

Your ref:
Our ref: CRS/PRE052/1856/LAP
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Department of
Justice and Attorney-General

6 January 2012

[REDACTED]
Executive Director
Qld Floods Commission of Inquiry
Level 30, 400 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear [REDACTED]

**Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry - State Representation -
Draft findings and recommendations – Request for further information – Natural
Disaster Resilience Program and property buy-backs**

I refer to the above request for further information dated 22 December 2011.

Addressing each of the Commission's questions in turn, I am instructed as follows:

1. Is a local government able to apply to the NDRP for funding to implement a property buy-back program/project (that is, is a buy-back program eligible for funding)?

Yes, a local government is able to apply under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) for funding to implement a property buy-back program/project and yes, a buy-back program could be eligible for funding.

It should be noted that some buy back programs /projects have been considered ineligible for funding in the past and may be considered ineligible in the future, if the application does not meet the NDRP guidelines.

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50 Ann Street
GPO Box 5221 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
DX 40121 Brisbane Uptown
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A further consideration is the limited pool of funding available through the NDRP of approximately \$11 million per annum. Buy back programs can be very expensive. The NDRP is usually oversubscribed and for this reason applications may be technically eligible but not approved.

2. Will local governments be able to continue to apply to the NDRP to fund future property buy-back programs?

Yes, local governments will be able to continue to apply to the NDRP to fund future property buy-back programs in the 2012-2013 round, subject to any changes to NDRP criteria that might be sought by the Commonwealth.

The four year cycle of the current NDRP will end in 2012 - 2013. It is not yet known whether the Commonwealth will extend the program for a further cycle. However, a future NDRP round is likely to be based upon a revised set of criteria and funding quantum yet to be negotiated between the Commonwealth and all States and Territories.

3. How are applications for funding to the NDRP prioritised in Queensland? What are the criteria applied when assessing an application? Please provide explanatory information with reference to how a proposal for funding for a buy-back program might be assessed.

NDRP applications in Queensland are assessed according to priorities and criteria as set out in the two **enclosed** documents: Round 3 Applicant Guidelines; and an untitled application assessment proforma. The emphasis is on building community resilience, particularly through community education and awareness raising. Innovation, partnerships between sectors, volunteering, regional/catchment-wide approaches and climate change are also important.

Given the scale of funding available (approximately \$11 million per annum), a property buy-back program that could only benefit a few individuals is unlikely to score well in relation to other applications (including, for example, flood studies) that address the needs of the broader community.

4. Are there other sources of government funding for property buy-backs by council?

The primary source of funds for local government buy-back schemes is local government. Other than the potential to apply for NDRP, the State is not aware of other sources of government funding for property buy-backs by councils.

5. In response to the Commission's draft findings, the Commission has received a submission which states "NDRP funding is typically limited to Commonwealth government funding and does not include State Government funding". Can the department confirm if this is indeed the case and provide further information about the way in which the funding model operates?

As explained in paragraph 117 of Mr Gary Mahon's statement in response to the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry Requirement number 1684613, the NDRP is a joint Commonwealth and State Government grant program. The National Partnership Agreement

(NPA) between the Commonwealth and all States and Territories for the NDRP is **enclosed**. Part 5 of the NPA explains financial arrangements.

Yours faithfully,


Paul Lack
Assistant Crown Solicitor
for **Crown Solicitor**

Enclosures:

1. NDRP Round 3 Applicant Guidelines.
2. Untitled Application Assessment Proforma.
3. National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience.



Natural Disaster Resilience Program – Queensland Round 3 Applicant Guidelines

! Use this Guideline when completing a Natural Disaster Resilience Program Round 3 Application Form

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Carefully read this Guideline
- Complete the NDRP Round 3 Application Form and submit it no later than **30 June 2011**.
- The application is available online from www.communitysafety.qld.gov.au/ndrp. The preferred means of lodging your application is via email emqgrants.subsidies@dcs.qld.gov.au by 30 June 2011. Followed by submission of the original signed hardcopy by post; address details are listed below.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

Senior Program Officer
Natural Disaster Resilience Program
Governance and Management Branch
Emergency Management Queensland
Department of Community Safety
GPO Box 1425
BRISBANE QLD 4001

MORE INFORMATION?

