



Australian Government

National Emergency  
Management Agency

# Submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

**Response ID:** IRCDF\_866\_11

**Consent option:** Publish Anonymously

**Submitted by:** Anonymous

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

██████████ Shire has made numerous claims under the DRFA process over the past few years.

Claims include

- (1) emergency works for tree cleanup, hazard repair etc
- (2) immediate reconstruction works including road pavement and landslip repair

We are currently working on 3 x repa claims for larger asset restoration works.

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

Simplification of the process around "betterment" of councils' assets vs repair of assets to current engineering standards

Consistency of approach from RRV assessors - we currently interact with 3 assessors at the moment and they all have different approaches and ask for different information to substantiate claims. We have had occasions where an assessor has attended the site and approved the scope of works and confirmed via email - he left and a new assessor did not accept his original approval and had different interpretations of the claims guidelines causing a significant amount of additional administration time to satisfy the new requirements.

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

This is a process put in place to provide agencies with financial assistance to repair critical public assets and infrastructure following a declared disaster/event.

It appears that the process differs across states based on the state government's requirements - Victoria's appears to be the most onerous, inefficient, inconsistent, and frustrating.

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

No.

It is unclear what is claimable because the guidelines change frequently.





Australian Government

National Emergency  
Management Agency

The guidelines are also quite unclear and difficult to understand/interpret.

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

During significant events - 3 months is not enough time to complete the work.

If the event occurs towards the end of the financial year there is not enough time to lodge the claim prior to the end of the financial year.

The claims are assessed a long time after the lodgement - 2+ years

Justification required for Cat C and Cat D funding is too difficult and the process takes too long. Due to the delay, the community recovery is significantly impacted.

