

# New South Wales Implementation Plan 2015-17

## 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 in the National Partnership is that Parties aspire to enhance Australian communities' resilience to natural disasters.
2. This Implementation Plan will address New South Wales' risk priorities by building on existing knowledge and programs. Dedicated flood and bush fire programs will support the management of the significant risks from these hazards. Funding will also be allocated for significant state level natural disaster resilience projects and to support recruitment, retention and training of emergency management volunteers. A new program, the Community Resilience Innovation Program, will be implemented to build disaster resilience within communities through activities that identify community needs, mobilise partners and create innovative solutions that can be grown, sustained and replicated through New South Wales.

### 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 Minister for Justice, and New South Wales, represented by the Minister for Justice and Police.
4. As a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience, the purpose of this Implementation Plan is to provide the public with an indication of how the program is intended to be delivered and demonstrate New South Wales' capacity to achieve the outcomes of the National Partnership.
5. This Implementation Plan will cease on 30 June 2017 or on completion or termination of the National Partnership, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against performance benchmarks or 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 NEW SOUTH WALES IMPLEMENTATION

### Project information

8. The project elements planned, as set out in table 1, are:

(a) Community Resilience Innovation Program (CRIP)

The CRIP is designed to build disaster resilience within communities through projects that identify community needs, mobilise partners, and create innovative and effective solutions that can be grown, sustained and replicated. The CRIP supports grass roots initiatives designed to encourage community sector cooperation, collaboration and education by bringing together local community organisations with agencies that have emergency services responsibilities to enhance local community capacity and resilience.

(b) Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme (EVSS)

The EVSS provides grants to volunteer units and agencies to support the recruitment, retention and training of emergency management volunteers.

(c) State Emergency Management Projects (SEMP)

The SEMP program funds emergency management projects of state significance that support measures to address key natural disaster risk knowledge gaps and enhance emergency management capability on a state-wide basis.

(d) Bush Fire Grants Scheme

Funds are made available to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) for identified bush fire mitigation and resilience determined by RFS and the State Emergency Management Committee. Funds will be administered through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of Emergency Management and the NSW Rural Fire Service.

(e) Floodplain Grants Scheme

Funds are made available to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to support councils and eligible public land managers to make informed decisions on managing flood risk and reducing loss by preparing floodplain studies, risk management plans and associated works. Funds will also be used for other flood priority projects determined by OEH and the State Emergency Management Committee including a rolling program of visual audits for NSW levees. The FRMGS is administered through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of Emergency Management and the Office of Environment and Heritage.

(f) Emergency Risk Management

Funds are made available to the Office of Emergency Management to assist in Emergency Risk Management (ERM) planning with a whole of government and all hazards approach, focussing on disaster mitigation and risk reduction. A strong focus on disaster mitigation and risk reduction aims to lessen the impact and cost of disasters across people, businesses, communities and various sectors and levels of government. Funds will be used to further develop NSW's ERM framework and arrangements through identifying, prioritising, articulating and managing the disaster risks it faces at state, regional and local government levels. Funds will also

be utilised for projects and programs to implement NSW's ERM framework, policy, governance, and identified strategic priorities across state, regional and local government levels where necessary. One key priority in 2017 is the publishing of a state-wide natural disaster risk assessment. Funds may also be used for other priority projects determined by the Office of Emergency Management and the State Emergency Management Committee as the ERM framework evolves.

(g) Disaster Welfare Non- Government Volunteer Agencies Training Support Funds

Funding is provided under a Funding Agreement to non-government agencies in the New South Wales Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan to the New South Wales Emergency Plan to assist with the provision of maintaining and training volunteers throughout New South Wales.

(h) Implementation Plan Officer

Wages for a senior project officer to manage all aspects of the Implementation Plan including projects funded under the National Partnership Agreement.

