

Northern Territory Implementation Plan - 2011/2012

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. The Implementation Plan will cease on completion of the program(s) as specified in this Implementation Plan, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against performance benchmarks specified in this Implementation Plan
5. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth Attorney-General and the Northern Territory Minister or their authorised delegate.
6. 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.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE AND OUTPUTS

7. The objective of the Northern Territory Natural Disaster Resilience Program is to reduce the vulnerability of Northern Territory communities to natural disasters through the implementation of resilience projects that are aligned with the Northern Territory Risk Assessment.
8. The 2011 / 2012 Implementation Plan will focus on providing the following outputs:
 - a) Promote disaster resilience through a focus on building partnerships between both government and non-government sectors including volunteer agencies. Ensure that projects are undertaken that contribute to developing local volunteer capabilities, increasing community education and awareness and encourage partnership arrangements between sectors.
 - b) Improve emergency recovery capacity and capability through the development and implementation of Recovery Plans throughout the Territory and the inclusion of recovery planning in Local Counter Disaster Plans.
 - c) Enhance emergency management operational systems through further development and rollout of the Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services WebEOC.

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- d) Improve community safety and resilience during cyclone events through continued Northern Territory Government funding of the Cyclone Shelter Upgrade Program.
 - e) Ensure that all successful proposals include a local natural disaster risk assessment and that the outcomes contribute to reducing vulnerability to the risks identified. The Northern Territory Government promotes a risk management approach in the delivery of the NDRP.
 - f) Improve community resilience to natural disaster risks as identified in the Northern Territory Risk Assessment and focus on high risk remote communities, through encouraging and approving projects that address vulnerabilities in these areas.
9. The Northern Territory will achieve the outputs through the delivery of the three funds 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 Fund

- 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

10. 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 NPA.

Role of the Northern Territory

11. The Northern Territory is responsible for all aspects of project implementation, including:
- a) Fully funding the NTNDRP, after accounting for financial contributions from the Commonwealth and any third party; and
 - b) Administration of the DREVF, DRF and TRPP in the Northern Territory through:

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- i. Selection of suitable projects that meet the criteria for each program, utilising NTNDRP Selection and Steering Committees made up of senior Territory Government officials;
 - ii. Ensuring that individual projects are completed in a timely and professional manner in accordance with this Implementation Plan; and
 - iii. Ensuring that individual projects meet all conditions including submission of progress reports in accordance with the Funding Agreement.
- c) Implementing administrative arrangements to guarantee the integrity of the programs and the arrangements under the NPA.

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

12. The maximum contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for projects identified in this Implementation Plan is \$1,289,800 payable in accordance with paragraph 30 of the NPA.
13. The Northern Territory will evaluate the performance of the program in meeting the objectives and outputs of this Implementation Plan through:
 - a) The proportion of applications approved, commenced and completed;
 - b) The proportions to which funding is dispersed between;
 1. individual sectors,
 2. natural disaster risks and resilience characteristics, and
 3. geographical locations and high risk areas.
 - c) The percentage of Shire Councils that have developed Recovery Plans;
 - d) The percentage of Local Counter Disaster Plans that include Recovery Plans;
 - e) The proportion of agencies that have operational templates developed in WebEOC and the number of individual registered users;
 - f) The increase in cyclone shelter capacity.
14. Support for volunteers will be provided through the implementation of the DREVF, and the performance of this fund will be measured by:
 - a) The increase in volunteer group response capacity and capability through funding of procurement, recruitment and training projects; and
 - b) The increase in volunteer participation relative to this funding.
15. All projects will be measured individually on their ability to meet agreed outputs and outcomes within the scheduled time and budget.

BUDGET

Table 1: Overall project budget

Program	Commonwealth Funds		Northern Territory Funds	Total
	Carried over (\$)	2011/12 (\$)		
Disaster Resilience Emergency Volunteer Fund	80,200	319,800		400,000
Disaster Resilience Fund	160,000	440,000		600,000
Territory Risk Priority Projects Fund	110,800	530,000		640,800
Cyclone Shelter Upgrade Program			3,000,000	3,000,000
Total	351,000	1,289,800	3,000,000	4,640,800

16. 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.
17. The Northern Territory Governments contribution to the NTNDRP is the Cyclone Shelter Upgrade Program at a cost of \$3.0 million per annum. It will also contribute to the program through any associated in-kind contributions.
18. NTNDRP will be utilised to cover any costs associated with the program administration.

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

19. 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:
- organisation being funded;
 - location of activity, including the federal electorate, where relevant;
 - total approved funding;
 - brief description of activity; and
 - period of funding.
17. By 31st March 2012, 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

18. A review will be undertaken by 31 March 2012 examining the appropriateness of the performance measures for the 2012/2013 Implementation Plan.+

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.