

Queensland Implementation Plan – 2015-2017

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 to enhance Australian communities' resilience to natural disasters.
2. Queensland will work 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 National Partnership.
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 with state risk priorities identified through the Queensland State wide Natural Disaster Risk Assessment

PART 2: 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 Minister for Justice, and the state of Queensland, represented by Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.
5. 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 Queensland's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the National Partnership.
6. 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 performance benchmarks or milestones.
7. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth and state Ministers responsible for it under the overarching National Partnership.
8. 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

9. The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (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.
10. For 2015-17, 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.
11. Projects funded under the 2015-17 NDRP will need to demonstrate how it meets one or more of the program aims and objectives which includes; building more resilient communities to natural disasters, how it meets the strategic priorities of the NSDR; and how the project build partnerships between sectors. Another objective of the NDRP is to provide support to emergency management volunteers and these type of applications will also need to demonstrate how the project meets the aims of the program.
12. In 2016-17 the Queensland Government is making available \$10 million for disaster mitigation funding under the Community Resilience Fund. This allocation builds on \$40 million made available in 2015-16. The 2016-17 CRF funding is in addition to the matching funds being made available for the NDRP. As in previous years, one application process may be held with two components - applications for capital infrastructure disaster mitigation projects and another for all other projects submitted on an application for all hazards mitigation and resilience funding.
13. A call for applications for disaster mitigation and resilience projects will allow applicants to submit one application for disaster mitigation and resilience proposed projects across two funding programs.
14. The funding priorities for the 2015-17 NDRP are:
 - To mitigate or build resilience Queensland's highest natural hazards risks as identified in the 2012 State wide Natural Hazard Risk Assessment (in order of highest damage):
 - i. flooding (including flash flooding)
 - ii. tropical cyclone winds and storm surge
 - iii. thunderstorm wind gusts, downbursts and tornadoes
 - iv. hail storms
 - v. bushfires
 - vi. landslides, earthquakes and tsunamis
 - To contribute to at least one of the seven key action themes of the NSDR
 - To take a regional or catchment approach to resilience (where relevant)
 - To ensure that consultation has occurred with neighbouring councils (where relevant)
 - To build partnerships between sectors and to enhance community preparedness for natural events 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

15. In addition, projects for flood mitigation proposals will need to:
 - Be supported and informed by a completed flood management study and, where relevant, consider the potential impact of communities downstream
 - Aim to improve infrastructure and flood resilience outcomes (such as levees and detention basins) that protect people, property and essential services such as water and sewerage treatment plants, hospitals and major transport facilities such as air and sea ports

16. 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.

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

17. NDRP projects are funded in a cost sharing basis with the applicant usually required to make a financial contribution in addition to state and commonwealth 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.

18. 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 have a high contribution to the NPA outcome and outputs.

19. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services are currently undertaking a review of the state wide risk assessment. The first stage is an assessment across the state's 22 districts which will inform the state wide risk assessment. Risk based planning will be enabled through the geospatial analysis of hazard specific exposure to indicate potential vulnerability. Identified risk will then be directly addressed in planning through the consideration of capability and capacity support requirements at the respective levels of Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements. The state wide risk assessment will be published by 30 June 2017 as per the agreement endorsed through the Law Crime and Community Safety Council.

Estimated costs

20. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the jurisdiction is \$12,000,000 payable in accordance with the Reporting Requirements and Payment Milestones set out in Part 5 of the National Partnership. All payments are exclusive of GST.

21. All funding will be allocated in 2016-17. It is expected there will be a high demand for funding towards priority flood mitigation and resilience works based on the outcomes from current and completed flood mapping and management study projects.

22. The overall budget and the anticipated disbursement of funds (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 1
23. Table 1: Financial contributions

(\$ million)	Year 1	Year 2	Total
	2015-16	2016-17	
Total estimated projects funded under NDRP	0	50	50
Total estimated budget	0	24.0	24.0
less estimated Commonwealth contribution	0	12.0	12.0
equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	0	12.0	12.0
Total Commonwealth contribution	0	12.0	12.0

Program logic

24. The NDRP project elements detailed in this Implementation Plan will achieve the outcomes and objectives stated in the National Partnership by:
- Improving Queensland community resilience in relation to risk from natural disasters
 - Recognising the central place of risk assessments in 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

25. A risk management plan is in place. Risks have been actively identified, entered into a risk log and categorised in terms of impact and likelihood.

Relevant Queensland Context

26. 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 flooding, cyclonic winds and severe storms, consequently flood and cyclone resilience and mitigation projects are the most commonly funded projects
 - Queensland has, in the past few years allocated major funding to flood mapping and hazard management and study projects. 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.

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

Table 2: Links with existing reforms or projects

Proposed project elements	Existing reforms or projects	Complementary nature of activities
NDRP	Former and current NDRP projects	Flood mapping / risk management studies projects are likely to make recommendations for future natural disaster resilience and mitigation projects
	Flood gauge mapping project	A state-wide project to identify gaps in the flood gauge network is being undertaken by Queensland Reconstruction Authority in conjunction with the Bureau of Meteorology. This will identify high priority areas where towns and public facilities are at risk in order to provide enhanced warning information. Will also provide improved capacity for local disaster management groups to better plan response and recovery efforts. NDRP applications will need to show linkages to this project
	Former and current projects funded through NDRP and state government programs	Flood mapping / risk management studies are likely to lead to future natural disaster resilience and mitigation projects
	Queensland State wide Natural Hazard Risk Assessment Implementation	The <i>Queensland State wide Natural Disaster Risk Assessment</i> was completed in 2011 under the previous NPA and was updated in 2012. This risk assessment is currently being updated by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. As this update is being undertaken across the state with liaison with local governments it is anticipated that disaster mitigation projects will be identified.
	National Strategy for Disaster Resilience	Support the key action themes under the NSDR of understanding and reducing risks, and educating people about risks
NDRP Strategic Projects	Projects will address emerging priority issues to improve disaster resilience in Queensland	Support for key actions under the NSDR to understand and reduce natural hazard risks, and educating people about risks in a Queensland setting

PART 4: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

Milestones

27. 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 National Partnership Agreement (NPA) as per clause 17 of the NPA	N/A	50% \$3.00
Commonwealth acceptance of Queensland's report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	October 2016	50% \$3.00
Commonwealth acceptance of Queensland's report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators	April 2017	100% \$6.00

Performance indicators

28. Performance benchmarks 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 as at the 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
 - Proportion of projects funded that were recommended from a risk management study or mapping project funded through earlier NDRP or other disaster mitigation and resilience programs
 - Proportion of projects that identify and or address 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
29. Administrative performance indicators have been developed to monitor the effectiveness of which approved projects are implemented:
- Proportion of projects completed within 12 months of commencing
 - Proportion of projects completed within or under the approved budget

Reporting

30. Queensland will report against the agreed performance indicators by 28 February and 28 April 2017.
31. Circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought from Queensland. Such requests should be kept to the minimum necessary for the effective assessment of the project or reform. Requests should not place an undue reporting burden on Queensland.

Review and Evaluation

32. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed in conjunction with the submission of the annual report with regard to progress made by the Parties in respect of achieving the agreed outcomes.
33. At the conclusion of the Agreement, Queensland will contribute to an evaluation of the outputs including assessing the extent to which the objective has been met.

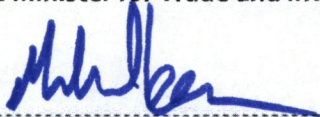
Sign off

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



Date 20 October 2016

JACKIE TRAD MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
and Minister for Trade and Investment



22/11/16

Signature

Date

[By Commonwealth Minister]