

# Australian Capital Territory Implementation Plan – 2012-13

## 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 by building on existing knowledge and programs. Dedicated projects will support the management of the significant risks from these hazards. Sound risk management is of key importance in increasing the efficacy of natural disaster resilience. An Emergency Risk Management program will support local authorities in the implementation of Emergency Risk Management processes. A separate stream of funding will address significant natural disaster resilience projects at a Territory level. Support for emergency management volunteers will be delivered by a grants scheme targeted at Territory level organisations and volunteer units that minimises administrative burdens on volunteers.

### 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 Emergency Management 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 to demonstrate the Australian Capital Territory's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the National Partnership.
5. 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.
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

8. The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (NSDR) is a key consideration in the delivery of this Implementation Plan. In particular it recognises the shared responsibility of governments and other organisations in improving disaster resilience. Core features of this Implementation Plan and the activities it outlines align closely with the action areas in the NSDR particularly the need for:
  - a) leading change and coordinating effort;
  - b) understanding risks;
  - c) partnering with those who effect change; and
  - d) supporting capabilities for disaster resilience.

### Project information

9. A key theme of the projects is to leverage existing structures and networks and partner with those who effect change in program administration consistent with the NSDR. The projects have been organised to improve administrative efficiency and ensure they reach their intended target.
10. The project elements planned are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Project elements

No	Title	Short description	Planned start date	Planned end date	Dependent on projects
1	Territory-Wide Risk Assessment (TWRA) Strategic Projects	Reduce the impact of natural disasters by addressing risk factors identified in the TWRA.	1/7/2012	30/6/2013	-
2	Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) Grants Scheme	Build appropriate emergency management capability and capacity, support emergency management volunteers, and build disaster resilience in the community.	1/7/2012	30/6/2013	[1]
3	NDRP Project Manager	Promote awareness of natural disaster risk and build resilience in the community by contracting an employee to conduct programs targeting specific groups.	1/7/2012	30/6/2013	[2]

## Estimated costs

11. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the jurisdiction for 2012-13 is \$1,305,000 payable in accordance with the payment schedule set out in Part 5 of the National Partnership. All payments are exclusive of GST.
12. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 2. The budget is indicative only and the Australian Capital Territory 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

(\$)	2012-13
Territory Wide Risk Assessment strategic projects (TWRASP)	\$1,673,246
Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme (NDRGS)	\$1,000,000
Natural Disaster Resilience Project Manager	\$100,000
Total estimated budget	<b>\$2,773,246</b>
Rollover of funds from previous periods	\$699,000
<i>less</i> Commonwealth contribution	\$1,305,000
equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	769,246
Total <b>Commonwealth contribution</b> (including rollover)	<b>\$2,004,000</b>

## Program logic

13. The projects detailed in this Implementation Plan will achieve the outcomes and objectives stated in the National Partnership by recognising:
  - a) the central place of risk assessments in enhancing resilience as described in the NSDR. The TWRA strategic projects, the ACT NDRP Grants Scheme, and the appointment of an NDRP project officer have a strong focus on:
    - i. improving the underpinning research, data and systems which inform and improve risk assessments for priority natural hazards;
    - ii. producing risk assessments for priority natural hazards; these risk assessments are critical enablers for outcomes of reduced risk from the impacts of disasters and appropriate emergency capability and capacity consistent with the Australian Capital Territory risk profile; and

- 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 and capacity.
- b) the key role that volunteers and non-government organisations (NGOs) play in supporting capabilities for disaster resilience as identified in the NSDR by establishing a targeted program to enhance capability and capacity in the emergency volunteer sector. The ACT NDRP Grants Scheme is the key driver to enhance support for volunteers.

## Risk management

- 14. A risk management plan for the program 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

- 15. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to the Australian Capital Territory context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction are set out in Table 3.

Table 3: Links with existing reforms or projects

Proposed projects	Existing reforms or projects	Complementary nature of activities
TWRA Strategic Projects	The ACT has recently completed a comprehensive Territory-wide risk assessment.  The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience	These projects will complement and build on projects funded through previous NDRP rounds, the Bushfire Mitigation Program, the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program, and disaster risk reduction and mitigation initiatives of the ACT Government.
NDRP Grants Scheme	Revisions to the 2012-13 NDRP Program are designed to increase the number and type of applications from NGO, not-for-profit and volunteer bodies.  The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience	Building on previous years' NDRP Grants Scheme, the 2012-13 NDRP Grants Scheme has been revised to improve access for NGOs, not-for-profits and volunteer bodies. Furthermore, benefits and lessons learned from individual projects will be broadly disseminated and used to inform future initiatives.

Proposed projects	Existing reforms or projects	Complementary nature of activities
NDRP Project Manager	The ACT NDRP is currently managed by a staff member of the Security and Emergency Management Branch (SEMB).	This position complements and facilitates the NDRP Grant Scheme as a whole, along with managing specific community engagement projects funded through the NDRP Grants Scheme. Further, this position will ensure projects funded under the NDRP Grants Scheme and the TWRA Strategic Projects complement one another to maximise the overall benefit to the ACT community.

## Part 4: Performance and reporting arrangements

### Performance benchmarks

16. Performance benchmarks have been developed to measure the links with risk assessment or the National Action Plan for the Attraction, Support and Retention of Emergency Management Volunteers, and the effectiveness with which projects are implemented.

**a) Common Performance Measures**

The TWRA strategic projects, the NDRP Grants Scheme, and the appointment of an NDRP project officer will have the following common performance indicators:

- i. proportion of projects commenced by 1 October 2012;
- ii. completion of projects completed by 30 June 2013;
- iii. proportion of projects that adhere to the approved budget; and
- iv. proportion of projects which leverage additional funding from agencies and other sources.

**b) Natural Disaster Resilience Program Grants Scheme**

Additional performance measures for the NDRP Grants Scheme:

- i. Proportion of disaster resilience projects NGOs, volunteer organisations and, not-for-profit organisations that are funded by the NDRP Grants Scheme.

## Reporting

17. The Australian Capital Territory will report against the agreed performance indicators every 12 months during the operation of the NPA. Reports are expected by 31 March each year.
18. Circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought from the Australian Capital Territory. 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 the Australian Capital Territory.

## Sign off

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

**Signature**

**Date**

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**By the Australian Capital Territory Minister for Police and Emergency Services**

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**Signature**

**Date**

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**By Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management**