

Queensland Implementation Plan – 2015-2018

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Natural Disaster Resilience and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective of the National Partnership is to enhance Australian communities' resilience to natural disasters.
2. Queensland is working together with local government, state agencies, business and the non-government sector to build community resilience to natural disasters to achieve the outcomes and objective of the NPA.
3. The outcome of this Implementation Plan is that Queensland communities are more resilient to natural disasters. The plan will detail how Queensland will strategically implement a program of natural disaster resilience activities by linking the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (NSDR) with state risk priorities identified through the Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment 2012 and 2017 and other appropriate assessment methodologies.

PART 2: TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

4. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth Government of Australia, represented by the Minister responsible for emergency management, and the state of Queensland, represented by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.
5. As a schedule to the NPA 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 Queensland's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the National Partnership.
6. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth and state Ministers responsible for it under the overarching NPA.
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 QUEENSLAND IMPLEMENTATION

Project information

8. The NSDR is a key consideration in the delivery of this Implementation Plan. In particular, it recognises the shared responsibility of governments, community leaders, the not-for-profit sector and educational institutions to improve disaster resilience.
9. For 2015–18, Queensland will fund a competitive grants program called the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP). The NDRP is a mechanism used by Queensland to allocate funds in an equitable manner with maximum benefit towards both state-wide and regional natural disaster resilience priorities in Queensland.
10. Projects funded under the 2015–18 NDRP will need to demonstrate how they contribute to strengthening community resilience to natural disasters, consistent with the Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment 2012 and 2017 and the priority outcomes of the NSDR:
 - i. Leading change and coordinating effort
 - ii. Understanding risk
 - iii. Communicating with and educating people about risk
 - iv. Partnering with those who effect change
 - v. Empowering individuals and communities to exercise choice and take responsibility
 - vi. Reducing risks in the built environment
 - vii. Supporting capabilities for disaster resilience.
11. The Queensland Government is making available \$18.009 million for disaster mitigation funding under the NDRP. One application process will be held for both infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure projects and activities to mitigate against natural disasters and increase resilience.
12. The funding priorities for the NDRP are:
 - To mitigate against and build resilience to Queensland’s natural hazards as identified in the Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment 2012 and 2017:
 - i. tropical cyclones, winds and storm surge
 - ii. severe weather events, including hail storms, thunderstorm wind gusts and tornadoes
 - iii. riverine flooding, including flash flooding
 - iv. coastal inundation
 - v. heatwaves
 - vi. bushfires
 - vii. earthquakes, landslides and tsunamis.
 - To contribute to at least one of the seven key action themes of the NSDR.
 - To demonstrate consideration of the benefits of taking a regional or catchment-wide approach to resilience and implementation of this approach where appropriate.
 - To ensure that consultation has occurred with neighbouring councils where the project has clear overlaps and where efficiencies in capability and capacity sharing could be realised.
 - To build partnerships across sectors and to enhance community preparedness for natural disasters through community education and awareness training.

- Provide support to emergency management volunteers by building their capacity and ability to respond to disasters and support recovery efforts.
13. Proposals for flood mitigation projects will need to be supported and informed by a completed flood risk management study and, where relevant, consider the potential impact of communities up and downstream.
 14. Proposals for infrastructure projects will need to adopt an integrated approach to ensure consideration is given to the flow-on effects on communities, infrastructure and the environment.
 15. Organisations considered eligible for NDRP funding are:
 - Local government agencies as defined in the *Local Government Act 2009* and *City of Brisbane Act 2010*
 - Regional Organisations of Councils
 - River Improvement Trusts
 - Government Owned Corporations
 - State government agencies
 - Incorporated non-government organisations (NGOs), and Queensland based non-profit organisations.

Joint applications may be considered, and will require an applicant to nominate as lead applicant.

Partnerships between eligible organisations will be encouraged and an eligible organisation may submit an application with an ineligible organisation.

16. NDRP projects are funded on a cost-sharing basis with the applicant usually required to make a financial contribution in addition to Commonwealth and State funding. Consideration is given to the appropriate level of applicant contribution on a case by case basis, with the applicant being required to demonstrate their need for greater funding.
17. Applications will be assessed competitively considering the project eligibility, NDRP funding priorities and assessment criteria. The assessment process ensures funding is directed towards projects that best meet the assessment criteria and contribute to the NPA outcome and outputs.
18. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services have undertaken a review of state-wide risks and the outcomes were published in the Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment 2012 and 2017. Risk-based planning is enabled through the geospatial analysis of hazard specific exposure to indicate potential vulnerability. Identified hazard risks will continue to be directly addressed in planning through the consideration of capability and capacity support requirements at the respective levels of Queensland's disaster management arrangements.

