

# NORTHERN TERRITORY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2009/2010



An agreement between

- the **Commonwealth of Australia** and
- the **Northern Territory**.

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

## CONTEXT

- 1) The Northern Territory Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NTNDRP) will promote an evidence based approach to risk reduction and mitigation. This will be achieved by the development of a formal risk assessment to confirm the Territory's risk profile and provide guidance for NTNDRP priorities and objectives.
- 2) The NTNDRP program for Financial Year 2009/10 is strictly limited because of the transition from the previous Commonwealth Government administered National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund (NEVSF) to the NT's new arrangements.
- 3) In Financial Year 2009/10 the Commonwealth Government has continued to administer the NEVSF and existing NDMP projects. From an NT Government perspective these legacy projects will continue to be administered under existing arrangements until wound up. The NT Government will put in place arrangements to commence NT versions of the NEVSF and NDMP with the aim of announcing grant recipients by 30 June 2010.
- 4) The funds available for the NT Disaster Mitigation Program (NTDMP) program this year will be used for:
  - (a) high priority projects approved by the Counter Disaster Council. The NT Government financial contribution will be provided by the Cyclone Shelter Upgrade program.
  - (b) Management of the program by the appointment of an AO 5 manager.
- 5) Residual funds will be transferred to FY10/11 for use within the NTNDRP and the NT Emergency Volunteer Support Fund (NTEVSF).

## OUTCOMES

- 6) The objective of the NPA is - 'Australian communities that are resilient to natural disasters'
- 7) The outcomes of the NPA are:
  - (a) Reduced risk from the impact of disasters;
  - (b) Appropriate emergency management capability and capacity, consistent with State and Territory risk profiles; and
  - (c) Support for volunteers.
- 8) The outputs to achieve the objective and outcomes are:
  - (a) Risk assessments to inform State and Territory risk mitigation priorities; and

- (b) Implementation of a program of activities to address the agreed priorities.
- 9) The outcomes of this plan will be:
- (a) Improved understanding of the NT's risk profile; and
  - (b) Improvements to warnings, passage of information and planning.

## **OUTPUTS**

- 10) In 2009/10 the Northern Territory will deliver a reduced NTNDMP program under this Plan. This program will consist of the following projects:

### **The Northern Territory Natural Disaster Risk Assessment**

- (a) Territory-wide prioritised natural disaster risk assessment developed in accordance with relevant Australian Standards. This will be implemented in conjunction with the Department of the Chief Minister and relevant stakeholders.

### **Shires and Councils Emergency Management Planning Workshop Program**

- (b) This project will provide the 11 Shire Councils and five Municipal Councils throughout the Northern Territory with the ability to conduct emergency planning workshops for their key staff. The specific objectives of the program are to:
  - Enable a better understanding of the risk environment.
  - Encourage the councils to be more self reliant and resilient through the identification and planning of contingency arrangements.
  - Support measures to strengthen and improve the ability to prevent, prepare, respond to and recover (PPRR) from the adverse effects of disasters relative to their geographic areas.
  - Enhance the knowledge and effectiveness of key staff for emergency management.
  - Build and improve stakeholder relationships for emergency management.

### **Indigenous Community Service and Emergency Announcements Program**

- (c) This project will provide remote indigenous communities throughout the Northern Territory with Community Service Announcements and Emergency Messages for natural disasters in their own languages. The existing English language announcements and messages will be translated and produced into a number of local dialects that relate to the regions and communities throughout the Territory. The specific objectives of the program are to:
  - Enhance the resilience of remote indigenous communities through a better understanding of how to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

- Increase the broadcast coverage of community service announcements and emergency messages to remote communities in their local dialects.
- Strengthen the inter-departmental emergency management stakeholder relationships to improvement of remote community natural disaster resilience

#### Emergency Operations Centres - Incident Control Management Program

(d) The Incident Control Management Project will provide Emergency Operation Centres with appropriate software, and training required to provide an integrated incident management system for emergency management throughout the Northern Territory. The specific objectives of the program are to:

- Provide emergency management interoperability across Government Departments.
- Increase the emergency management capacity of the Northern Territory Government as a whole to coordinate response and recovery operations.
- Provide the means to effectively and efficiently employ scarce resources.

