



Australian Government

National Emergency Management Agency

2024-2025 Higher Risk Weather Season

National Preparedness Summit

**Collaboratively delivering integrated
recovery outcomes for our communities**





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National Emergency Management Agency

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation NEMA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and the community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Agenda

- 1 **Current state:** *a complex and changing disaster landscape*
- 2 **The role of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)**
- 3 **What is NEMA doing to improve recovery season?**
- 4 **Discussion – Integrated recovery:** *key areas of focus*

An increasingly challenging operating environment

- Significant increase in the size, scale and complexity of disasters
- Many Australian communities in a constant state of response and recovery
- Increasing public expectations of government support
- Disaster management frameworks and arrangements have not evolved at the same rate as the changing nature of disasters
- Escalating recovery costs
- Increasing need for greater strategic focus on, and investment in, risk reduction and resilience



Purpose and vision

- ▶ To enable more secure, stronger and resilient communities before, during and after emergencies
- ▶ Working through meaningful partnerships, we will build Australia's capacity for disaster resilience and support Australian communities when they need it most



National leadership

- ▶ Developing national policy
- ▶ Supporting national governance



National coordination

- ▶ Coordinating national action and assistance



Programs and funding

- ▶ Funding for disaster relief and recovery
- ▶ Investing in disaster risk reduction and reliance

What is NEMA doing to improve recovery this season?

1 2 3 4 5

1

National Emergency Management Stockpile (NEMS)

- ▶ Providing access to critical lifesaving resources, including safe emergency shelter, emergency power and clean water for drinking and hygiene
- ▶ Providing an alternative procurement panel to rapidly access services – e.g. recovery planning expertise

2

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

- ▶ Funding for relief and recovery assistance to individuals, families, communities, small businesses, primary producers and state, territory and local governments
- ▶ DRFA Roadshow – providing national guidance and support

3

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)

- ▶ Providing additional payments directly to individuals
- ▶ Ensuring support is targeted to those in need

4

Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA)

- ▶ Providing short-term income support payments

5

Coordination and Planning Officers (CPOs)

- ▶ Supporting states and territories
- ▶ Engaging with community support
- ▶ Providing national surge (resources and capability) capacity

6

Disaster Relief Australia

- ▶ Funding for Disaster Relief Australia to help disaster-affected communities to recover

7

Commonwealth recovery coordination

- ▶ Identifying and coordinating potential Commonwealth recovery support options (in addition to DRFA support)
- ▶ Working with states and territories to develop integrated recovery plans

8

New dedicated recovery policy function

- ▶ Developing integrated and sustainable recovery policy, strategy and planning

What is NEMA doing to improve recovery this season?

1 2 3 4 5

9 Evidence based decision-making

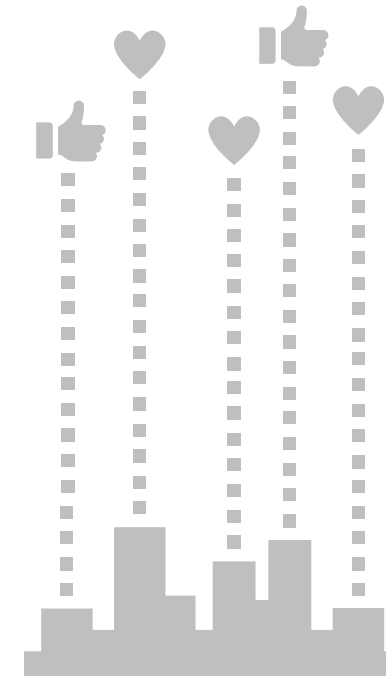
- ▶ National Risk Profile – developing Australia's first authoritative understanding of current national hazard risk
- ▶ Hazards Insurance Partnership – working with the insurance industry to reduce risk and improve insurance affordability and availability

10 Engagement with key stakeholders

- ▶ Working with:
 - First Nations representatives
 - Charitable, Not-for-profit and Philanthropic Round Table
 - Expert disability advisory panel
 - States, territories and the Australian Local Government Association

11 Public communications

- ▶ Introducing a new NEMA website to better connect users with information and support – nema.gov.au



What is NEMA doing to improve recovery longer-term?

1 2 3 4 5

Reviews are helping us to understand how we can improve Australia's disaster management, funding and governance arrangements.



Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding
(Mr Andrew Colvin AO APM)



Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements
(Dr Robert Glasser)



Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) Review
(Commonwealth, states and territories)

Recovery outcomes

- ▶ No two disasters are the same and communities across Australia are different
- ▶ Local engagement
- ▶ Whole of community
- ▶ Government support
- ▶ Understanding impacts and recovery needs to ensure disaster assistance is appropriate and well-targeted
- ▶ Equitable access
- ▶ Accurate, timely and consistent data for decision-making
- ▶ Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of support

“What does good recovery look like?”

Recovery planning

- ▶ Pre-disaster planning to improve post-disaster action
- ▶ Understanding communities (e.g. demographics and risk)
- ▶ Clear roles and responsibilities
- ▶ Disproportionately at risk cohorts are often excluded and not effectively engaged during the recovery phase
- ▶ Mitigating known risks to reduce disaster impacts
- ▶ Exercising to identify and address gaps in capability and capacity
- ▶ Lessons management and improvement

“How can we work together to better plan for recovery?”

Recovery capability, capacity and coordination

- ▶ Concurrent and compounding disasters
- ▶ Capability and capacity varies significantly across Australia
- ▶ Managing prolonged and complex recovery and reconstruction work programs
- ▶ Different arrangements, systems and processes for managing recovery
- ▶ Loss of knowledge and experience
- ▶ Coordination and surge

“How can we build national recovery capability and capacity?”

Resilient recovery

- ▶ Large proportions of Australians reside in disaster prone areas
- ▶ Historical land management decisions have contributed significantly to increased disaster risk in Australia
- ▶ Disaster-damaged infrastructure continues to be restored on 'like-for-like' basis
- ▶ Investment in risk reduction and resilience makes communities safer and saves cost
- ▶ Social resilience

“How can we use the post-disaster recovery and reconstruction phases to reduce disaster risk and build community resilience?”