



Australian Government

National Emergency
Management Agency

Submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

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Consent option: Publish Anonymously

Submitted by: Anonymous

Q1. What experience have you had with Commonwealth disaster funding support?

We are located in a region affected by cyclones, and have accessed disaster funding support through DRFA-WA previously.

Q2. How could Commonwealth funding support communities to reduce their disaster risk?

Provide further funding to support risk reduction or disaster preparation works/projects, also considering co-contributions. Grant funding should be advertised and made available around a financial year basis, so as to enable Local Governments to consider this within their annual budget, where a co-contribution is expected/required. Provide support (Administration/templates/guidance notes) to Local Government to support preparation works and undertake risk reduction projects. This also needs to be supported through direction to State Government who administer DRFA-WA funding to reduce administrative burden on Local Government, and provide easier and faster access to funding.

Q3. Please describe your understanding of Commonwealth disaster funding processes.

Funding is provided via the WA State Government. There has been a lack of process or change in the process previously which has seen this Local Government spend significant amounts of ratepayer funds on rectification works which were initially agreed to, only for the State Government Department to change the process and then deny providing funding to recoup our costs. There needs to be flexibility around recovery works as in some cases there will be a delay in access or an issue becoming apparent/notified because of the disaster event. Some disaster management works can only be undertaken seasonally or within a limited time window (outside of turtle breeding season and hatching season as an example) which can cause problems expending funding (also availability of contractors in remote areas).

Q4. Are the funding roles of the Commonwealth, states and territories, and local government, during disaster events clear?

DFES (WA) are the hazard management agency for most natural disasters, including management of funding during and post disaster. Local Government and the broader community contribute substantially to provide in-kind support and assistance. There is an inequity between the financial support provided by the State and Federal Governments to response and recover from disasters to meet



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the needs of the community, especially in remote areas which have fewer resources available, or do not have adequate reserves to draw upon to provide immediate recovery response.

Q5. Is there any further information you would like to provide?

Most current DRFA-WA funding replaces like for like and does not allow for building back better. There may also be some instances where a building or piece of infrastructure cannot be repaired back to what it was in the position that it was - there needs to be some flexibility around this. If something has failed, why build it back the same to fail again in the future?



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