(i) National Capability: Register. Find. Reunite

NSW contribution towards the annual operational costs of *Register.Find.Reunite* managed by the Australian Red Cross for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

**Table 1: Project elements**

No.	Title	Short description	Planned start date	Planned end date	Dependent on projects
1	Community Resilience Innovation Program	Grants funding for community activities that enhance disaster resilience	August 2016	June 2017	Independent project
2	Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme	Grants funding for recruitment, retention and training of emergency volunteers	August 2016	June 2017	Independent Project
3	State Emergency Management Projects	Grants funding for emergency management projects of state significance	June 2016	June 2017	Independent project
4	Bush Fire Grants Scheme	Grants funding for bush fire priorities	July 2016	June 2017	Offered in conjunction with the NSW Bush Fire Mitigation Program

5	Floodplain Grants Scheme	Grants funding for flood priorities	July 2016	June 2017	Offered in conjunction with the NSW Flood Mitigation Program
6	Disaster Welfare Non Government Volunteer Agencies Training Support Funds	Funding to support emergency management training for volunteers	July 2016	June 2017	Independent project
7	Emergency Risk Management	Funding to further develop NSW's Emergency Risk Management framework, and related projects	July 2016	June 2017	Building on work previously undertaken for the 2011 State Risk Assessment
8	Implementation Plan Officer	Funding for the administration of Natural Disaster Resilience Program and to coordinate the review and evaluation of current and future programs	1 July 2016	June 2017	Independent project
9	Register. Find Reunite	NSW contribution to annual operational costs.	1 July 2015	June 2017	National capability

### Estimated costs

9. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the jurisdiction is \$13.572 million (\$6.786m per year for two years) payable in accordance with reporting requirements and milestones set out in Part 4 of this Implementation Plan. All payments are exclusive of GST.
10. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 2. The budget is indicative only and New South Wales retains the flexibility to move funds between components and/or years, as long as outcomes are not affected. The Commonwealth contribution can only be moved between years with the agreement of the Commonwealth.

**Table 2: Estimated financial contributions**

(\$ million)	2015-17
Community Resilience Innovation Program	2.000
Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme	2.000
State Emergency Management Projects	3.900
Bush Fire Grants Scheme	5.200
Floodplain Grants Scheme	12.000
Emergency Risk Management	0.824
Disaster Welfare Non-Government Volunteer Agencies Training Support Funds	0.500
Implementation Plan Officer	0.400
National Capability Project Register Find Reunite	0.320
<b>Total estimated budget</b>	<b>27.144</b>
less estimated Commonwealth contribution	13.572
equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	13.572
<b>Total Commonwealth contribution</b>	<b>13.572</b>

**Program logic**

11. The way in which these project elements will achieve the outcomes and objectives set out in the National Partnership is detailed in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Program logic**

Project elements	Outputs	Outcomes	Project Objectives	Responsibilities
Community Resilience Innovation Program	Local strategies developed and trialled incorporating partnerships that engage the community in preparedness for natural disasters	Strengthening resilience to natural disasters through community engagement and partnerships	Improve local community engagement in community-focussed activities that enhance disaster resilience	Office of Emergency Management
Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme	Training, recruitment and retention activities of emergency volunteers	Requisite number of trained emergency volunteers	Reduce community vulnerability and enhance community safety	Office of Emergency Management

Project elements	Outputs	Outcomes	Project Objectives	Responsibilities
State Emergency Management Projects	Activities that enhance emergency management capability across NSW. Previous projects include an Ambulance First Responder App and a pilot to evaluate community involvement in emergency flood planning.	Enhanced emergency management capability  Improved knowledge of state-wide natural disaster gaps	Increased capability for natural disasters that have a state-wide impact	Office of Emergency Management
Bush Fire Grants Scheme	Bush fire activities as determined by the NSW Rural Fire Service. Previous projects include maintenance of fire trails and fire towers.	Improved community resilience to bush fires.	Increase the protection of communities from bush fires	Office of Emergency Management in association with the NSW Rural Fire Service
Floodplain Grants Scheme	Flood activities including preparation of flood studies, risk management plans and building works associated with levees, as determined by the Office of Environment and Heritage	Increased number of councils with completed flood studies and flood management plans	Increase the protection of communities from floods	Office of Emergency Management in association with the Office of Environment and Heritage
Emergency Risk Management	State Risk Assessment and ERM framework	Understanding of and treatment plans for risks	Scope, map and communicate natural disaster risks to the emergency management sector	Office of Emergency Management

