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s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Wednesday, 16 March 2022 9:17 AM
To: s 22
Subject: FW: Incoming - Perrottet - Cat D [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: VIP PRIORITY - Perrottet - Floods - economic recovery package - CAT D Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.pdf

OFFICIAL

s 22
Director | Disaster Recovery Programs | Recovery Operations
National Recovery and Resilience Agency

s 22
121 Marcus Clarke Street, (PO Box 135) Canberra Act 2601

recovery.gov.au | [@recoveryaust](https://twitter.com/recoveryaust)



The National Recovery and Resilience Agency acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

From: s 22
Sent: Wednesday, 16 March 2022 7:26 AM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: Incoming - Perrottet - Cat D [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Morning s 22

Hope you managed to have a weekend.

Can you give me a buzz when you get this?

Thanks ☺

s 22 [Redacted]

Disaster Preparedness, Plans and Incident Management Branch

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

s 22 [Redacted]

Ngunna Wal Country, One National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

[Redacted] w. pmc.gov.au



The Department acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and emerging Elders and Traditional Custodians of Country, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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Dominic Perrottet MP
Premier of New South Wales

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your continued support for disaster recovery assistance measures for the communities affected by the unfolding February 2022 Storms and Floods event (AGRN 1012).

I am writing to seek your support for an economic recovery package under Category D provisions of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). I ask that costs are shared on a 50:50 basis between the Commonwealth and State Governments, per our previous agreements.

The package includes a suite of measures designed to set flood-affected areas on the path toward economic recovery through supports for individuals, businesses, high-impact industries, rural landholders, Councils and timely demolition works.

'Back to Home' scheme

The \$355.5 million 'Return to Home' scheme is designed to assist individuals to return their homes to a habitable condition or set up a new home in a new location. Owner-occupiers may access up to \$10,000, while renters and landlords may access up to \$5,000 under the scheme, limiting the payment amount to \$10,000 per household. Grants may be used for structural repairs, purchasing household contents, or carrying out utilities repairs.

This program targets households in the worst affected Northern Rivers Local Government Areas of Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, the Tweed Shire and the Clarence Valley, as well as the Hawkesbury Local Government Area in Western Sydney.

The following eligibility criteria will apply, with key details of the guidelines to be settled between our offices and the relevant agencies. The core requirements are:

- a. Applicants must either not hold insurance or lack flood insurance coverage;
- b. Applicants must have individual income below \$120,000 or household income below \$200,000; and;
- c. The premises must have been assessed by the State Emergency Services as damaged: i.e. with water over the floor.

Support for primary producers, businesses and councils

Our proposed measures capture both small and large business, and our primary producers and support significantly impacted councils. The proposed packages of support are as follows:

- a. Support for smaller landholders in disaster declared local government areas involved in primary industries will be delivered by a \$25,000 grant, targeting those who do not meet the 50 per cent income threshold to access the \$75,000 primary producer grant. Demand driven, this is costed at \$35 million.
- b. Support for landholders, farmers as well as atypical primary producers such as aquaculturalists, fishers and apiarists will be delivered through fees and license waivers. This measure is costed at \$30 million.
- c. A key primary industries support package, to deliver support for recovery for key sectors including the dairy, macadamia and forestry industries. This is costed at \$150 million and will be divided into two streams, with guidelines to be finalised.
- d. A targeted Northern Rivers support package, to deliver funding as follows:
 - I. \$30 million anchor industries via a bespoke business package.
 - II. \$20 million for medium sized businesses with grants up to \$200,000 for businesses which have between 21-199 full time employees.
 - III. \$80 million for small businesses which have suffered a 40% downturn in their income, which will be eligible for a \$10,000 grant.
- e. A \$142 million Property Assessment and Demolition (PAD) Program, which will entail an assessment of properties and the demolition of those found to be uninhabitable in the Disaster Declared Areas covered by AGRN 1012 from April 2022.
- f. A \$40 million grants scheme, to provide immediate relief and liquidity to Councils hard-hit by the floods, with allocations to be determined on a needs basis.
- g. Continuation of our support to newly disaster declared areas, including the \$1 million grants to councils, \$75,000 primary producer grants, and \$50,000 small business grants.

The NSW Government will unilaterally cover the cost of local water utility rebuild and repair, costed at \$145 million. This is predominantly focused on Lismore LGA which has suffered a complete destruction of its utility assets. We will also support Councils through an \$80 million concessional loan program.

Your ongoing support for our recovery initiatives is appreciated. Resilience NSW will continue to work closely with the National Recovery and Resilience Agency on the development of detailed guidelines for the administration of these programs and their reporting requirements.

Yours sincerely,



Dominic Perrottet MP
Premier

s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Wednesday, 16 March 2022 1:24 PM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: Resilience NSW | AGRN 1012 Storms and Floods Category D Applications | Next Phase of Support
Attachments: DRFA Category D Assistance Request Form - Recovery Grants - AGRN 1012_ 16 Mar 22.pdf

Hi s 22

Further to my correspondence this morning, please see attached final Cat D applications for your consideration. The applications should align with the letter sent from our Premier (thank you again for sharing this with us).

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Kind regards

s 22
 Resilience NSW
 GPO Box 5434, Sydney NSW 2001

S

W www.nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw



Resilience NSW



Njunaliin ngaralanga dharawalwulawala nguradhanhay ngaliya (Dharawal)
I acknowledge Aboriginal peoples as the first people and custodians of NSW.

If you receive an email from me outside of normal business hours, I'm sending it at a time that suits me. Unless it's urgent, I'm not expecting you to read or reply until normal business hours.

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Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

Category D Assistance Request Form

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'Back to Home' Program (CATEGORY D) - \$355.5m

Part 1: Requested Recovery Initiative

Name of initiative	'Back to Home' Program for owners and renters (highly impacted LGAs only)
AGRN	AGRN 1012 – NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February onwards
Amount of funding being requested	<p>Estimated at up to \$355.5 million, based on up to 33,858 applications of up to \$10,000 for eligible applicants.</p> <p>Costs will be shared equally by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis under Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This cost estimate includes extraordinary administration costs, which will not exceed 5 per cent of total program costs.</p>
Description of initiative	The state will provide up to \$10,000 per property (\$5,000 for renters and landlords; \$10,000 for owner-occupiers). The grants will assist with the costs of urgent repairs, safe reconnection of utilities, replacement of essential household goods, or rebuilding to restore housing to a habitable condition. The program will be available to those who are not able to claim on insurance, and with an individual income below \$120,000 p.a. or household income below \$200,000 p.a.
Locations where the initiative will be made available/provided	The grants will be made available across the seven highly impacted Northern Rivers LGAs in northeast NSW – Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed Shire, plus Hawkesbury based on initial operational assessment of needs and will be confirmed by damage assessments as they are completed.
State/territory administering agency and contact	<p>Name: s 22</p> <p>Title: Executive Director</p> <p>Email Address: s 22</p> <p>Phone Number: s 22</p>

Part 2: Recovery needs

The record-breaking NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February 2022 onwards has had a catastrophic impact on communities across parts of New South Wales. Lives have been lost and many people were forced to evacuate. There has been extensive damage to residential properties, public infrastructure, agriculture, businesses and the environment.

The impact on these communities both financially and psychologically has been devastating, noting that some affected flood areas have suffered compounding impacts from concurrent disasters, including the NSW Storms and Floods in February and March 2021 (AGRN 960), the COVID-19 pandemic, mouse plague, the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires (AGRN 871) and several years of drought.

Known impacts as of 14 March 2022 include:

- 57 Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been declared natural disasters under AGRN 1012.

- Eight deaths have been confirmed across NSW.
 - Many communities have been impacted by flash flooding, riverine flooding, and damaging wind gusts.
 - Response operations are continuing in many communities, with recovery efforts ramping up as waters recede.
 - There are approximately 6,800 personnel on the ground to support the clean-up, this includes SES, RFS, FRNSW, Service NSW, Police, Resilience NSW and the ADF (5,500+).
- Thousands of primary producers and businesses are expected to have been impacted
- Tens of thousands insurance claims are expected to be lodged with a total claim believed to be more than hundreds of millions of dollars.
 - 2 evacuation centres remain operational (with 7,500 registrations since the start of the event) and 8 recovery centres are now open (Kyogle, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, Ballina, Casino, Granton, South Windsor); 1,357 people are in emergency accommodation (2,284 since the start of the event).
 - 17,359 SES building impact assessments have been completed; 9,441 are damaged, 3,657 are not habitable, 777 water above the ceiling and 1,400 water up to the ceiling.
 - Service NSW's customer care line has so far helped more than 31,000 people.
 - More than 3,848 truckloads of waste have been deposited to date at Alstonville and Coraki waste transfer stations. There are 2,230 skip bins for kerbside waste removal.

Evidence base for the proposed 'Back to Home' package

Households and communities in New South Wales rely on safe, reliable access to essential services to meet their everyday needs.

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements following the 2019-2020 bushfires found there were widespread disruptions to essential services following the 2019-2020 bushfires^[1]. People in regional communities experienced ongoing disruptions to energy, water and gas services. Lack of access to water and workable sewerage systems was a factor in delays to people returning to their homes. Disruption to energy supply led to impacts in telecommunications connectivity with family, community services and access to public information designed to assist their recovery.

This program is modelled on a program run by the Queensland Government under Category B of the DRFA. The Queensland and Commonwealth Governments co-fund an Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Grant for uninsured homeowners and mortgagees. The Grant provides up to \$200 for essential services safety inspections and up to \$4,200 for repair works. The Grant, however, is strictly limited to those on low incomes. The Queensland Government also offers a second program under Category B of the DRFA to replace essential contents. The Grant provides up to \$5 000 towards the replacement of household contents.

Support for essential services reconnection and safety for uninsured families on middle incomes remains a critical gap in existing support measures for NSW. People without insurance must assume the cost of completing repairs to allow their essential services to be reconnected. This is an equity issue for families which have already experienced significant disruption to their daily lives and incomes, particularly in communities where insurance premiums are unaffordable for most homeowners.

^[4] The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster. (2021). *Report*, available at <<https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/royal-commission-national-natural-disaster-arrangements-report>>.

Key proposal

This means tested grant program, targeted at highly impacted LGAs, offers households up to \$10,000 financial assistance for:

- the inspection and safe reconnection of utilities (all)
- any clean-up costs to restore housing to a habitable condition (all)
- necessary replacement or repairs to electrical, gas, water, hot water, and sewerage equipment not otherwise the responsibility of utility companies (all)
- necessary replacement or repairs to damaged whitegoods including refrigerators, washing machines, microwaves (all)
- necessary replacement or repairs to damaged IT and equipment including computers, ovens, tools (all)
- necessary capital / structural repairs including roof, flooring, structural, walls, fittings (owner-occupier / owner)

The grant would be paid to eligible uninsured owners and renters of residences, and those who cannot claim under their insurance for flood damage, that have been assessed as being damaged (slight, moderate or severe) or destroyed by the State Emergency Service per the [NSW SES Damage Assessment Dashboard](#).

