

Victoria Implementation Plan 2012-13

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

Part 1: Preliminaries

1. This Implementation Plan is a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective of the National Partnership is Australian communities that are resilient to natural disasters.
2. This Plan contributes to the attainment of that objective. The specific objective in this Implementation Plan is that Victorian communities are more resilient in relation to emergencies, both natural and non-natural. This objective is consistent with and also implements the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

Part 2: Terms of this Implementation Plan

3. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Attorney-General, and the State of Victoria, represented by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.
4. As a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience, the purpose of this Implementation Plan is to indicate how the program is intended to be delivered and to demonstrate Victoria's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the National Partnership.
5. This Implementation Plan will cease on completion or termination of the National Partnership, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against milestones.
6. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth and State Ministers responsible for it under the overarching National Partnership.
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 the plan and its full implementation.

Part 3: Strategy for Victoria's implementation

Project information

8. For 2012-13, Victoria again 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). Funded projects will individually and collectively contribute to the achievement of the outcomes specified in the NPA.
9. The NDRGS is utilised as the mechanism to allocate funds provided, in order to spread the funds across a wide range of projects and organisations, most of whom are required to make a financial contribution. The contested grants scheme approach allows both the tailoring of projects to meet locally-identified needs and the opportunity for innovation in emergency management practice.
10. Assessment panels comprised of subject-matter and emergency management experts will be used to determine the priority of the various project applications. Prioritising of projects by assessment panels will utilise the following criteria and scoring which fulfil the outputs and outcomes of the National Partnership:
 - quality of proposal (score 0-6);
 - risk priority and value of outcomes, for risk-based projects (score 0-20);
 - need priority and value of outcomes for capability/capacity projects, including volunteer support (score 0-20);
 - benefits due to collaboration (score 0-5);
 - contribution to Koori inclusion (score 0-4).

The selection process is conducted in accordance with the probity and other requirements of Victoria's department of Justice and ensures that the projects that best meet the criteria are awarded grants. The apportionment of grant funds between risks is a function of the number and quality of applications received per risk. Koori inclusion is required under Victorian Government policy.

11. While most projects address either risk reduction or EM capability and capacity some address both. In that situation, the score for the secondary objective is deflated by 50%.
12. The 2012-13 round includes the introduction of a slightly varied approach – the targeting of projects that address the State's specific objectives. In 2012-13, the specific objective is collaboration between organisations to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness. As shown in the scoring criteria above, identified collaboration benefits will earn a higher score.
13. Victoria will continue to commit future funding for a few multi-year projects in 2012-13, noting that there already is a substantial pre-commitment against the 2012-13 allocation. The multi-year projects selected for multi-year funding approval will be those that achieve the highest scores through the panel assessment process. Most multi-year projects are funded on a single-year basis, with an invitation to re-apply.

Estimated costs

14. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth to Victoria is \$4,176,000 payable in accordance with the payment schedule set out in Part 5 of the National Partnership. All payments are exclusive of GST.

15. Additional funding from legacy programs and earlier rounds, made available through the NDRGS, will contribute to achieving the objective of the National Partnership Agreement.
16. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Estimated financial contributions

	(\$ million)
Total estimated budget: projects funded under the NDRGS	10.5
less Commonwealth contribution	4.2
equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	6.3

Risk management

17. A risk management plan for the program is in place. Risks have been actively identified, entered into a risk log and assessed in terms of impact and likelihood.
18. Having regard to the estimated costs of project elements specified in the overall project budget, Victoria will not be required to pay a refund to the Commonwealth if the actual cost of the NDRGS is less than the agreed estimated cost. Similarly, Victoria bears all risk should the costs of the NDRGS exceed the estimated costs. The Parties acknowledge that this arrangement provides the maximum incentive for Victoria to deliver and oversee projects cost-effectively and efficiently.

Relevant State Context

19. In developing this Implementation Plan, consideration has been given to Victoria's emergency management context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction are listed below.
 - a. The major natural disaster risks are (in no particular order) severe storm, flood of all types, hail, wind, earthquake and bushfire. The two most significant are flood and bushfire.
 - b. The Victorian Government has, in the past few years allocated very major funding to addressing bushfire risk, so the call upon this program for bushfire-specific projects is low.
 - c. This program is the primary funding source for flood-related risk reduction projects, hence a bias toward flood projects is typical. The Victorian Government also channels a contribution towards flood projects through this program.
 - d. The Victorian Government is providing about \$12 million of grant funds to local emergency services volunteer groups in 2012-13 through the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program. As a result, this program will only consider applications for equipment etc from volunteer groups that are outside the scope of that program.

Part 4: Performance and reporting arrangements

Reporting

20. Prior to 30 September 2012, Victoria will provide the Commonwealth with a list of approved projects to be funded under the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme in 2012-13, showing the following information:
 - (a) organisation being funded;
 - (b) name of project and summary description;
 - (c) primary location of activity;
 - (d) hazard and National Partnership Agreement outcome per project; and
 - (d) total cost and approved Commonwealth funding for 2012-13.
21. The 31 March 2013 progress report will contain the following information:
 - a) a description of actual performance of Victoria in the period to 31 March 2013 against the estimated budget, milestones and reporting requirements;
 - b) information about the NDRGS 2012-13 round in relation to its objectives, including:
 - Assessment of the level of interest in the offer of grant funding.
 - How the grants are reflective of outcomes sought in the National Partnership Agreement and the actions embodied in the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.
 - The spread of funding across risks and in relation to Victoria's risk profile as per the state-level risk assessment.
 - The spread of funding across types of organisations; and
 - c) progress in completing legacy programs and/or activities.

Sign off

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signature

Date

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Signature

Date

**Attorney-General
Minister for Emergency Management**