

Resilience NSW

Disaster Risk Reduction Fund

State Risk Reduction stream FAQs



Australian Government



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State Risk Reduction stream

Do you have a question about the State Risk Reduction stream? Here are answers to our most commonly asked questions.

I have a question about the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund

What is the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF)?

In 2020, the DRRF was established under the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction (NPADRR) as part of a national implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (NDRRF) to support each state's meaningful progress against the NDRRF priorities.

Under the joint NSW – Australian Government agreement, \$51.8m of grant funding was made available (with a total \$27.1m Commonwealth contribution) under the DRRF.

The DRRF consists of three streams:

Stream	Description of stream	Funding
State Risk Reduction	Risk reduction projects of state significance including natural hazard risk reduction.	\$17.8 million
Local and Regional Risk Reduction	Local and regional risk reduction projects and enhancing community resilience and risk reduction.	\$30 million
Building Disaster Risk Knowledge	Research, modelling and data analysis focusing on reducing impacts of climate change on communities and critical infrastructure.	\$4 million
		TOTAL \$51.8 million

Note: Funding amounts are approximate and Resilience NSW reserves the right to decrease or increase these amounts, or redistribute funding between streams.

The guidelines and these FAQs provide information for the State Risk Reduction stream of the DRRF.

Who administers this program?

Resilience NSW administers and manages this program on behalf of the NSW and Australian governments, under a state and Australian Government agreement.

Resilience NSW is the lead disaster and management agency for NSW responsible for planning responses to future disasters. This includes disaster preparation, prevention, response and recovery, and building community resilience.

Can I apply for funding across all three grant streams?

The three streams are targeted at different types of organisations.

You may be able to apply across all three grant streams depending on your eligibility.

Please refer to the Resilience NSW website for further information about other streams as they come online through 2022.

www.nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw

I have a question about the State Risk Reduction stream

How much funding can I apply for?

There are two funding pathways available within the State Risk Reduction stream and applicants may apply for:

- **Discovery projects** – up to \$500,000 per project
 - **Scale projects** – up to \$2.5 million per project
- Applicants can apply for both pathways if they have different project proposals. The same project cannot be submitted to both funding pathways or submitted twice by different applicants.

Will my project be fully funded?

You will need to provide an estimate of costings with an Expression of Interest (EOI), and provide detailed costings if invited to submit a full proposal.

Assessors will review the project and budget requested to recommend the final approved grant funding amount provided to applicants. The assessment panel has the discretion to recommend part funding on projects.

Before we execute the funding agreement, we'll notify and consult with applicants about any changes to the requested grant amount and individual budget items. Costs will also need to be reported under the funding agreement.

Do I need a partner (like a not for profit) to get funding?

No. However, partnerships and joint applications are strongly encouraged and will be assessed favourably. Please refer to the guidelines to confirm your eligibility to apply for funding.

Can I apply for funding even though I've already started my project?

No. Projects underway cannot apply for funding. However, proposals can build on previous projects or funding.

Can my project join with another project's application?

One lead organisation will need to apply for funding for each project. If funding is granted, the lead organisation will be the one to enter into a

binding agreement with the administering agency, Resilience NSW.

If your project is combined with another project, you will need to provide details on your application, including whether your project can start immediately or whether it's dependent on the other project finishing first.

You will need to confirm whether your project stands alone or is dependent on the other project also receiving funding. You will need to be able to itemise the costs relevant to your approved project.

I work for a government agency/not for profit/university that has previously had funding granted. Can I use the work that has been previously funded as part of my project?

Yes, you can use the outcomes of previously funded projects to support the work in your proposed project.

Are biosecurity emergencies or droughts covered by this scheme?

The Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) State Risk Reduction stream will fund prevention and mitigation projects to reduce the risk of natural hazards. The DRRF aligns with the priorities of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, which focuses only on natural hazards: shocks caused by a natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury, damage and disruption.

Natural hazards include bushfires, floods, cyclones, storms, heatwaves, earthquakes and tsunamis. Droughts are not included under this fund.

While droughts are not considered a natural hazard in their own right, we acknowledge the connection between prolonged drought conditions and natural hazards such as bushfire and floods. Initiatives that are considered preventative or with potential to mitigate the future effects of bushfire and flood are potentially in scope – however mitigation of these natural hazards would need to be the primary focus.

