

# Victoria Implementation Plan

## 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, 2015-2017 (the National Partnership) 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. This Implementation Plan contributes to the attainment of that objective.
3. The Commonwealth and State agree that this funding initiative is a primary means by which the Commonwealth contributes to the implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience in Victoria.

### 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 Victoria, represented by the Minister for Emergency Services.
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 Objective of enhancing Australian communities' resilience to disasters is intended to be delivered and to demonstrate Victoria'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 VICTORIA IMPLEMENTATION

### Project information

9. The project elements planned for the 2015/17 are as follows:
- a. Implementing a program of natural disaster resilience activities to address priorities identified in State-Wide and other relevant risk assessments consistent with the NSDR. This program will consist of two components:
    - i. the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme (NDRGS), a program open to application from the public providing Commonwealth fund, up to 50% of the project cost. Victoria will contribute \$7.0 mil over the 2015/17 time frame through the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) for distribution through NDRGS for flood planning and mitigation projects.
    - ii. EMV Sponsored Projects: Suitable projects or activities identified by EMV and suitable partners.
  - b. Publishing a revised State-wide risk assessment by 30 June 2017 as agreed by the Standing Council on Police and Emergency Management (now the Law Crime and Community Safety Council)
  - c. Providing support to emergency management volunteers through a range of activities consistent with the National Emergency Management Volunteer Action Plan – 2012.
  - d. Fund Victoria's yearly contribution to *Register.Find.Reunite*
10. For 2016-17 funding round, Victoria is basing the NDRGS substantially on risk reduction and increased emergency management capability including providing support for volunteers.
11. To maintain relevance and maximise benefits of the program in 2015-17, Victoria will change aspects of its funding criteria under the NDRGS to take into account the emphasis of the new NPA. Victoria will also endeavour to align projects more closely to the risk priorities identified in the State-Wide Risk Assessment published in 2014. Victoria may seek approval of a revised Implementation Plan at an appropriate stage.

### Estimated costs

12. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth to the jurisdiction is \$8.4 million payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Part 4. All payments are exclusive of GST.
13. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 1. The budget is indicative only and Victoria 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 1: Estimated financial contributions**

(\$ million)	Year 2016-17	Funded By Commonwealth	Funded by EMV, DEWLP & or Applicants
NDRGS Projects	\$7.10	\$3.55	\$3.55
EMV Sponsored Projects	\$8.126	\$4.024	\$4.102
Revised State-wide risk plan	\$0.30	\$0.15	\$0.15
Administration Costs(Commonwealth only)	0.50	0.50	0.00
Register.Find.Reunite (2015-17)	\$0.128	\$0.128	
DELWP Contribution to NDRGS <sup>1</sup>	\$7.0		\$7.0
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$23.154</b>	<b>\$8.352</b>	<b>\$14.802</b>

### Program logic

14. The project elements detailed in this Implementation Plan will achieve the outcomes and objectives of the National Partnership Agreement by:
- a. Implementing, through a grants scheme for Government and non-government agencies and organisations, a program of natural and non-natural disaster resilience activities that address priorities identified in state-wide and other relevant risk assessments and are consistent with the NSDR
  - b. Implementing EMV sponsored projects with Government and non-government agencies and organisations, a program of projects and activities that address priorities identified in state-wide and other relevant risk assessments and are consistent with the NSDR, and
  - c. Providing support through the grants scheme to emergency management volunteers through a range of activities including addressing key issues of attraction, training, support and retention. (Note that Victoria also funds other specific volunteer support programs.)
  - d. Providing funding to Register.Find.Reunite consistent with the NSDR.

### Risk management

15. 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 Victoria context

16. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to Victoria's context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction are listed below.
17. The specific objective in this in this Implementation Plan is that Victorian communities be more resilient to disasters. Victoria has an 'all-hazards' approach emergency

<sup>1</sup> EMV has received \$3.5 Mill from DELWP for 2015/16 for distribution through NDRGS. Another \$3.5Mill is expected from DEWLP for distribution in the 2016/17 year bringing the total contribution to \$7.0Mill.

management system. This objective is consistent with and is an implantation of the NSDR.

18. For 2016-17, Victoria proposes to utilise all funds provided under the National Partnership through:
  - a. a grants program entitled the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme – Victoria (NDRGS). Funded projects will individually and collectively contribute to the achievement of the objective, outcome and outputs of the National Partnership and each one is required to address one or more of the key themes of the NSDR.
  - b. Implement EMV sponsored projects identified internally and with partners that will individually and collectively contribute to the achievement of the objective, outcome and outputs of the National Partnership and each one is required to address one or more of the key themes of the NSDR.
  - c. Revising the State-wide risk plan developed in the 2013-14 NPA
  - d. Providing funding to Register Find Reunite consistent with the objectives of the NSDR.
19. A small allocation of National Partnership funds will be made towards Victoria's costs for administering that funding.