Estimated costs

19. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the program to the jurisdiction is \$18.009 million payable in accordance with Table 1 of this Implementation Plan. All payments are exclusive of GST.
20. Funding will be allocated across the 2015–2018 financial years. It is expected that there will be a high demand for funding towards flood mitigation and resilience works based on the outcomes from current and completed flood mapping and management study projects.

21. The overall budget and the anticipated disbursement of funds (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Financial contributions*

(\$ million)	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total
Total estimated budget	-	6.004	30.014	36.018
less estimated Commonwealth contribution	-	3.002	15.007	18.009
equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	-	3.002	15.007	18.009
Total Commonwealth contribution	-	3.002	15.007	18.009

**Estimated financial contributions have been revised to be consistent with approved estimates as at December 2017. They reflect delays in finalising the agreement and re-profiling of funds across financial years. Non-Commonwealth contributions reflect the matching requirements of clause 21 of the Agreement. Figures may not add due to rounding*

Program logic

22. The NDRP project elements detailed in this Implementation Plan will achieve the outcomes and objectives stated in the NPA by:
- Improving Queensland community resilience in relation to risks from natural disasters.
 - Recognising the central role of risk assessments, awareness and education in determining priorities for capability and capacity building and enhancing resilience as described in the NSDR:
 - i. improving the underpinning research, data and systems which inform and improve risk assessments for priority natural hazards
 - ii. producing and amending state wide risk assessments for priority natural hazards
 - iii. implementing projects or activities underpinned by these risk assessments to meet the outcomes of reduced risk from natural disasters and appropriate emergency management capability.
 - Implementing projects or activities identified in natural disaster management studies and mapping projects to reduce risk from natural disasters and improve resilience of Queensland communities.
 - Recognising the key role that volunteers and NGO's play in supporting capabilities for disaster resilience as identified in the NSDR and enhancing capability and capacity in the emergency volunteer sector.

Risk management

23. A Risk Management Plan is in place. Risks have been actively identified, entered into a risk log and assessed, as per the Plan.

Relevant Queensland Context

24. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to Queensland's emergency and risk management context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction are listed below:
- The major natural disaster risks in Queensland are tropical cyclones, severe weather events, riverine flooding, coastal inundation, heatwaves, bushfires and earthquakes (Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment 2012 and 2017).

- Historically, flood and cyclone resilience and mitigation projects have been the most commonly funded projects. This focus aligns with the recommendations of several reviews conducted over the last three years. Outcomes from these have highlighted the efficacy of regional and/or catchment-based approaches.
- Queensland has, in the past few years, allocated major funding to flood mapping projects and flood risk and other disaster risk management studies. It is anticipated that outcomes from current and completed studies will result in applications to fund disaster mitigation and resilience projects, particularly in flood effected areas.
- Community engagement and consultation undertaken for flood mapping projects and flood risk and other disaster risk management studies, highlight the importance of collaboration between neighbouring councils. This reduces duplication and enables appropriate leveraging across projects in terms of capability, capacity and data sharing.

The Queensland Government has other programs in place that provide local government access to funding for natural disaster mitigation funding. However, NDRP is the only one of those programs to fund community preparedness and resilience projects and activities, such as community education programs and volunteer capacity building activities.

Table 2: Links with existing programs or projects

Existing reforms or projects	Complementary nature of activities	Planned completion date
Former and current NDRP flood-related projects	Flood mapping projects and flood risk management studies are likely to make recommendations for future natural disaster resilience and mitigation projects.	ongoing
Former and current NDRP strategic projects	These projects address emerging priority issues to improve disaster resilience in Queensland. The outcomes of these projects support key actions under the NSDR to understand and reduce natural hazard risk and educate people about risks in a Queensland setting.	ongoing
Flood warning infrastructure	A state-wide project to identify gaps in the flood warning infrastructure (including flood gauge network) has being undertaken by Queensland Reconstruction Authority in conjunction with the Bureau of Meteorology. Based on the findings from this review councils have developed investment plans to improve their gauge networks to enhanced warning information and to improve the capacity of local disaster management groups to better plan response and recovery efforts.	2017
Brisbane River Flood Study	Following the 2011 floods, the Queensland Flood Commission of Inquiry recommended that a comprehensive <i>Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study</i> be completed and floodplain management plans be developed. The flood study is finalised and the Queensland Government and local councils are working on a long term plan to manage the impact of future floods and improve community safety and resilience.	Mid 2018
Queensland State Natural Hazard Risk Assessment	The <i>Queensland State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment</i> was completed in 2011, and updated in 2012 and 2017 to assess Queensland risk of natural hazards.	2012 and 2017

