

NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM: QUEENSLAND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2009-2010

Context

Queensland's natural hazard risk profile is dominated by flood, storm tide and cyclone, severe storm and bushfire. In Queensland, the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) seeks to reduce community vulnerability to these hazards through traditional and innovative disaster mitigation and community resilience building projects.

Objective

To reduce Queensland communities' vulnerability to natural hazards by supporting local governments and other stakeholders to build community resilience.

Outputs

Queensland's NDRP vision will be achieved by focussing on the following outputs:

- (1) Reduce community vulnerability to natural hazards - Reduce the individual or collective vulnerability of Queensland local governments with a recognised, significant hazard risk i.e., whose hazard risk profile is dominated by flood, storm tide, cyclone, severe storm or bushfire.
- (2) Support local governments and others to build community resilience and increase self-reliance.
- (3) Promote innovation through a focus on building partnerships between sectors, support volunteering, encourage a regional or catchment area approach to mitigation, and potential impacts due to climate change. Mandate that all submitted proposals include components on developing local volunteer capacity and community education and awareness raising, while encouraging partnership arrangements with other sectors.
- (4) Ensure that NDRP funding is utilised in an efficient way – Through new governance arrangements, application tools, and a strategic approach to leveraging opportunities, ensure funding targets, and successfully tracks, Queensland's natural hazard risk profile.
- (5) A risk management focus - Queensland mandates a risk management approach, including requiring that applicants undertake a local natural hazard risk assessment, tie their proposals to reducing vulnerability to the hazard risks identified, and include climate change impacts
- (6) A focus on achieving success - Queensland applicants submitting proposals for multi-year projects are assessed on past performance in meeting agreed-to project milestones under previous mitigation programs.

The Queensland Department of Community Safety will undertake an annual performance evaluation of the NDRP, utilising an evaluation tool specifically developed for this purpose.

Governance and Administration

In Queensland, the NDRP will be administered under new governance arrangements, which include the following elements and functions:

- High Level Group (HLG): sets directions; establishes the Application Assessment Group as required; and seeks Ministerial approval for recommended projects.
- HLG Secretariat: research and evaluation of the NDRP; manages stakeholder engagement and Ministerial correspondence; and prepares assessment criteria.
- Application Assessment Group (AAG): application assessment.
- Program Administration Unit: distribution of allocated funding; correspondence and database management.

Reporting and Evaluation

Subsequent to Ministerial approval, Queensland will provide to the Australian Government, through the Attorney-General's Department, a list of approved projects to be funded under the NDRP which includes the following information:

- (a) organisation being funded;
- (b) location of activity;
- (c) total approved funding;
- (d) brief description of activity; and
- (e) period of funding.

The HLG Secretariat will conduct an annual program evaluation of the NDRP. The evaluation will focus on assessing the extent to which funding tracks Queensland's natural hazard risk profile.

Pre-2009 Legacy Projects

Concurrently with implementing the NDRP, the Department of Community Safety will expedite the finalising of outstanding projects under previous mitigation programs.