors by strategically creating linkages between government, business, community and individuals
 - d) encourage a regional and catchment area approach to disaster mitigation and resilience
 - e) support emergency management volunteers by building their capacity and ability to respond to disasters and support recovery efforts
 - f) contribute towards the action themes of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.
15. Organisations considered eligible for NDRP funding are:
- a) local government agencies as defined in the Local Government Act 2009 and City of Brisbane Act 2010
 - b) Regional Organisations of Councils
 - c) River Improvement Trusts
 - d) Government Owned Corporations
 - e) state government agencies
 - f) incorporated non-government organisations (NGOs), and Queensland based not-for-profit organisations.

Partnerships between eligible organisations will be encouraged and an eligible organisation may submit an application with an ineligible organisation

16. In 2014-15, NDRP will be launched as part of the same coordinated Disaster Mitigation and Resilience suite of programs with priorities to be directed towards projects that mitigate and build resilience to disasters.
17. NDRP projects are funded in a cost sharing basis with the applicant usually required to make a financial contribution in addition to State and Commonwealth funding. Consideration is given to the appropriate level of applicant contribution on a case by case basis, with the applicant being required to demonstrate their need for greater funding.
18. Applications will be assessed competitively considering the project eligibility, NDRP funding priorities and assessment criteria. The assessment process ensures funding is directed towards projects that best meet the assessment criteria and have a high contribution to the outcomes of the National Partnership.

Estimated costs

19. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the jurisdiction is \$12,006,000 payable in accordance with the Reporting Requirements and Payment Milestones set out in Part 5 of the National Partnership. All payments are exclusive of GST.
20. Funding not allocated in the 2013-14 application pool will be rolled into 2014-15 funding. It is expected there will be a high demand in 2014-15 for funding towards priority flood mitigation and resilience works based on the outcomes from current and completed flood mapping and management study projects.
21. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 1. The budget is indicative only and Queensland 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)	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Total estimated projects funded under NDRP	12.006	12.006	24.012
Total estimated budget	12.006	12.006	24.012
<i>less</i> estimated Commonwealth contribution	6.003	6.003	12.006
equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	6.003	6.003	12.006
Total Commonwealth contribution	6.003	6.003	12.006

Note: Queensland will also receive a Commonwealth contribution of \$3.0 million in 2013-14 on the receipt and acceptance by the Commonwealth of the Queensland 2012-13 Annual Report, representing funding carried over from the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience (2009-13).

Program logic

22. The NDRP project element detailed in this Implementation Plan will achieve the outcomes and objectives stated in the National Partnership:
 - a) improving Queensland community resilience in relation to risk from natural disasters
 - b) recognising the central place of risk assessments in enhancing resilience as described in the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience:
 - i. improving the underpinning research, data and systems which inform and improve risk assessments for priority natural hazards
 - ii. producing and amending State-wide risk assessments for priority natural hazards
 - iii. implementing projects or activities underpinned by these risk assessments to meet the outcomes of reduced risk from natural disasters and appropriate emergency management capability
 - c) implementing projects or activities identified in natural disaster management studies and mapping projects to reduce risk from natural disasters and improve resilience of Queensland communities
 - d) recognising the key role that volunteers and NGOs play in supporting capabilities for disaster resilience as identified in the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience and enhancing capability and capacity in the emergency volunteer sector.

Risk management

23. 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 Queensland Context

24. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to Queensland's emergency and risk management context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction are listed below.
 - a) The major natural disaster risks in Queensland are flooding, cyclone winds and severe storms, consequently flood and cyclone resilience and mitigation projects are the most commonly funded projects.
 - b) In conjunction with the Commonwealth, the Queensland Government funded a large number of bushfire projects between 2004-2009, consequently the demand for NDRP funding for bushfire specific projects is low.

- c) Queensland has, in the past few years allocated major funding to flood mapping and hazard management and study projects. Based on expected outcomes from current and completed project it is anticipated there will be a strong call upon NDRP funds for high priority projects recommended through those studies in 2014-15.
- d) The Queensland Government has other programs that provide local government access to funding for flood mitigation funding, Royalties for the Regions (\$10 million per year) and Local Government Floods Response Subsidy (circa \$13 million per year), however the NDRP is the only program that provides funding for non-local government organisations.
- e) NDRP is the only one of those programs to fund community preparedness or resilience, such as communication education programs and volunteer capacity building.

Table 2: Links with existing reforms or projects

Proposed project element	Existing reforms or projects	Complementary nature of activities
NDRP	Former and current NDRP projects	Flood mapping / risk management studies projects are likely to make recommendations for future natural disaster resilience and mitigation projects
	Former and current Local Government Floods Response Subsidy and Royalties for Regions projects	Flood mapping / risk management studies projects are likely to make recommendations for future natural disaster resilience and mitigation projects
	Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry Interim and Final Reports	Some flood related projects align with specific recommendations from the Floods Commission reports
	<i>Queensland State-wide Natural Disaster Risk Assessment Implementation</i>	The <i>Queensland State-wide Natural Disaster Risk Assessment</i> was completed in 2011 under the previous NPA and was updated in 2012. The Risk Assessment will aid in determining priority projects under NDRP
	State Risk Register Development Program	The Risk Register is a currently being developed and was funded under the former NPA. It expands on the above Risk Assessment and will provide Local Government an online tool to collate and examine natural hazard risks by geographical area and disaster type. Some NDRP projects will link to this program directly and it will provide a guide for future work
	National Strategy for Disaster Resilience	Support the key action themes under the National Strategy of understanding and reducing risks, and educating people about risks

	Projects will be assessed strategically to support priority issues to improve disaster resilience in Queensland	Support for key actions under the National Strategy to understand and reduce natural hazard risks, and educating people about risks in a Queensland setting
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PART 4: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

Milestones

25. To qualify for the associated payment, Queensland must meet the following milestones:

Table 3: Milestones

Milestones	Due date	Payment (\$million)
Commonwealth agreement to Queensland's Implementation Plan which demonstrates Queensland's strategy to achieving the outcomes and outputs of the National Partnership	N/A	\$3.0015
Commonwealth acceptance of Queensland's report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	July 2013 – March 2014	\$3.0015
Commonwealth acceptance of Queensland's report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	April 2014 – August 2014	\$3.0015
Commonwealth acceptance of Queensland's report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	September 2014 – March 2015	\$3.0015

Performance indicators

26. Performance indicators have been developed to measure the ways in which approved projects address the objectives and outcomes of the NPA and Queensland's NDRP funding priorities outlined in Part 3:
- a) Activities/projects approved, funding agreements signed and projects completed as at the milestone due dates
 - b) Implementation of activities that address risks identified in the State-wide risk assessment
 - c) Implementation of activities that contribute to the achievement of the priority outcomes of the NSDR
 - d) Implementation of activities that contribute to the attraction, support and retention of emergency management volunteers

Reporting

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

Review and Evaluation

28. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed in conjunction with the submission of the annual report with regard to progress made by the Parties in respect of achieving the agreed outcomes.
29. At the conclusion of the Agreement, Queensland will contribute to an evaluation of the outputs including assessing the extent to which the objective has been met.

Sign off

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



Signature

Date

28/04/14

The Honourable David Crisafulli MP
Minister of Local Government, Community Recovery
and Resilience
Queensland



Signature

Date

25.6.14

The Honourable Michael Keenan MP
Minister for Justice
Commonwealth