

## VICTORIA: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2010-2011

### Context

*Victoria experiences a wide range of types of emergencies including natural disasters, a most significant example being the extremely damaging bushfires of February 2009, the recovery from which continues.*

*In 2008, the State Emergency Mitigation Committee undertook a state-level assessment of 18 emergency risks, the report of which has been provided to the Attorney-General's Department. The Assessment concluded that the most important natural disaster risk priorities in Victoria (in no particular order) are: severe storm, flood (riverine, coastal, overland, stormwater) hail, wind, earthquake and bushfire.*

*For 2010-2011, Victoria proposes to utilise all funds provided under the National Partnership Agreement to fund a grants program entitled the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme – Victoria (NDRGS). There are also some surplus funds available from legacy programs; these will be applied predominantly to the NDRGS (as per below) but may also be applied to State-sponsored projects outside the NDRGS.*

### Outcome / Objectives

*The objective of the NDRGS is Victorian communities that are more resilient in relation to emergencies, both natural and non-natural.*

*The intended outcomes of the NDRGS in 2010-11 are:*

- *Reduced disaster risk*
- *Appropriate emergency management capability and capacity consistent with the State's risk profile and the need for adequate resources for emergency agencies*
- *Support for volunteers*

### Outputs

*The outputs will be delivered through a range of funded projects under a competitive grants program, the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme (NDRGS). More than sixty applications have been received, and assessment and determination of grants is expected to take place during July and August 2010.*

*The key aspects of the NDRGS are set out in the Application Form and Program Guidelines attached. The selection of projects will utilise the program outcomes as prioritising criteria, ie*

1. *risk reduction*
2. *emergency management capability*
3. *support for volunteers*
4. *other benefits*

*Projects will, as relevant to their individual objectives and type:*

- (a) *contribute to the objective and achieve one or more of the outcomes;*
- (a) *be supported by evidence (including historical data);*
- (b) *consider possible climate change impacts;*
- (c) *engage local government, non-government organisations, the private sector and communities in general;*
- (d) *support the capability or training of volunteers or increase the recruitment, retention or recognition of volunteers;*
- (e) *seek co-contributions from other partners.*

## Budget

Element	Commonwealth Funds
Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme – under NPA	\$4,040,960
Residual funding available from cancelled projects under previous grants programs: for NDRGS and other State-sponsored projects	\$535,672
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,576,632</b>

*In addition to the above figures, contributions from project proponents the State Government of Victoria and other project partners will lead to a total expenditure for the NDRGS in excess of \$9 million.*

## Administration Arrangements

*The Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner within the Department of Justice is responsible in Victoria for the administration of the NDRP.*

*The assessment of projects under the NDRGS will involve a wide range of organisations, including:*

- *Country Fire Authority*
- *Department of Sustainability and Environment (both bushfire and flood plain management)*
- *Floodplain Management Forum*
- *Life Saving Victoria*
- *Metropolitan Fire Brigade*
- *Municipal Association of Victoria*
- *Red Cross*
- *Victoria Police*
- *Victoria State Emergency Service*

*The assessment panels will be used to determine the priority of the various projects; the compilation of the program will be a matter for OESC, applying the various funding formulas. Refer to the Procedures for Assessment of Applications (attached) for a description.*

*Successful applicants will be required to enter into a formal agreement that will include reporting and financial requirements.*

*Funding to different types of projects will vary, ensuring that the Commonwealth funds make up no more than 50% of the total cost of the program. There are some continuing expectations relating to funding ratios derived from previous Commonwealth funding programs. Specific variations will be for flood projects and projects that emulate the former Bushfire Mitigation Program. The NDRP funds 'released' through these means may be made available to project applications from volunteer emergency service units, so that as many priority projects as possible will receive 100% funding.*

## Reporting and Evaluation

*Victoria will provide to the Australian Government, through the Attorney-General's Department, a list of approved projects to be funded under the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme including the following information:*

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

*This information will be provided prior to 30 September 2010.*

*Victoria will report on the progress of the activities under the IP by 31 March 2011, in order to claim the balance of funds available under the NPA.*

*All projects are required in the Application Form to describe the evaluation process to be used in determining whether the outcomes and benefits of the project have been achieved. (Question 21)*

*Evaluation of the overall Implementation Plan will include responses to the following questions:*

- *Has there been adequate interest and take-up of the offer of grant funding?*
- *Are the grants broadly reflective of program outcomes sought?*
- *Is there a spread of funding across the high-profile risks?*
- *Is there a spread of funding across types of organisations?*
- *Overall, have projects fulfilled their objectives (outcomes and benefits)?*
- *Are there changes to any aspect of the NDRGS that would improve its ability to achieve the objectives, outcomes and outputs?*

*Given that most projects may not reach a conclusion and provide final reports and evaluations within twelve months, any changes to the program arising from the evaluation of the IP may not be able to be implemented in time for the 2011-2012 round, for which applications should be sought within the next ten months.*

