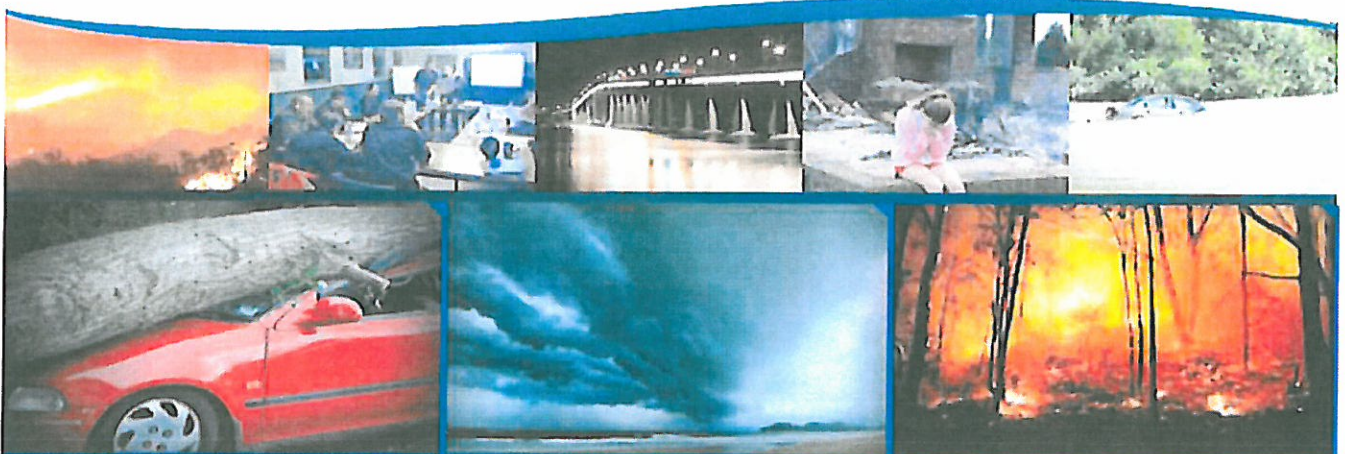


NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2009/2010

TASMANIA



Context

Tasmania has a long history of high consequence emergencies impacting on its communities. A range of recent events has heightened the focus on emergency risk management, emergency management capabilities and capacity. Coupled with emerging issues, this has led to a renewed comprehensive, all-hazards approach within the State emergency management arrangements. Tasmania has established a framework to ensure adequate arrangements for prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for all significant hazards and this is seen as critical for reducing the incidence and adverse impacts of emergencies on the Tasmanian community. Government, communities, families and individuals all have a part to play in reducing vulnerability and building community resilience to emergencies from bushfires, storms and floods, landslides, tsunamis, coastal erosion, pandemics as well as security threats and evolving natural hazard risk profiles associated with climate change.

Conceptually, disaster resilience is developed and enhanced through prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities and has its effect on outcomes during and after response and recovery operations. In this sense, resilient individuals, households, businesses, governments and communities will recognise and understand current and potential future risk, take action to reduce exposure and vulnerability, and be better able to respond, recover from and adapt to change from emergencies and disasters of all types. This approach recognises that emergency service organisations cannot reduce impact of disasters on their own – resilient communities contribute and take responsibility for their own safety and sustainability outcomes.

Tasmania's approach to building disaster resilience under the National Partnership Agreement is to fund activities, projects and programs that reduce risk from the impact of disasters; build appropriate emergency management capabilities and capacity; and support a strong emergency volunteer sector. Implicit in this approach will be consideration of the unavoidable impacts of climate change on disaster risk profiles. Mitigation, while still critical is not enough and an emerging priority is to reduce vulnerability, build community resilience and its ability to adapt to change.

Funding will be directed at activities that prevent and mitigate the impact of disasters; further community understanding of disaster risk, facilitate related emergency management planning, build capabilities and community capacity and/or strengthen Tasmania's emergency volunteer sector.

Outcome / Objectives

The long term objective of the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Resilience is to have Australian communities that are resilient to natural disasters. In achieving this objective the implementation plan will deliver three outcomes:

- reduced risk from the impact of disasters
- appropriate emergency management capability and capacity, consistent with State and Territory risk profiles
- support for volunteers.

Outputs

In 2009/10, progress towards the objective and outcomes of the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Resilience will be effected through implementation of four sub-programmes which includes:

- The Natural Disaster Resilience Program (which will operate as a competitive grants program)
- The Emergency Management Framework Support Program (which will provide directed funding to the State Emergency Service to support and augment the emergency management framework within Tasmania)
- A State natural disaster risk assessment (in line with clauses 13(a) and 28 of the National Partnership Agreement)
- Legacy disaster mitigation program management (additional funding in accordance with clause 27 of the National Partnership Agreement that will finalise outstanding Australian

Government contributions towards ongoing projects previously committed under discontinued funding programs).

Administration Arrangements

In 2009/10 the budget for the Commonwealth Government's contributions towards the State's subprograms are detailed in table 1 below.

Subprogram	Commonwealth Funds
Natural Disaster Resilience Program	800,000
Emergency Management Framework Support Program	130,000
State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment	150,000
Legacy projects under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program	507,581

Table 1. Budget allocation of Commonwealth funds to subprograms.

The budget breakdown provides an indicative distribution of funds but may be subject to change pending actual submissions and activity requirements under each subprogram.

The State Emergency Service will administer the Natural Disaster Resilience Program and the funding guidelines are provided in attachment A. These detail the governance and administrative arrangements under which the program will operate.

The Emergency Management Framework Support Program will augment the efforts of the State in public safety and emergency management awareness activities and the delivery of emergency management planning and risk management services. Governance and program oversight will be provided by the State Emergency Service.

The natural disaster risk assessment study will be conducted utilising the newly developed National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines. Governance and program oversight will be provided by the State Emergency Management Committee.

Governance of legacy funding from continuing Natural Disaster Mitigation Program projects will be in accordance with the former Natural Disaster Mitigation Program Funding Guidelines, Bushfire Mitigation Programme Funding Guidelines and Regional Flood Mitigation Programme Funding Guidelines as appropriate. The State Emergency Service is responsible for administration of the legacy programs.

Reporting and Evaluation

Tasmania will provide the Commonwealth with a list of approved projects to be funded under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program prior to the end of the third quarter of 2009/10. The report will include the following information:

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

An annual report will provide information on whether the activities funded are:

- (a) Effective in contributing to the outcomes
- (b) Being implemented efficiently
- (c) Reaching those people for whom they are intended.

The report will include data for the following performance indicators:

- (a) Number of applications received for mitigation activities under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program
- (b) Number of emergency management plans reviewed
- (c) Number of emergency management validation exercises conducted
- (d) Number of training hours delivered/facilitated for emergency management education
- (e) Number of risk assessments completed.