

Preparing Australian Communities Program - Local

FAQs

What is the Preparing Australian Communities - Local Program?

- The Preparing Australia Program supports projects that mitigate or reduce the disaster risk, impact and consequence associated with a large-scale natural hazard.
- PACP-L is one component of this broader program and specifically targets support to locally identified and locally led projects that will improve the resilience of local communities against a range of natural hazards. Round One has focussed on bushfires, floods and tropical cyclones.

What was the outcome of Round One of the program?

- The Australian Government has announced 158 community projects will share in \$150 million under Round One of the Preparing Australian Communities Program - Local stream grants program.
- These projects focus on reducing the risk and improving the resilience of communities against bushfires, floods and tropical cyclones.
- The list of successful projects is available on the National Emergency Management Agency website – <https://nema.gov.au/programs/preparing-australia-program/preparing-australia-communities-program-local>

Where did the funding for these grants come from?

- The Australian Government announced \$600 million for the Preparing Australia Program on 5 May 2021, in response to the findings of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.
- Funding for the program is 100% from the Commonwealth Government, directly to successful projects.
- Under Round One of the Preparing Australian Communities Program - Local stream applications for infrastructure projects valued at more than \$100,000 were required to have a co-contribution provided by applicants or project partners. A number of non-infrastructure projects also have co-contributions. This means the total value of the 158 projects is \$257 million.

Who was eligible to apply for the grants?

- The program was open to a range of different types of organisations across Australia including local councils, community organisations and businesses.
- Only one application could be submitted per applicant, but organisations could partner on more than one application.
- There were also a range of mandatory information and evidence requirements that had to be met by applicants when submitting their application in order to be eligible for assessment.



- Proposals also had to deliver risk reduction or resilience outcomes in accordance with the Guidelines. Proposals that did not provide evidence of this were not eligible for assessment.

How were grant applications assessed?

- The Business Grants Hub undertook an initial assessment of all applications to determine which of them met the eligibility and assessment criteria.
- The Business Grants Hub provided the outcomes of its assessment to the National Recovery and Resilience Agency's Selection Advisory Committee.
- The Selection Advisory Committee undertook a comprehensive assessment of the eligible applications, which included consideration of the merits of each application and the overall objectives of the Program. The Selection Advisory Committee also considered the advice provided by expert external advisors including the Australian Climate Service, Infrastructure Australia, Australian State and Territory Governments, Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience and Natural Hazards Research Australia.
- The Panel made its recommendations to the responsible Minister. The responsible Minister for this grants program is Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience.
- The Minister [announced the successful projects on 07 April 2022](#).

Why were projects from some Local Government Areas given priority over others in the assessment of their applications?

- Applications could be submitted for relevant projects from all LGAs across Australia.
- Applications from the 160 priority LGAs received an extra 20 points as part of the initial assessment where a proposal related to the relevant hazard (flood, bushfire and/or tropical cyclone), but this did not mean applications for projects in non-priority LGAs would miss out. It also meant that applications for projects from priority LGAs that did not address the relevant hazard did not receive the additional 20 points as part of the initial assessment.
- All applications were comprehensively assessed on their merits with 40 of the 158 successful projects not located in priority LGAs.
- Priority locations were used to ensure funding could be targeted to areas most at relative risk of bushfires, tropical cyclones and/or flood. This does not mean that other LGAs are not at risk of natural hazards. Rather, when considering the three components of disaster risk (hazard, exposure, vulnerability) to the extent possible with nationally consistent data, the priority LGAs are considered to have higher disaster risk relative to other areas.
- The National Recovery and Resilience Agency developed the priority list with input from the [Australian Climate Service](#), and state and territory governments.

Our grant application was successful – what are the next steps?

- Congratulations on your successful application. The Business Grants Hub will be in touch with all successful applicants to formally advise you of the outcome and to negotiate your Grant Agreement.
- If you require flexibility in the timeframe to negotiate and finalise the Grant Agreement due to unforeseen circumstances, such as the impact of subsequent disaster events, I encourage you to contact the Business Grants Hub at BSBR@industry.gov.au to discuss.



- As per the Grant Guidelines and the terms of the Grant Agreement, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they have the relevant approvals, permissions and/or agreements required to deliver the project, and adhere to all relevant laws, regulations, policies and industry standards.
- For example, where you do not own the asset or land on which a project is being delivered, you may need to seek relevant approvals and/or permission from the owner or relevant authority.
- The Grant Agreement will include any conditions attached to the grant. Please read the Grant Agreement carefully and seek advice as appropriate.

Our grant application was unsuccessful – what can we do?

- By now you should have received notification of the outcome of your application from the Business Grants Hub. For questions regarding your application, please contact the Business Grants Hub at BSBR@industry.gov.au.
- The total value of applications submitted under Round One exceeded the funding that was available, so not every project was able to be funded.
- All eligible applications underwent a thorough evaluation and assessment process.
- The Agency reviewed all eligible applications and considered applications on their merits based on:
 - How well the application met the criteria
 - How it compared to other applications
 - Whether it provided value with relevant money.
- When assessing whether the application represented value with relevant money, the Agency had regard to:
 - The overall objectives of the grant opportunity
 - The evidence provided to demonstrate how the project contributed to meeting those objectives
 - The relative value of the grant sought.
- After considering these factors, and comparing all applications, the projects that received funding were those that presented the strongest case and, on balance, represented best value for money against the Program objectives.
- You could also talk to your local Recovery Support Officer to find out about other opportunities in your area: <https://nema.gov.au/get-support/find-recovery-support-officer>

What other funding programs are available under the Preparing Australia Program?

- The Preparing Australia Program is a \$600 million investment by the Australian Government in a range of resilience building and risk mitigation initiatives.
- To date, only the \$150 million for Round One of the Preparing Australian Communities Program - Local stream has been allocated.



Key concepts and definitions

Disaster risk: the potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community.

Disaster risk reduction: Disaster risk reduction is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development.

Natural hazards: a natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.

Exposure: refers to people, property, systems or other elements present in hazard zones that are thereby subject to potential losses.

Vulnerability: the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.

Resilience: the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

As a concept, resilience is about the ability to adapt to changing conditions and withstand or rapidly recover from disruption, or potentially move to a new state or position.

Resilience can sometimes be confused with preparedness. **Preparedness** is a state of readiness and is based on a specific event. For example, I have prepared my home in readiness for an impending hazard event or season.

Resilience is separate from, but complements preparedness programs by encouraging actions that promote strong community systems that address factors contributing to health and well-being.

Confidence: Confidence in a climate projection is based on the type, quality, and agreement between different lines of evidence drawn from the scientific literature. These include, for example, whether the results are consistent with long term trends and with an understanding of climate and weather processes, agreement between the results from different climate simulation models and whether the models can simulate the physical process (for example, thunderstorms are generally too small for climate models to simulate well). Confidence is expressed qualitatively (i.e., very low, low, medium, high, and very high), for example, where there is limited evidence with low agreement, confidence is low, but where evidence is robust with high agreement, confidence is high. Confidence is independent of the direction and magnitude of change.

