



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?

The Shire received funding under the DRFA program after Cyclone Seroja. And has also accessed some mitigation funding in the past.

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

Develop a stronger direct link between the Federal funding and the Local Government delivery partner. Local Government is well versed in localised issue resolution and often the beurocharcy involved in a bipartisan State and Federal funding process leads to confusion and administrative overheads reducing the benefit.

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

The commonwealth seems to provide strict rules and funding to the State who then apply another layer of complexity in order to reduce the risk of being left with unfunded works. This then puts pressure on the delivery organisation, often local government to undertake as much time in documenting and administrating funding requirements as delivering outcomes.

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

The roles are unclear, and often the initial outlay falls on Local Government. In the case of small communities this is difficult as it the financial burden falls on the level of government with the least in terms of income. The State's administer the funding programs, however every State differs in their approach and complexity. Often the State blames the Commonwealth for complexity. If one standard national approach could be implemented with a more user friendly and pay up front and acquit approach it would then provide respite to those managing during disasters.

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

We need to invest more in mitigation and resilience but also factor into equation the human component during a disaster event and simplify the process to ensure funds get to affected communities faster.



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121 Marcus Clarke Street, (PO Box 133) Canberra ACT 2601
Level 10, 10 Felix Street, (PO Box 15084) Brisbane QLD 4000