

NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM

QUEENSLAND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2010-2011

Objective

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

Directions

Natural Hazard Risk Reduction

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. At time of writing, Queensland is undertaking a state-wide prioritised natural hazard risk assessment, funded by the Commonwealth Government as per the *National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Resilience*. Climate change will form part of this assessment.

Partnerships

The NDRP is a partnership between the Australian and Queensland Governments. To effectively implement the NDRP and to ensure communication of its central objective and priorities, the Queensland Department of Community Safety (DCS) will partner with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), who will manage engagement with local governments, and Volunteering Queensland, who will manage engagement with all non-emergency services volunteer organisations and groups interested in applying for an NDRP grant.

Organisations eligible for NDRP funding are state and local government agencies and relevant statutory authorities, government owned corporations and non-government organisations (NGOs).

Queensland seeks to promote the involvement of the private sector, NGOs, and universities through partnerships under the NDRP. To this end, special effort will be placed on encouraging eligible organisations to enter into partnerships with such agencies in applying for a grant under NDRP 2010-11.

Resilience

Consistent with developments in national policy, Queensland seeks to promote community resilience and, in particular, the resilience and enhanced self-reliance of individuals, families, and communities. Also, Queensland continues to examine resilience-building opportunities suggested through the nexus between mitigation and recovery.

Volunteering

New for Queensland in 2010-11, NGOs are eligible to apply under NDRP. This formally recognises that the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund (NEVSF) now forms part of the NDRP. In launching NDRP 2010-11, the Hon. Neil Roberts MP, Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services stated: "Given the importance of volunteers in disaster and emergency preparedness, response and recovery, I particularly want to encourage the application of volunteer capacity building initiatives."

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 and 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, supporting volunteering, encouraging a regional or catchment area approach to mitigation, and responding to potential impacts of climate change.
- (4) Ensure that NDRP funding is utilised in an efficient way – Through new governance arrangements, application tools, and a strategic approach to partnering opportunities, ensure funding is targeted to, and successfully tracks, Queensland's natural hazard risk profile.
- (5) A risk management focus - Queensland promotes a risk management approach, including requiring most applicants to 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 will be assessed on past performance in meeting agreed-to project milestones under NDMP, BMP and other programs.

Performance indicators

The HLG Secretariat conducts 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. A simple method has been developed for this purpose.

Consistent with the National Partnership requirement, Queensland will provide a performance report to the Australian Government in March of each year. The performance of Queensland's NDRP's objectives will be measured by a number of indicators (see attachment).

Governance and Administration

In Queensland, the NDRP will be administered under governance arrangements established for this purpose, which include the following elements and functions:

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

Reporting

Consistent with the *National Partnership Agreement*, Queensland will contribute to annual reporting on the NDRP. 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) funded organisations;
- (b) location of activity;
- (c) total approved funding;
- (d) brief description of activity; and
- (e) period of funding.

Pre-2009 Legacy Projects

Concurrently with implementing the NDRP, the Department of Community Safety will continue to expedite the finalising of outstanding projects under previous mitigation programs in partnership with the LGAQ. A report can be made available to the Australian Government on request.

ATTACHMENT - Performance Measures

Target	Measure
<p><i>Reduce the individual or collective vulnerability of regional councils with a recognised, significant hazard risk i.e., whose hazard risk profile is dominated by flood, storm tide, severe storm, cyclone or bushfire but possess minimal resilience.</i></p>	<p>1.1. Number of unsuccessful and successful applications from vulnerable regional councils.</p>
	<p>1.2. Level of funding obtained by regional councils with a significant hazard risk profile with minimal resilience.</p>
	<p>1.3. Number of multi-council applications and/or applications with regional or catchment area objectives and outcomes.</p>
	<p>1.4. Reduction in NDRRA claim size across relevant categories compared to average historical claim level for the given regional council.</p>

Target 2	Measure
<p><i>Support regional councils and other stakeholders to build community resilience and self-reliance.</i></p>	<p>2.1. Number of unsuccessful and successful funding applications that address one or more elements of resilience building: partnering; volunteering; regional approach to mitigation; and climate change impacts.</p>
	<p>2.2. Number of consultations with regional councils.</p>

Target 3	Measure
<p><i>Encourage applicants to undertake projects that focus on building partnerships between sectors, support volunteer capacity building, encourage a regional or catchment area approach to mitigation, and potential impacts of climate change.</i></p>	<p>3.1. Number of unsuccessful and successful applications received that address one or more elements of resilience building: partnering; volunteering; regional approach to mitigation; and climate change impacts.</p>
	<p>3.2. Number of applications that include hard and soft mitigation works.¹</p>
	<p>3.3. Number of applications that include soft mitigation objectives.</p>
	<p>3.4. Number of applications that focus purely on hard mitigation.</p>

¹ "Hard" mitigation includes engineering and other structural / infrastructure works. Soft mitigation includes community education programs and social capital projects and studies.

Target 4

Measure

Ensure that NDRP funding is utilised in an efficient way.

4.1. Funding is reaching vulnerable regional councils i.e., NDRP tracks QLD's natural hazard risk profile.

4.2. Low deferral rate.

4.3. Fast take-up rate by regional councils.

4.4. Annual performance review and implementation of required modifications.