This grant is provided irrespective if the State subsidises demolition of houses that cannot be restored.

Eligibility

This grant will be limited to:

- homes in 7 highly impacted LGAs in the Northern Rivers (Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed) plus Hawkesbury
- owners and renters of residences in these LGAs, who are not able to claim on insurance, that have been assessed as being damaged (slight, moderate or severe) or destroyed by the State Emergency Service per the NSW SES Damage Assessment Dashboard; and
- individuals with incomes of less than \$120,000 p.a. and households with incomes of less than \$200,000 p.a.

For properties that are rented, renters will be eligible to apply for a one-off \$5,000 payment. Landlords will be eligible to apply for a for a one-off \$5,000 payment. A maximum of \$10,000 will paid for any one property. Homeowner occupiers will be eligible for a one-off \$10,000 payment.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate they were residing in the residence or owners at the time of the disaster. A declaration of cost estimate of damage will be required on application.

This is extending on the assistance that may already be available under Category A of the DRFA, for essential repairs, services, and re-stocking of food items.

These 8 high impact LGAs are estimated to contain more than 160,080 private dwellings (ABS 2016 Census Data).

LGA	# private dwellings	Median weekly household income	% households under \$200K threshold*	Median weekly individual income	% individuals under \$120K threshold**
Ballina	19,107	\$1,156	73.1-75.0	\$601	70.5-73.2
Byron	15,540	\$1,149	61.9-63.6	\$596	66.7-69.1
Clarence Valley	24,848	\$910	71.3-72.4	\$477	72.2-73.7
Hawkesbury	24,064	\$1,668	70.0-73.7	\$728	67.8-71.8
Kyogle	4,499	\$832	70.2-71.0	\$460	71.7-73.0
Lismore	19,022	\$1,067	74.4-75.9	\$550	71.1-73.0
Richmond Valley	10,296	\$953	75.2-76.2	\$491	70.4-71.5
Tweed	42,704	\$1,064	72.1-73.6	\$539	71.3-73.3
Total	160,080				

* ABS 2016 Census data thresholds are \$181,999 and \$207,999

** ABS 2016 Census data thresholds are \$103,999 and \$155,999

Note: An average of 54% of Australian homes are estimated to be uninsured or underinsured for floods.

Part 3: Cost

The total cost of the initiative is estimated at \$355.5 million over two financial years per the table below.

# high impact LGAs	# private dwellings	54.4% uninhabitable homes	54% average uninsured rate	Approx 72 % means eligibility	Max \$10K per property	Total costs including 5% admin, M&E
8	160 080	87,084	47,025	33,858	\$338.6m	\$355.5m

This cost estimate includes extraordinary administration costs including monitoring and evaluation which will not exceed 5 per cent of total program cost.

The NSW Government seeks the cost of this package to be shared equally by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis.

A cost-breakdown by financial year is provided below.

Proposed Program	FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24	Total
	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m
Flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				
<i>‘Back to Home’ Grant</i>	\$101.7m	\$236.9m	-	\$338.6m
<i>Administration, monitoring and evaluation</i>	\$5m	\$11.9m	-	\$16.9m
Total	\$106.7m	\$248.8m	-	\$355.5m
<i>Requested Commonwealth Support 50%</i>	\$53m	\$124m		\$177.75m
Total flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				\$355.5m

Part 4: Administrative arrangements

‘Back to Home’ grants will be provided directly from the state to eligible applicants through Service NSW. Application and assessment processes will safeguard access to these grants by ensuring assistance is only provided to applicants who can demonstrate (with appropriate evidence) that they are under the means test thresholds and cannot claim on insurance for items covered by this grant.

Part 5: Consultation process

This initiative has been developed by NSW in consultation with:

- NSW Treasury
- Service NSW
- Resilience NSW
- Regional NSW
- The National Recovery and Resilience Agency

Part 6: Other information

Nil.

Rural Landholder Support Package (CATEGORY D) - \$65m

Part 1: Requested Recovery Initiative

Name of initiative	Rural Landholder Support Package
AGRN	AGRN 1012 – NSW Severe Weather Storms and Floods from 22 February 2022 onwards
Amount of funding being requested	<p>This package includes:</p> <p>a) \$35 million for Rural Landholder Grants of up to \$25,000 for impacted small rural landholders, which are not currently eligible under existing support mechanisms, including insurance or special disaster assistance, and are able to demonstrate losses and damage beyond the vicinity of the residential dwelling, i.e., targeting those who do not meet the 50 % income threshold to access the \$75,000 primary producer grant.</p> <p>b) Support for landholders, farmers as well as atypical primary producers such as aqua culturalists, fishers and apiarists will be delivered through waivers of Local Land Services (LLS) rates and agricultural licenses and fees. This measure is costed at \$30 million.</p> <p>Costs will be shared equally by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis under Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). This cost estimate includes extraordinary administration costs which will not exceed 5 per cent of total program costs.</p>
Description of initiative	The Rural Landholder Grant can be used for clean-up activities, damages or losses that are beyond the vicinity of the residential dwelling. This includes, but is not limited to, the removal of debris, damaged material and deceased livestock, maintenance of livestock health, and repairing or replacing of fodder, fencing and essential water infrastructure. The waiving of agricultural and atypical licences and fees as well as Local Land Services rates will provide financial relief to Primary Producers and Atypical Producers.
Locations where the initiative will be made available/provided	The grants will be made available across all local government areas (LGAs) notified under AGRN 1012.
State/territory administering agency and contact	<p>Name: s 22</p> <p>Title: Executive Director</p> <p>Email Address: s 22</p> <p>Phone Number: s 22</p>

Part 2: Recovery needs

The record-breaking NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February 2022 onwards has had a catastrophic impact on communities across parts of New South Wales. Lives have been lost and

many people were forced to evacuate. There has been extensive damage to residential properties, public infrastructure, agriculture, businesses and the environment.

The impact on these communities both financially and psychologically has been devastating, noting that some affected flood areas have suffered compounding impacts from concurrent disasters, including the NSW Storms and Floods in February and March 2021 (AGRN 960), the COVID-19 pandemic, mouse plague, the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires (AGRN 871) and several years of drought.

Known impacts as of 14 March 2022 include:

- 57 Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been declared natural disasters under AGRN 1012.
- Eight deaths have been confirmed across NSW.
- Many communities have been impacted by flash flooding, riverine flooding, and damaging wind gusts.
- Response operations are continuing in many communities, with recovery efforts ramping up as waters recede.
- There are approximately 6,800 personnel on the ground to support the clean-up, this includes SES, RFS, FRNSW, Service NSW, Police, Resilience NSW and the ADF (5,500+).
- Thousands of primary producers and businesses are expected to have been impacted
- Tens of thousands insurance claims are expected to be lodged with a total claim believed to be more than hundreds of millions of dollars.
- 2 evacuation centres remain operational (with 7,500 registrations since the start of the event) and 8 recovery centres are now open (Kyogle, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, Ballina, Casino, Grafton, South Windsor); 1,357 people are in emergency accommodation (2,284 since the start of the event).
- 17,359 SES building impact assessments have been completed; 9,441 are damaged, 3,657 are not habitable, 777 water above the ceiling and 1,400 water up to the ceiling.
- Service NSW's customer care line has so far helped more than 34,000 people.
- More than 3,848 truckloads of waste have been deposited to date at Alstonville and Coraki waste transfer stations. There are 2,230 skip bins for kerbside waste removal.

Key Proposal

a) \$35 million for Rural Landholder Grants of up to \$25,000

The Rural Landholder Grant program was a key initiative that was launched in response to the 2021 February and March storms and floods (AGRN 954 and AGRN 960)¹. The program was co-funded under Category D of the DRFA (50-50) and included as a key component of Phase Three of the \$790 Storm and Flood Recovery Package.

The Rural Landholder's Grant seeks to alleviate the personal and financial distress and assist in the recovery of rural landholders who have suffered direct damage to their assets as a result of AGRN 1012. This Grant is designed to assist rural landholders who have been affected by the floods and are ineligible for declared natural disaster assistance because they do not meet the 50% of income from primary production requirement.

¹ <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/storm-and-flood-programs/rural-landholders-grant>

The Grant can be used for clean-up activities, damages or losses that are beyond the vicinity of the residential dwelling. This includes, but is not limited to, the removal of debris, damaged material and deceased livestock, maintenance of livestock health, and repairing or replacing of fodder, fencing and essential water infrastructure

The 2021 program included up to \$10,000 per rural landholder. The rate is proposed to be increased to up to \$25,000 to acknowledging the significant impact experienced for many rural landholders across the disaster declared LGAs.

The waiving of agricultural licenses and fees, as well as Local Land Services rates has previously been adopted by the NSW Government as a form of support for directly and indirectly primary producers and rural landholders. In 2018, The NSW Government waived Local Land Services rates for three years as part of drought support packaging, providing relief to farmers managing and recovering from ongoing drought conditions. Even though there were no rates payable during this time, landholders still received the same services.

In addition, waiving agricultural licenses and fees has previously been adopted by the NSW Government in response to the 2019/20 Bushfires and as a form a COVID stimulus.

Eligibility

Key eligibility requirements for the Rural Landholder Grants will include, but are not limited to:

- be in a Local Government Area (LGA) declared as a natural disaster, as part of the NSW floods that occurred from 22 February 2022 (AGRN 1012)
- be normally charged rates under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*;
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN);
- not receive the majority of your income from primary production;
- not have received or be entitled to receive, a payment under a policy of insurance for the costs being claimed;
- be able to demonstrate that you have personally faced costs for clean-up activities, losses or damages beyond the vicinity of your residential dwelling, arising from the AGRN 1012 events; and,
- not have received or be entitled to receive, assistance under the Special Disaster Assistance (Floods) Primary Producer Grants, or other natural disaster assistance, in the capacity of being a primary producer, small business owner or non-profit organisation.

b) Recovery support to Primary Producers and Atypical Primary Producers – Fees and Licence Waivers

The waiving of agricultural licenses and fees, as well as Local Land Services rates has previously been adopted by the NSW Government as a form of support for directly and indirectly primary producers and rural landholders. In 2018, The NSW Government waived Local Land Services rates for three years as part of drought support packaging, providing relief to farmers managing and recovering from ongoing drought conditions. Even though there were no rates payable during this time, landholders still received the same services. In addition, waiving agricultural licenses and fees has previously been adopted by the NSW Government in response to the 2019/20 Bushfires and as a form a COVID stimulus.

Part 3: Cost

A cost-breakdown by financial year is provided below.

