

Victoria 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 (the National Partnership) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective of the National Partnership is to enhance Australian communities' resilience to natural disasters.
2. The Commonwealth and State agree that this funding initiative is a primary means by which the Commonwealth contributes to the implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (NSDR) in Victoria.
3. Victoria will utilise funds from the National Partnership to fund, through a grants scheme, a range of small to medium projects aimed at enhancing disaster resilience.

PART 2: TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

4. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth, represented by the Minister for Justice, and the State of 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 objective of enhancing Australian communities' resilience to disasters will be delivered and to 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 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 VICTORIA IMPLEMENTATION

Project information

9. The project elements planned are as follows:
 - a. The Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme (NDRGS)
 - b. State-wide risk assessment.

10. For the 2013-14 funding round, Victoria is basing the NDRGS substantially on risk reduction and increased emergency management capability and capacity including providing support for volunteers.
11. For 2014-15, Victoria may change aspects of its funding criteria under the NDRGS to take into account the emphasis of the new National Partnership. Victoria will align projects more closely to the risk priorities identified in the State-wide risk assessment published in 2014. Victoria may seek agreement to a revised Implementation Plan at an appropriate stage.

Estimated costs

12. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth to the jurisdiction is \$ 8.4 million payable in accordance with milestones set out in Part 4. All payments are exclusive of GST.
13. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 1. 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 1: Estimated financial contributions

(\$ million)	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Total estimated budget: projects approved under the NDRGS	13.0	13.0	26.0
less estimated Commonwealth contribution equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	4.2	4.2	8.4
Total Commonwealth contribution	4.2	4.2	8.4

Program logic

14. The project elements detailed in this Implementation Plan will achieve the outcomes and objectives of the National Partnership by:
 - a. issuing by 30 June 2015 a State-wide risk assessment consistent with the revised National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines; when agreed;
 - b. communicating risk to the public through the publication of a State-wide risk assessment early in 2014;
 - c. implementing, through a grants scheme for Government and non-government agencies and organisations, a program of disaster resilience activities that address priorities identified in State-wide and other relevant risk assessments and are consistent with the NSDR; and
 - d. providing support through the grants scheme to emergency management volunteers through a range of activities including addressing key issues of attraction, training, support and retention. (Note that Victoria also funds other specific volunteer support programs.)

Risk management

15. 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 or Territory Context

16. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to the relevant state or territory context. Victoria's major natural disaster risks in order of significance are bushfire, flood, pandemic influenza, heatwave, severe storm and earthquake.
17. The specific objective in this Implementation Plan is that Victorian communities be more resilient to disasters. Victoria has an 'all-hazards' approach emergency management system. This objective is consistent with and is an implementation of the NSDR.
18. For 2013-14 and 2014-15, Victoria proposes to utilise all funds provided under the National Partnership through a grants program entitled the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme – Victoria (NDRGS). Funded projects will individually and collectively contribute to the achievement of the objective, outcome and outputs of the National Partnership and each one is required to address one or more of the key themes of the NSDR. A small allocation of National Partnership funds will be made towards Victoria's costs for administering that funding.

Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme – Victoria (NDRGS)

19. For Victoria, the NDRGS is utilised as the mechanism to target the funds, in order to spread them across a wide range of projects and organisations, most of which are required to make a financial contribution. The contested grants scheme approach allows both the tailoring of projects to meet locally-identified needs and provides an opportunity for innovation in emergency management practice.
20. Under the NDRGS, assessment panels comprised of subject-matter and emergency management experts are used to determine the priority of the project applications.
21. Prioritising of projects applies the following criteria and associated scoring which ensure that funded projects individually, and the program as a whole, fulfils the objective, outcome and outputs of the National Partnership.
 - Quality of proposal (score 0-6)
 - For risk-based projects:
 - o risk priority (score 0-10)
 - o value of outcomes (score 0-10)
 - For capability/capacity projects, including volunteer support:
 - o need priority (score 0-10)
 - o value of outputs and outcomes (score 0-10)
 - Key action themes of the NSDR addressed (at least one required) (score 0-5)
 - Additional benefits gained through collaboration (score 0-5)
 - Contribution to Koori inclusion (score 0-4)
22. 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.
23. Note that the apportionment of grant funds between risks is strongly a function of the number and quality of applications received per risk. While some projects are hazard-specific and can be prioritised with regards to risk, other projects are not hazard-specific, so many multi-hazard or all-hazards projects will be funded.
24. At the completion of their project, project managers must evaluate their project and describe how the project led or will lead to the achievement of at least one of the key action themes of the NSDR.