- Visit www.communitysafety.qld.gov.au/ndrp
 - Phone (07) 3635 3099
 - Email: emqgrants.subsidies@dcs.qld.gov.au
- Our phone services are available from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

The Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) is a disaster mitigation and community resilience building competitive grants program. Projects already funded under the previous programs will be funded until the contractual completion date. Eligible applicants who wish to extend projects funded under previous programs must first acquit the existing project(s). New applications will be assessed against these guidelines.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Community Safety. The successful applicant will receive the first 50% of the NDRP cash contribution to the project on execution of the funding agreement; further payments will be made as milestone reporting requirements are completed.

The advice in this document relates to NDRP Round 3 and incorporates feedback from previous funding rounds. Applicants are therefore advised to carefully read the following before completing the NDRP Round 3 Application Form. An applicant's previous performance in successfully managing similar projects (to milestones and other reporting requirements) will be considered.

NDRP OBJECTIVES

To reduce Queensland communities' vulnerability to natural hazards by supporting Local Governments and other stakeholders to build community resilience by:

- (1) reducing community vulnerability to natural hazards;
- (2) supporting community stakeholders to build community resilience and increase community self-reliance;
- (3) promoting innovation through a focus on building partnerships between sectors, supporting volunteering, encouraging a regional or catchment area approach to mitigation and potential impacts due to climate change; and,
- (4) ensuring that NDRP funding is used in an efficient way.

NDRP PRIORITIES

Specific priorities of the NDRP are:

- (1) Target NDRP funding to Queensland's highest natural hazard risks (in order: flooding, storm tide/surge, cyclone, severe storm and bushfire);
- (2) Enhance community preparedness for natural events through community education and awareness raising; and,
- (3) Strategic targeting to increase resilience across sectors.

NATURAL HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENTS

Local Governments are required to have undertaken a natural hazard risk assessment (NHRA) for their jurisdiction including consideration of climate change impacts¹. Applicants who have not undertaken an NHRA for their area should do so before applying for NDRP funding to undertake other projects. Applicants may apply for NDRP funding to undertake an NHRA.

Applicants who have an out-dated (i.e. pre amalgamation and / or no climate change considerations) NHRA, or have not completed a NHRA funded under a previous round of the NDRP, may apply for project funding under round 3. However, these applicants must show how their project seeks to address a well-known natural hazard risk.

Applicants who previously provided a copy of their NHRA are not required to provide another copy unless it has been revised and updated.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PRIVACY

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Queensland Government (Department of Community Safety). As per the NDRP relevant contract conditions and clauses, successful applicants will be required to grant a non-exclusive, royalty free licence in perpetuity to the Department of Community Safety to materials produced as part of the contracted project, for the Queensland Government's purposes including (but not restricted to): (a) local and regional natural hazard risk assessments; (b) natural hazard maps (including digital elevation modelling); and, (c) the raw data collected to produce these materials. Materials generated using NDRP funding, including (a)-(c) above, will be provided to the Department of Community Safety in a designated format (see below) upon request via written correspondence (letter or email). The Department of Community Safety may utilise the material for non-commercial purposes and may provide the material and raw data to other Australian governments for non-commercial purposes. Applicants must agree to the provisions of the Information Privacy Act 2009 (QLD). Where a third party is involved (either as partner or consultant), the applicant will seek their agreement to the provisions of the Information Privacy Act 2009 (QLD).

MAPPING - DESIGNATED FORMATS

Where mapping is an output from hazard modelling, both the input and output datasets are to be supplied along with any files such as scripts, models, code and configuration settings used in producing outputs.

Spatial Data Formats - Preferred hazard risk map (spatial) data formats are as follows: Vector data: ESRI Shapefiles, ESRI Geodatabases or MapInfo Tab files. Raster data: JPEG2000, GeoTiff or Imagine are preferred. Other acceptable raster formats include ESRI Grids and ECW files. All bands captured are to be included. When spatial data is highly dynamic, the use of live data feeds should be considered in place of a single data transfer. A live feed is to be timely and robust as to ensure a high level of access to support public safety. The Department of Community Safety uses WMS (web mapping service), WFS (web feature service), GeoRSS, and KML.

Symbology - Relevant symbology files are to be supplied to ensure correct presentation of spatial data. This may include ESRI layer files, ESRI layer package files, True Type Fonts and ESRI style files.

Spatial Metadata - All data supplied is to include relevant metadata meeting current Australian standards.