I have a question about eligibility

Who can apply for the State Risk Reduction stream?

- NSW Government clusters
- NSW Government departments
- NSW Government agencies
- Other state-owned entities, such as statutory authorities and government owned corporations.

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Incorporated not for profit organisations with a state or national footprint or reach may also apply directly to the fund, but must demonstrate how they will partner with government (local, state and/or Australian) to achieve relevant outcomes.

Can you provide examples of eligible projects?

Eligible projects could include aspects such as:

- Development and delivery of training and education programs
- Establishment of collaborative forums and associations
- Risk assessments and hazard information that informs effective planning and investment
- Application of new risk management solutions
- Disaster risk and hazard reduction technique (intervention) development
- Toolkits for effective mitigation approaches to common hazards
- Development of novel, lower cost or more accessible treatments for common hazards
- Building code and standard development to reduce infrastructure risk
- Development of rating systems, for example to help consumers easily identify the most effective products for risk reduction
- Survey standards for land and quantity surveyors for capture of disaster risk specific information
- Technology projects supporting the improved identification, analysis, treatment, management and communication of risk
- Integrating climate science with disaster risk reduction data and business systems
- Investment frameworks and options analyses to guide targeted and effective investment.

Examples of eligible **discovery projects** that meet, inform or improve future investment in achieving DRRF outcomes include:

- Piloting new types of technology that contribute to DRR outcomes, for example a new type of early warning system being used in other jurisdictions but not yet tested in the Australian or NSW context
- Trialling new types of training or capacity building approaches, for example the use of VR training, with potential for improved educational outcomes
- Innovative approaches to risk assessment or new ways of sharing risk data and making data available to improve decision making by key actors.

The scale funding pathway is designed for larger **scale projects** that will aim to generate a new product, technology, platform or approach that will have state-wide impact at a scale beyond piloting or testing.

Scale projects would be expected to build off significant previous work either funded by agencies or via previous rounds of funding. Alternatively, they may result in new legislative, policy or investment frameworks that drive more risk informed decision making and investment at scale. It would be expected within the scale pathway that proponents are bringing a significant element of partnering to their proposals to enable outcomes and action across sectors and geographic regions. Collaborative projects are strongly encouraged, such as those relating to a region, sector or joint venture.

Example delivery partnerships and joint ventures include:

- A NSW Government department and association or group representing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders developing guidance for DRR through traditional land care techniques and practices for use in managing crown lands
- A partnership of a department, private company, university and industry association developing a risk tool for small and medium businesses
- A group of NSW Government agencies and a private company developing a revenue generating tool for disaster risk information relevant to property purchasers such as home buyers, where all revenues are used to sustain the tool and/or subsidise future work relevant to DRR.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list and is illustrative only.

Can you provide examples of ineligible projects?

- Installation of flood protection for a private property
- Acquisition of water pumps for use in firefighting or flood response
- Delivery of training and exercises for urban search and rescue
- Funding of an ongoing 'resilience officer' role within an agency or department
- Reconstruction of a community hall or sporting facility with a secondary use as an evacuation centre
- Removal of a weed or pest from an area to protect endangered species
- Development of a commercial product or solution providing enduring profits to a privately owned commercial entity
- The development of a premium subscription based technology service, where fees are likely to inhibit equity of access

- The development of a technology product where NSW or Australian government data is licensed or provided exclusively for commercial benefit of any non government entity.

Can I use my project to start a business or profit from it?

No. Projects for commercial gain or profit to an individual, organisation or company are not eligible for funding.

I have a question about the grant application process

When do applications close? When will funded projects be announced?

The application process for both State Risk Reduction stream pathways will involve an EOI stage followed by an invitation to shortlisted applicants to submit a full project proposal.

EOI applications close at 5pm on 21 March 2022. All applications must be submitted by this closing date and time.

Assessment of EOI outcomes will be completed and applicants notified on 4 April 2022.

Only EOIs shortlisted by the assessment panel in stage 1 will be invited to submit a full project proposal through our Resilience NSW online grants platform. No additional applications will be allowed at this stage.

Final assessment of outcomes will be announced in May 2022.

How will I find out if my application was successful?

We will notify all applicants of decisions by email.

What will I need to start my application?

Applicants should download the EOI application form from the Resilience NSW website, complete and email it to drf@resilience.nsw.gov.au prior to the closing date and time of 5pm on 21 March 2022.

