



Australian Government

National Emergency
Management Agency

Submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

Response ID: IRCDF_1134_41

Consent option: Publish with name

Submitted by: Wimmera Emergency Management Resource Sharing Partnership

Q1. What experience have you had with Commonwealth disaster funding support?

Generally Councils interact reactively and inconsistently due to the nature of events. Streamlining the process, clearer guidelines and documented processes would enable local government to meet the requirements and have a consistent approach when dealing with Emergency Management Victoria and the National Emergency Management Agency.

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

A number of ways including guidelines and processes documented and work-flowed for users. Resilience funding extended and maybe applied following Federal/State risk analysis of highest risk events and geographic locations (only down to Local Government area level) i.e fire, flood, etc. Clearer and more flexibility on 'betterment' based on risk and history and re-built to 'current day standards' rather than like for like replacement.

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

Complex. LGA's predominantly deal with State Government (EMV). Are there better ways to interact, e.g. improved portal (noting this is currently being rolled out), eligibility criteria based upon State assessment, e.g. if State/Territory deem eligible such as 35 LGA's in October 2022 floods, this should automatically accepted by the Commonwealth.

Are there ways to administer funding like Commonwealth/State and Financial Assistant Grants through the Grants Commission? State authorities seem to complicate and delay the processes.

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

Not really. LGA's undertake the work, assess the needs and damage along with understanding communities intimately. The State should be the eligibility and assessment arm, Commonwealth review and approve/not, then funding directly to Local Government to deliver and acquit.

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

The acquittal process is complex and goes through 3 levels of approval - locally (sometimes through Council resolution), State approval and then Commonwealth. Somehow simplify the acquittal funded items, amount, proof of works and expenditure.





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Also the use of Council staff rather than contractors, this has somewhat been addressed for the October 2022 event but not usual occurrence. This needs to be an option due to contractor shortage and local workforce having ability to reprioritize works.



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