

WESTERN AUSTRALIA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2009/2010



An agreement between

- the **Commonwealth of Australia** and
- the **State of Western Australia**

This Implementation Plan forms a schedule to National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience.

CONTEXT

1. Western Australia (WA) with an area of more than 2 500 000 sq km, a 12 500 km coastline and spanning 2 400km from north to south is the largest Australian State. It occupies a third of the continent and is consequently faced with a broad range of natural disasters ranging from tropical cyclones, storms, bushfires, floods, earthquake and tsunami.
2. The majority of WA's population lives along its vulnerable coastal zone and its valuable agricultural industries are largely climate dependent. Approximately 93% of WA 2 059 045¹ population live in and around the major cities/townships with 75 per cent of the population living in its capital city, Perth. The greater parts of WA's indigenous communities are located in the Pilbara, Kimberley, Midwest and Goldfields regions of the State.
3. The northwest Australian coastline between Broome and Exmouth is the most cyclone-prone² region of the entire Australian coastline, having the highest frequency of coastal crossings. WA's economically significant and growth industries of mining, exploration, oil and gas and agricultural are located within cyclone prone areas of the state. The growing, mobile population throughout WA and the continued industrial developments in remote areas is generating new problems for Emergency Managers by increasing the exposure to and consequences of natural disaster.
4. Climate change modelling predicts the South-western Australia's drying trend to worsen and possibly 80 per cent more droughts in south-western Australia by 2070. It is plausible that uncontrolled climate change could see global sea level rise of 1 metre or more by 2100³ and more intense storms threatening coastal housing and infrastructure.
5. The WA Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) will promote evidence based risk management approaches that engage businesses, individuals and the community towards a paradigm of collective responsibility. The Program also recognises that the non-government and voluntary sectors are at the forefront of strengthening disaster resilience in WA. The commencement of a state risk assessment framework that can be applied at state, regional and local level will further inform the state emergency risk profile.
6. This Implementation Plan will address the above risk priorities by building on existing knowledge and increase understanding of the natural disaster risk profile in WA. Specific emphasis will be placed on the utilisation of risk management processes to increase the effectiveness of these programs.
7. Support for volunteers in 2009/2010 has been delivered through the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund (NEVSF) with funding of \$425,611, which is being administered by the Commonwealth. The NEVSF will be incorporated into WA Implementation Plans from 2010/2011.

¹ Source Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006

² Source Bureau of Meteorology <http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/wa/cyclone/about/climatology.shtml>

³ Information from the Australian Govt Department of Climate Change <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/climate-change/impacts/national-impacts/wa-impacts.aspx>

OUTCOMES

8. The outcomes of this plan will be:
 - (a) reduced risk from the impact of disasters; and
 - (b) appropriate emergency management capability and capacity, consistent with the WA risk profile.

OUTPUTS

9. Western Australia will deliver three programs under this Plan, being:

The WA Natural Disaster Risk Assessment

10. A State-wide prioritised natural disaster risk assessment developed in accordance with relevant Australian Standards. This will be coordinated by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) – the State's primary Emergency Management planning body, established under Section 13 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, consulting with a wide variety of stakeholders. The Natural Disaster Risk Assessment will be completed by 31/12/11, as per the National Partnership Agreement.

The Natural Disaster Resilience Program

11. The Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) will deliver funding for natural disaster risk reduction works that contribute to safer, sustainable communities more resilient to the effects of natural disasters. Funding in the ratio of 1:1:1 (NDRP: WA State department/agency: Local Government/agency). All parties will be encouraged to seek further co-contributions, whether financial or in-kind, on approved projects.
12. The 2009/10 NDRP is aimed at identifying and addressing disaster risk priorities through:
 - disaster mitigation works, measures and related activities that contribute to safer, sustainable communities better able to withstand the effects of disasters and emergencies, particularly those arising from the impact of climate change;
 - support for local government, to assist them to effectively discharge their emergency management responsibilities; and
 - encouraging partnerships with business and community groups to improve their ability to assist communities and be integrated in response and recovery activities and arrangements. The private sector owns many of the critical services that underpin communities, and have capacity to help communities prepare for, and recover from, emergencies and disasters.
13. NDRP Administration Costs - The Attorney-General's Department have acknowledged the additional administration burden on the States and have advised the total administration costs of the NDRP may be claimed against the NDRP implementation plan. This includes the additional costs that will be incurred in advertising the NDRP, and in meeting the increased reporting requirements.

Pre-2009/10 'legacy' projects

14. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA (FESA) will facilitate the finalisation of outstanding Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and Natural Disaster Risk Management Studies Program (NDRMSP) projects under the terms of existing funding agreements as soon as possible.