The form will be the same for both funding pathways.

Can I make changes to my application once it has been submitted?

No. You cannot make changes to your EOI submission after you've completed and emailed the application form.

How do I start my application?

Step 1: read the guideline and FAQs

Step 2: prepare information about you and your project

Step 3: visit the website at www.nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw and download the EOI application form

Step 4: start completing the application form

Step 5: send your completed EOI application form to drf@resilience.nsw.gov.au prior to the closing date.

Is there another way to submit my application?

No. EOIs can only be made via email to drf@resilience.nsw.gov.au

If an EOI is shortlisted by the assessment panel, applicants will be invited to submit their full project proposal via the Resilience NSW online grants platform. Information and links will be provided.

Can I apply on behalf of someone?

One lead organisation will need to apply for funding. If funding is approved, the lead organisation will need to enter into a binding agreement with Resilience NSW.

This lead organisation will receive any funding amounts and be expected to undertake periodic and acquittal reporting.

You may seek help outside of your organisation to assist with your grant application. This person will need to apply for funding under your organisation's business account in the online platform at full proposal stage.

Can my organisation collaborate with another agency for this funding?

Yes. You may collaborate with another organisation to apply for this funding.

If funding is approved, the organisation who applies for the funding must:

- Meet the eligibility criteria
- Enter into a binding agreement with the state for the delivery of this project.

This lead organisation will be paid any funding amounts and will need to undertake periodic and acquittal reporting.

Can more than one proposal be submitted?

Yes. There is no restriction on the number of proposals that are submitted per NSW Government entity or not for profit organisation with state or national reach.

Multiple applications from any one entity or organisation will compete with the entire pool of applications and it is possible that more than one project from the same organisation will be successful. However, individual areas or applicants within an organisation should only submit one application per pathway.

Are word limits applied to questions in the application? If so, what happens if I exceed the word limit?

The EOI application form and full proposal online platform application will advise on word or character limits.

Remember to be clear and concise when answering the question.

Do I need to include cost estimates and quotes in my grant application?

Yes. You'll need to provide estimated project costs in your EOI. These can be revised with more accurate costings at the full proposal submission stage, however if the project cost increases significantly between EOI and full proposal stage, please note this may influence the panel's view of the project's relative benefit.

If you are invited to submit a full proposal, you will need to provide details on all project costs in your application.

If you already have formal quotes for goods or services for your project, we recommend you upload these in the supporting documents section of your online application. If you don't include formal quotes, we will contact you if we need them.

What if my project costs over-run and I use more money than I thought I would?

You should develop your project's proposed expenditure using quotes from suppliers, or from your own expertise in delivering this project.

It is your responsibility to develop a realistic budget for your application, manage the approved funding in line with your application, and comply with the funding agreement.

You cannot include an allowance of contingency of funds in your application. Due to the high demand for funding, it is unlikely that additional funding will be available later to cover any shortfall in your project budget.

Do I need to include GST in my quotes or estimations?

No. For uniformity and reporting purposes, all amounts requested in grant applications must be GST exclusive. Generally, if the lead organisation is registered for GST, payments to successful applicants will include the GST component, where GST is applicable.

Can I start my project before I receive funding?

No. Your project must start after you have been notified and the funding agreement has been executed.

I have a question about grant supporting documents

What documents will I need to provide to support my grant application?

Stage 1: EOI requirements

The EOI requires applicants to articulate their proposal early in its development.

The EOI application form will be the same for both funding pathways. It will ask you to provide applicant name and details, as well as high level proposal information including:

- Which funding pathway the EOI is for
- One line project description or project name
- Project location, if applicable
- Estimated total funding amount requested
- Estimated total project cost, including funding or in kind co-contributions
- Estimated timeframes of the project
- What you are proposing to do (what is proposed in the project concept)
- What is the demonstrated need
- How your project aligns to the identified outcomes of the relevant funding pathway
- Who you are planning to partner with, if applicable
- Conflict of interest declaration.