Proposed Program	FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24	Total
	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m
Flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				
<i>Small Primary Producer Grant</i>	\$10	\$23.3	-	\$33.3
<i>Waiving Rates and Agricultural Charges</i>	\$16	\$12.5	-	\$28.5
<i>Administration, monitoring and evaluation costs (5%)</i>	\$1.0	\$2.3	-	\$3.3
Total	\$27.3	\$38m	-	\$65m
Requested Commonwealth Support 50%	\$13.5m	\$90m	-	\$32.5
Total flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				\$65m

The NSW Government is seeking the cost of this package to be shared by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis. The state will seek reimbursement of the Commonwealth's funding contribution through the normal DRFA claims process. For DRFA audit and assurance purposes, the state will keep appropriate evidence/documentation to demonstrate that expenditure being claimed can be reconciled to eligible components of the recovery grants program. The state will only claim actual costs incurred, which could be less or more than the estimated figure.

Part 4: Administrative arrangements

Program guidelines and of funding agreements will be approved by the State and the Commonwealth prior to launch of the program.

The Rural Landholder Grants will be administered by the Rural Assistance Authority. It is intended that this program can launch in March 2022. All components of this package will be complete by 30 June 2024. The Waiving of Rates and Agricultural Charges will be administered by the Department of Regional NSW. It is intended that this program will communicate to all eligible ratepayers and permit/lease holders in March 2022.

Part 5: Consultation process

This initiative has been developed by NSW in consultation with:

- NSW Treasury
- Resilience NSW
- Regional NSW
- The National Recovery and Resilience Agency

Part 6: Other information

Policy context and justification

The Rural Landholder Grant program was a key initiative that was launched in response to the 2021 February and March storms and floods (AGRN 954 and AGRN 960)². The program was co-funded under Category D of the DRFA (50-50) and included as a key component of Phase Three of the \$790 Storm and Flood Recovery Package.

This Grant is designed to assist rural landholders who have been affected by the storms and floods and are ineligible for declared natural disaster assistance because they do not meet the 50% of income from primary production requirement.

The Rural Landholder's Grant seeks to alleviate the personal and financial distress and assist in the recovery of rural landholders who have suffered direct damage to their assets as a result of AGRN 1012. This Grant is designed to assist rural landholders who have been affected by the floods and are ineligible for declared natural disaster assistance because they do not meet the 50% of income from primary production requirement.

The Grant can be used for clean-up activities, damages or losses that are beyond the vicinity of the residential dwelling. This includes, but is not limited to, the removal of debris, damaged material and deceased livestock, maintenance of livestock health, and repairing or replacing of fodder, fencing and essential water infrastructure

The 2021 program included up to \$10,000 per rural landholder. The rate is proposed to be replicated for the 2022 disaster declared LGAs (AGRN 1012)

The waiving of agricultural licenses and fees, as well as Local Land Services (LLS) rates has previously been adopted by the NSW Government as a form of support for directly and indirectly primary producers and rural landholders. In 2018, The NSW Government waived Local Land Services rates for three years as part of drought support packaging, providing relief to farmers managing and recovering from ongoing drought conditions. Even though there were no rates payable during this time, landholders still received the same services.

In addition, waiving agricultural licenses and fees has previously been adopted by the NSW Government in response to the 2019/20 Bushfires and as a form a COVID stimulus.

² <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/storm-and-flood-programs/rural-landholders-grant>

Primary Industry Support Package (CATEGORY D) - \$150m

Part 1: Requested Recovery Initiative

Name of initiative	Primary Industry Support Package
AGRN	AGRN 1012 – NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February onwards
Amount of funding being requested	Estimated at up to \$150m. Costs will be shared equally by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis under Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This cost estimate includes extraordinary administration costs, which will not exceed 5 per cent of total program costs.
Description of initiative	This package includes: a) up to \$100 million for Critical Producer Grants providing rapid support grants for significantly impacted primary producers (in addition to existing mechanisms) for recovery and rebuild, available to all disaster declared LGAs. b) up to \$50 million for Primary Industry Recovery and Resilience to provide targeted grants for medium to longer-term projects that support supply chain efficiencies and recovery and rebuilding efforts, available to all disaster declared LGAs.
Locations where the initiative will be made available/provided	The support provided under Stream 1 (Critical Producer Grants) and Stream 2 (Sector Recovery and Resilience Grants) will be eligible for all 57-disaster declared LGAs under AGRN 1012 .
State/territory administering agency and contact	Name: s 22 Title: Executive Director Email Address: s 22 Phone Number: s 22

Part 2: Recovery needs

The record-breaking NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February 2022 onwards has had a catastrophic impact on communities across parts of New South Wales. Lives have been lost and many people were forced to evacuate. There has been extensive damage to residential properties, public infrastructure, agriculture, businesses and the environment.

The impact on these communities both financially and psychologically has been devastating, noting that some affected flood areas have suffered compounding impacts from concurrent disasters, including the NSW Storms and Floods in February and March 2021 (AGRN 960), the COVID-19 pandemic, mouse plague, the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires (AGRN 871) and several years of drought.

Known impacts as of 14 March 2022 include:

- 57 Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been declared natural disasters under AGRN 1012.

- Eight deaths have been confirmed across NSW.
 - Many communities have been impacted by flash flooding, riverine flooding, and damaging wind gusts.
 - Response operations are continuing in many communities, with recovery efforts ramping up as waters recede.
 - There are approximately 6,800 personnel on the ground to support the clean-up, this includes SES, RFS, FRNSW, Service NSW, Police, Resilience NSW and the ADF (5,500+).
- Thousands of primary producers and businesses are expected to have been impacted
- Tens of thousands insurance claims are expected to be lodged with a total claim believed to be more than hundreds of millions of dollars.
 - 2 evacuation centres remain operational (with 7,500 registrations since the start of the event) and 8 recovery centres are now open (Kyogle, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, Ballina, Casino, Granton, South Windsor); 1,357 people are in emergency accommodation (2,284 since the start of the event).
 - 17,359 SES building impact assessments have been completed; 9,441 are damaged, 3,657 are not habitable, 777 water above the ceiling and 1,400 water up to the ceiling.
 - Service NSW's customer care line has so far helped more than 31,000 people.
 - More than 3,848 truckloads of waste have been deposited to date at Alstonville and Coraki waste transfer stations. There are 2,230 skip bins for kerbside waste removal.

The impact on these communities both financially and psychologically has been devastating, noting that some affected flood areas have suffered compounding impacts from concurrent disasters, including the NSW Storms and Floods in February and March 2021 (AGRN 954 and AGRN 960), the COVID-19 pandemic, mouse plague, the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires (AGRN 871) and several years of drought.

Key proposal

The NSW primary industries sector achieved a remarkable recovery from these substantial challenges of the past three years to reach a record level of Gross Value of Production (GVP) estimated at \$17.6 billion in 2020-21, or \$20.9 billion in total primary industries output. The disaster declared regions under AGRN 1012 account for approximately \$2.45 billion in GVP (2019-20).

With many areas still underwater, coupled with ongoing connectivity challenges, a data poor environment and limited on-farm access, it is difficult to gain a full understanding of flood impact on the producers at this point. Preliminary assessments are suggesting that the damage experienced across the industry sectors is severe, with major impacts with land slippage, access roads, infrastructure, fencing, livestock and supplies. Previous effective mitigation actions were not able to cope with the extreme and unprecedented nature of this event, with, for example, livestock washed off flood mounds that were previously built to exceed major flood levels.

Early indications suggest that the primary industry sector (Table 1) is among the hardest hit from this latest flood event. Early indications suggest that the closest comparison event to the 2022 Floods are the March 2016 floods, which reported a total of \$828.8 million in reported damage.

Table 1. Summary list of Impacted Industries from 2022 NSW Floods

Sector	Industry
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy • Livestock industries • Apiculture (bees) • Broadacre cropping (i.e. grains, soybean and sugarcane)
Horticulture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial tree crops (i.e. macadamias) • Turf • Vegetables (i.e. market gardens etc.) • Other (i.e. berries, vine crops etc)
Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oysters and mussels • Commercial fisheries • Aquaculture (i.e. prawn farms)
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardwoods (including private native forests) • Softwoods

The Primary Industry Support Package will be designed and rolled-out in four targeted streams:

- **Stream 1 (Critical Producer Grants)** – Up to \$100 million providing rapid support grants for significantly impacted primary producers (in addition to existing support mechanisms) to support recovery and rebuild.
- **Stream 2 (Sector Recovery and Resilience Grants)** – Up to \$50 million to provide targeted grant funding for medium to longer-term projects that support supply chain efficiencies and recovery and rebuilding efforts.

All Streams under the Primary Industry Support Package have been designed building on previously successful programs from the 2019/20 Bushfires and 2021 Storms and Floods. They also integrate key lessons learnt and feedback from industry sectors, which will support greater levels of recovery, adaptation and resilience building within the sector.

Eligibility

The support provided under **Stream 1 (Critical Producer Grants)** and **Stream 2 (Sector Recovery and Resilience Grants)** will be eligible for all 57 disaster declared LGAs under AGRN 1012³.

DRNSW will lead consultation with impacted industry sectors and on-the-ground analysis through departmental staff to gain a first-hand understanding of the impact. This will be collated into an Impact Assessment Report, which provides a summary of the flood impacts across the sector and provides the evidence base to inform program design. This will be utilised to inform which sectors have been disproportionately impacted and require additional support, and which sectors already have their recovery supported by existing mechanisms (i.e. \$75,000 Special Disaster Grant).

³ <https://www.nsw.gov.au/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster-declarations>

Key eligibility requirements will follow previous programs adopted under the:

- [\\$140 million Bushfire Industry Recovery Package \(2020\)](#); and,
- [\\$80 million Storm and Flood Industry Recovery Package \(2021\)](#).

Part 3: Cost

A cost-breakdown by financial year is provided below.

Proposed Program	FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24	Total
	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m
Flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				
<i>Critical Producer Grants</i>	\$5.0	\$60.0m	\$30.0	\$95m
<i>Primary Industry Recovery and Resilience</i>	\$5.0	\$25.0m	\$17.5m	\$47.5m
<i>Administration, monitoring and evaluation costs (5%)</i>	\$0.5m	\$5.0m	\$2.0m	\$7.5m
Total	\$10.5m	\$90.0m	\$49.50m	\$150m
Requested Commonwealth Support 50%	\$5.25m	\$45.00m	\$24.75m	\$75m
Total flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				\$150m

The NSW Government is seeking the cost of this package to be shared by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis. The state will seek reimbursement of the Commonwealth's funding contribution through the normal DRFA claims process. For DRFA audit and assurance purposes, the state will keep appropriate evidence/documentation to demonstrate that expenditure being claimed can be reconciled to eligible components of the recovery grants program. The state will only claim actual costs incurred, which could be less or more than the estimated figure.

