

# NEW SOUTH WALES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2010/2011



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.<sup>1</sup> NSW also has some 1.3 million properties exposed to a bush fire risk.<sup>2</sup>
- 2) Increases in population, wealth and building value have contributed to increasing natural disaster risk and resulting losses over the past 100 years.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup>
- 3) This Implementation Plan will address the above risk priorities by building on existing knowledge and programs. 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. Support for emergency management volunteers will also be delivered by this plan. Specific emphasis will be placed on the utilisation of risk management processes to increase the efficacy of these grants programs.

## OUTCOMES

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> NSW Rural Fire Service, Bush Fire Prone Land mapping.

## OUTPUTS

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

### **The Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme**

- 6) The Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme (EVSS) will deliver funding to emergency management volunteer agencies, either directly to volunteer groups or to the agencies themselves, to support volunteer recruitment and retention. The EVSS recognises Action 7 of the National Action Plan for the Attraction, Support and Retention of Emergency Management Volunteers.
- 7) Agencies will seek to match funding in the ratio of 1:1:1 (Commonwealth : NSW : Agency) except where the financial circumstances of the Agency is considered exceptional or they are a registered charity. Agencies will be encouraged to seek further co-contributions, whether financial or in-kind, on approved projects.

### **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 and fire break 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 are 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, the Floodplain Development Manual and Bush Fire Risk Management Plans.



## BUDGET

| Program                           | Commonwealth Funds | NSW Funds          | Other Funding*     | Total               |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| EVSS                              | \$400,000          | \$400,000          | \$0                | \$800,000           |
| BMP                               | \$1,352,900        | \$1,352,900        | \$300,000          | \$3,005,800         |
| NDRGS                             | \$4,799,100        | \$4,799,100        | \$4,681,266        | \$14,279,466        |
| <i>NDRGS Administration Costs</i> | \$117,834          | \$117,834          | \$0                | \$235,668           |
| <i>NDRGS Agency Grants</i>        | \$4,681,266        | \$4,681,266        | \$4,681,266        | \$14,043,798        |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>\$6,552,000</b> | <b>\$6,552,000</b> | <b>\$4,981,266</b> | <b>\$18,085,266</b> |

\* Includes local government and agency co-contributions

## 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:

### Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme

- 1) The performance measures for the Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme 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.
  - (e) Amount of additional funding leveraged from agencies and other sources.

### Bushfire Mitigation Programme

- 2) The performance measures for the Bushfire Mitigation Program are:
  - (a) Proportion of projects approved, commenced by agencies.
  - (b) Proportion of projects approved, supported by Bush Fire Risk Management Plans.
  - (c) Proportion of projects commenced within 3 months of approval.
  - (d) Proportion of projects completed within 12 months of commencement.

- (e) Proportion of projects that adhere to the approved budget.

## **NDRGS**

- 3) 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**

- 4) Emergency Management NSW will be responsible for the overall administration and reporting of the program to the Commonwealth.
- 5) 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.
- 6) The NDRGS and EVSS 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.
- 7) 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.



## REPORTING

- 8) 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.
- 9) 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

- 10) A review will be undertaken by 31st March 2011 examining the appropriateness of the performance measures for each program. This will inform the development of the Implementation Plan for the 2012/2013 program.

## DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Plan the following definitions apply:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Agency</b> | Organisation receiving a grant under the NDRP. Includes NSW Government departments, local government organisations, indigenous community councils and unincorporated remote communities.   |
| <b>Works</b>  | 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. |

## AGREEMENT

The parties have confirmed their commitment to this plan as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of New South Wales by*



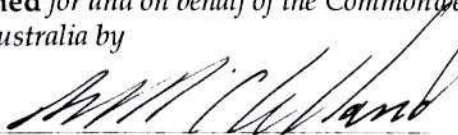
**The Hon. Steve Whan, MP**

Minister for Emergency Services of the State of New South Wales

*28 January*

2010

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by*



**The Hon. Robert McClelland, MP**

Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Australia

*22/1/10*

2010