

Memorandum of Cooperation

between

**The Government of Australia, as
represented by
National Emergency Management Agency**

and the

**New Zealand
National Emergency Management Agency**

The **Australian National Emergency Management Agency** and the **New Zealand National Emergency Management Agency** (hereinafter referred to as 'the Participants'), recognising the need to strengthen emergency management cooperation between their two countries;

and

wishing to strengthen the capability of the Australia and New Zealand to reduce risks and respond to disasters in the territory of both the Australia and New Zealand, have reached the following understandings:

Paragraph One: Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation (the Memorandum) is to create a framework for information sharing and knowledge exchange to foster cooperation in emergency management. This Memorandum outlines the working arrangements between Participants and helps to establish effective communications.

Paragraph Two: Scope

Under this Memorandum, the Participants intend to:

1. Establish regular exchanges to share information on emergency management, with a focus on, but not limited to the following areas:
 - 1.1. National Operational Coordination
 - 1.2. Observations, insights or lessons identified from disaster events and emergency management exercises
 - 1.3. research and practices on disaster risk reduction
 - 1.4. best practices, including education and training, community information and warning systems, resilience and risk assessment
 - 1.5. community engagement, covering public awareness of disasters, social inclusion including gender-balance, and engagement with Indigenous groups, people with a disability, and those vulnerable in disasters.
2. Discuss formal arrangements for facilitation and entry of observers (if feasible), following a disaster in either country.
3. Facilitate the entry of disaster assistance including, but not limited to, responders and technical advisors, as needed or requested, after a disaster in either country.
4. Invite members from each Participant to participate in relevant conferences, workshops, and exercises, as feasible.
5. Coordinate through multilateral fora and relationships on issues of common interest in the Pacific region.
6. Explore opportunities for joint activities, particularly research that will inform policy development and emergency management-related matters.
7. Bring together external subject matter experts from other government agencies, industry, academia and non-government organisations, to assist in building Participants' awareness and capability on disaster issues.

Paragraph Three: Financial

Each Participant is to bear its own costs resulting from the actions taken under this Memorandum, unless otherwise jointly decided by the Participants, subject to available funding and consistent with applicable legal authorities. Nothing in this Memorandum commits funds of the Participants.

Paragraph Four: Exchange of information

The Participants may exchange information for the purposes of giving effect to this Memorandum.

The exchange of information between the Participants will be in accordance with the domestic laws, regulations, and policy relating to disclosure of such information in the country of the Participant providing the information.

Paragraph Five: Confidentiality

The Participants will not use or further disclose information (particularly information that has not been made publicly available) provided under this Memorandum, except:

- (a) in accordance with this Memorandum for the purposes specified in paragraph 1; or
- (b) otherwise as required or authorised by law; or
- (c) with the prior approval of the other Participant.

Paragraph Six: Commencement, Duration, and Modification

1. This Memorandum commences when signed by representatives of both Participants;
2. This Memorandum expires on the date five (5) years after it is signed by both Participants, unless discontinued earlier or extended in accordance with the provisions of this Memorandum;
3. Either Participant may modify (including any extension of) this Memorandum by mutual decision in writing; and
4. Either Participant may discontinue this Memorandum at any time and is expected to provide the other Participant 90 days' advance written notice.
5. Paragraph five concerning confidentiality will remain in effect notwithstanding the termination of this Memorandum.

Paragraph Seven: Consultations

Any difference about the interpretation or application of this Memorandum is intended to be resolved by consultation between the Participants.

Paragraph Eight: Legal Effect

The Participants acknowledge that this Memorandum embodies the understanding of the Participants and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations between the Participants or any third party.

This Memorandum will be implemented subject to, and in accordance with the Participants' domestic laws, policies, and international legal obligations.

Signed in Brisbane, Australia, in duplicate, this 19 day of Sep, 2022

For the National Emergency Management Agency For the National Emergency Management Agency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sam', written over a horizontal line.

Principal, Australia NEMA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sam', written over a horizontal line. The signature is partially enclosed by a large, loopy circular stroke.

Principal, New Zealand NEMA