#### **Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme – Victoria (NDRGS)**

20. For Victoria, the NDRGS is utilised as the mechanism to target the funds, in order to spread them across a wide range of projects and organisations, most of which are required to make a financial contribution. The contested grants scheme approach allows both the tailoring of projects to meet locally-identified needs and provides an opportunity for innovation in emergency management practice.
21. Under the NDRGS, assessment panels comprised of subject-matter and emergency management experts are used to determine the priority of the project applications.
22. Prioritising of projects applies the following criteria and associated scoring which ensure that funded projects individually, and the program as a whole, fulfil the objective, outcome and outputs of the National Partnership.
  - quality of proposal (score 0-10)
  - For risk-based projects:
    - o risk priority (score 0-10)
    - o value of outcomes (score 0-10)
  - For capability/capacity projects, including volunteer support
    - o need priority (score 0-10)
    - o value of outputs and outcomes (score 0-10)
  - key action themes of the NSDR addressed (at least one required) (score 0-5)
  - additional benefits gained through collaboration (score 0-5)
  - contribution to Koori inclusion (score 0-4)
23. For research projects, applicants must also provide evidence that one or more emergency management end-users have expressed interest in the results of the project.

24. Note that the apportionment of grant funds between risks is strongly a function of the number and quality of applications received per risk. While some projects are hazard-specific and can be prioritised with regards to risk, other projects are not hazard-specific, so many multi-hazard or all-hazards projects will be funded.
25. At the completion of their project, project managers must evaluate their project and describe how the project has contributed to the achievement of at least one of the key action themes of the NSDR.
26. The grants program is conducted in accordance with the probity and other requirements of Victoria's Department of Justice and Regulation, and ensures that the projects that best meet the criteria are awarded grants.
27. Under any Agreement signed between a successful applicant and the State Government, builders contracted under that Agreement must be accredited under the Australian Government Building and Construction Occupational Health and Safety Accreditation Scheme. Builders must also ensure that they comply with the Building Code 2013.
28. For the 2015-17 funding years, Victoria will also address the objective of social inclusion, with the aim of improving the lives of people with disability. These issues will be included in the application form, with applicants required to address the issue where appropriate.

#### **EMV Sponsored Projects**

29. EMV has identified a number of projects that it will sponsor either with or without partners.
30. As with the NDRGS, these projects will individually and collectively contribute to the achievement of the objectives, outcomes and outputs of the National Partnership and each one is required to address one or more of the key themes of the NSDR.
31. Projects will be selected for inclusion by EMV's Chief Executive and Emergency Management Commissioner.
32. At the completion of their project, project managers must evaluate their project and describe how the project has lead to or will contribute to the achievement of at least one of the key action themes of the NSDR.

## PART 4: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

### Milestones

33. To qualify for the Commonwealth payment, Victoria must meet the following milestones detailed in Table 2:

Table 2: Reporting Requirements and Payment Milestones

Due Date	Performance Milestone	Proportion of Victoria's annual allocation
	Commonwealth agreement to the Victoria's Implementation Plan that clearly demonstrates Victoria's strategy to achieve the outcomes and outputs of the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) as per clause 17 of the NPA.	50% \$2.088m
October 2016	First Report - Commonwealth acceptance of Victoria's report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators.	50% \$2.088m
April 2017	Final Report - Commonwealth acceptance of Victoria's report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the Performance Indicators.	100% \$4.2m

34. In addition to the above milestone reporting, Victoria will provide the Commonwealth with a list of approved projects funded under the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme in 2016-17, showing the following information:

- (a) organisation being funded;
- (b) name of project and summary description;
- (c) primary location of activity;
- (d) type of hazard;
- (e) Federal electorate;
- (f) key action theme(s) of the NSDR addressed by the project; and
- (g) total cost and approved Commonwealth funding for the year.

### Performance indicators

35. Specific Performance Indicators to be reported against by Victoria in relation to the objectives, outcomes and outputs of all program elements are as follows:

- (a) Activities/projects approved, commenced and completed as at the milestone dates
- (b) Implementation of activities that address risks identified in the Victoria state risk assessment;
- (c) Implementation of activities that contribute to the achievement of the priority outcomes of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience; and
- (d) Implementation of activities that contribute to the attraction, support and retention of emergency management volunteers

### Sign off

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

Signature



Date 13.9.16

Minister for Emergency Services  
Victoria



5.12.16

Signature

Date

Minister for Justice  
Commonwealth