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS & VOLUNTEERING

A key NDRP priority is to enhance community preparedness for natural disaster events through community education, community awareness raising activities, and by promoting local volunteer capacity.

Community Preparedness

Applicants are encouraged to include community preparedness as part of their proposals and / or to submit proposals that focus exclusively on community preparedness. There are a range of internationally recognised, well established tools that can assist governments and communities to promote community preparedness. The internationally-accepted best practice standard is the Hyogo Framework 2005-2015 managed by the United Nations' International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).²

¹ See Guidance for Considering Climate Change in Round 3 Natural Disaster Resilience Program – Queensland Applications (available from www.communitysafety.qld.gov.au/ndrp)

² See UN ISDR, Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (www.unisdr.org/hfa) and UN ISDR, Words Into Action: A Guide for implementing the Hyogo Framework (www.unisdr.org/atf).

The practices and tools promoted by the ISDR can be customised to the Queensland context. The ISDR suggests the following community preparedness activities: provide relevant information on local natural hazard risk and means of protection to those in high risk areas; establish local taskforce to assess information needs and develop programs to raise community awareness of local natural hazard risk reduction; public awareness campaigns; target preparedness messages to all sectors in the community; encourage local universities to offer subjects in natural hazard risk reduction; include natural hazard risk reduction modules in formal and informal education at all levels including school curriculum; encourage private businesses to educate their employees about natural hazard risk reduction; involve businesses and their employees in awareness raising through sponsorship opportunities and advertising; strengthen local networks of experts from difference disciplinary backgrounds; use community-based programs and sites such as community centres, community or school fairs, festivals and commemorative events to communicate preparedness messages; work with the media to raise awareness about local natural hazard risk reduction; and use local knowledge and take local perspectives.

Local Volunteer Capability Building

Volunteers play a significant role in reducing community vulnerability to natural disasters in Queensland. Applicants are encouraged to submit project proposals that include initiatives that support and enhance the capacity and capability of local volunteer groups³ that have a role in disaster management.

Proposals might address one or more of the following aspects of local volunteer capacity building: reducing barriers to volunteering, attraction, retention, recognition, education and training, legal protection, young volunteers, managing spontaneous volunteers, and volunteer manager support.

Where the proposal is a study or natural hazard risk assessment, it can include a part focus on local volunteer capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters. Study projects might address local volunteer trends and the contribution of volunteers to the local community.

Self-reliance

Applicants are encouraged to include community preparedness activities that seek to increase the self-reliance of communities, families and individuals and to reduce demand on government services. Government services include the provision of disaster recovery payments. Self-reliance may include: increased uptake of household and business insurance, development of household emergency plans, electrical redundancy for critical infrastructure (district or local disaster coordination centres, sewerage treatment works, etc), and local neighbourhood support networks.

Strengthening the relationship between mitigation and recovery

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that seek to strengthen the relationship between disaster mitigation and community recovery. The benefits of investment in disaster mitigation go beyond reducing the economic costs of natural disasters. Investment in mitigation can lead to a reduction in the community's need for recovery resources (e.g. as provided via the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements).

Community resilience can begin in the recovery period. Finding innovative and cost-effective ways to build back better after a disaster is part of enhancing community resilience. Research shows that people are receptive to mitigation messages and initiatives in the period after a disaster has occurred.

³ Consistent with these guidelines including the sections on eligible organisations and eligible projects.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

SECTION 1 – THE APPLICANT(S)

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Organisations

Organisations considered eligible for NDRP funding are Local Government agencies as defined in the *Local Government Act (QLD) 2009* and *City of Brisbane (QLD) Act 2010*, Indigenous Councils, Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs), Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs), River Improvement Trusts, government owned corporations, and other government bodies, including Queensland Government departments and other state agencies within Queensland. Incorporated non-government organisations (NGOs) (including volunteer groups), and Queensland-based not for profits⁴ are also eligible to apply for funding.

An eligible organisation may submit an application for NDRP funding in partnership with ineligible organisations. Ineligible organisations include: small businesses, for-profit volunteer groups, organisations based outside of Queensland, and any other group not specified as eligible in these guidelines.

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Department of Community Safety to confirm their eligibility before writing an application.