Part 4: Administrative arrangements

Program guidelines and funding agreements will be approved by the State and the Commonwealth prior to launch of the program.

NSW is proposing this program to be administered by the Department of Regional NSW. The Primary Industry Support Package will be ready to launch in April 2022.

Part 5: Consultation process

This initiative has been developed by NSW in consultation with:

- NSW Treasury
- Resilience NSW
- Regional NSW

- The National Recovery and Resilience Agency

Part 6: Other information

Policy Context and Justification

NSW is experienced in the successful design and delivery of primary industry support packages after significant natural disasters.

The Primary Industry Support Package builds upon previously successful programs which were implemented after the 2019-20 Bushfires and the 2021 Storms and Floods:

- [\\$140 million Bushfire Industry Recovery Package \(2020\)](#); and,
- [\\$80 million Storm and Flood Industry Recovery Package \(2021\)](#).

The context for these programs being establishing was due to the significant impact experienced by multiple industry sectors after the natural disasters, and the existing support mechanisms (specifically the \$75,000 Special Disaster Grant) not being sufficient to support recovery and rebuild for some industries.

Early indications from the 2022 Floods indicate that the impact experienced is not only significant for primary producers, but the breadth of impact across various sectors and industries is significant. Replicating these well-known models and support programs is likely to be well received by the primary industry sector, and builds upon key learnings and awareness of initiatives, supporting streamlined delivery and communication.

Programs such as the Primary Industry Support Package also recognises the critical role that primary industries (as an engine industry) plays in regional economies. Primary industries underpin many of the associated enabling industries (i.e. processing and manufacturing) and their recovery is critical to the broader economic drivers supporting disaster declared LGAs.

Stream 1 and 2 will be critical to support:

- Disproportionately impacted primary producers (i.e. Dairy and Macadamias)
- Support for supply chains which have been indirectly impacted (i.e. Timber Mills)
- Recovery and resilience projects to support regional and sector recovery (i.e. Back Track and BlazeAid)

Stream 3 is a novel and innovative approach to support adaptation and mitigation after a natural disaster, which is expected to reduce the cost and risk of future flood events for all parties.

Producers will be incentivised to partake in the program given that insurance will increasingly become unavailable or cost prohibitive in flood prone areas.

Northern Rivers Businesses Support Package (CATEGORY D) - \$130m

Part 1: Requested Recovery Initiative

Name of initiative	Northern Rivers Businesses Support Package
AGRN	AGRN 1012 – NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February onwards
Amount of funding being requested	<p>\$130m Business Support Package in the Northern Rivers – supporting engine industries, medium sized businesses, small business and not for profit grants in the highly impacted LGAs.</p> <p>Costs will be shared equally by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis under Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This cost estimate includes extraordinary administration costs, which will not exceed 5 per cent of total program costs.</p>
Description of initiative	<p>This package includes:</p> <p>a) \$30 million anchor industries via a bespoke business package.</p> <p>b) \$20 million for medium sized businesses with grants up to \$200,000 for businesses which have between 21-199 full time employees.</p> <p>c) \$80 million for small businesses which have suffered a 40% downturn in their income, which will be eligible for a \$10,000 grant.</p>
Locations where the initiative will be made available/provided	Northern Rivers highly impacted LGAs of Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed, Ballina, Byron, Kyogle and Clarence Valley.
State/territory administering agency and contact	<p>Name: s 22</p> <p>Title: Executive Director</p> <p>Email Address: s 22</p> <p>Phone Number: s 22</p>

Part 2: Recovery needs

The record-breaking NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February 2022 onwards has had a catastrophic impact on communities across parts of New South Wales. Lives have been lost and many people were forced to evacuate. There has been extensive damage to residential properties, public infrastructure, agriculture, businesses and the environment.

The impact on these communities both financially and psychologically has been devastating, noting that some affected flood areas have suffered compounding impacts from concurrent disasters, including the NSW Storms and Floods in February and March 2021 (AGRN 960), the COVID-19 pandemic, mouse plague, the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires (AGRN 871) and several years of drought.

Known impacts as of 14 March 2022 include:

- 57 Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been declared natural disasters under AGRN 1012.
- Eight deaths have been confirmed across NSW.

- Many communities have been impacted by flash flooding, riverine flooding, and damaging wind gusts.
- Response operations are continuing in many communities, with recovery efforts ramping up as waters recede.
- There are approximately 6,800 personnel on the ground to support the clean-up, this includes SES, RFS, FRNSW, Service NSW, Police, Resilience NSW and the ADF (5,500+).
Thousands of primary producers and businesses are expected to have been impacted
Tens of thousands insurance claims are expected to be lodged with a total claim believed to be more than hundreds of millions of dollars.
- 2 evacuation centres remain operational (with 7,500 registrations since the start of the event) and 9 recovery centres are now open (Kyogle, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, Ballina, Casino, Grafton, South Windsor); 1,357 people are in emergency accommodation (2,284 since the start of the event).
- 17,359 SES building impact assessments have been completed; 9,441 are damaged, 3,657 are not habitable, 771 water above the ceiling and 1,400 water up to the ceiling.
- Service NSW's customer care line has so far helped more than 31,000 people.
- More than 3,848 truckloads of waste have been deposited to date at Alstonville and Coraki waste transfer stations. There are 2,230 skip bins for kerbside waste removal.

Feedback from Red Cross and on-the-ground staff is that the recent flood events have created a multiplier effect on individual and community mental health and wellbeing. This is evident by the increasing demand for mental health services in NSW following the 2019-20 bushfires, 2021 storms and floods and COVID-19.

Key proposals

The record-breaking NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February 2022 onwards has had a catastrophic impact on communities across parts of New South Wales. Lives have been lost and many people were forced to evacuate. There has been extensive damage to residential properties, public infrastructure, agriculture, businesses and the environment. Currently 57 local government areas (LGAs) have been declared under AGRN 1012; 7 LGAs have been particularly highly impacted.

The impact on these communities both financially and psychologically has been devastating, noting that some affected flood areas have suffered compounding impacts from concurrent disasters including the NSW Storms and Floods in February and March 2021 (AGRN 960), the COVID-19 pandemic, mouse plague, the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires (AGRN 871) and several years of drought.

The economic impact of natural disasters is *not* measured by the value of destruction/damage to assets, which is substantial. The cost of damage will result in significant transfers to households and businesses, mainly from insurers and government. The economic impact of such events is measured by disruption to production, lost hours of work and delayed spending by consumers and businesses, not financial losses. In fact, there will be a boost to economic growth as damaged assets and infrastructure are rebuilt.

Initial analysis of the affected areas has identified multiple key industries that have been immediately and significantly impacted. This will likely impact wages, job retention and growth, and economic activity for local economies. It is envisaged that key engine industries for impacted regions will include tourism, manufacturing and food processing, among others.

The disaster declared LGAs of Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed Shire, Ballina, Byron, Kyogle and Clarence Valley accounted for approximately \$15.8⁴ billion in GVA to the economy in 2020. The full extent of the impacts of the floods are not yet known because active flood waters are still persisting in many regions. However, the closest comparison event to the 2022 Floods are the March 2016 floods, which reported a total of \$828.8 million in reported damage.

Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) has commenced the development of detailed Economic Impact Assessment for all disaster declared LGAs. This will provide a snapshot of the economic impact from the 2022 floods, and will include consideration of:

- Destruction/damage of built assets and the natural environment
- Damage to social fabric
- Disruption to production
- Disruption to labour supply
- Delayed consumer and business spending
- Loss of business and consumer confidence

ABS data⁵ shows that in the Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed Shire, Ballina, Byron, Kyogle and Clarence Valley LGAs there are approximately 28,000 businesses employing up to 20 staff and 500 businesses employing over 20 staff. Employers are in key industry sectors that will be directly impacted by the 2022 floods including food processing, tourism, manufacturing. Supporting these businesses in a measured and targeted way that reflects the unique and varied needs of businesses in the impacted regions is critical to addressing the economic impact of the 2022 floods.

Program outline

The Northern Rivers Business Support Package will provide \$130 million in assistance to businesses in the Northern Rivers LGAs and will target key industry sectors (i.e., food processing, tourism, manufacturing) with the objective of providing stimulus of local economies and retaining jobs. The package leverages and complements announcements made by the Australian Government on 9 March 2022, including the Bespoke Support Package for impacted major employers such as Norco.

The three streams of funding under the Northern Rivers Business Support Package include:

- Stream One: Large Business Flood Support,
- Stream Two: Medium Business Flood Support, and
- Stream Three: Small Business Flood Support.

⁴ REMPLAN 2020 data

⁵ ABS - ABS Counts of Australian Businesses including Entries and Exits 2021

Stream One: Large Business Flood Support

This stream will provide up to \$30 million for rapid support grants (in addition to existing support mechanisms) for major employers in the region that have being disproportionately impacted to recover and retain skilled jobs in local communities.

Stream Two: Medium Business Flood Support

This stream will provide \$20 million for medium sized businesses employing more than 20 employees that have been impacted by floods with financial assistance grants of up to \$200,000 to assist with clean-up, essential repairs and replacement that are not covered by existing insurance.

Delivery Stream 1- Large Business Support & Stream 2 - Medium Business Support

The Grant will be administered by DRNSW and available to businesses in the seven highly impacted Northern Rivers LGAs: Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, the Tweed Shire and Clarence Valley.

DRNSW has commenced the development of detailed Economic Impact Assessment for all disaster declared LGAs. This will provide a snapshot of the economic impact from the 2022 floods, as well as provide the evidence base to inform program design. The program design, guidelines and eligibility criteria will be finalised in consultation with Resilience NSW and the Commonwealth Government to meet the specific needs of medium sized businesses in the impacted regions and as captured through the Economic Impact Assessment.

The Impact Assessment Report will be in line with the Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDs) which are developed by DRNSW in consultation with Local Government and key local stakeholders. DRNSW will extend this role and function to capture metropolitan disaster declared LGAs, which do not have existing REDs.

This analysis will inform guidelines that will target businesses in key engine industries in Stream 1 & 2 of the package. The guidelines will reflect the unique and varied needs of businesses in the impacted regions.

Stream Three: Small Business Flood Support

This stream will provide up to \$80 million for \$10,000 grants to small businesses and not for profit organisations that are either directly, or indirectly, impacted by floods as evidenced by a minimum 40 per cent decline in turnover in March 2022 (compared to March 2021 or March 2020) due to flooding.

This grant shall be known as the \$10,000 Small Business Northern Flood Grant and the purpose will be to support businesses impacted by flooding to meet their operating costs so they can survive during the period in which the local economy is depressed.

