

Northern Territory Implementation Plan - 2010/2011

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

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.

PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is created subject to the provisions of the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Natural Disaster Resilience and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. This National Partnership recognises the collaborative agreement by both parties to focus on natural disaster mitigation activities to strengthen communities' resilience to, and minimise the impact of, a range of natural disasters in Australia.
2. The Northern Territory Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NTNDRP) will promote an evidence based approach to risk reduction and mitigation. The objective of this program is to ensure Northern Territory communities are resilient to natural disasters. Results obtained through the Northern Territory Risk Profile and Assessment will assist in guiding the NTNDRP.

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 Attorney-General, and the Northern Territory, represented by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services.
4. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth Attorney-General and the Northern Territory Minister or their authorised delegate.
5. 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 this Implementation Plan.

CONTEXT

6. This Implementation Plan will address the outcomes of the NTNDRP through Grant programs for a Disaster Resilience Emergency Volunteer Fund (DREVF) and a Disaster Resilience Fund (DRF). This plan will also support resilience projects that address Territory-wide all hazards short comings and projects identified through the formal Risk Assessment.
7. Through these grant programs and resilience projects, this Implementation Plan will address the following outcomes of the NPA:
 - a) reduced risk from the impact of disasters;
 - b) appropriate emergency management capability and capacity, consistent with the Northern Territory risk profile; and
 - c) support for volunteers.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

8. The Northern Territory will achieve the objectives of the NPA through the delivery of the three programs under this plan, being:

Disaster Resilience Emergency Volunteer Fund

- a) This program will enable volunteer organisations at the frontline of Northern Territory Emergency Management to submit applications for recruitment, retention, training,

equipment and facilities initiatives that will provide a demonstrated ability to improve their response to natural disasters.

Disaster Resilience Fund

- b) This program will enable organisations and local agencies to submit applications for natural disaster resilience works, measures and related activities that will contribute to safer, sustainable and resilient communities that will be better able to withstand the effects of natural disasters.

Territory Risk Priority Projects

- c) This program will deliver projects to address key natural disaster risk knowledge gaps, trial or enhance programs delivering natural disaster resilience or enhance emergency management capability throughout the Northern Territory.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role of the Commonwealth

- 9. The Commonwealth is responsible for:
 - a) reviewing the Northern Territory's performance against the program benchmarks specified in this Implementation Plan; and
 - b) providing a financial contribution to the Northern Territory, as indicated in Part 5 of the National Partnership Agreement.

Role of the Northern Territory

- 10. The Northern Territory is responsible for all aspects of project implementation, including:
 - a) Fully funding the project, after accounting for financial contributions from the Commonwealth and any third party,
 - b) Selection of suitable projects that meet the criteria for each program,
 - c) Ensuring to the maximum extent possible that individual projects are completed in a timely and professional manner in accordance with this Implementation Plan,
 - d) Ensuring individual projects meet all conditions including submission of progress reports in accordance with the Funding Agreement,

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGMENTS

- 11. The maximum contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for projects identified in this Implementation Plan is \$1,260,000 payable in accordance with clause 30 of the NPA.
- 12. Each individual program under this Implementation Plan will be measured separately. The following key performance indicators will be used in the annual report and during program evaluation.

Common Performance Indicators:

- 13. The DREVF and DRF will have the following common performance measures:

- a) Proportion of projects that address support in community resilience to natural disasters,
- b) Proportion of projects approved and commenced by agencies,
- c) Proportion of projects completed within nominated timeframe and by 30 June 2011,
- d) Proportion of projects with building and equipment purchases in high-risk areas, and
- e) Proportion of projects that adhere to the approved budget.

Territory Risk Priority Project Indicators

14. Performance indicators for the Territory Risk Priority Projects are:

- a) Proportion of projects that address risks identified in the Northern Territory Natural Disaster Risk Assessment.
- b) Proportion of directed projects that address specific or unscheduled mitigation/resilience measures.

BUDGET

Program	Commonwealth Funds (\$)	Territory Funds (\$)	Other Funding (\$)	Total (\$)
Disaster Resilience Emergency Volunteer Fund	250,000			250,000
Disaster Resilience Fund	400,000			400,000
Territory Risk Priority Project Administration Costs	500,000			500,000
Cyclone Shelter Upgrade Program		3,000,000		3,000,000
Total	1,260,000	3,000,000		4,260,000

- 15. Having regard to the estimated costs of projects specified in the overall project budget, the Northern Territory will not be required to pay a refund to the Commonwealth if the actual cost of the project is less than the agreed estimated cost of the project. Similarly, the Northern Territory bears all risk should the costs of a project exceed the estimated costs. The Parties acknowledge that this arrangement provides the maximum incentive for the Northern Territory to deliver projects cost-effectively and efficiently.
- 16. The Northern Territory Government contribution to projects will be off-set by the Cyclone Shelter Upgrade Program at a cost of \$3m per annum. All projects are likely to incur significant in-kind costs.

ADMINISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 17. The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services will be responsible for the overall administration and reporting of the program to the Commonwealth.
- 18. Management and administration of the program is supported by an Administrative Officer.

19. The Northern Territory Natural Disaster Risk Assessment has been coordinated by Department of the Chief Minister reporting to the Counter Disaster Council.
20. A panel consisting of senior officials from the Department of the Chief Minister, Treasury and the Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES) will have oversight for the approval of projects this financial year. The panel will be informed by relevant Northern Territory Government Departments, the Local Government Association and technical experts about the suitability of projects. The approved projects will be noted by the Northern Territory Counter Disaster Council.
21. 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.

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

22. The Northern Territory 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 NTNDRP 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; and
 - e) period of funding.
23. By 31st March each year, the Northern Territory Government will provide a report to the Commonwealth Attorney-General. The report will summarise achievements of the programs against the agreed performance benchmarks set out in this plan.

EVALUATION

24. A review will be undertaken by 31st March 2011 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 under the NTNDRP. Includes Northern Territory 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.