SECTION 2 – THE PROJECT

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Projects

To be considered eligible, the proposal must explicitly conform to NDRP objectives and explicitly address one or more NDRP priorities (see above). Priority will be given to regional projects (i.e. those that benefit more than one region or Local Government area) that applicants may not otherwise be able to fund. Proposals involving land use change and / or development must ensure all necessary development approvals or preliminary formal advice has been obtained prior to applying for funding and included in the application.

Proposals considered *ineligible* for NDRP funding include those that:

- fail to meet NDRP objectives and/or fail to promote NDRP priorities
- do not produce a significant community benefit
- duplicate existing initiatives, or roles and responsibilities of other organisations
- cannot be completed within 2 years of funding approval.
- seek funding to purchase capital equipment such as motor vehicles

Proposals should not:

- seek to use NDRP funds to obtain development approval
- include development work but have failed to obtain necessary approvals and / or advice
- be eligible for more appropriate funding from other sources e.g. Gambling Community Benefit Fund
- be similar to incomplete projects already funded under NDRP or under previous programs

NGOs seeking funding for support to a Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) must gain LDMG endorsement of their application.

Project Duration

The funding for the NDRP will cease at the end of the financial year 2012-2013. Therefore to be considered eligible for funding under NDRP Round 3, projects must require no more than 2 years from funding approval to completion

⁴ As defined in Regulation 3 of the Corporations (Review Fees) Regulations 2003 'This company is for charitable purposes only and its constitution will require the company to: apply its income in promoting those purposes; prohibit the company making distributions to its members and paying fees to its directors; and require its directors to approve all other payments the company makes to them.' (source: www.asic.gov.au)

Regional Projects

Proposals for regional projects (i.e. involving two or more Local Governments or multiple regions for NGOs) are particularly encouraged. These might include regional and / or catchment-wide disaster mitigation solutions, community resilience building, regional flood and / or other hazard risk mapping projects and studies, regional community education and awareness raising projects, or regional volunteer network-building projects.

CLIMATE CHANGE

It is expected that the patterns of Queensland's most significant natural hazards – flood, storm tide and cyclone, severe storm and bushfire – will alter as a result of climate change impacts. For example more intense rainfall events and increased intensity of cyclones are anticipated.

All project proposals must include a climate change component or explain how climate change is not relevant to the project. A project proposal submitted for NDRP funding will be assessed, in part, on the extent to which it goes toward addressing the likely impacts of climate change.

The NDRP provides one vehicle for eligible organisations to undertake resilience-building projects that include specific reference to managing expected climate change impacts. The NDRP indirectly targets the potential impacts of climate change by targeting funding to Queensland's natural hazard risk profile.

One goal of the NDRP is to provide funding to eligible agencies to reduce community vulnerability and build community resilience to natural hazards and expected impacts of climate change. In this way, the NDRP complements *ClimateQ*, the Queensland Government climate strategy which aims to support community and industry to prepare for and adapt to a changing climate.

Applicants must show how their project addresses the requirements provided in the *Guidance for Considering Climate Change in Round 3 Natural Disaster Resilience Program - Queensland Applications*. The Guidance is available from the NDRP website.

SECTION 3 – PROJECT BUDGET

CONTRIBUTIONS

These provisions apply to all eligible organisations.

Cost Sharing

As a general principle, NDRP projects are funded on a cost sharing basis with the Applicant, State Government, and Commonwealth Government each contributing an equal share. That is, the NDRP (comprising State and Commonwealth Government funds) contributes up to 2/3 (i.e. 67%) of the total project value and the applicant contributes at least 1/3 (i.e. 33%) of the total project value. The total value of a project includes in-kind contributions (e.g. time, facilities, expertise, etc) from the applicant and / or their partners.

Increased NDRP contribution

Applicants may request that the NDRP contribute more than 2/3 (i.e. 67%) of the total value of the project in the relevant section of the NDRP Round 3 Application Form. The Application Assessment Group will consider the rationale for the request and other relevant matters (e.g. a low rate base for a council or lack of operating cash for an NGO) in deciding whether to grant the increase or not.

BUDGET FORM

The following points are provided to assist applicants to complete the budget form:

- Expenditure represents all out-goings for the project. This includes all cash purchases and in-kind resources required to complete the project. Capital items must not be included as expenditure in the budget table.
- Income includes all in-kind contributions, and cash from the NDRP and other sources.
- In-kind contributions of goods and services are recognised at fair market value. In simple terms, ask yourself 'what would you pay if it was not donated?' They may include cash-equivalent goods or services considered essential to the project which if not donated would have to be purchased with project funds.
- In-kind contributions in the form of time are to be recorded at \$20 per hour for unskilled staff and \$50 per hour for skilled staff.