25. The grants program is conducted in accordance with the probity and other requirements of Victoria's Department of Justice, and ensures that the projects that best meet the criteria are awarded grants.
26. Under any Agreement signed between a successful applicant and the State Government, builders contracted under that Agreement must be accredited under the Australian Government Building and Construction Occupational Health and Safety Accreditation Scheme. Builders must also ensure that they comply with the Building Code 2013.
27. For the 2014-15 funding year Victoria will also address the issue of social inclusion, with the aim of improving the lives of people with disability. These issues will be included in the application form with applicants needing to address the issue where appropriate.

PART 4: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

Milestones

28. To qualify for the associated payment, Victoria must meet the following milestones:

Table 2: Reporting Requirements and Payment Milestones

Due Date	Performance Milestone	Proportion of State's annual allocation	Evidence for assessment of meeting each Milestone
2013-14			
On signing of the National Partnership	Agreement to the State Implementation Plans that clearly demonstrate each State's strategy to achieve the Objective, Outcome and Outputs of the National Partnership.	50%	Victoria's Implementation Plan outlining Victoria's strategy to achieve the Objective, Outcome and Outputs of the National Partnership, as per clause 17 of the National Partnership.
30 April 2014	Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a State report, covering the period 1 July 2013 – 31 March 2014, that clearly details the achievement of the Objective, Outcome and Outputs of the Agreement as set out in the State's Implementation Plan.	50%	Victoria will provide to the Attorney-General's Department a State report showing how funds have been allocated for 2013-14, using several measures such as hazard, type of organisation and primary National Partnership action area. In addition, Victoria will provide a list of 2013-14 projects showing a percentage of completion and a financial statement showing funding expended and in hand.

Due Date	Performance Milestone	Proportion of State's annual allocation	Evidence for assessment of meeting each Milestone
2014-15			
30 September 2014	Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a State report, covering the period 1 April 2014 – 30 August 2014, that clearly details the achievement of the Objective, Outcome and Outputs of the Agreement as set out in the State's Implementation Plan.	50%	Victoria will provide to the Attorney-General's Department, a list of projects to be funded in 2014-15 in line with clause 29 of this Implementation Plan. The list itself will demonstrate how Victoria meets the Objective, Outcome and Outputs of the National Partnership. Victoria will also provide a list of 2013-14 projects showing a percentage of completion and a financial statement showing funding expended and in hand.
30 April 2015	Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a State report, covering the period 1 September 2014 - 31 March 2015, that clearly details the achievement of the Objective, Outcome and Outputs of the Agreement as set out in the State's Implementation Plan.	50%	Victoria will provide to Attorney-General's Department a State report showing how funds have been allocated for 2014-15 using several measures such as hazard, type of organisation and primary National Partnership action area targeted. In addition Victoria will provide a list of 2013-14 and 2014-15 projects showing percentage of completion and a financial statement showing funds expended and in hand.
Within 90 days after completion of all outputs	The States will prepare a Final Report as per clause 20 of the National Partnership.		The State will provide a Final Report that will meet the requirements set out in clause 20 of the National Partnership.

29. In addition to the above milestone reporting, Victoria will provide the Commonwealth with a list of approved projects funded under the NDRGS in 2013-14 and 2014-15, providing the following information:

- (a) organisation being funded;
- (b) name of project and summary description;
- (c) primary location of activity;
- (d) type of hazard;
- (e) Federal electorate;
- (f) key action theme(s) of the NSDR addressed by the project; and
- (g) total cost and approved Commonwealth funding for the year.

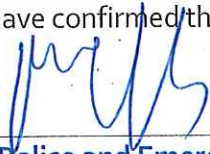
Review and Evaluation

30. Because the funding is spent across 50 to 60 projects annually, the evaluation of the extent to which the projects contribute to the achievement of the objective, outputs and outcome of the National Partnership is conducted at the project selection stage, i.e. at the start of the annual cycle. This is in recognition that to conduct such evaluation at the completion of projects would be time-consuming, expensive and inexact as there is usually little additional data to analyse. The benefit of some projects, such as flood mitigation, may not be realised until years afterward. Even if all projects were evaluated individually, it would not be possible to draw conclusions for the whole State, as most are targeted at a local needs or very specific issues.

Sign off

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

Signature



Date

4/3/14

Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Victoria



15.5.14

Signature

Date

Minister for Justice
Commonwealth