



**Australian Government**  
**National Recovery and Resilience Agency**



# North East Implementation Working Group

**Meeting 4, Thursday 16 September 2021**

Virtual attendance, via Pexip



## Fourth Meeting of the North East Implementation Working Group

On Thursday 16 September 2021, the North East Implementation Working Group (IWG) met to discuss the region's future funding priorities, mental health and wellbeing, a potential third flood recovery summit and methods of capturing and sharing information using engaging and versatile mediums.

The meeting was initially scheduled to be held in Ayr, however due to COVID-19 restrictions, specifically the Queensland border restrictions and the Australian Capital Territory lockdown, this was not possible. The membership and the Agency were eager to progress the agenda items and the meeting was held virtually.

### Outcomes of the discussion

Mr Nico Padovan PSM, IWG Chair, Deputy CEO and COO of the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (the Agency), opened the meeting and noted the commencement of Ms Vivianne Johnson, Executive Manager of Policies and Programs Division.

The Agency provided an update on the progress of the existing six programs being delivered in partnership with the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA). Key points focussed on the recently opened [stream two of the North Queensland Recovery and Resilience Grants](#) and the assessment process of the [North Queensland Economic Diversification Grants](#).

Members noted telecommunication, mental health, economic diversification, resilience and disaster risk management measures are regarded as an ongoing priority. The group also discussed the range of support and grants available from both the Commonwealth and the Queensland Government and suggested that when rolling out new programs, consideration is given to enable eligible participants' ample time to complete high quality applications.

The group welcomed guest presenter, Mr Ron Petterson, Project Manager for Community Response to Eliminating Suicide (CORES) Queensland and previous Chair of Sunday Suicide Prevention in the Whitsundays to discuss his experience in mental health services and effective ways to assist communities in their recovery. Mr Petterson noted the importance of community events, large and small, suggesting they are essential in building social cohesion and fostering community centric support. A key consideration of the presentation was the success of community events, which subtly integrate mental health services within a broader remit of disaster preparation and resilience.

The IWG Secretariat captured the screen shot below, which features Mr Petterson addressing the IWG on these matters.

The membership discussed the intent and value of a flood summit. The group recognised the value of such events, agreeing they need to be designed by the people, for the people. The Agency will work with the Queensland Primary Health Networks and key stakeholders on options for holding a summit in the first half of next year.

The Chair thanked outgoing working group members Leanne Stevens and Sandra Elton for their time, advocacy and contributions to the NE IWG over the last 12 months.

## Next meeting

The membership proposed Ayr remain the site of the next meeting with further details to be confirmed.

Get to know more about the IWGs at: [recovery.gov.au/north-queensland-flood-recovery](https://recovery.gov.au/north-queensland-flood-recovery) then select 'Implementation Working Groups'.

