

Supporting the Northern Rivers Region of NSW



The Australian Government is providing \$11.2 million towards the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative, which will identify \$150 million worth of flood mitigation projects for the Northern Rivers region and provide detailed mapping and modelling to inform future planning and investment

The National Emergency Management Agency is supporting the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales to drive long term resilience by delivering priority projects that mitigate the impact of disasters on communities and economies in the region, and ensure that they are in a better position to recover from future disasters.

Why this region is a priority

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements highlighted the need to mitigate risks to communities most vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters.

The Northern Rivers region is highly vulnerable to disasters from severe weather events, particularly frequent flooding, and experienced significant damage during the February-March 2022 floods.

The Australian Government, through the National Emergency Management Agency, is committed to driving long term resilience and sustainability by delivering priority projects that help communities to be more resilient against future disasters.

For these reasons, a range of measures are being delivered in the region, including a commitment of \$150 million for priority resilience projects in 2022-23.

Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative

Understanding the vulnerability of the Northern Rivers region to the impacts of severe weather, and following the devastation of the February-March floods in the region, the Government is committed to understanding the risk factors and broader influences on the region.

That is why \$11.2 million has been committed to the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative, being undertaken by the National Emergency Management Agency and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to understand climate, catchment, and hydrological drivers within the Northern Rivers region and how these drivers impact flooding. The Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative will assess different scenarios, consider flood mitigation and broader influences of land use practice and infrastructure, to identify and prioritise options for resilience investment.

The Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative will inform how the Australian Government's commitment of \$150 million in 2022-23 can best target the immediate and longer-term needs of the region. It will also

provide detailed mapping, analysing and modelling within the region, to inform future planning and investment.

A significant aspect of this project is consultation with key stakeholders, including local communities, to understand their views regarding priorities for investment. Further detail about the project are provided at www.nema.gov.au/northern-rivers-resilience-initiative

The Australian Government is investing in resilience

The Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative is one of a number of investments by the Australian Government to continue to build Australia's resilience and reduce the risk and impact of natural disasters.

The Australian Government's investment in resilience, risk reduction and preparedness includes:

- \$150 million Preparing Australian Communities – Local Stream Program.
- \$75 million in flood mitigation and infrastructure resilience programs across disaster-declared LGAs in NSW.
- \$4.5 million National Capability Package.
- \$37.1 million Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) package to improve the resilience of Australia's communications networks in bushfire and disaster prone areas program funded under the \$2 billion National Bushfire Recovery Fund and the Mobile Black Spot Program.
- \$100 million over two years for the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program.
- \$85 million Natural Hazards Research Australia, a natural hazards and disaster resilience research centre for the next ten years.
- \$200 million Infrastructure Betterment Fund in New South Wales, jointly funded with the NSW Government, with \$100 million from the Australian Government.
- \$261 million Disaster Risk Reduction Package, jointly funded with states and territories, with \$130.5 million from the Australian Government.
- \$10 million over four years from 2021-22 to the North Coast Primary Health Network under the 'Resilient Kids' program to implement mental health and trauma-informed supports for primary and secondary school-aged children in the Northern Rivers region affected by the flood event.

In New South Wales specifically, the Australian and New South Wales governments are jointly funding over \$1.9 billion under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

- \$165 million Northern Rivers Business Support Package for small, medium and anchor businesses in the seven highly-impacted local government areas (LGAs) of Lismore, Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, The Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley and Tweed. This package also includes specialised support for businesses in the Kangaroo Valley LGA.
- \$285.2 million Housing Assistance Package providing assistance to affected individuals and families to provide temporary accommodation, financial support and establish temporary dwellings.
- \$142 million to provide assessment of properties and the demolition of those found to be uninhabitable across disaster-declared LGAs.
- Grants of up to \$75,000 for primary producers and up to \$50,00 for small businesses and not for profit organisations impacted by the flooding to support recovery and reinstatement (est. \$330.2 million)
- \$300 million clean-up package to assist with the clean-up and removal of flood and storm related damage, debris and green waste.



- \$1 million grants for all impacted councils in disaster declared LGAs to assist with their immediate social, built, economic and environmental needs.
- \$35 million for Rural Landholder Grants of up to \$25,000 for smaller landholders in disaster declared local government areas involved in primary industries that do not meet the income threshold to access the primary producers grant.
- \$150 million Primary Industry Support package to protect supply chains, boost recovery and rebuilding efforts.
- \$6.5 million for highly impacted local governments to engage designated flood Community Recovery Officers to delivery community-based recovery initiatives and assist people to navigate and access recovery support.
- \$112.5 million Back Home Grants to provide support to owner occupiers and renters and landlords for structural repairs, purchasing household contents, or carrying out utilities repairs.
- \$70 million Aboriginal Housing Recovery package to support the construction of new Aboriginal housing.
- Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package to improve regional roads and transport assets damaged by the floods.
- Community Infrastructure Recovery Package to support the repair and reconstruction of community owned assets, aboriginal community infrastructure, riparian sites and landscapes and the construction of new flood levees (est. \$ 250 million).

Find out more

Further details about the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative are available at www.nema.gov.au/northern-rivers-resilience-initiative

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