National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience – Implementation Plan 2009/10 – Western Australia
BUDGET

15. In the 2009 Budget the Australian Government announced funding of \$79.3 million over four years for a new Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP). WA’s proposed NDRP funding allocation for the 2009/10 period is \$2,592,000 (12% of the Australia-wide funding of \$21 million).

Program	Commonwealth Funds (\$)	S/T Funds (\$)	Other Funding (\$)	Total (\$)
WA Natural Disaster Risk Assessment	150,000	TBA		
NDRP	2,313,000	TBA		
Administration costs–	129,000	TBA		
Total	2,592,000	2,592,000		

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

16. Each individual program under this Implementation Plan will be measured separately. The following key performance indicators will be used in the 31 March Annual Report and during program evaluation:

WA Natural Disaster Risk Assessment

17. The performance measures for the WA Natural Disaster Risk Assessment are:

- (a) Compliance with relevant standards including AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 – Risk Management and the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG).
- (b) Number of key stakeholders consulted with including but not limited members of SEMC.
- (c) Completion by 31 December 2011, and provision of the relevant documentation to the Attorney-General’s Department within two weeks of its endorsement by the State Emergency Management Committee..

The Natural Disaster Resilience Program

18. The performance measures for the Natural Disaster Resilience Program:
- (a) Proportion of projects approved, supported by risk management plans.
 - (b) Proportion of projects nominated to be completed in;
 - i. less than 12 months, or
 - ii. More than 12 months
 - (c) Proportion of projects approved, commenced by agencies.
 - (d) Proportion of projects commenced within 3 months of approval.
 - (e) Proportion of projects completed within nominated timeline.
 - (f) Proportion of approved projects to be delivered by local government.
 - (g) Proportion of projects that consider climate change.
 - (h) Proportion of projects that incorporate community engagement strategies.

The NDMP 'legacy' projects

19. The performance measure for the NDMP 'legacy' projects is:
- (a) Proportion of projects completed.

ADMINISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS

20. In accordance with the Attorney General (AG) single program approach the administration of the NDRP will be managed by FESA Emergency Management WA which will provide a coordinated point of administration, reporting and project monitoring.
21. The WA Natural Disaster Risk Assessment will be coordinated by FESA Emergency Management WA in consultation with all emergency management agencies and other relevant stakeholders in accordance with relevant standards and reporting to the SEMC.
22. The WA NDRP State Selection Committee (comprising of representation endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee will be responsible for preliminary endorsement of the Implementation Plan, application assessment and project selection and will determine priority projects to be recommended to the State Emergency Management Committee for endorsement, and the Minister for Police; Emergency Services; Road Safety for approval.
23. Funding agreements will be developed based on detailed applications submitted by agencies. Progress of projects will be tracked and detailed evidence of completion required before final payments are made. Depending on the size of the project and the funding capacity of the agency, various payment schemes will be implemented. Generally payment will be made in arrears based on achieving milestones unless identified otherwise in the agreement.

REPORTING

24. WA will, no later than 30 days after approval of individual projects under the programs, provide a list of approved projects to be funded under the NDRP to the Commonwealth, through the Attorney General's Department, which includes the following information:
- (a) organisation being funded;
 - (b) location of activity, including the federal electorate, where relevant;
 - (c) total approved funding;
 - (d) brief description of activity;
 - (e) period of funding.
25. By 31 March each year, WA will provide a report to the Commonwealth Attorney-General, for approval. The report will summarise achievements of the programs against the agreed performance indicators set out in this plan.
26. FESA will meet Commonwealth reporting requirements in respect of the expenditure of NDRP funds, including those provided by the State or by local or other agencies.

EVALUATION

27. A limited review will be undertaken by 31 March 2011 examining the appropriateness of the performance measures for each program. This will inform the development of the Implementation Plan for the 2011/2012 program.
28. Full evaluation of this Implementation Plan to determine how the objectives are being met by the performance measures will take place during 2010/2011 FY, involving stakeholder consultation.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Implementation Plan the following definitions apply:

- Agency** Organisation receiving a grant under the NDRP. Includes [S/T] Government departments, local government organisations, indigenous community councils, unincorporated remote communities and non-government volunteer based organisations delivering emergency management outputs.
- Works** Projects that aim to deliver actual risk reduction in the community and improve community resilience to natural disaster risks. These include all structural mitigation projects, community education development programs, warning systems, emergency management capability and capacity development and land and building purchase schemes.

National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience – Implementation Plan 2009/10 – Western
Australia
AGREEMENT

The parties have confirmed their commitment to this plan as follows:

**Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Western Australia by**



The Hon. Rob Johnson, MLA
Minister for Police; Emergency Services;
Road Services

4.5.2010

**Signed for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by**



The Hon. Robert McClelland, MP
Attorney General of the Commonwealth of
Australia

27/5/2010