Stage 2: full proposal requirements

Applicants invited to submit a full project proposal will be provided with a detailed application form. Both funding pathways will require detailed additional inclusions including:

- Detailed project plan
- Detailed breakdown of project activities or milestones
- Detailed budget, including a cost breakdown with financial co-contribution/s and in kind contribution. Periodic reporting will be required on budget forecasting and expenditure
- Key project personnel
- Profile or case studies of similar projects delivered, including project referees
- Risks and mitigation plan and measures
- A plan for monitoring, reporting and evaluation
- Supporting documentation, such as a copy of the lead organisation's constitution, charter or article of incorporation, and a letter of understanding jointly signed by all partners, if applicable
- Conflict of interest declaration
- Scale projects will be required to
 - › specify a six month establishment phase
 - › Cost benefit analysis from proponents if applicable
 - › demonstrate a clear theory of change, linking key activities with desired outcomes.

All funding applications need to consider ongoing operational requirements and sustainability after the proposed project is completed.

Supporting material must be in an acceptable file type, such as Word, Excel, PDF or JPEG.

I submitted my application. Why have I been asked for more information?

The assessment panel will inform Resilience NSW of the approved shortlisted proposals from the EO1 stage. You may need to provide additional information if special conditions are accepted, or funding support is amended. Supported proposals will be reviewed by Resilience NSW to ensure that the:

- Required documentation is complete
- Applicant or organisation meets the eligibility criteria
- Projects align with the program objectives and selection considerations
- Proposal does not contain ineligible costs
- Proposal does not contain any sensitive or contentious activities.

More information may be requested prior to assessment.

I have a question about selection criteria

What are the selection criteria and how will they be considered when assessing my project?

Please refer to the guidelines for full details of assessment criteria and the assessment process.

I have a question about successful projects

What happens if my application is successful?

If your full proposal application is approved, you will need to:

- Enter into a funding agreement with Resilience NSW
- Start and complete funded activities by the dates specified in your funding agreement
- Notify Resilience NSW of any changes to your project
- Complete your project by either December 2023 (Discovery projects) or 30 June 2024 (Scale projects)
- Contact Resilience NSW if you need to apply for an extension
- Report on your project as specified in your funding agreement
- Acknowledge the support of Resilience NSW as outlined in your funding agreement.

How is funding distributed?

We will distribute funding in instalments. The number of instalments will depend on the project size, risk profile and delivery duration. We will include a payment schedule in the funding agreement.

For scale projects, an instalment will be made for a six month establishment phase. A funding stage gate will be required at the end to proceed to the delivery phase and release of further payments.

What proof do I need to provide to show I am completing or have completed the project?

You will need to:

- Complete periodic reporting on expenditure
- Complete periodic reporting on project progress to date
- Acquit the project and submit final expenditure and outcomes reporting upon completion of the project.

Your funding agreement will provide more details of your reporting obligations and any documentation we need.

Can I talk about my project in the media or promote it locally?

Once all ministerial funding approval announcements are complete you will be able to promote your project.

We will advise you of any applicable media embargo at the time of funding approval.

Can I change my project once I've received funding?

You will need to contact Resilience NSW if you wish to make any changes to your project after you receive funding approval. Changes to all or part of your project may be considered under exceptional circumstances. Any changes to the project will need to be incorporated in the funding agreement through a variation agreement.

What happens if I don't spend all of my allocated funding?

You must account for and acquit all expenditure upon completion of the project. You will need to return any unspent funds to Resilience NSW.

Do I have to provide financial reports over the lifetime of the project?

Yes. You will need to provide an update on your budget and expenditure in the progress reports and the final project report.

The final project report needs to be submitted within one month of project completion. The final project report will need to include:

- A financial acquittal statement
- Supporting documentation
- Details on how completed activities met state and Australian Government priority outcomes
- Information about the benefits realised by the project.

Financial acquittal of your project will need to include:

- Certification by the organisation's CFO, or equivalent
- Relevant supporting financial documentation.

What happens if I don't complete my project?

All approved projects must:

- Be completed no later than December 2023 (Discovery projects) or 30 June 2024 (Scale projects).
- Submit a final project report and financial acquittal documentation within one month of project completion.
- If there are unforeseen circumstances that delay your project delivery, you may apply to extend the delivery of the project. You can apply for an extension by submitting a variation request.
- Your extension request will need to outline the reasons for the variation and actions taken to minimise the impact of the delay, and include a proposed adjusted project timeline with new milestones.

We will consider and grant extensions of time on an individual basis and in exceptional circumstances.

What are the timeframes around my project starting?

You will need to start the project as soon as the funding agreement is executed.