The completed example below shows a project with a total value of \$121,800 including \$46,200 worth of in-kind contributions from the applicant and their partners. In this case even though the NDRP is providing the majority of the cash for the project, the NDRP contribution as a percentage of the total project value is 54% therefore this application is within the acceptable range described above.

Project Expenditure		Project Income		
Item	Value	Source	Type	
			Cash	In-kind
Application development (4.5 days @ \$50/hour)	\$1,800	Lead Organisation (XYZ Shire Council)		
Administration / Project Management	\$5,000	Administration		\$1,800
Materials	\$60,000	Project manager (11 days @ \$50 per hour)		\$4,400
On-going maintenance / support	\$15,000	On-going maintenance	\$10,000	\$5,000
Acquittal audit	\$2,000	Partner Organisation (Bob's Trucking)		
Contingency	\$3,000	Freight		\$5,000
Freight	\$5,000	Partner Organisation (Fred's Printing)		
Printing	\$20,000	Printing		\$20,000
Promotion	\$10,000	Partner Organisation (Bev's Media Gurus)		
		Promotion		\$10,000
		Sub totals	\$10,000	\$46,200
		Total applicant contribution (cash plus in-kind)	\$56,200	
		Plus NDRP cash contribution	\$65,600	
Total expenses (must equal total income)	\$121,800	Total income (must equal total expenses)	\$121,800	

NDRP contribution as percentage of total project value 54%

SECTION 4 – PROJECT MILESTONES

Applicants are to provide indicative milestones with their application. These are expressed in the weeks / months required to achieve each milestone after the project is approved. For example, the project below is of 10 week duration.

Milestone description		Schedule (i.e. approval + x weeks / months)
1	Recruit counsellor	+ 4 weeks
2	Design training program / identify trainees	+ 3 weeks
3	Deliver training	+ 1 week
4	Complete final report and audit funding	+ 2 weeks

Applicants are encouraged to rationalise the number of milestones as they link directly to progress reports and payments. Successful applicants will be asked to review their milestones for accuracy.

SECTION 5 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The Queensland Government supports a risk management approach to disaster mitigation and project management. Applicants are required to design their proposal so that it identifies a natural hazard risk or treat a natural hazard risk, consistent with NDRP Priority (1) Target NDRP funding to Queensland's highest natural hazard risks (flooding, storm tide /storm surge, cyclone, severe storm and bushfire).

Local Governments are required to provide evidence that their organisation has produced an up to date risk register that includes natural hazard risks and relevant risk treatments (consistent with ISO 31000:2009 – Risk Management Principles and Guidelines or equivalent e.g., a recognised risk assessment guideline) that forms part of the Local Disaster Management Plan and/or corporate plan or strategic plan.

Other eligible applicants are not required to provide or undertake a natural hazard risk assessment. However, they must seek advice from their Local Government on local natural hazard risks and show how their proposal seeks to mitigate a known risk.

NDRP Round 3 Application Checklist

- Read the Applicant Guideline
- Establish if you are an eligible organisation
- Establish if your project is eligible
- Complete an application form (one per proposal)
- Attach a current natural hazard risk assessment including consideration of climate change impacts for the local area
- Have the application form signed by your CEO or equivalent

ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLD QUESTIONS			
1 Is the applicant an eligible organisation? If YES , go to 2 If NO , end of assessment		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
a. Local Government agency (as defined in the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> and <i>City of Brisbane Act 2010</i>)		<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Indigenous Council		<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Regional Organisation of Councils		<input type="checkbox"/>	
d. Local Disaster Management Group		<input type="checkbox"/>	
e. River Improvement Trust		<input type="checkbox"/>	
f. Government Owned Corporation		<input type="checkbox"/>	
g. Other Government body (including Queensland Government departments and other state agencies within Queensland)		<input type="checkbox"/>	
h. Incorporated Non-Government Organisation – General		<input type="checkbox"/>	
i. Incorporated Non-Government Organisation – Volunteer Group		<input type="checkbox"/>	
j. Not For Profit based in Queensland (as defined in Corporations (Review Fees) Regulations 2003, Regulation 3 – charitable purposes only)		<input type="checkbox"/>	
2 Does the proposal promote the NDRP vision and objectives? If YES , go to 3 If NO , end of assessment		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
<u>The NDRP vision:</u> Is to reduce Queensland communities' vulnerability to natural hazards by supporting regional councils and other stakeholders to build community resilience.		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>The NDRP objectives:</u>			
(1) Reduce community vulnerability to natural hazards;		<input type="checkbox"/>	
(2) Support local governments and others to build community resilience and increase self-reliance;		<input type="checkbox"/>	
(3) Promote innovation through a focus on building partnerships between sectors, support volunteering, encourage a regional or catchment area approach to mitigation, and potential impacts due to climate change; and		<input type="checkbox"/>	
(4) Ensure that NDRP funding is utilised in an efficient way.		<input type="checkbox"/>	

ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLD QUESTIONS			
<p>3 Does the proposal address one or more of the NDRP priorities?</p> <p>If YES, go to 4A</p> <p>If NO, end of assessment</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
<p><u>The four year NDRP priorities are:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Target NDRP funding to Queensland's highest natural hazard risks 2. Enhance community preparedness for natural events through community education and awareness raising 3. Strategic targeting to increase resilience across sectors 		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4A Is the proposal required to identify potential impacts of climate change?</p> <p>If YES, go to 4B</p> <p>If NO, go to CRITERIA</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
<p>4B Does the application show how the project addresses the requirements provided in the <i>Guidance for Considering Climate in Round 3 Natural Disaster Resilience Program</i>?</p> <p>If YES, go to CRITERIA</p> <p>If NO, end of assessment</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
CRITERIA	WEIGHTING	SCORE	
<p>#1 – ENHANCE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE</p> <p>Does the project support community stakeholders to build community resilience? E.g. does the project build partnerships between sectors?</p>	30%	/7	
<p>#2 – STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Does the project work to protect the community from the physical effects of a natural disaster? E.g. will the project protect critical infrastructure from the effects of flood</p>	20%	/7	
<p>#3 – REGIONAL APPROACH</p> <p>Does the project encourage a regional or catchment area approach to mitigation?</p>	25%	/7	
<p>#4 – EFFICIENCY</p> <p>Does the project provide value-for-money under NDRP?</p>	25%	/7	
	TOTAL	/100%	/28
SCORING			
<p>Scoring is to be undertaken within the range of 1 to 7, which will be adjusted by the weighting percentage (<u>please use whole numbers only</u>). The following is to be used as a score guide:</p> <p>Scores for each application will be averaged and weighted with a priority rating being given as a Joint Group Decision. Projects will be rated by priority as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Priority 1 – average weighted score of 21-28 – Priority 2 – average weighted score of 13-20 – Priority 3 – average weighted score of 4-12 		<p>7 = EXCELLENT</p> <p>6 = VERY GOOD</p> <p>5 = GOOD</p> <p>4 = SATISFACTORY</p> <p>3 = MEDIOCRE</p> <p>2 = CONDITIONAL PASS</p> <p>1 = NO PASS</p>	

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

Council of
Australian
Governments

An agreement between

- the Commonwealth of Australia and
- the States and Territories, being:
 - ◆ The State of New South Wales
 - ◆ The State of Victoria
 - ◆ The State of Queensland
 - ◆ The State of Western Australia
 - ◆ The State of South Australia
 - ◆ The State of Tasmania
 - ◆ The Australian Capital Territory
 - ◆ The Northern Territory of Australia

This Agreement provides for collaboration on natural disaster mitigation activities to strengthen communities' resilience to, and minimise the impact of, a range of natural disasters in Australia.

National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience

PRELIMINARIES

1. This National Partnership agreement (the Agreement) is created subject to the provisions of the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations* and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement and subsidiary schedules.
2. The Parties are committed to addressing the issue of social inclusion, including responding to Indigenous disadvantage. That commitment is embodied in the objectives and outcomes of this Agreement. However, the Parties have also agreed other objectives and outcomes which the Parties will pursue through the broadest possible spectrum of government action. Consequently, this Agreement will be implemented consistently with the objectives and outcomes of all National Agreements and National Partnerships entered into by the Parties.
3. The Parties acknowledge that this Agreement is entered into to contribute to community resilience and self-reliance in the face of disasters and to reduce impact and cost.

