

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2011-2012



An agreement between

- n the **Commonwealth of Australia** and
- n the Australian Capital Territory

This Implementation Plan forms a schedule to National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience.

ACT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2011-12

1. Context

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) has commenced a risk profile in accordance with the National Partnership Agreement. Previous work done throughout the ACT has shown that our major risks include bushfires, storms, floods, unseasonal weather conditions or events and earthquakes

During 2011-12, and until the ACT risk profile is developed, we are relying on the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (issued October 2009), the ACT Flood Plan and the Review of Natural Hazards in the ACT, prepared by an ACT Emergency Services Agency Risk Manager in February 1998.

In line with the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, the ACT intends to mitigate against the risks identified in the current plans and review by undertaking projects to address the priorities. It is seen that the provision of support to volunteers is also a major priority in both mitigation and developing resilience within the community.

Disaster mitigation will take into consideration recommendations arising from COAG and NEMC.

2. Outcome

The outcome of this plan will be:

- a. a reduced risk from the impact of disasters; and
- b. appropriate emergency management capability and capacity, consistent with the Territory risk profile; and
- c. support for volunteers.

3. Outputs

The Program is aimed at identifying and addressing risk priorities in the ACT to assist the community to better prepare for natural disasters. The Commonwealth, the ACT Government and non-government agencies will participate in this program on a cost sharing basis. The Program will deliver the following outputs:

- a. a Territory-wide prioritised natural disaster risk assessment developed in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and implemented in conjunction with the ACT Government and relevant stakeholders.
- b. support the capability or training of volunteers or increase the recruitment, retention or recognition of volunteers.

4. Budget

In 2011-2012, the Commonwealth will provide to the ACT \$1,285,000 being 5 per cent of the total annual allocation of \$25.7 million. \$642,500 will be provided upon the submission and agreement of the 2011-2012 ACT Implementation Plan, and a further \$642,500 will be provided upon submission of a progress report to the Commonwealth by 31st March 2012.

The ACT's Implementation Plan has the following budgetary requirements for the implementation of the specific program.

Program	Commonwealth Funds	Government/ Non-Govt Funds	Total
ACT NDRP	\$1,285,000	\$1,285,000	\$2,570,000

5. Performance Measures

Each individual program under this Implementation Plan will be measured separately. The following key performance indicators will be used in the 31 March Annual Report and during program evaluation:

ACT Natural Disaster Risk Assessment

- 1) The performance measures for the ACT Natural Disaster Risk Assessment are:
 - a. Compliance with relevant standards including ISO 31000 – Risk Management and the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG).
 - b. Completion by 31 December 2011.

ACT Natural Disaster Resilience Program (ACT NDRP)

- 2) The performance measures for the ACT NDRP are:
 - a. Relevant agencies advised, program launched.
 - b. Proportion of projects approved, commenced by agencies.
 - c. Proportion of projects approved, supported by risk management plans.
 - d. Proportion of projects that incorporate community engagement strategies.
 - e. Proportion of projects that;
 - Be supported by evidence (including historical data);
 - Consider possible climate change impacts;
 - Engage ACT Government, non-government organisations, the private sector and communities in general;
 - Support the capability or training of volunteers or increase the recruitment, retention or recognition of volunteers;
 - f. Proportion of projects commenced within 3 months of approval.
 - g. Proportion of projects completed within 12 months of commencement.
 - h. Proportion of projects that adhere to the approved budget.

6. Administration Arrangements

The ACT Emergency Services Agency will be responsible for the overall administration and reporting of the Program to the Commonwealth.

The ACT Natural Disaster Risk Assessment will be coordinated by the ACT Emergency Services Agency for the ACT Government and will report to the Security and Emergency Management Senior Operations Group.

The ACT NDRP will be administered by the ACT Emergency Services Agency in accordance with best practice emergency management principles. Projects will be assessed in conjunction with stakeholders and technical advisors. Funding agreements will be developed based on applications submitted by ACT Government and non-government agencies. 50 per cent funding will be paid upon the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and a further 50 per cent payment will be paid on completion of the project or on an agreed component of the program and will require project acquittal.

An Assessment Panel consisting of financial, ACT Government and emergency management members, will determine priority projects to be recommended to the Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency, for approval. The Assessment Panel will be informed by technical experts who will advise on the technical merit and soundness of projects.

MoUs will be developed based on detailed applications submitted by agencies. Progress of projects will be tracked and detailed evidence of completion required before final payments are made. Depending on the size of the project and the funding capacity of the agency, various payment schemes will be implemented.

7. Reporting

The ACT Emergency Services Agency will, no later than 30 days after approval of individual projects under the programs, provide a list of approved projects to be funded under the NDRP to the Commonwealth, through the Attorney General's Department, which includes the following information:

- a. organisation being funded;
- b. location of activity, including the federal electorate, where relevant;
- c. total approved funding;
- d. brief description of activity;
- e. period of funding.

By 31st March each year, the ACT Emergency Services Agency will provide a report to the Commonwealth Attorney-General, for approval. The report will summarise achievements of the programs against the agreed performance indicators set out in this plan.

8. Evaluation

- a. A limited review will be undertaken by 31st March 2012 examining the appropriateness of the performance measures for each program. This will inform the development of the Implementation Plan for the 2012-2013 program.
- b. Full evaluation of this implementation plan to determine how the objectives are being met by the performance measures will take place during 2011-2012 financial year, involving stakeholder consultation.

9. Definitions

For the purposes of this Plan the following definitions apply:

Agency Organisation receiving a grant under the NDRP. Includes ACT Government departments, Non-government organisations, indigenous community councils, unincorporated remote communities and non-government volunteer based organisations delivering emergency management outputs.

Works Projects that aim to deliver actual risk reduction in the community and improve community resilience to natural disaster risks. These include all structural mitigation projects, community education development programs, warning systems, emergency management capability and capacity development and land and building purchase schemes.