

NEW SOUTH WALES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2011/2012



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 bush fires. NSW is also exposed to other natural hazards including but not limited to coastal erosion, tropical cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis 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 some 1.3 million properties exposed to a bush fire risk.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. Dedicated flood and bush fire programs will support management of the significant risks from these hazards in NSW. Recognising the importance of sound risk management in increasing the efficacy of natural disaster resilience an Emergency Risk Management program will support local authorities in its implementation. A separate stream of funding will address significant state natural disaster resilience projects. Support for emergency management volunteers will also be delivered by this plan.

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.

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 NSW Rural Fire Service, Bush Fire Prone Land mapping.

OUTPUTS

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

The Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme

- 6) The Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme (FRMGS) provides financial support to councils and eligible public land managers to:
 - (a) prepare floodplain risk management plans (and associated background studies)
 - (b) implement floodplain risk management plans to reduce flood risk to both existing and future development through a range of measures as outlined in the manual
- 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 Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme

- 8) The Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme (BFRMGS) is aimed at identifying and addressing bush fire mitigation risk priorities in NSW to assist local communities to better prepare for bush fires. The Commonwealth, New South Wales and local governments participate in this program on a cost sharing basis. The program funds capital works and maintenance for local governments and agencies with primary responsibilities in bush fire mitigation.

The Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme

- 9) 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.
- 10) The Commonwealth, and New South Wales governments and Agencies participate in this program on a cost sharing basis 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 Auxiliary Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme

- 11) The Auxiliary Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme (ADRGS) will deliver funding to local governments to undertake natural disaster risk reduction activities and enhance emergency management capability, that contribute to safer, sustainable communities more resilient to the effects of natural disasters. The ADRGS will fund projects that are generally not eligible for funding under the FRMGS, BFRMGS or EVSS. Projects that seek to primarily address flood or bush fire related risks will not be eligible for this program, except where the project addresses risk on an "all hazards" basis. Local

governments will seek to match funding in the ratio of 1:1:1 (Commonwealth : NSW : Local Government).

- 12) A lower funding ratio may be acceptable where the financial circumstances of the Council are considered exceptional. Councils will be encouraged to seek further co-contributions, whether financial or in-kind, on approved projects.

State Projects

- 13) This program will assist NSW Government Agencies and other emergency management organisations operating at the state level, to deliver projects to address key natural disaster risk knowledge gaps, trial or enhance programs delivering natural disaster resilience or enhance emergency management capability on a state-wide basis. These state-wide projects will not be eligible for funding under the Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme or the Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme.

Emergency Risk Management Program

- 14) This program will support dedicated staff that will continue the implementation of Emergency Risk Management (ERM) in NSW. Staff will facilitate ERM in local government areas, provide quality control for its outputs and support training for participants and stakeholders. This program will also support the maintenance of the NSW Natural Disaster Risk Assessment and the NSW Emergency Risk Management Framework.
- 15) The program will consider all hazards to ensure consistency between assessment of natural and non-natural hazards, and the disaster resilience agenda.

BUDGET

Program	Commonwealth Funds	NSW Funds	Other Funding*	Total
Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme	\$3,541,460	\$3,541,460	\$3,541,460	\$10,624,380
Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme	\$1,269,580	\$1,269,580	\$1,269,580	\$3,808,740
Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme	\$467,740	\$467,740	\$93,548	\$1,029,028
State Projects	\$668,200	\$668,200	\$668,200	\$2,004,600
ERM Program	\$267,280	\$267,280	\$267,280	\$801,840
Auxiliary Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme	\$467,740	\$467,740	\$467,740	\$1,403,220
Total	\$6,682,000	\$6,682,000	\$6,307,808	\$19,671,808

* Includes co-contributions from agencies and local governments undertaking projects and in kind support. Projects granted waivers may reduce these figures

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 16) Each individual program under this Implementation Plan will be measured separately. Along with a set of common performance measures for the grants schemes each program will have individual performance indicators. The following key performance indicators will be used in the 31 March Annual Report and during program evaluation:

Common Performance Measures

- 17) The FRMGS, BFRMGS, EVSS, ADRGS and State Projects will have the following common performance measures:
- (a) Proportion of projects commenced by 1 October 2011.
 - (b) Proportion of projects completed within 12 months of commencement.
 - (c) Proportion of projects that adhere to the approved budget.
 - (d) Proportion of projects which leverage additional funding from agencies and other sources.

Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme

18) Additional performance measures for the FRMGS:

- (a) Proportion of projects, supported by Floodplain Risk Management Plans.

Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme

19) Additional performance measures for the BFRMGS:

- (a) Proportion of projects, consistent with Bush Fire Risk Management Plans.

Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme

20) Additional performance measures for the EVSS:

- (e) Proportion of projects that address priorities in the National Action Plan for the Attraction, Support and Retention of Emergency Management Volunteers and the NSW State Plan.

State Projects

21) Additional performance measures for State Projects:

- (a) Proportion of projects that address risks identified in the NSW Natural Disaster Risk Assessment.

Auxiliary Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme

22) Additional performance measures for the ADRGS:

- (a) Proportion of projects approved, supported by risk assessment.
- (b) Proportion of works projects approved, supported by risk management plans.

ERM Program

23) The performance measures for the ERM Program are:

- (a) Number of Emergency Management Committees that have the ERM process facilitated to completion
- (b) Number of ERM outputs used to support mitigation grants applications

ADMINISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 24) Emergency Management NSW will be responsible for the overall administration and reporting of the program to the Commonwealth.
- 25) The BFRMGS will be administered by the NSW Rural Fire Service in accordance with best practice fire management principles. Projects will be assessed by an advisory group consisting of 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 progress reporting and evidence of completion plus local certification required before final payments are made.
- 26) The FRMGS will be administered by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water in accordance with the Floodplain Development Manual. 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 progress reporting and evidence of completion plus local certification required before final payments are made.
- 27) The ADRGS, State Projects, ERM Program and the EVSS will be administered by Emergency Management NSW.
- 28) Programs delivering grants to local governments will be delivered 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 progress 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 may be implemented.
- 29) Administering Agencies will be able to access program funds for administration and evaluation of the programs for which they are responsible.
- 30) Natural disaster risk assessments and reduction works will be undertaken in accordance with relevant State policies and supporting documentation.

REPORTING

- 31) 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 for each project:
 - (a) organisation being funded;
 - (b) location of activity, including the federal electorate, where relevant;
 - (c) total approved funding;
 - (d) brief description of activity;

- 32) 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

- 33) A review will be undertaken by 31st March 2012 examining the appropriateness of the performance measures for each program.

DEFINITIONS

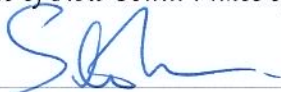
For the purposes of this Plan the following definitions apply:

- Agency** Organisation receiving a grant funded in part by the NDRP. May include NSW Government departments, local government organisations, indigenous community councils and unincorporated remote communities.
- Program** One of the 6 outputs of this Implementation Plan.
- 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.

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*



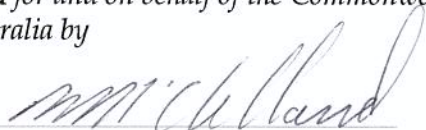
The Hon. Steve Whan, MP

Minister for Emergency Services of the State of New South Wales

8 June

2010

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



The Hon. Robert McClelland, MP

Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Australia

5th October

2010