#### Emergency Information Call Centre Script Development

(e) This project will provide a series of call centre scripts to be used by operators when a surge capacity is required for a call centre in the event of a major disaster or emergency. The specific objective of the program are to:

- enhance the effectiveness of part-time emergency call centre operators.
- Improve the recording, communication and distribution of important information in the event of a major emergency or disaster.

#### Pre-2009 Legacy Projects

(f) Concurrently with the implementation of the NDRP, the NT Government agencies concerned will expedite the finalising of outstanding projects under the previous mitigation programs and report on progress.

#### BUDGET

Project	Commonwealth Funds (\$)	S/T Funds (\$)	Other Funding (\$)	Total (\$)
Northern Territory Natural Disaster Risk Assessment	150,000			150,000
Shires and Councils Emergency	340,000			340,000

Management Planning Workshop Program				
Indigenous Community Service and Emergency Announcements Program	20,000			20,000
Emergency Operations Centres - Incident Control Management Program	300,000			300,000
Emergency Information Call Centre Script Development	50,000			50,000
Cyclone Shelter Upgrade Program		4,000,000		4,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>860,000</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>		<b>4,860,000</b>

Notes:

- Northern Territory Government contribution to projects will be provided by the Cyclone Shelter Upgrade Program which costs \$4m per annum. All projects will incur significant in-kind costs. This project is contributing to resilience by increasing the capacity of remote communities to withstand the impact of cyclones.
- Administration of the program requires the appointment of an AO5 at a cost of \$99,000 per annum.
- Balance of Commonwealth funds will be transferred to FY10/11 for allocation. Approximately \$170,000.

\$121,000

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

11) The NTNDMP will be measured through the following key performance indicators:

(a) The performance measures for the 09/10 NDMP Program are:

- i. Relevant agencies advised, program launched.
- ii. Proportion of projects approved, commenced by agencies.
- iii. Proportion of projects that;
  1. enhance the resilience of remote communities, and
  2. improve the ability to manage emergencies.

- iv. Proportion of projects commenced within 1 month of approval.
- v. Proportion of projects completed within 4 months of commencement.
- vi. Proportion of projects that adhere to the approved budget.
- vii. Proportion of approved projects to be delivered by local government.

#### ADMINISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 12) The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Service will be responsible for the overall administration and reporting of the program to the Commonwealth.
- 13) The NT Natural Disaster Risk Assessment will be coordinated by Department of the Chief Minister reporting to the Counter Disaster Council.
- 14) A panel consisting of senior officials from the Department of the Chief Minister, Treasury and NTES has overseen the selection of projects for this financial year. The panel was informed by relevant NT Government Departments, the Local Government Association and technical experts about the suitability of projects. The counter Disaster council endorsed the selected project list.
- 15) Funding agreements will be developed based on detailed applications submitted by agencies. Progress of projects will be tracked 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. Generally payment will be made in arrears based on achieving milestones unless identified otherwise in the agreement.

#### REPORTING

- 16) The NT Government 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.
- 17) By 31st March each year, the NT Government will provide a report to the Commonwealth Attorney-General. The report will summarise achievements of the programs against the agreed performance indicators set out in this plan. A report summarising arrangements to wind up legacy NDNP projects will also be provided at this time.

## EVALUATION

- 18) 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.
- 19) 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 [S/T] Government departments, local government organisations, indigenous community councils, unincorporated remote communities and non-government volunteer based organisations delivering emergency management outputs.
- Works** Projects that aim to deliver actual risk reduction in the community and improve community resilience to natural disaster risks. 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:

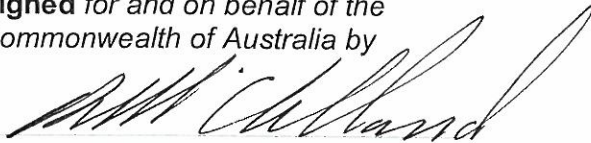
**Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by**



**Paul Henderson**  
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

29/1/2009-2010

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



**The Hon. Robert McClelland, MP**  
Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Australia

22/2/2009-2010