PART 1 – FORMALITIES

Parties to this Agreement

4. In entering this Agreement, the Commonwealth and the States and Territories recognise that they:
 - (a) have a mutual interest in reducing the impact of, and increasing resilience to, natural disasters; and
 - (b) will work together and with other parties, such as volunteers, the private and non-government sectors and local government, to achieve those outcomes.

Term of the Agreement

5. This Agreement is created subject to the provisions of the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations* and its schedules, and should be read in conjunction with them.
6. This Agreement will commence once the Commonwealth and any other Party has signed the Agreement. It will be reviewed during the fourth year, and will expire on 30 June 2013, or earlier as agreed in writing by the Parties.

Delegations

7. The Commonwealth Attorney-General is authorised to agree Implementation Plans or Schedules to this Agreement on behalf of the Commonwealth.
8. State or Territory ministers responsible for emergency services, their equivalents or nominated delegates, are authorised to agree Implementation Plans or Schedules to this Agreement on behalf of their State or Territory.

Interpretation

9. Unless otherwise specified, the terms and definitions which apply to this Agreement are listed at Schedule A.

PART 2 – SCOPE, OBJECTIVE, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

Scope

10. The focus of this Agreement is on building resilience to withstand natural disasters. Consideration may also be given to other emergency management priorities identified in State or Territory risk assessments.

Objective

11. Australian communities that are resilient to natural disasters.

Outcomes

12. The outcomes will be:
 - (a) reduced risk from the impact of disasters;
 - (b) appropriate emergency management capability and capacity, consistent with State and Territory risk profiles; and
 - (c) support for volunteers.

Outputs

13. The outcomes and objective of this Agreement will be achieved by:
 - (a) risk assessments to inform State and Territory risk mitigation priorities; and
 - (b) implementation of a program of activities to address the agreed priorities.

PART 3 – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH PARTY

14. The Commonwealth will:
 - (a) provide a financial contribution to the States and Territories, or through the States and Territories to other parties, to assist them with implementing their responsibilities; and
 - (b) in partnership with the States and Territories, monitor the performance of this Agreement, including a full evaluation and review with input from key stakeholders by 31 December 2012.
15. States and Territories will:
 - (a) provide a financial contribution to implement their responsibilities;
 - (b) in partnership with the Commonwealth, monitor the performance of this Agreement, including a full evaluation and review with input from key stakeholders by 31 December 2012;
 - (c) produce a state/territory wide prioritised natural disaster risk assessment in accordance with the relevant Australian standards;
 - (d) in consultation with the Commonwealth, develop and jointly agree annual Implementation Plans of how they will address the outcome, objectives and outputs of this Agreement; and
 - (e) ensure appropriate financial and project management arrangements are in place for all activities undertaken through this Agreement.

Publications and communications

16. The Parties will acknowledge the Agreement as a joint Commonwealth and State or Territory initiative, and refer to it as the Natural Disaster Resilience Program in all publications, promotional and advertising materials, public announcements and activities, or any products, processes or inventions developed as a result of the implementation of the Agreement.
17. Ministers will have the opportunity to be engaged in promotional activities held in regard to the Program.

PART 4 – PERFORMANCE REPORTING

18. The Parties will produce an annual report providing information on whether the activities are:
 - (a) effective in contributing to the outcome;
 - (b) being implemented efficiently; and
 - (c) reaching those people for whom they are intended.
19. Performance indicators will be set out in the Implementation Plans that, when agreed, will form schedules to this Agreement.

20. To facilitate payments, each State and Territory will provide to the Commonwealth Attorney-General, for approval, a report by 31 March each year on achievements against the agreed performance indicators set out in Implementation Plans.

PART 5 – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Funding

21. The total Commonwealth contribution available to be divided between the States and Territories will be:
 - (a) \$21.6 million in 2009-10
 - (b) \$25.2 million in 2010-11
 - (c) \$25.7 million in 2011-12
 - (d) \$26.1 million in 2012-13

22. The distribution of the funding referred to in clause 21 between the States and Territories will be as set out in the following annual allocations. Historically these were based on population, costs of disasters and relative disadvantage, but have been adjusted by agreement to provide an adequate minimum level of the Territories and Tasmania. Accordingly, the annual percentage allocations are:
 - (a) NSW 26 percent
 - (b) VIC 16 percent
 - (c) QLD 23 percent
 - (d) WA 12 percent
 - (e) SA 8 percent
 - (f) TAS 5 percent
 - (g) ACT 5 percent
 - (h) NT 5 percent

23. The Commonwealth will make a financial contribution up to 50 per cent of the estimated cost of delivering the activities specified in an Implementation Plan, but not exceeding the allocation of funding for a State or Territory.

