

NEW SOUTH WALES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - 2009/2010



An agreement between

- the Commonwealth of Australia and
- the State of New South Wales.

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

CONTEXT

- 1) New South Wales, with the largest population of all the Australian States and Territories, experiences more natural disasters than any other State, the most costly of which are severe storms, floods and bushfires. NSW is also exposed to other natural hazards including but not limited to coastal erosion, tropical cyclones, earthquakes, tsunami and landslides. The majority of the population of 7 million is concentrated in the south eastern coastal strip and more than four million people live in Greater Sydney. The costliest disaster in NSW history was the April 1999 hailstorm affecting the eastern suburbs of Sydney. A large number of settlements are located in flood prone river catchments, with 55,000 properties located within the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood.¹ NSW also has an extensive urban-bushland interface with 275,000 properties located within 130m of bushland in Greater Sydney alone.²
- 2) Increases in population, wealth and building value have contributed to increasing natural disaster risk and resulting losses over the past 100 years.¹ Climate Change is expected to further increase natural disaster risk particularly in the coastal zone where there are more than 200,000 properties in NSW within 6km of the coast and less than 6m above sea level.¹
- 3) This Implementation Plan will address the above risk priorities by building on existing knowledge and programs. The commencement of a natural disaster risk assessment, building on a large body of existing knowledge will increase understanding of the natural disaster risk profile in NSW. The continuation of a dedicated bushfire mitigation program and a grants scheme to support state and local risk management priorities aims to reduce natural disaster risk in NSW. Specific emphasis will be placed on the utilisation of risk management processes to increase the efficacy of these grants programs.
- 4) Support for volunteers in 2009/2010 will be delivered through the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund (NEVSF) which is being administered by the Commonwealth. The NEVSF will be incorporated into NSW Implementation Plans from 2010/2011.

OUTCOMES

- 5) The outcomes of this plan will be:
 - (a) reduced risk from the impact of disasters; and
 - (b) appropriate emergency management capability and capacity, consistent with the New South Wales risk profile.

¹ McAneney J, Crompton R, Chen K et. Al. "A Century of Damage – Property losses due to natural perils", *Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance Journal*, Vol. 30, No. 3, June/July 2007

² Chen, K, *Counting Bushfire-Prone Addresses in the Greater Sydney Region*, Risk Frontiers – Natural Hazards Research Centre, Macquarie University, Sydney.

OUTPUTS

- 6) NSW will deliver three programs under this Plan, being:

The NSW Natural Disaster Risk Assessment

- 7) A State-wide prioritised natural disaster risk assessment developed in accordance with relevant Australian Standards. This will be undertaken internally within Emergency Management NSW, consulting with a wide variety of stakeholders.

The Bushfire Mitigation Program

- 8) The Bushfire Mitigation Program (BMP) is aimed at identifying and addressing bushfire mitigation risk priorities in NSW to assist local communities to better prepare for bushfires. The Commonwealth, New South Wales and local governments participate in this program on a cost sharing basis. The specific objective of the program is to enhance the effectiveness of fire trail networks to increase the safety of fire fighting personnel and to improve access to bushland areas for the purposes of fire fighting and hazard reduction.

The Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme

- 9) The Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme (NDRGS) will deliver funding to local governments and agencies to undertake natural disaster risk assessments, prepare natural disaster risk management plans and undertake natural disaster risk reduction works that contribute to safer, sustainable communities more resilient to the effects of natural disasters. Local governments and agencies will seek to match funding in the ratio of 1:1:1 (Commonwealth : NSW : Agency).
- 10) A lower funding ratio may be acceptable where the financial circumstances of the Agency is considered exceptional. Agencies will be encouraged to seek further co-contributions, whether financial or in-kind, on approved projects. In addition, projects considered to be of State significance may be able to gain access to a reduced agency contribution.
- 11) Natural disaster risk assessments and reduction works will be undertaken in accordance with relevant State policies and supporting documentation, including but not limited to the Flood Prone Land Policy and Floodplain Development Manual.
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National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience – Implementation Plan 09/10 – New South Wales

BUDGET

Program	Commonwealth Funds	NSW Funds	Other Funding	Total
NSW Risk Assessment	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
BMP	\$1,352,900	\$1,352,900	\$300,000	\$3,005,800
NDRGS	\$4,113,100	\$4,113,100	\$3,999,797	\$12,225,997
<i>NDRGS Administration Costs</i>	\$113,303	\$113,303	\$0	\$226,606
<i>NDRGS Agency Grants</i>	\$3,999,797	\$3,999,797	\$3,999,797	\$11,999,391
Total	\$5,616,000	\$5,466,000	\$4,299,797	\$15,381,797

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 12) 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:

NSW Natural Disaster Risk Assessment

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

BMP

- 14) The performance measures for the Bushfire Mitigation Program are:
- (a) Proportion of projects approved, commenced by agencies.
 - (b) Proportion of projects commenced within 3 months of approval.
 - (c) Proportion of projects completed within 12 months of commencement.
 - (d) Proportion of projects that adhere to the approved budget.

NDRGS

- 15) The performance measures for the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme:
 - (a) The number of risk assessment projects completed.
 - (b) Proportion of projects approved, supported by risk assessment.
 - (c) Proportion of works projects approved, supported by risk management plans.
 - (d) Proportion of projects approved, commenced by agencies.
 - (e) Proportion of projects commenced within 3 months of approval.
 - (f) Proportion of projects completed within 12 months of commencement.
 - (g) Proportion of projects that adhere to the approved budget.
 - (h) Proportion of approved projects to be delivered by local government.
 - (i) Proportion of projects that consider climate change.

ADMINISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 16) Emergency Management NSW will be responsible for the overall administration and reporting of the program to the Commonwealth.
 - 17) The NSW Natural Disaster Risk Assessment will be performed by Emergency Management NSW consulting with all emergency management agencies and other relevant stakeholders in accordance with relevant standards.
 - 18) The BMP will be administered by the NSW Rural Fire Service in accordance with best practice fire management principles. Projects will be assessed in conjunction with stakeholders and technical advisors. Funding agreements will be developed based on detailed project plans submitted by the Agency. Progress of projects will be tracked by way of quarterly reporting and evidence of completion plus local certification required before final payments are made.
 - 19) The NDRGS will be administered by Emergency Management NSW in accordance with the relevant provisions of NSW Government's Guide to Grants Administration and with the assistance of technical advisors in other government departments. Projects will be assessed in conjunction with stakeholders and technical advisors. Funding agreements will be developed based on detailed project plans submitted by the Agency. Progress of projects will be tracked by way of quarterly reporting 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.
 - 20) Emergency Management NSW will consult its technical advisors with respect to the technical soundness of NDRGS project details to ensure that project outcomes are consistent with State policies and supporting documentation.
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REPORTING

- 21) NSW 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.
- 22) By 31st March each year, NSW 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.

EVALUATION

- 23) A limited review will be undertaken by 31st March 2010 examining the appropriateness of the performance measures for each program. This will inform the development of the Implementation Plan for the 2010/2011 program.
- 24) Full evaluation of this implementation plan to determine how the objectives are being met by the performance measures will take place during 2010/2011 FY, involving stakeholder consultation.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Plan the following definitions apply:

- Agency** Organisation receiving a grant under the NDRP. Includes NSW Government departments, local government organisations, indigenous community councils and unincorporated remote communities.
- Works** Risk Management projects that aim to deliver actual risk reduction in the community. These include all structural mitigation projects, community education development programs, warning systems, emergency management capability and capacity development and land and building purchase schemes.
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