The \$10,000 Small Business Northern Flood Grant will help eligible businesses cover business costs and survive the immediate impacts of the flooding event. These costs may include, but are not limited to, the following expenses:

- a) Salaries and wages
- b) Utilities and rent
- c) Government fees and charges (including local government rates)

- d) Financial, legal or other advice
- e) Marketing and communications
- f) Perishable goods, or
- g) Other business costs

Businesses that receive the \$50,000 Flood Disaster Recovery Small Business Grant will not be eligible to receive a \$10,000 Small Business Northern Flood Grant.

Delivery Stream Three: Small Business Flood Support

The Grant will be administered by Service NSW and available to businesses in the seven highly impacted Northern Rivers LGAs: Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, the Tweed Shire and Clarence Valley. This costing assumes the grant is accessed by 26 per cent of businesses in the named LGAs in line with the uptake rate of the 2020 bushfire grant.

Grants of \$10,000 will be available to small businesses and not for profit organisations that have experienced a minimum 40 per cent decline in turnover in March 2022, compared to March 2021 or March 2020.

To be eligible for the grants businesses and not for profits must have:

- An Australian Business Number (ABN) and been operating in New South Wales on 1 January 2021
- Derived at least \$75,000 in turnover in the year ended 30 June 2021 or 30 June 2020 (must use the financial year for the Australian Tax Return most recently lodged with the ATO) from a business physically located in one of the highly impacted Northern Rivers lgas: Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, the Tweed Shire and Clarence Valley
- An aggregated annual turnover of between \$75,000 and \$10 million (inclusive) for the year ended 30 June 2021, or 30 June 2020 (must use the financial year for the Australian Tax Return most recently lodged with the ATO)
- Experienced a decline in turnover of 40 per cent or more during the month of March 2022, compared to March 2021 or March 2020 due to the impacts of flooding, which has, for example, led to reduced consumer demand, labour shortages and supply chain disruptions.

An alternate application pathway will be developed for some cohorts of businesses that cannot meet the eligibility criteria, including businesses that commenced after 1 January 2021, or businesses for whom turnover in March 2021 or March 2020 was not representative of their usual turnover. These businesses may still be eligible if they can show a turnover equivalent to between \$75,000 and \$10 million, and a minimum 40 per cent decline in turnover using an alternate comparison period.

Businesses that have experienced a decline in turnover for reasons other than flooding, such as seasonal variations, or closing for holidays or renovations, are ineligible.

For non-employed businesses, the business receiving payments must be the primary income source (i.e. 50 per cent or more of total income) for the associated individual. Where an individual is associated with more than one business, only one of the businesses (with whom that individual is associated) may claim payment.

Entities for whom more than 50 per cent of their earnings are passive (rents, interest, or dividends) are ineligible, as are government agencies, local governments, banks and universities.

NSW Treasury will work with Service NSW and accounting/tax practitioner bodies to identify suitable evidence to demonstrate eligibility. This evidence will likely include:

- a) The business' most recently lodged Australian Income Tax Return with tax file numbers redacted (for year ended 30 June 2020 or 30 June 2021 only) to demonstrate the business had an aggregated annual turnover of between \$75,000 and \$10 million (inclusive)
- b) evidence that the business has experienced a minimum 40 per cent decline in turnover in March 2022, compared to March 2021 or March 2021. This could be in the form of a letter from an accountant or could be a self-declaration. While a declaration is administratively simplest, it will significantly increase the risk of fraud in the program.

Part 3: Cost

A cost-breakdown by financial year is provided below. This cost estimate includes extraordinary administration costs including monitoring and evaluation, which will not exceed 5 per cent of total program cost.

Proposed Program	FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24	Total
	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m
Flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				
<i>Large business grants</i>	\$5.0m	\$25.0m	-	\$30.0m
<i>Medium business grants</i>	\$10.0m	\$10.0m	-	\$20.0m
<i>Small business flood program</i>	\$60.0m	\$20.0m	-	\$80.0m
Total	\$75.0m	\$55.0m	-	\$130.0m
Requested Commonwealth Support 50%	\$37.5m	\$27.5m		\$65m
Total flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				\$130m

The NSW Government is seeking the cost of this package to be shared by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis. The state will seek reimbursement of the Commonwealth's funding contribution through the normal DRFA claims process. For DRFA audit and assurance purposes, the state will keep appropriate evidence/documentation to demonstrate that expenditure being claimed can be reconciled to eligible components of the recovery grants program. The state will only claim actual costs incurred, which could be less or more than the estimated figure.

Part 4: Administrative arrangements

NSW is proposing this program to be administered by Service NSW.

Program guidelines and funding agreements will be approved by the State and the Commonwealth prior to launch of the program.

There are two key risks associated with this program:

- There is no existing mechanism available to means test applicants – would need to be built. (Will require approval from Commonwealth Treasurer for DCS to access tax data for the purpose of eligibility assessment. This may take 3 - 4 weeks).
- Documents provided by an applicant to demonstrate that they meet the means test will not be verified. Documents provided may be fraudulent, increasing the risk profile of the program.

Part 5: Consultation process

This initiative has been developed by NSW in consultation with:

- NSW Treasury
- Service NSW
- Resilience NSW
- Regional NSW
- The National Recovery and Resilience Agency

Part 6: Other information

Nil.

Released under the Freedom of Information Act

Property Assessment and Demolition (PAD) Program (CATEGORY D) - \$142m

Part 1: Requested Recovery Initiative

Name of initiative	Property Assessment and Demolition (PAD) Program
AGRN	AGRN 1012 – NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February 2022 onwards
Amount of funding being requested	<p>\$142 million for the assessment of properties and the demolition of those found to be uninhabitable in the Disaster Declared Areas covered by AGRN 1012 from April 2022.</p> <p>Costs will be shared by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis under Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). This cost estimate includes extraordinary administration costs, which will not exceed 5 per cent of total program cost.</p>
Description of initiative	Property Assessment and Demolition (PAD) Program will entail an 'opt-in' program which is targeted at the 7 most impacted LGAs across the Northern Rivers. The PAD program offers those property owners that wish to demolish their property an opportunity to do so at no cost. The program will be delivered by Department of Regional NSW.
Locations where the initiative will be made available/provided	The activities of the PAD program will be limited to eligible properties in the 57 disaster declared LGAs from April 2022, with costs reimbursed to Regional NSW.
State/territory administering agency and contact	<p>Name: s 22</p> <p>Title: Executive Director</p> <p>Email Address: s 22</p> <p>Phone Number: s 22</p>

Part 2: Recovery needs

The record-breaking NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February 2022 onwards has had a catastrophic impact on communities across parts of New South Wales. Lives have been lost and many people were forced to evacuate. There has been extensive damage to residential properties, public infrastructure, agriculture, businesses and the environment.

The impact on these communities both financially and psychologically has been devastating, noting that some affected flood areas have suffered compounding impacts from concurrent disasters, including the NSW Storms and Floods in February and March 2021 (AGRN 960), the COVID-19 pandemic, mouse plague, the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires (AGRN 871) and several years of drought.

Known impacts as of 14 March 2022 include:

- 57 Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been declared natural disasters under AGRN 1012.
- Eight deaths have been confirmed across NSW.

- Many communities have been impacted by flash flooding, riverine flooding, and damaging wind gusts.
- Response operations are continuing in many communities, with recovery efforts ramping up as waters recede.
- There are approximately 6,800 personnel on the ground to support the clean-up, this includes SES, RFS, FRNSW, Service NSW, Police, Resilience NSW and the ADF (5,500+).
Thousands of primary producers and businesses are expected to have been impacted
Tens of thousands insurance claims are expected to be lodged with a total claim believed to be more than hundreds of millions of dollars.
- 2 evacuation centres remain operational (with 7,500 registrations since the start of the event) and 9 recovery centres are now open (Kyogle, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, Ballina, Casino, Grafton, South Windsor); 1,357 people are in emergency accommodation (2,284 since the start of the event).
- 17,359 SES building impact assessments have been completed; 9,441 are damaged, 3,657 are not habitable, 771 water above the ceiling and 1,400 water up to the ceiling.
- Service NSW's customer care line has so far helped more than 31,000 people.
- More than 3,848 truckloads of waste have been deposited to date at Alstonville and Coraki waste transfer stations. There are 2,230 skip bins for kerbside waste removal

Feedback from Red Cross and on-the-ground staff is that the recent flood events have created a multiplier effect on individual and community mental health and wellbeing. This is evident by the increasing demand for mental health services in NSW following the 2019-20 bushfires, 2021 storms and floods and COVID-19.

Key proposal

As of 11 March 2022, 5,902 homes have been assessed as damaged (slight, moderate or severe) or destroyed, noting damage assessments have only recently commenced. Many properties will be uninhabitable and will be required to be demolished.

The PAD Program will:

- Provide free property structural assessments conducted by certified inspectors
- For those properties found to be beyond economical repair (scale to be determined), undertake the demolition and removal of waste
- Where necessary link the property owner with Disaster Welfare services

This support package includes:

- Properties that have been assessed as being severely damaged or destroyed by the State Emergency Service per the NSW SES Damage Assessment Dashboard would be prioritised, while those assessed as slightly or moderately damaged would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

- The program will be eligible to both insured and uninsured property owners, that have been assessed as being damaged (slight, moderate or severe) or destroyed by the State Emergency Service per the NSW SES Damage Assessment Dashboard.
- Eligible property types include:
 - Residential properties
 - Small business
 - Rural properties

Eligible building types include the following structures that are uninhabitable or unusable:

- Residences
- Farm homesteads
- Buildings on commercial properties used for primary business operation
- Commercial properties, including shops and tourism-related businesses, owned by small businesses or primary producers.
- Structures associated with these building types including garages/sheds, farm sheds and outbuildings that are uninhabitable or unusable and within the vicinity of the primary residence or business operation on a property
- This program builds upon previously successful programs that were implemented after the 2019-20 Bushfires and the 2021 Storms and Floods but also incorporates lessons learnt from that experience.

The PAD Program will incorporate lessons learnt from the Bushfire Clean-up Program (BCuP). Like the BCuP, the PAD Program is an 'opt-in' program, and a managing contractor will be engaged. Key difference between the two programs is the need to assess flood-damaged properties as it is less obvious if a flood-damaged property needs to be demolished and limited data is currently available.

Part 3: Cost

A cost-breakdown by financial year is provided below.

Proposed Program	FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24	Total
	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m
Flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				
<i>Property Assessment & Demolition (PAD) Program</i>	\$23.0m	\$112.0m	-	\$135.0m
Administration, monitoring and evaluation costs (5%)	\$1.0m	\$6.0m	-	\$7.0m
Total	\$24.0m	\$118.0m	-	\$142m
<i>Requested Commonwealth Support 50%</i>				\$71m
Total flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				\$142m

This costing is based on a preliminary estimate of up to 1,000 residential and 500 commercial buildings will require demolition based on SES damage assessments to date. However, if this number increases, or the scope widens to include additional disaster declared LGAs, additional funding allocations may be required.

