

New South Wales 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 New South Wales' risk priorities by building on existing knowledge and programs. Dedicated flood and bush fire programs 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 state level. Support for emergency management volunteers will be delivered by a program targeted at state 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 State of New South Wales, 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 New South Wales' 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 New South Wales 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:
 - Leading change and coordinating effort
 - Understanding risks
 - Partnering with those who effect change
 - 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 projects planned are as follows:

a) Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme

The Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme (FRMGS) provides financial support to councils and eligible public land managers to:

- i. prepare floodplain risk management plans (and underpinning flood risk assessments); and
- ii. implement floodplain risk management plans to reduce flood risk to both existing and future development through a range of measures.

Agencies will seek to match funding in the ratio of 1:1:1 (Commonwealth: New South Wales: 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.

b) Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme

The Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme (BFRMGS) is aimed at identifying and addressing bush fire mitigation risk priorities in New South Wales 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 for bush fire mitigation.

c) Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme

The Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme (EVSS) will deliver funding to emergency management volunteer agencies and volunteer groups to support volunteer recruitment, retention and training. The EVSS recognises Action 7 of the National Action Plan for the Attraction, Support and Retention of Emergency Management Volunteers.

The Commonwealth, New South Wales 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.

d) Auxiliary Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme

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 which are more resilient to the effects of natural disasters. The ADRGS is targeted at the reduction of risks on an all hazards basis and at improving the local level emergency management capability and capacity. 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: New South Wales: Local Government).

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.

e) State Emergency Management Projects

The State Emergency Management Projects (SEMP) program will assist New South Wales Government agencies and other emergency management organisations operating at the state level. The program is targeted at projects to address key natural disaster risk knowledge gaps, trial or enhance natural disaster resilience or emergency management capability on a state-wide basis. A particular focus of this program will be to implement priorities identified in the New South Wales Natural Disaster Risk Assessment. These state-wide projects will not be eligible for funding under the FRMGS or the BFRMGS.

f) Emergency Risk Management Program

The Emergency Risk Management (ERM) Program will support dedicated staff that will continue the implementation of ERM in New South Wales. 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 New South Wales Natural Disaster Risk Assessment and the New South Wales Emergency Risk Management Framework.

The program will consider all hazards to ensure consistency between assessment of natural and non-natural hazards, and the NSDR.

Estimated costs

11. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the jurisdiction is \$6,786,000 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 1. The budget is indicative only and New South Wales 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 1: Estimated financial contributions

(\$)	2012-13
Auxiliary Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme	\$950,040
Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme	\$7,193,160
Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme	\$2,578,680
Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme	\$950,040
State Emergency Management Projects	\$1,357,200
ERM Program	\$542,880
Total estimated budget	\$13,572,000
<i>less</i> estimated Commonwealth contribution	\$6,786,000
equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	\$6,786,000
Total Commonwealth contribution	\$6,786,000

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 ADRGS, SEMP, FRMGS, BFRMGS and ERM Program 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 New South Wales' 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 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 EVSS 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 State or Territory context

15. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to the New South Wales context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction are set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Links with existing reforms or projects

Proposed projects	Existing reforms or projects	Complementary nature of activities
FRMGS	State Floodplain Management Program	These programs both deliver identical outputs and are delivered alongside each other to maximise program value and reduce red-tape.
BFRMGS	Bush fire mitigation programs	The Rural Fire Service delivers a variety of programs to reduce bush fire hazards and upgrade and maintain fire trails. The BFRMGS will be delivered alongside these programs to maximise program value and reduce red-tape.
SEMP and ERM Program	New South Wales Natural Disaster Risk Assessment	The SEMP and the ERM Program will both be strongly tied to the implementation of the New South Wales Natural Disaster Risk Assessment.

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. Funding will reward New South Wales upon meeting these targets as set out below:

a) Common Performance Measures

The FRMGS, BFRMGS, EVSS, ADRGS and SEMP will have the following common performance measures:

- i. Proportion of projects commenced by 1 October 2012.

- ii. Proportion of projects completed within 12 months of commencement.
 - iii. Proportion of projects that adhere to the approved budget.
 - iv. Proportion of projects which leverage additional funding from agencies and other sources.
- b) Floodplain Risk Management Grants Scheme**
Additional performance measures for the FRMGS:
- i. Proportion of projects supported by Floodplain Risk Management Plans.
- c) Bush Fire Risk Management Grants Scheme**
Additional performance measures for the BFRMGS:
- i. Proportion of projects consistent with Bush Fire Risk Management Plans.
- d) Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme**
Additional performance measures for the EVSS:
- i. Proportion of projects that address priorities in the National Action Plan for the Attraction, Support and Retention of Emergency Management Volunteers and the New South Wales State Plan.
- e) State Emergency Management Projects**
Additional performance measures for the SEMP:
- i. Proportion of projects that address risks identified in the New South Wales Natural Disaster Risk Assessment.
- f) Auxiliary Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme**
Additional performance measures for the ADRGS:
- i. Proportion of projects approved, supported by risk assessment.
 - ii. Proportion of works projects approved, supported by risk management plans.
- g) Emergency Risk Management Program**
The performance measure for the ERM Program is:
- i. Ten percent increase in the number of Emergency Management Committees compliant with New South Wales Emergency Risk Management Policy and supporting guidelines by July 2013.

Reporting

- 17. New South Wales 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 New South Wales. 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 New South Wales.

Sign off

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

Signature

Date

By New South Wales Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Signature

Date

By Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management