Project elements	Outputs	Outcomes	Project Objectives	Responsibilities
Disaster Welfare Non-Government Volunteer Agencies Training Support Funds	Training to emergency volunteers delivered by organisations that deliver disaster welfare services as outlined in the NSW Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan	Sufficient number of emergency volunteers trained in provision of welfare services to meet requirements	Community receives appropriate assistance from volunteers trained in welfare services	Office of Emergency Management
Implementation Plan Officer	A staff member dedicated to management and administration of a large number of projects funded under the NDRP. Coordination of review and evaluation of current and future programs and projects	Projects are administered in accordance with OEM practices and audit requirements	NSW continues to provide a wide range of projects that address the priorities of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience and the State Emergency Management Committee.	Office of Emergency Management
Register. Find Reunite	NSW contribution to annual operational costs	NSW continued use of the national system	People displaced in disasters are reconnected with family and friends	National Capability

### Risk management

12. The Office of Emergency Management has a Grants Administration Policy and Procedures Document and standard operating procedures for the administration of all grants funding. All continuing projects are being monitored using the new grants management system (enQuire).

### Relevant New South Wales Context

13. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to the New South Wales' context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction are set out in Table 4.

**Table 4: Links with existing reforms or projects**

Proposed project elements	Existing projects	Complementary nature of activities
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Proposed project elements	Existing projects	Complementary nature of activities
Community Resilience Innovation Program	National Strategy for Disaster Resilience Community Engagement Framework	Funded projects will support the principles of the Framework.
Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme	National Emergency Management Volunteer Action Plan, 2012 New South Wales 2021 State Plan	Funded projects will be consistent with the National Emergency Management Volunteer Action Plan, 2012 and address one or more of the seven focus areas of the Action Plan.
State Emergency Management Projects	NSW State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment	Activities that consider strategic priorities identified in the NSW State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment 2011 and the State Emergency Management Committee priorities developed in December 2015.
Bush Fire Grants Scheme	NSW Bush Fire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Grants Programs NSW State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment	The NSW Rural Fire Service delivers a variety of programs to reduce bush fire hazards. Priority projects will be delivered alongside State funded programs to maximise program value and reduce red tape.
Floodplain Grants Scheme	State Floodplain Management Program	The Office of Environment and Heritage delivers funding to councils to undertake flood mitigation activities. Priority projects will be delivered alongside State funded programs to maximise program value and reduce red-tape.
Emergency Risk Management	NSW State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment	Builds on and updates work undertaken for the NSW State Risk Assessment 2011.
Disaster Welfare Non-Government Volunteer Agencies Training Support Funds	None	Ensures continued capability in readiness for operational periods.
Implementation Plan Officer	Funded since 2013	Ensures funding is used to deliver projects that align with NSW and Commonwealth emergency management priorities.
Register.Find.Reunite	Register.Find.Reunite National Capability	NSW funding contribution towards operational costs for 2015-2018.



## PART 4: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

### Milestones

14. To qualify for the associated payment, New South Wales must meet the following milestones:

**Table 5: Milestones**

Milestones	Due date	Payment
Commonwealth agreement to the New South Wales Implementation Plan which demonstrates New South Wales' strategy to achieving the outcomes and outputs of the National Partnership	September 2016	\$3.393m
Commonwealth acceptance of New South Wales report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	November 2016	\$3.393m
Commonwealth acceptance of New South Wales report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	April 2017	\$6.786m

### Performance Indicators

15. The following performance measures will be collected for CRIP, EVSS, SEMP, Bush Fire Grants Scheme and Floodplain Grants Scheme and reported in the milestone reports as required:
- (a) projects approved, funding agreements signed and projects completed as at the milestone due dates
  - (b) implementation of activities that address risks identified in the NSW State Risk Assessment 2011 and the State Emergency Management Committees priorities developed in December 2015;
  - (c) implementation of activities that contribute to the achievement of the priority outcomes of the NSDR; and
  - (d) implementation of activities that contribute to the attraction, support and retention of emergency management volunteers

Additionally the revised State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment will be published in 2017.

### Reporting

16. New South Wales will report against the agreed performance indicators in accordance with Table 5 of this Implementation Plan.
17. Circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought from jurisdictions. Such requests should be kept to the minimum necessary for the effective assessment of the project. Requests should not place an undue reporting burden on jurisdictions or portfolio agencies.

### Review and Evaluation

18. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed in conjunction with the review of the National Partnership with regard to progress made by the Parties in respect of achieving the agreed outcomes.

**Sign off**

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

**Signature**

**Date**

23 SEP 2016

The Hon Troy Grant MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police

**Signature**

**Date**

9.11.16

The Hon Michael Keenan MP, Minister for Justice