The NSW Government is seeking the cost of this package to be shared by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis. The state will seek reimbursement of the Commonwealth's funding contribution through the normal DRFA claims process. For DRFA audit and assurance purposes, the state will keep appropriate evidence/documentation to demonstrate that expenditure being claimed can be reconciled to eligible components of the recovery grants program. The state will only claim actual costs incurred, which could be less or more than the estimated figure.

Part 4: Administrative arrangements

NSW is proposing this program to be administered by DRNSW through Public Works Advisory (PWA). Key information related to the PAD program and how local residents can opt in will be available in March 2022.

There are two key risks associated with this program:

- Once a property has been assessed as uninhabitable it is reasonable to expect an obligation for government to not allow residents to continue to occupy the property. If it is not well understood this is a demolition program, there is the potential for a property owner, if they receive a poor condition report, to decide they do not want to proceed with demolition.
- Local contractor market capacity is heavily restricted at this time, even if a Managing Contractor is involved, resulting in potential time and cost issues

Part 5: Consultation process

This initiative has been developed by NSW in consultation with:

- NSW Treasury
- Service NSW
- Resilience NSW
- Regional NSW
- The National Recovery and Resilience Agency

Part 6: Other information

Policy context and justification

In this current disaster for the 7 highly impacted Northern Rivers LGAs, there are more than 3,000 potentially uninhabitable or significantly damaged properties. A high percentage of these – potentially up to 90 per cent - will not be adequately insured.

It is recognised that many property owners will not want their property demolished, particularly those homeowners that cannot fund the re-build of their home.

However, some property owners will, and this program offers them a process to do this at no cost and allow them to maximise their available funds into re-building their home.

The strategy for delivery proposed under the PAD program will include a well promoted process of registration through Service NSW and a managing contractor procurement model which will complete the works on properties in two phases:

- Phase 1 : inspection & assessment of properties, property remediation advice/scope
- Phase 2 : demolition and waste removal

The PAD program builds upon the highly successful Bushfire Clean-Up Program (BCuP), which was also coordinated by Public Works Advisory. After the 2019/20 Bushfires, the BCuP combined structural assessment and demolition into a single program. This program cleared more 3,600 bushfire damaged properties through a managing contractor arrangement with Laing O'Rourke. The program itself was highly regarded, achieved its key objectives, and also delivered other benefits in terms of local expenditure and engagement, as well as high rates of Aboriginal employment.

Released under the Freedom of Information Act

Support to Local Councils (CATEGORY D) - \$40m

Part 1: Requested Recovery Initiative

Name of initiative	Support to Local Councils
AGRN	AGRN 1012 – NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February onwards
Amount of funding being requested	Estimated at up to \$40 million, based on the number of highly impacted councils. Costs will be shared equally by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis under Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This cost estimate includes extraordinary administration costs, which will not exceed 5 per cent of total program costs.
Description of initiative	The state will establish tailored grants program to address urgent and medium-term financial and operational challenges of impacted councils (including support for pound operations and short-term liquidity) under a reconstruction and recovery program overseen by the Department of Planning and Environment.
Locations where the initiative will be made available/provided	The grants will be made available to all local government areas (LGAs) notified under AGRN 1012.
State/territory administering agency and contact	Name: s 22 Title: Executive Director Email Address: s 22 Phone Number: s 22

Part 2: Recovery needs

The record-breaking NSW Severe Weather Storms and Flooding from 22 February 2022 onwards has had a catastrophic impact on communities across parts of New South Wales. Lives have been lost and many people were forced to evacuate. There has been extensive damage to residential properties, public infrastructure, agriculture, businesses and the environment.

The impact on these communities both financially and psychologically has been devastating, noting that some affected flood areas have suffered compounding impacts from concurrent disasters, including the NSW Storms and Floods in February and March 2021 (AGRN 960), the COVID-19 pandemic, mouse plague, the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires (AGRN 871) and several years of drought.

Known impacts as of 14 March 2022 include:

- 57 Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been declared natural disasters under AGRN 1012.
- Eight deaths have been confirmed across NSW.
- Many communities have been impacted by flash flooding, riverine flooding, and damaging wind gusts.

- Response operations are continuing in many communities, with recovery efforts ramping up as waters recede.
- There are approximately 6,800 personnel on the ground to support the clean-up, this includes SES, RFS, FRNSW, Service NSW, Police, Resilience NSW and the ADF (5,500+).
- Thousands of primary producers and businesses are expected to have been impacted
- Tens of thousands insurance claims are expected to be lodged with a total claim believed to be more than hundreds of millions of dollars.
- 2 evacuation centres remain operational (with 7,500 registrations since the start of the event) and 8 recovery centres are now open (Kyogle, Lismore, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, Ballina, Casino, Grafton, South Windsor); 1,357 people are in emergency accommodation (2,284 since the start of the event).
- 17,359 SES building impact assessments have been completed; 9,441 are damaged, 3,657 are not habitable, 777 water above the ceiling and 1,400 water up to the ceiling.
- Service NSW's customer care line has so far helped more than 31,000 people.
- More than 3,848 truckloads of waste have been deposited to date at Alstonville and Coraki waste transfer stations. There are 2,230 skip bins for kerbside waste removal

Evidence base for proposed immediate relief grants for councils package

Local councils will be the backbone of recovery following the recent flood events. It is becoming increasingly apparent there will be classes of impacts from councils:

- those councils where the damage is significant but manageable within the operations of council, under existing disaster recovery arrangements and funding processes.
- those councils where the damage is of a more significant or catastrophic scale, particularly Lismore Council, and a higher level of intervention and support will be necessary.

Insurance coverage for flood damage for councils is not available or unaffordable. In the rare circumstances it is taken up by councils it is only utilised for critical infrastructure. This means that councils utilise the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements framework to cover the cost of rebuild and repairs. While this approach covers much of the economic infrastructure operated by councils such as roads and bridges – it does not cover much of the social and operational infrastructure of council, such as parks and community centres.

Feedback from the local government sector is that the initial \$1 million funding provided to natural disaster declared councils is strongly welcomed, as is the support and flexibility from other State Government agencies that are working with councils with liquidity associated with grant payments and the increasing number of programs for councils and communities in areas such as waste. However, some councils will need additional support to prevent operational failure.

Key proposals:

This support package includes:

1. Operational funding for high impact councils - \$16M

- There is a small group of councils where the operational impact of this event is more significant. Some of the councils have been through multiple disaster events over the last two

or three years, including COVID-19, bushfires and other flood events; the cumulative impact is significant.

- This funding would provide an additional \$2 million per council be given to the 8 most highly impacted councils (Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Hawkesbury, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed Shire)
- This will enable the councils to make complex and immediate decisions to support recovery and resilience, while the task of rebuild continues. The terms of this funding would be the same that applied for the previous \$1 million in funding.

2. Funding for Lismore Council to prevent imminent and significant liquidity and operational failure - \$20M

- Initial evidence indicates that the impact upon Lismore Council is of a catastrophic scale, including the loss of the entire operational depot. Many council staff have been personally affected by the floods placing greater operational pressure on council.
- The financial position of Lismore Council was not strong prior to the floods, with the previous Council having to undertake significant financial remediation activity to stabilise financial performance, including liquidity. Council has previously been refused borrowings from NSW Treasury Corporation due to its financial position.
- That the scale and nature of the current floods means that there are likely to be significant financial challenges especially to short-term liquidity; initial advice is that the council will struggle to pay existing obligations in the short term due to a lack of cash.
- This grant will fund a reconstruction and transformation program over three years for council, subject to a clear work program to be agreed and overseen by the State Government which focuses on ensuring Council becomes more resilient and an effective delivery of the recovery program.
- A similar approach was taken by the Victorian Government following the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires with Murrindindi Council, which was similarly subject to significant catastrophic damage.

3. Companion animal management - \$3M

- A challenge in flood recovery is the displacement of companion animals, particularly pet cats and dogs.
- To manage this risk of animals being lost or unable to be rehomed as a result of the floods and the potential increases in the number of pets destroyed, it is proposed that \$3 million in grants be awarded across the 57 natural disaster affected councils (on an as needs basis) to support pound operations to assist with reuniting and rehoming pets displaced by the floods.
- This will support the broader Government policy directions to improve animal welfare standards and the operations of council pounds including its support of the *Companion Animals Amendment (Rehoming Animals) Act 2021*.

Part 3: Cost

A cost-breakdown by financial year is provided below.

Proposed Program	FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24	Total
	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m
Flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				
<i>Council grants</i>	\$27.3m	\$5.85m	\$5.85m	\$39m
<i>Administration, monitoring and evaluation</i>	\$0.7m	\$0.15m	\$0.15m	\$1.0m
Total	\$28.0m	\$6.0m	\$6.0m	\$40.m
<i>Requested Commonwealth Support 50%</i>				\$20m
Total flood recovery program Costs – 50:50 cost-share arrangement proposed				

The NSW Government is seeking the cost of this package to be shared by the Commonwealth and the State on a 50:50 cost share basis. The state will seek reimbursement of the Commonwealth's funding contribution through the normal DRFA claims process. For DRFA audit and assurance purposes, the state will keep appropriate evidence/documentation to demonstrate that expenditure being claimed can be reconciled to eligible components of the recovery grants program. The state will only claim actual costs incurred, which could be less or more than the estimated figure.

Part 4: Administrative arrangements

This package will be administered by the Office of Local Government, in partnership with Resilience NSW and the Department of Planning and Environment.

The assessment of the councils for which the companion animal funding will be based on established and clear criteria looking at relative impact and cumulative impacts of multiple events on the entire community.

Part 5: Consultation process

This initiative has been developed by NSW in consultation with:

- Resilience NSW
- Regional NSW
- Department of Planning and Environment

Part 6: Other information

Nil.

s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 4:47 PM
To: s 22
Cc: Media
Subject: FW: NEW SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR NORTHERN NSW
Attachments: 077Z1747.PDF

FYI

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The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister

The Hon. Paul Toole MP
Acting Premier of New South Wales
Minister for Regional NSW

Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie
Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience

The Hon. Matt Kean MP
New South Wales Treasurer

The Hon. Steph Cooke MP
New South Wales Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 18 March 2022

NEW SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR NORTHERN NSW

The Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments will provide \$742 million to further support primary industry, businesses, rural landholders, councils and residents affected by the catastrophic flooding event across New South Wales, as part of the next round of support.

This is in addition to the almost \$1 billion in emergency response and relief already provided through joint funding packages between the Commonwealth and NSW Governments. Direct Commonwealth disaster relief payments are in addition to these packages.