<p>Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience</p>	<p>Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience (QSDR) 2017 incorporates climate change risk and delivers a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to building disaster resilience throughout Queensland.</p> <p>The Strategy aligns with international best practice, such as the <i>Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</i>.</p> <p>The Strategy is underpinned by its four key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queenslanders understand their disaster risk • Strengthened disaster risk management • Queenslanders are invested in disaster risk reduction • There is continuous improvement in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. <p>The Strategy provides an overarching framework to empower Queenslanders to factor in resilience measures and activities as they anticipate, respond and adapt to changing circumstances.</p> <p>The Queensland Reconstruction Authority, in consultation with local governments, state agencies, the private sector, academic institutions and community organisations, is in the final stages of developing the QSDR Implementation Plan, to deliver on the commitments outlined in the Strategy.</p>	<p>2017</p>
<p>Qcoast2100 – aligning to Queensland Local Government Coastal Adaptation Program</p>	<p>The Queensland Government, in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland, is investing \$12 million to help coastal councils and their communities plan and prepare for storm tide, coastal erosion and rising sea levels resulting from climate change. The aim of the Program is to support coastal councils in their progression from identifying coastal hazards and climate change risks through to the decision-making and implementation phases.</p>	<p>2018</p>
<p>2017 Betterment Funding</p>	<p>A \$41.9 million Betterment Fund, jointly funded on a 50/50 basis by the Commonwealth and state governments, is available to councils activated for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) assistance as a result of Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie. The intent of betterment is to increase the resilience of Queensland communities to natural disasters, while at the same time reducing future expenditure on asset restoration, reducing incidents, injuries and fatalities during and after natural disasters, and improving asset utility during and after natural disasters.</p>	<p>Mid 2019</p>

PART 4: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

Milestones

25. To qualify for the associated payment, Queensland must meet the following milestones:

Table 3: Milestones

Milestones	Due date	Payment (\$million)
Commonwealth agreement to Queensland's Implementation Plan which clearly demonstrates Queensland's strategy to achieve the outcomes and outputs of the (NPA as per clause 17 of the NPA	N/A	3.001
Commonwealth acceptance of Queensland's report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	October 2016	3.002
Commonwealth acceptance of Queensland's report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	April 2017	6.003
Commonwealth acceptance of Queensland's report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators, including allocation of all funds under the NPA to projects	June 2018	6.003

Performance indicators

26. The following performance indicators have been developed to measure the ways in which approved projects address the objectives and outcomes of the NPA and Queensland's NDRP funding priorities outlined in Part 3:

- Activities/projects approved, funding agreements signed and project completed according to milestone due dates.
- Implementation of activities that address risks identified in the state-wide risk assessment.
- Implementation of activities that contribute to the achievement of the priority outcomes of the NSDR.
- Implementation of activities that contribute to the attraction, support and retention of emergency management volunteers, where applicable.
- Proportion of projects funded that was recommended in a risk management study or mapping project funded through earlier NDRP or other disaster mitigation and resilience programs.
- Proportion of projects that identifies and/or addresses aspects of community vulnerability to hazards.
- Proportion of projects improving community engagement and education.
- Proportion of non-government organisation and not-for-profit projects funded
- Proportion of projects completed as a collaborative partnership.
- Proportion of projects utilising funding or in-kind support from other agencies and organisations.

27. Administrative performance indicators have been developed to monitor the effectiveness of which approved projects are implemented:

- Proportion of projects completed within 24 months of commencing.
- Proportion of projects completed within or under the approved budget.

Reporting

28. Queensland will report against the agreed performance indicators in accordance with Table 3 of this Implementation Plan.

Sign off

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

Signature



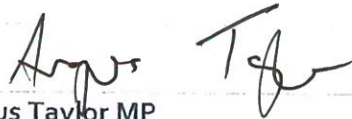
Date

12 March 2018

The Hon Cameron Dick MP

Queensland Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning

Signature



Date

3/4/18

The Hon Angus Taylor MP

Commonwealth Minister for Law Enforcement and Cybersecurity