



Australian Government

National Emergency Management Agency

# Disaster Ready Fund Round Four

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians throughout Australia and acknowledge their connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the peoples the cultures and the Elders past, present and emerging.

## What is the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF)

- The Disaster Ready Fund supports individuals and communities to prepare for severe weather and stay safe during disasters.
- Recently, Australia has seen multiple severe weather events and disasters. These events have included bushfires, flooding, and storms.
- Disasters can hurt people, Country, culture and property. It can also be very expensive and difficult to repair and get back to normal after.





## What the DRF can fund

- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) understands that First Nations people have special knowledge of Country, communities, and culture. This knowledge helps communities to plan for and be protected from severe weather.
- The DRF can help First Nations communities by funding projects that protect and prepare communities from extreme weather.
- Projects might:
  - a. make roads or airstrips better to protect against flooding
  - b. build places to keep individuals safe on-Country if they have to leave their homes because of bushfire or flood
  - c. help First Nations organisations work with their communities to educate and develop plans for what to do to keep safe in dangerous weather
  - d. Help First Nations people care for their Country to protect cultural heritage and reduce disaster risk
  - e. fund a range of place-based First Nations controlled projects to keep people safer from severe weather.



## How to apply

- Instructions for applying to the DRF Round Four can be found in the "guidelines" on the [NEMA website](#).
- Applicants must meet all the rules set out in the DRF guidelines which are published on Grant Connect and the NEMA website.
- These rules outline that anyone applying for funding that will particularly affect First Nations people or places must engage with First Nations people, organisations and communities.
- DRF funding is provided to state and territory governments, in recognition that they have primary responsibility for disaster management in their jurisdictions, and are best placed to understand and coordinate priorities for disaster resilience.
- Project proposals must be submitted through a Lead Agency in your state or territory.
- Lead Agencies will vet project proposals, provide an indicative rating/ranking and submit applications, endorsed by the relevant Minister, to NEMA for assessment
- State and territory governments, through Lead Agencies, will then work with a range of organisations, including local councils and community groups, to deliver funded projects that reduce disaster risk.
- NEMA encourages you to contact your local, state or territory government to see how they can work with you to prepare and protect your local community.
- Contact details for Lead Agencies are available on the [NEMA website](#).



- You can submit project proposals to a Lead Agency for its consideration until 5:00pm (local-time in each jurisdiction) 1 July 2026.
- You should refer to Lead Agency websites for instructions on how to submit project proposals.

## Co-contributions

- All projects must include a funding co-contribution.
- Each year these co-contributions to projects enhance the investment toward disaster resilience.
- Projects led by First Nations organisations have a reduced co-contribution requirement of 10 per cent of the total project.
- Co-contributions can be money or in-kind. In kind includes things like wages, supplies, materials and equipment to deliver projects
- The 10 per cent co-contribution amount cannot be met using money or in-kind contributions from the Commonwealth government.
- First Nations applicants can partner with another organisation or local, state or territory government to help deliver projects. The co-contribution can then be made by the other partners.
- Projects led by non-Indigenous organisations may not receive a reduced co-contribution requirement, depending on their eligibility in other categories.

## Examples of funded projects

The **DRF Round One** has enabled projects including:

- **Ngunnawal Culture Enhancement and Protection at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve**
  - The protection of Ngunnawal cultural sites in the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve in the Australian Capital Territory.
  - \$280,000 Commonwealth funding.
- **Palm Island Cyclone Shelter (multi-purpose community hall)**
  - Under Round One, this project received \$240,000 in Australian Government funding to deliver pre-construction works for a multipurpose facility that will meet cyclone standards, ensuring a designated cyclone shelter or place of refuge, significantly enhancing community safety during disaster events.
  - Under Round Three, this project received \$14.62 million in Australian Government funding to construct an up to 800-person cyclone shelter (to be used as an evacuation centre and/or community hall) to serve the 4,000 plus residents on Palm Island.
- **Drone Monitoring of at-Risk Coastal Areas using Aboriginal Drone Operators**
  - Using the latest technology, like drones, to help local Aboriginal people in the southwest of Australia help to plan against extreme weather along the coast.
  - \$125,690 Commonwealth funding.
- **Sustainable Disaster Relief Food Solutions in Northern Australia**
  - Regional and remote infrastructure in the Northern Territory to coordinate the efficient distribution of food to communities in the event of a natural disaster.
  - \$1,150,000 Commonwealth funding.