The fourth phase of support for jointly 50/50 funded programs includes:

- \$100 million for a Small and Medium-sized Businesses Package in the seven highly-impacted local government areas (LGAs) of Lismore, Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, the Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley and Tweed through two packages:
 - Support for medium-sized (21-199 full time employees) businesses (\$20 million), with grants up to \$200,000 available to assist with clean-up, essential repairs and replacement that are not covered by existing insurance.
 - Support for eligible small businesses that have suffered a 40 per cent or more downturn in their income (\$80 million), with grants of up to \$10,000 to help meet their operating costs so they can survive during the period in which the local economy is depressed.
- \$35 million for Rural Landholder Grants of up to \$25,000, for impacted landholders state-wide, who are not eligible under existing support mechanisms, including insurance or special disaster assistance, and are able to demonstrate losses and damage beyond the vicinity of the residential dwelling.
 - The Rural Landholder Grant can be used for clean-up activities, damages or losses that are beyond the vicinity of the residential dwelling. This includes the removal of debris and deceased livestock, maintenance of livestock health, and repairing or replacing fencing.
- \$150 million for the primary industry sector targeted at assisting primary producers to protect supply chains, and boost recovery and rebuilding efforts.

- This includes funding for Critical Producer Grants providing rapid support for significantly impacted primary producers (in addition to existing mechanisms) for recovery and rebuild, and funding for Primary Industry Recovery and Resilience to provide targeted grants for medium to longer-term projects that support supply chain efficiencies and recovery and rebuilding efforts.
- \$142 million to provide assessment of properties and the demolition of those found to be uninhabitable across disaster-declared LGAs.
- An extension of the Recovery Grants currently available for primary producers, small businesses and councils in further disaster-declared LGAs.

The Commonwealth Government will also solely provide the following assistance in the Northern Rivers as part of the fourth phase package:

- Up to \$50 million for large businesses and major employers in key industries to provide immediate financial assistance in the Northern Rivers.
 - This package will provide funding to help the recovery of big businesses that are major employers in the region.

In addition, direct Commonwealth financial support through the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) and the Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA) for the disaster-declared seven LGAs in New South Wales, including extra payments of up to \$2,000 for residents of Lismore, Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley and Tweed LGAs.

- As at 17 March 2022, \$653 million has been paid directly to support 596,000 individuals in New South Wales through these Commonwealth Government payments.

The New South Wales Government will also provide the following:

- \$120 million Local Council Support Package, including:
 - \$40 million to provide grants to councils to address urgent and immediate operational challenges.
 - \$80 million to establish a working capital fund to supplement councils with flood and disaster recovery where residents are unable to pay their rates.
- \$145 million for the urgent repair and replacement of water and sewerage critical infrastructure capacity in the Northern Rivers disaster-declared LGAs.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the Federal Government was following through on continuing to support the entire Northern New South Wales community as they continue to recover.

“We will continue to support thousands of residents and businesses in Northern New South Wales, by giving them the support they need to get back on their feet,” the Prime Minister said.

“This support package gets money in the hands of our small and medium-sized businesses and our farmers so they can rebuild and support the whole community to recover together.

“To date, my Government has provided New South Wales with \$1.7 billion in direct funding to help communities rebuild and we will continue to back in those businesses and residents that need support.”

Acting New South Wales Premier Paul Toole said our regional communities are resilient, but they need the right support to rebuild and bounce back stronger than ever, and they need that support now.

“These regional communities provide vital resources for a huge part of the NSW population, so it’s critical money lands in the hands of local residents, our farmers, and business owners impacted by the floods to help keep the engine room of our state moving,” Mr Toole said.

“This latest package will provide valuable support to the hardest-hit communities of Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Tweed Shire, and Clarence Valley.”

Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience Bridget McKenzie said that this new support package for NSW will assist businesses in flood-affected communities to get back on their feet.

“The floods have had a devastating impact on our communities in Northern NSW, causing enormous upheaval to lives and livelihoods. This new package will support businesses and communities to repair the damage, stimulate local economies, and help communities to move forward,” Minister McKenzie said.

New South Wales Treasurer Matt Kean said the Government was committed to providing support to the many families, businesses and communities that have been so severely affected by these terrible floods.

“Many of these communities have been hit by a full spectrum of disasters these past two years. Now as the clean-up continues in earnest, this package will deliver support for their immediate recovery,” Mr Kean said.

New South Wales Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience and Minister for Flood Recovery Steph Cooke said the seven most heavily impacted areas of Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed, Ballina, Byron, Kyogle and Clarence Valley would receive \$150 million worth of funding support to assist businesses and employers within the Northern Rivers region get back to work.

“This commitment includes \$100 million for small-to-medium sized businesses and not-for-profit organisations,” Ms Cooke said.

“With the clean-up continuing in earnest, we are also pleased to extend the Clean Up and Recovery Grants to the additional 13 disaster-declared Local Government Areas (LGAs).”

This latest package for NSW focuses on support for businesses impacted by the flooding and is jointly funded through the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

There are now 58 LGAs in NSW eligible for assistance under the DRFA. This includes the additional LGA of Port Stephens.

People in NSW requiring disaster recovery support are urged to contact Service NSW on 13 77 88 or nsw.gov.au/floods.

[ENDS]

Media Contacts:

Prime Minister’s office: Press Office, (02) 6277 7744

Acting Premier Toole’s office: Alexandra Bernhardt, 0448 203 742

Minister McKenzie’s office: David Edghill, 0477 417 516

Treasurer Kean’s office: (02) 8574 6150

Minister Cooke’s office: Ben Sheath, 0403 767 636

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Sydney

Press Office of the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister, Canberra

s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 10:51 AM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: For Review: DRFA Factsheet - AGRN 1012 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: DRFA Factsheet - NSW Severe Weather and Flooding (22 February 2022 onwards) - V4 (Cat C-D).docx

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22

As discussed yesterday, we've updated the DRFA Factsheet following the additional Cat C-D Programs approved last week.

Grateful if you could review and confirm you are ok with these changes – give me a call if you have any questions!

Thanks,

s 22

s 22
 | Disaster Recovery Programs | Recovery Operations
 National Recovery and Resilience Agency

s 22
 121 Marcus Clarke Street, (PO Box 133) Canberra Act 2601

recovery.gov.au | [@recoveryaust](https://twitter.com/recoveryaust)



Australian Government
 National Recovery and Resilience Agency
 Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, LinkedIn icons

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

Released under the Freedom of Information Act

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s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2022 3:38 PM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: Updated Final Factsheet [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: DRFA Factsheet - NSW Severe Weather and Flooding (22 February 2022 onwards) - V4 (Cat C-D).docx

OFFICIAL

Hey s 22

As discussed – please find attached the latest word document version of the factsheet!

Thanks for all your help on this!

M ☺

s 22
 | Disaster Recovery Programs Recovery Operations
 National Recovery and Resilience Agency

s 22
 121 Marcus Clarke Street, (PO Box 133) Canberra Act 2601

recovery.gov.au | [@recoveryaust](https://twitter.com/recoveryaust)



The National Recovery and Resilience Agency acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

Released under the Freedom of Information Act



Australian Government



FACTSHEET: Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Joint Australian – New South Wales government assistance

NSW Severe Weather and Flooding (22 February 2022 onwards) – V4

Please note the information in this factsheet is current as at 24 March 2022 and may change

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) is a jointly funded program between the Australian Government and state and territory (state) governments, through which the Australian Government provides financial assistance to support state governments with disaster recovery costs. Eligible costs include assistance measures for individuals and families, businesses, primary producers, non-profit organisations and local and state governments.

Under these arrangements, state governments determine what assistance measures will be activated, and the areas in which they will be made available. The Australian Government may then reimburse state governments for up to 75 per cent of these costs. State governments are responsible for administering the DRFA assistance measures.

DRFA ACTIVATED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

In response to the storms and floods, DRFA assistance has been activated in fifty-eight (58) local government areas: Armidale, Ballina, Bayside, Bega Valley, Bellingen, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Byron, Camden, Campbelltown, Canterbury Bankstown, Central Coast, Cessnock, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Cumberland, Dungog, Eurobodalla, Fairfield, Georges River, Glen Innes Severn, Goulburn Mulwaree, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, Inner West, Kempsey, Kiama, Kyogle, Ku-ring-Gai, Liverpool, Lismore, Lithgow, Maitland, MidCoast, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Narabucca, Newcastle, Northern Beaches, Parramatta, Penrith, Port Macquarie Hastings, Port Stephens, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Ryde, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Snowy-Monaro, Sutherland, Tenterfield, The Hills, Tweed, Upper Hunter, Wingecarribee, Wollondilly and Wollongong.

DRFA ASSISTANCE MEASURES (as activated by the NSW Government)

Assistance for individuals

Immediate assistance: This assistance is intended to meet the essential emergency needs of people who are directly affected by the disaster and have no other means of meeting their immediate needs (such as evacuees who are unable to access their personal finances or arrange alternative forms of assistance). The assistance may be provided during and in the days after the disaster. Assistance is provided through in-kind direct material aid e.g., emergency accommodation or small cash payments to purchase essential items. Immediate assistance is generally provided from evacuation or recovery centres.

Grants for essential household contents: These grants will assist with the cost of replacing household items essential to maintaining a basic standard of living. Examples of essential household contents include bedding, furniture, clothing, and essential electrical items (e.g., refrigerator, washing machine, stove). These grants assist low-income residents, not covered by insurance, who have no other means of restoring their homes to a safe and habitable condition following the disaster event. Grants are subject to income and assets testing. The amount of assistance provided depends on the assessed needs of the affected household and the number and type of items that have been damaged.

Grants for essential structural repairs to homes: These grants provide a contribution toward essential structural repairs to low-income homeowners who have no other means of restoring their homes to a safe and habitable condition following the disaster event, and who are not covered by insurance. Grants are subject to income and assets testing. The amount of assistance provided depends on an assessment of structural repairs required and the number of occupants in the home.

- State administering agency: Service NSW
- Enquiry contact: Service NSW on 13 77 88.



Housing Support Package:

Rental Support Scheme: Rental support scheme, providing 16 weeks rental support benched marked against the private and Airbnb market rates for the Northern Rivers Region to ensure households can secure accommodation.

Recreation camps: Providing additional medium-term accommodation through recreation camps at Camp Koinonia, Lake Ainsworth Sport & Recreation Centre and Camp Drew, to accommodate over 200 people.

Mobile motor homes: Utilising existing caravan parks, and establishing new sites to provide medium term housing, with the provision of additional accommodation and recovery services.

Housing brokerage service: Red Cross has agreed to operate a broker service to connect displaced people in need of accommodation with available properties.

- State administering agency: Service NSW and Department of Communities and Justice
- Enquiry contact: This package is not currently open for applications. Individuals can register their interest to be notified of the commencement of this program on the Service NSW website: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/register-interest-floods-temporary-housing-support-package>

Temporary Dwelling program:

Temporary housing that allows people to stay on their land in a temporary dwelling while rebuilding (including extension of the 'pod' dwelling, caravans, demountable homes etc).

