



FACT SHEET: Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (Joint Australian-New South Wales government assistance)

Bland Shire Bushfire (from 30 November 2016) – Version 1

***Please note the information in this fact sheet is current as at 22 February 2017 and is subject to change**

The *Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements* (NDRRA) 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 largely 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 NDRRA assistance measures.

NDRRA ACTIVATED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

In response to the Bushfire, a range of assistance has been activated for individuals and councils in one (1) local government area (LGA): Bland.

NDRRA ASSISTANCE MEASURES (as activated by the New South Wales 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, food hampers or small cash payments to purchase essential items. Immediate assistance is generally provided from evacuation or recovery centres.

- This assistance is administered by the NSW Department of Justice, Office of Emergency Management. To enquire about this assistance, people should call the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

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 who have no other means of restoring their homes to a safe and habitable condition following the disaster event and 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.

- This assistance is administered by the NSW Department of Justice, Office of Emergency Management. To enquire about this assistance, people should call the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

Grants for essential structural repairs to homes: These grants provide a contribution toward essential structural repairs to low income home owners who have no other means of restoring their homes to a safe and habitable condition following the disaster event. The amount of assistance provided depends on an assessment of structural repairs required and the number of occupants in the home.

- This assistance is administered by the NSW Department of Justice, Office of Emergency Management. To enquire about this assistance, people should call the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

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

Concessional interest rate loans 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.

- This assistance is administered by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority. To enquire about this assistance, people should call the Authority on 1800 678 593.

Concessional interest rate loans and grants to non-profit organisations:

Assistance to sporting clubs: A special scheme is available to assist sporting 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.

- This assistance is administered by NSW Treasury. To enquire about this assistance, people should call NSW Treasury on 02 9228 5062.

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.

- This assistance is administered by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority. To enquire about this assistance, people should call the 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.

- This assistance is administered by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority. To enquire about this assistance, people should call the Authority on 1800 678 593.

Assistance for state agencies and the local council

Counter disaster operations: This assistance helps state agencies and the affected council 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 and the construction of fire breaks to protect residential properties.

- State agencies and the affected local council should contact the NSW Department of Justice, Office of Emergency Management on 02 9212 9200 to enquire about this assistance.

Restoration of essential public assets: This measure provides financial assistance to help with the costs of restoring or repairing eligible essential public assets or infrastructure damaged as a direct result of a disaster to their pre-disaster standard. This assistance also covers emergent works, such as removing debris and temporary repairs, which are undertaken immediately after a disaster to enable an eligible asset to be operational.

- State agencies and the affected local council should contact the Office of Finance and Services (NSW Public Works) on 02 9372 8871 or NSW Roads and Maritime Services on 02 8843 3124 to enquire about this assistance.

Other assistance: The NSW Government may also claim costs associated with certain other disaster assistance measures undertaken by state agencies and the affected council including the establishment and operation of evacuation and recovery centres, debris removal from residential properties and the demolition and rebuilding of disaster damaged houses.

- State agencies and the affected local council should contact the NSW Department of Justice, Office of Emergency Management on 02 9212 9200 to enquire about this assistance.