



Disaster Ready Fund

Round Two 2024-25 – Consultation with First Nations Australians

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians throughout Australia acknowledge and honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who have, over several millennia, developed sophisticated ecological knowledge and practices to predict, prepare for, cope with, and survive natural hazard events, drawing from their intimate relationship with Country.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) encourages Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) project proposals that contribute to the resilience of First Nations communities, incorporate traditional knowledge, and/or are delivered by or in partnership with First Nations providers.

- NEMA encourages anyone developing a DRF project proposal to consider the needs and perspectives of First Nations people in all DRF project proposal design and (if successful) delivery.
- Lead Agencies (and/or Applicants developing a DRF project proposal) **must** meaningfully consult with First Nations communities and stakeholders before submitting any project with a **place-based focus** (projects that address the needs of a particular location by leveraging existing programs and/or filling gaps in service delivery) to NEMA.
 - Applicants should discuss their project proposal's consultation needs with the relevant Lead Agency in the first instance to ensure DRF consultation can be aligned and coordinated in the most efficient and accessible way possible.
 - As a general rule, the consultation process should be proportionate to the potential impacts of the project.
- Lead Agencies/Applicants will need to demonstrate (and where appropriate, provide evidence of) this consultation in their application to NEMA, in response to selection criterion 3 '*likelihood of project success*'. The DRF Assessment Panel/s will consider the support of First Nations communities, Land Councils, and/or First Nations organisations when assessing these projects.

Co-contributions and waivers

The DRF requires a 50 percent co-contribution (cash or in-kind) for each project. In-kind co-contributions can include (but are not limited to) wages, supplies, materials and equipment to deliver projects.

In acknowledgement that some organisations and communities may have valuable project proposals but limited ability to provide a co-contribution, Applicants may submit a request for a waiver (or partial waiver) of the co-contribution requirement in exceptional circumstances (*see section 5.3 of the Guidelines*). Applicants should discuss this with their Lead Agency before submitting a project proposal.

Contact us: If you have any further questions, we encourage you to contact the relevant Lead Agency in the first instance, alternatively you may email: disaster.ready@nema.gov.au