The **DRF Round Two** has enabled projects including:

- **Aboriginal Communities Emergency Management Program (ACEMP)**
  - This Program will expand a successful pilot that supports Discrete Aboriginal Communities to identify disaster risk and develop place-based Aboriginal Emergency Management Plans and risk reduction strategies to improve preparedness and strengthen resilience.
  - \$3,687,244 Commonwealth funding.
- **Awakening Peramangk cultural practices through Kiri (fire)**
  - The project delivers strategic and practical support for Peramangk people to return to managing Country, by unlocking unique and pragmatic approaches to bushfire hazard reduction.
  - \$2,399,633 Commonwealth funding.
- **Reintroduction of Cultural Burning on Eyre Peninsula to Mitigate the Risk of Bushfire**
  - The project demonstrates cultural burning on Eyre Peninsula South Australia as a strategy to mitigate the risk of bushfires and facilitate the exchange of cross-cultural knowledge between Wirangu and Nauo Native Title groups, emergency services and relevant organisations.
  - \$66,919 Commonwealth funding.
- **Tjuntjuntjara Fire Rescue and Emergency Disaster Ready Project**
  - This project will construct a compliant 3-Bay FER Appliance Station to garage a fire truck and suitable equipment and host local First Nations volunteers, training providers and emergency service providers to coordinate, prepare for and respond to major disasters and incidents. This project will address the risk of losing lives and critical assets and essential services by increasing our resilience and capacity to prepare for and respond to major local and regional fire and flood incidents and disasters.
  - \$2,334,000 Commonwealth funding.



The **DRF Round Three** has enabled projects including:

- **Jamukurnu-Yapalikurnu Aboriginal Corporation Disaster Resilience Capacity Building Project**
  - This project will gather lessons learnt from extreme weather events which have impacted Martu communities; and develop a response plan.
  - \$300,000 Commonwealth funding.
- **Ngurra Kayanta Bushfire Infrastructure Protection Project**
  - This project will restore Jalyirr Outstation as a functional base for the Ngurra Kayanta Rangers by upgrading essential infrastructure, improving accessibility,



and implementing bushfire mitigation measures. It will install water tanks, pumps, and automated sprinkler systems to protect against fire threats while constructing firebreaks and upgrading tracks for safer access.

- \$890,000 Commonwealth funding.
- **Increasing Karajarri Ranger Capacity to Mitigate Extreme Wildfire Risks**
  - This project will decrease megafire risk through: targeted fuel management with early season burns and strategic fire suppression during wildfire incidents; grading of firebreaks and tracks; creating more waterpoints, and acquiring a light fire tanker; creation of a fire management dashboard to collate relevant information and allow nimble and adaptive decision making; and community education to increase preparedness and manage ignition sources.
  - \$895,114 Commonwealth funding.
- **Roots of Resilience: Safe Country, Strong Future**
  - This project will deliver a community-developed Disaster Ready Strategy that supports long-term resilience and self-determination. The program will identify critical infrastructure needs in times of disaster, aligned to community priorities and cultural obligations, such as caring for Elders and children during extreme heat.
  - \$2,457,032 Commonwealth funding.
- **Baryulgil Evacuation Centre and Community Resilience Project**
  - This project will enable the Baryulgil Square Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) to reduce disaster risk by clearing bushfire hazards and installing a modular evacuation centre, built off-site, with power, water, internet, and hygiene facilities. A small excavator and tractor will support mechanical clearing around homes, replacing traditional burn-offs due to increased rainfall, flooding, and cyclone activity, enabling safer and more effective hazard reduction.
  - \$2,017,526 Commonwealth funding.
- **Scaling Cultural Burning: Building Healthy Country Economies for Improved Disaster Resilience**
  - This project will scale Indigenous-led Cultural Burning across six high-risk sites in SE Queensland and South Coast NSW.
  - \$6,020,093 Commonwealth funding.
- **Laynhapuy Disaster Management Framework: Capacity Building for Yolŋu-Led Disaster Preparedness**
  - This project will develop a culturally appropriate Disaster Management Framework to help Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation prepare for and respond to disaster events and emergencies such as cyclones, flooding, and bushfires. It will include clear plans, staff training, and practical exercises to build local knowledge and capability.
  - \$150,825 Commonwealth funding.



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## **What the DRF can fund**

For more information visit [www.nema.gov.au](http://www.nema.gov.au) or contact [disaster.ready@nema.gov.au](mailto:disaster.ready@nema.gov.au).