



Budget 2024-25 Factsheet

National Emergency Management Stockpile Capability

Summary of Budget 2024-25

The safety of Australians before, during and after a disaster is paramount.

More than half of Australia's Local Government Areas have experienced a natural disaster since July 2022 – many, more than once.

The Australian Government has made significant improvements to the way the states and territories are supported in their primary responsibility of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Much of this delivers on recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

For the third consecutive Budget, the Australian Government has invested in measures that address the increase in severe and frequent natural hazards brought on by climate change.

This investment places a strong emphasis on disaster risk reduction and mitigation through the Disaster Ready Fund, already committing hundreds of millions of dollars in partnership with states and territories on projects that manage the physical and social impacts of disasters and other natural hazards.

Through the National Emergency Management Agency, the Australian Government has stood with Australians whose lives have been turned upside down by floods, cyclones, storms, and bushfires.

National Emergency Management Stockpile

The Australian Government supports the rapid provision of critical emergency management goods and services through the National Emergency Management Stockpile (NEMS) as a vital national capability.

Further investment into this capability, with the allocation of almost \$27 million over the next three years from 2024-25, will contribute to saving lives, livelihoods, and property in a disaster; and will help protect Australia's economic interests by reducing the level of harm caused to disaster-impacted communities.

When communities are hit by disaster, access to life-sustaining resources such as safe emergency shelter, emergency power and potable water for drinking and hygiene purposes is critical.

The NEMS became operational during the 2023-24 Higher Risk Weather Season, delivering much needed support in Far North Queensland.

The NEMS enables the Australian Government to provide disaster response and relief resources for rapid deployment across Australia, augmenting state, and territory capabilities, when their capabilities have been fully committed to the response to severe and catastrophic disasters.

The Australian Government can also pre-deploy assets around the country in preparation for disasters that are anticipated to have significant impacts.

The NEMS Capability has three components, each designed to respond to state and territory non-financial assistance requests for the rapid deployment of critical disaster response and relief assets and resources:



- A National Emergency Management Stockpile (NEMS) **Standing Offer Panel** with service categories for goods, logistics and specialist services, which authorised state and territory government agencies can also access.
- A **national stockpile** of Australian Government-owned re-deployable assets and single-use seasonal consumables, managed under NEMA contracts with industry. This includes self-sustaining emergency shelter camps, water desalination and purification systems and high output power generation.
- **Strategic partnerships and Memoranda of Understanding** with other Australian Government humanitarian and crisis response capabilities.

The 2024-25 Budget provides additional investment to ensure an ongoing capacity for governments to support Australian communities during and immediately following disasters.

Frequently asked questions

Why is this initiative being funded?

This funding will further develop a whole-of-government crisis, emergency, and disaster management capability to respond to disasters. It will augment the response support that the Australian Defence Force (ADF) provides to states and territories in national emergencies and help reduce our reliance on the ADF to support domestic response and relief efforts.

The NEMS capability is not a replacement for existing state or territory disaster response activities and planning but rather a back-up for when their capabilities have already been fully committed to disaster responses.

What will the funding provide?

The funding will enable the National Emergency Management Agency to prioritise the coordination and deployment of Australian-Government-owned emergency response and relief resources.

It will also support the dedicated National Emergency Management Stockpile Standing Offer Panel and enable additional procurement and continued management of the initial stockpile of Australian Government-owned assets established in 2023-24.

What is the timeframe?

Initial funding provided over the 2023-24 financial year supported progress of work on each of the three components of the National Emergency Management Stockpile. An initial stockpile of Australian Government-owned assets was established for the 2023-24 higher risk weather season, and a Standing Offer Panel was established on 3 May 2024, two months ahead of schedule.

Additional funding of almost \$27 million over the next three years from 2024-25 will permit all three components of the NEMS Capability to progress and mature, with an enhanced stockpile of Australian Government-owned assets available for deployment when required.

The funding will also facilitate an independent assessment of the NEMS operating model and its effectiveness in 2026.

How has the Stockpile been deployed so far?

The NEMS has already proved critically valuable during the 2023-24 higher risk weather season.



Through NEMS, an emergency shelter camp was deployed to Far North Queensland in January 2024 following Tropical Cyclone Jasper.

This camp provided much needed temporary worker accommodation for Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) teams to support the clean-up in the communities of Wujal Wujal, Degarra and Bloomfield.

This enabled DRA personnel to provide clean-up operations in these communities. It also took pressure off other temporary accommodation options for displaced community members and reconstruction workers.

Find out more about the National Emergency Management Stockpile on NEMA's website: [National Emergency Management Stockpile | National Emergency Management Agency \(nema.gov.au\)](#)