24. States and Territories are responsible for securing the balance of contributions to the Implementation Plan, which may include in-kind support.

25. The Commonwealth's funding contribution will not be reduced where the States and Territories secure funding from other activity partners through innovative and collaborative partnerships.

26. Having regard to the estimated cost of the activities specified in an Implementation Plan, a State or Territory will not be required to pay a refund to the Commonwealth if the actual cost is less than the agreed estimated cost. Similarly, the States and Territories bear all risk should the costs exceed the agreed estimated costs.

27. The Parties may agree to fund additional exceptional activities through this Agreement on a case-by-case basis.

28. Within the 2009/10 allocation at clause 22, the Commonwealth agrees to provide \$150,000 for each State or Territory to produce a State or Territory wide prioritised natural disaster risk assessment (as per clause 15(c)). A copy of the risk assessment shall be provided to the Attorney-General's Department by 31 December 2011.

Payment schedule

29. 50 per cent of each State's and Territory's allocation of 2009-10 funding will be paid on the Parties signing this Agreement. The remaining 50 per cent will be paid on agreement of the Implementation Plan.
30. For 2010-11 and thereafter, 50 per cent of the annual allocation will be paid on agreement of the Implementation Plan. The remaining 50 per cent will be paid on satisfactory progress of the activities listed in the Implementation Plan, as detailed in the 31 March report each year.

PART 6 – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Dispute resolution

31. Any Party may give notice to other Parties of a dispute under this Agreement.
32. The relevant delegates will attempt to resolve any dispute in the first instance.
33. If a dispute cannot be resolved between the relevant delegates, it may be escalated to the relevant Ministerial Council for consideration.
34. If a dispute cannot be resolved by the relevant Ministerial Council, it may be referred by a Party to COAG for consideration.

Review of the Agreement

35. The Agreement will be reviewed by 31 December 2012 to assess progress made by the Parties in respect of achieving the agreed outcome, objectives and outputs.

Variation of the Agreement

36. The Agreement may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by all the Parties.
37. A Party to the Agreement may terminate their participation in the Agreement at any time by notifying all the other Parties in writing giving reasonable notice.

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

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

The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP

Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

2009

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of New South Wales by*

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by*

The Honourable Nathan Rees MP

Premier of the State of New South Wales

2009

The Honourable John Brumby MP

Premier of the State of Victoria

2009

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by*

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

The Honourable Anna Bligh MP

Premier of the State of Queensland

3. Nov. 2009

The Honourable Colin Barnett MP

Premier of the State of Western Australia

2009

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

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by*

The Honourable Mike Rann MP

Premier of the State of South Australia

2009

The Honourable David Bartlett MP

Premier of the State of Tasmania

2009

*Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by*

*Signed for and on behalf of the Northern
Territory by*

Jon Stanhope MLA

Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

2009

The Honourable Paul Henderson MLA

Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia

2009

Interpretation

For the purposes of this Agreement the following definitions apply:

Disaster mitigation – Measures taken in advance of, or after, a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating the impact of disaster on society and the environment.

Emergency management – A range of measures to manage risks to communities and the environment, including the organisation and management of resources for dealing with all aspects of emergencies. Emergency management involves the plans, structures and arrangements which are established to bring together the normal endeavours of government, voluntary and private agencies in a comprehensive and coordinated way to deal with the whole spectrum of emergency needs, including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

In-kind contributions – A non-cash input which can be given a cash value. In-kind contributions are for costs directly associated with an approved project. They are not to be used for administrative overheads, ongoing running costs or other core activities of State and/or local agencies.

Natural disaster – A serious disruption to a community or region caused by the impact of a naturally occurring, rapid onset event that threatens or causes death, injury or damage to property or the environment, and which requires significant and coordinated multi-agency and community response. Any one, or a combination, of the following can cause serious disruption to communities, infrastructure and the environment: bushfire; cyclone, earthquake; flood; landslide; storm; storm surge; tornado or tsunami.

Resilience – The capacity to prevent/mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from the impacts of disasters.