

# Implementation Plan for Victoria 2011-12

## NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

### PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is created subject to the provisions of the *National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience* and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective of the National Partnership Agreement is that Australian communities are resilient in relation to emergencies, both natural and non-natural.
2. This Plan contributes towards the attainment of that objective in relation to Victoria for 2011-12.
3. For 2011-2012, 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 may also be some surplus funds available from cancelled projects of legacy programs and earlier rounds of the NDRGS, which will be applied to the NDRGS for 2011-12.

### TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

4. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Attorney-General or the position of the Attorney's authorised delegate, and the State of Victoria, represented by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services or the position of the Minister's authorised delegate.
5. This Implementation Plan will cease on completion of the 2011-12 round of the NDRGS as specified in this Implementation Plan, including the acceptance of performance reporting and processing of payments against performance benchmarks specified in this Implementation Plan.
6. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Ministers.
7. 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.

### OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES

8. The objective in this Implementation Plan is Victorian communities that are more resilient in relation to emergencies, both natural and non-natural.

9. The intended outcomes of the NDRGS in 2011-12 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.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Role of the Commonwealth

10. The Commonwealth is responsible for reviewing the State's performance against the project benchmarks specified in this Implementation Plan and providing the consequential financial contribution to the State for that performance.

### Role of the State

11. The State is responsible for all aspects of project implementation, including:
- (a) Administering and funding the NDRGS, after accounting for financial contributions from the Commonwealth and other bodies;
  - (b) Monitoring the progress and completion of projects under the NDRGS in a timely and professional manner in accordance with this Implementation Plan;
  - (c) meeting all conditions including providing reports in accordance with this Implementation Plan.
12. The Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner within the Department of Justice is responsible in Victoria for the administration of the NDRP.
13. Assessment panels will be used to determine the priority of the various project applications; the compilation of the program will be a matter for OESC. The prioritising of projects by assessment panels will utilise the following criteria:
- Quality of Proposal
  - Risk Priority (except for volunteer projects)
  - Value of Outcomes
  - Other relevant criteria
14. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a formal agreement that will include project and financial reporting requirements and time frames.
15. Projected time frames for the 2011-12 NDRGS funding round are:

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
Applications invited	15 March 2011
Applications close	13 May 2011
Assessment panel(s) conclude	10 June 2011
Approval of projects by Victorian Minister	15 July 2011
Advice to applicants issued	22 July 2011
Project agreements signed and projects commence	August 2011

## PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

16. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the program is \$4,128,000 payable in accordance with performance benchmarks set out in Table 1.

**Table 1: Performance benchmarks and associated payments**

Performance benchmark	Due date	Amount
(i) Implementation Plan signed by both parties	July 2011	\$2,064,000
(ii) Submission of a list of approved projects to be funded under the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme	30 September 2011	N/A
(iii) Submission of the progress report to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth	31 March 2012	\$2,064,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,128,000</b>

17. The Commonwealth financial contribution payable will be processed by the Commonwealth Treasury and paid to the State Treasury in accordance with the payment arrangements set out in Schedule D of the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations*.
18. Having regard to the estimated Commonwealth contribution to the costs of the program as per Table 1, the State will not be required to pay a refund to the Commonwealth if the actual cost of the Scheme is less than the agreed estimated cost. Similarly, the State bears all risk should the costs of the Scheme exceed the estimated costs. The Parties acknowledge that this arrangement provides the maximum incentive for the State to deliver projects cost-effectively and efficiently.

## REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

19. Prior to 30 September 2011, 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 2011-12, including the following information:
- (a) organisation being funded
  - (b) name of project and summary description
  - (c) primary location of activity
  - (d) total cost and approved Commonwealth funding
  - (e) period of funding.
20. The 31 March 2012 progress report will contain the following information:
- a) a description of actual performance of the State in the period to 31 March 2012 against the performance benchmarks and budget;
  - b) information about the performance of the NDRGS in relation to its objectives, including:
    - Assessment of the level of interest and take-up of the offer of grant funding
    - Whether the grants are broadly reflective of program outcomes sought
    - The spread of funding across the high-profile risks
    - The spread of funding across types of organisations.