- State administering agency: Resilience NSW
- Enquiry contact: This package is not currently open for applications. Individuals can register their interest to be notified of the commencement of this program on the Service NSW website: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/register-interest-floods-temporary-housing-support-package>

Property Assessment and Demolition Program: This measure will provide assessments of properties and undertake demolition of those found to be uninhabitable as a result of the disaster.

- State administering agency: Department of Regional NSW
- This package is not currently open for applications.

Assistance for primary producers, small businesses, and non-profit organisations

Recovery Grants for primary producers: Grants of up to \$75,000 are available to primary producers that have suffered direct damage to help cover eligible clean-up and reinstatement costs. The grants can be used for a range of activities including removing debris, cleaning-up, repairing damaged fencing and equipment, replacing livestock, salvaging crops and restoring fields.

- State administering agency: NSW Rural Assistance Authority
- Enquiry contact: NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.

Freight subsidies for primary producers: Transport freight subsidies of up to 50 per cent on the carriage of livestock and fodder, and 25 per cent on the carriage of fodder for dairy cattle, are available to help primary producers. The maximum subsidy available is \$15,000 per annum.

- State administering agency: NSW Rural Assistance Authority
- Enquiry contact: NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.

Rural Landholder Support Package: Grants of up to \$25,000 for impacted landholders, not eligible for assistance under existing support mechanisms, for clean-up activities, damages or losses beyond the vicinity of the residential dwelling.

- State administering agency: Department of Regional NSW
- This package is not currently open for applications.



Recovery Grants for small businesses and non-profit organisations: Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to small businesses and non-profit organisations that have suffered direct damage to help cover eligible clean-up and reinstatement costs. The grants can be used for a range of activities including removing damaged goods, cleaning-up, repairing damaged fittings and equipment and replacing stock.

- State administering agency: Service NSW
- Enquiry contact: Service NSW on 13 77 88.

Concessional interest rate loans (direct damage) to small businesses and primary producers: Loans of up to \$130,000 at a fixed concessional interest rate may be available to small businesses and primary producers (subject to certain eligibility criteria) that have been directly impacted by a disaster. These loans may be used to meet carry on requirements or to repair or replace damaged property not covered by insurance.

- State administering agency: NSW Rural Assistance Authority
- Enquiry contact: NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.

Concessional interest rate loans (direct damage) and grants to non-profit organisations:

Assistance to sporting and recreation clubs: A special scheme is available to assist sporting and recreation clubs in meeting the costs of restoration of essential club facilities that have been damaged or destroyed. The assistance is only made available to clubs that do not have the financial capacity to meet restoration costs from their own resources, and who are unable to obtain assistance through normal channels, but that have the capacity to repay any loan that may be granted. The maximum assistance available is \$12,000, including a grant of up to \$2,000 and the balance by way of repayable advance with interest.

- State administering agency: NSW Treasury
- Enquiry contact: NSW Treasury on 02 9228 4380.

Loans to non-profit organisations: Loan assistance is available to voluntary non-profit organisations for the restoration of essential facilities that have been damaged or destroyed. Assistance is only available to those organisations that do not have the financial capacity to meet restoration costs from their own resources or insurance and are unable to obtain assistance through normal channels. Advances are subject to a maximum of \$25,000 at a concessional interest rate per annum.

- State administering agency: NSW Rural Assistance Authority
- Enquiry contact: NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593

Assistance for state agencies and local councils

Counter Disaster Operations: This assistance helps state agencies and councils with the costs associated with delivering exceptional relief and recovery measures within impacted communities which go beyond the capacity of the state or local government. This may include activities to render damaged properties or threatened houses safe and habitable, sandbagging and the construction of temporary levees to prevent inundation of residential properties.

- State administering agency: Resilience NSW
- Enquiry contact: Resilience NSW on 02 9212 9200.

Restoration of Essential Public Assets: This measure provides financial assistance to help with the costs of restoring or repairing eligible essential public assets damaged as a direct result of a disaster to their pre-disaster standard.

- State administering agency: Transport for NSW and Public Works Advisory
- Enquiry contact:
 - For assistance to restore public roads, road infrastructure and bridges, councils should contact their regional representatives in Transport for NSW.
 - For assistance to restore other essential public assets, councils should contact their regional representatives in Public Works Advisory.



\$1m Local Government Recovery Grants: This measure will provide funding assistance to local governments to assist them in undertaking immediate recovery activities, address emerging needs and help build community resilience. Grants will be used to fund initiatives across the build, social, economic and natural environment recovery domains.

- State administering agency: Office of Local Government
- Flood affected councils are not required to apply for the \$1 million grant to assist with their immediate needs, as it is automatically distributed.

Community Recovery Officers: This measure will provide funding directly to highly impacted local governments to engage designated flood Community Recovery Officers to deliver community-based recovery initiatives and assist people to navigate and access recovery support.

- State administering agency: Resilience NSW
- Enquiry contact: Resilience NSW on 02 9212 9200.

Other assistance

NSW Storm and Flood Clean-up Package: A clean-up package to assist households, businesses, primary producers and local councils affected by the floods. The clean-up covers both insured and uninsured properties and assists with the clean-up and restoration of flood damaged, priority environmental assets.

- State administering agency: NSW Environmental Protection Authority and Public Works Advisory
- Enquiry contact: contact the Environment Line on 131 555 or email info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Northern Rivers Industry Support Package: This support includes:

Support for large businesses and major employers in key industries to provide immediate financial assistance in the Northern Rivers.

Grants up to \$200,000 for eligible medium-sized businesses to assist with clean-up, essential repairs and replacement not covered by existing insurance.

Grants of up to \$10,000 for eligible small businesses who have suffered a 40 per cent or more downturn in income to help meet operating costs.

- State administering agency: Service NSW
- This package is not currently open for applications.

Primary Industry Sector Support Package: Comprising Critical Producer Grants to provide rapid support for recovery and rebuilding for significantly impacted primary producers, and a Primary Industry Recovery and Resilience Grants to provide targeted support for medium to longer-term projects supporting supply chain efficiencies and recovery and rebuilding efforts.

- State administering agency: Department of Regional NSW
- This package is not currently open for applications.

The NSW Government may also claim costs associated with certain other disaster assistance measures undertaken by state agencies and councils, including the establishment and operation of evacuation and recovery centres, personal and financial counselling services and debris removal from residential properties.

s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Monday, 4 April 2022 4:26 PM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: For Confirmation: Extension of Recovery Grants to additional AGRN 1012 activated LGAs. [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: DRFA Factsheet - NSW Severe Weather and Flooding (22 February 2022 onwards) - V5.pdf; DRFA Notification Form - Ext 4 AGRN 1012 NSW Severe Weather and Flooding from 22 February 2022 onwards.pdf

OFFICIAL

Afternoon s 22

Noting that AGRN 1012 has now been extended to an additional two LGAs – Lake Macquarie and Strathfield – grateful if you could confirm the Small Business and non-profit organisation, Primary Producer, and Local Council Recovery grants will be extended to these two councils, taking the total LGAs activated under AGRN 1012 to 60?

Feel free to give s 22 or I a call if you have any questions!

Kind Regards,
s 22(1)

From: Disaster Recovery Programs
Sent: Friday, 1 April 2022 3:00 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22

Subject: Acknowledgement: DRFA Notification - Ext 4 AGRN 1012 - NSW Severe Weather and Floods from 22 February 2022 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22

Supplementary Notification – AGRN 1012 – NSW Severe Weather and Flooding Event (from 22 February 2022 onwards)

Our records indicate this is the fifth DRFA notification that has been submitted by New South Wales for this event.

If there are any changes to the notified local government areas, or the DRFA assistance measures being made available for this event, as per the attached notification form, an updated supplementary notification form and factsheet must be submitted to the National Recovery and Resilience Agency via recovery@recovery.gov.au.

Please quote the AGRN in all future correspondence regarding this event including on all financial reporting matters.

NRRA has advised the Office of Minister McKenzie that New South Wales wishes to issue a media release to announce DRFA assistance for this event in accordance with clause 5.2 of the Arrangements.

Kind regards,

s 22

Recovery Operations Branch
National Recovery and Resilience Agency

recovery.gov.au

121 Marcus Clarke Street, (PO Box 133) Canberra Act 2601

recovery.gov.au | [@recoveryaust](https://twitter.com/recoveryaust)



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From: s 22

Sent: Wednesday, 30 March 2022 3:18 PM

To: s 22

Cc: s 22

Subject: DRFA Notification - Ext 4 AGRN 1012 - NSW Severe Weather and Flooding from 22 February 2022 onwards

Good afternoon s 22.

Please find attached:

- DRFA Notification Form – Ext 4 AGRN 1012 - NSW Severe Weather and Flooding Event from 22 February 2022 for Commonwealth approval.
- Draft Media Release.

Please note this has been **approved** by our Minister.

Regards,

s 22

s 22

Operational Coordination - Resilience NSW

GPO Box 5434, Sydney NSW 2001

s 22

W: www.resilience.nsw.gov

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Released under the Freedom of Information Act

s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Tuesday, 12 April 2022 12:13 PM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: RE: Extension of Recovery Grants to all AGRN 1012 activated LGAS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

For information and an update, I confirm that the Small Business and non-profit organisation, Primary Producer, and Local Council Recovery grants have now been extended to cover all 60 LGAs as activated under AGRN 1012

Kind regards

s 22
Executive Director Finance and Investment Delivery
Resilience NSW

From: s 22
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 10:58 AM
To: s 22
Subject: RE: Extension of Recovery Grants to all AGRN 1012 activated LGAS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Port Stephens

s 22
Director | Disaster Recovery Programs | Recovery Operations
National Recovery and Resilience Agency

s 22
121 Marcus Clarke Street, (PO Box 133) Canberra Act 2601

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From: s 22
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 10:56 AM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: RE: Extension of Recovery Grants to all AGRN 1012 activated LGAS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

...to 57, what is the extra LGA to make 58?

s 22
Executive Director Finance and Investment Delivery
Resilience NSW
s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 10:55 AM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: RE: Extension of Recovery Grants to all AGRN 1012 activated LGAS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Yes they have.

s 22
Executive Director Finance and Investment Delivery
Resilience NSW
s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 10:46 AM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: Extension of Recovery Grants to all AGRN 1012 activated LGAS [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Morning s 22

Could you please confirm the Small Business and non-profit organisation, Primary Producer, and Local Council Recovery grants have now been extended to cover all 58 LGAs as activated under AGRN 1012?

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks,

s 22

s 22
A/Assistant Director | Disaster Recovery Programs | Recovery Operations
National Recovery and Resilience Agency

s 22



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