Scale projects will also be required to include a six-month establishment phase and will be expected to meet mutually agreed performance benchmarks before proceeding to the main delivery phase. If a project is already underway, these benchmarks can be tailored to accommodate this.

Resilience NSW will monitor the progress of each project's compliance against the funding agreement. You will also need to provide a final report, with financial acquittal and supporting documentation, within one month of completion of the project.

Does Resilience NSW monitor the progress of my project?

Yes. You will need to submit progress reports every six months as a minimum. More regular reporting may be required depending on the risk profile, size and type of project activities.

Organisations must keep, and provide if necessary, proper financial reports and operational records and registers. Failure to do so may affect an organisation's eligibility for continued funding through the DRRF.

I have a question about unsuccessful projects

My application was unsuccessful. Where may I seek feedback?

If your grant application is unsuccessful, your formal notification will include details on how you may seek feedback on the funding decision process.

I have a question about terms and definitions related to DRR

The following table includes definitions of the main terms related to DRR:

Term	Definition
Complex risks or complex systems	<p>A complex system exhibits emergent properties that arise from interactions among its constituent parts. Examples of a complex system include a traffic jam, regime change or social unrest triggered by natural hazards.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">UNDRR</p> <p>Complex systems have cause – effect relationships that can often only be understood in hindsight, particularly after a disaster occurs. Complex systems involve interactions and interdependencies which cannot be separated. It can be difficult to clearly identify where a risk could emerge. Complex systems are more amenable to building general forms of resilience.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cavello, A. and Ireland, V. (2015)</p>
Disaster risk	<p>The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity. The definition of disaster risk reflects the concept of hazardous events and disasters as the outcome of continuously present conditions of risk. Disaster risk comprises different types of potential losses which are often difficult to quantify. Nevertheless, with knowledge of the prevailing hazards, the patterns of population and socioeconomic development, disaster risks can be assessed and mapped, in broad terms at least. It is important to consider the social and economic contexts in which disaster risks occur and that people do not necessarily share the same perceptions of risk and their underlying risk factors.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">UNDRR</p>
Disaster risk reduction	<p>Disaster risk reduction is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development. Disaster risk reduction is the policy objective of disaster risk management, and its goals and objectives are defined in disaster risk reduction strategies and plans.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">UNDRR</p>
Emerging/emergent risks	<p>New risks, or historically known or experienced risks, with behaviours and dynamics that are changing in unprecedented or unpredictable ways or which are occurring in new locations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">AIDR</p>
Mitigation	<p>The lessening or minimising of the adverse impacts of a hazardous event. The adverse impacts of hazards, in particular natural hazards, often cannot be prevented fully, but their scale or severity can be substantially lessened by various strategies and actions. Mitigation measures include engineering techniques and hazard resistant construction as well as improved environmental and social policies and public awareness. It should be noted that, in climate change policy, 'mitigation' is defined differently, and is the term used for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that are the source of climate change.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">UNDRR</p>

Term	Definition	
Preparedness	The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, response and recovery organisations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current disasters. Preparedness action is carried out within the context of disaster risk management and aims to build the capacities needed to efficiently manage all types of emergencies and achieve orderly transitions from response to sustained recovery. Preparedness is based on a sound analysis of disaster risks and good linkages with early warning systems, and includes contingency planning, the stockpiling of equipment and supplies, the development of arrangements for coordination, evacuation and public information, and associated training and field exercises. These must be supported by formal institutional, legal and budgetary capacities. The related term ‘readiness’ describes the ability to quickly and appropriately respond when required.	UNDRR
Prevention	All activities concerned with minimising the occurrence of incidents, particularly those of human origin. Regulatory and physical measures to ensure that emergencies are prevented or their effects mitigated. Measures to eliminate or reduce the incidence or severity of emergencies.	AIDR
State significance / state level	<p>Pertaining to the effects – either direct, indirect or cumulative – of a disaster, which threatens or results in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad loss or impact to lives, mortality, health, livelihoods and/or the safety of the public • Major disruptions to NSW Government services and operations, essential community services, systems, major economies, industries, ecological environments, infrastructure operations and/or economic and social development or growth • Disruptions or degradation of critical infrastructure and services to businesses or the community • An intolerable economic cost to communities or the NSW or Australian governments. <p>For the purposes of the DRRF, warlike acts and terrorism are specifically excluded from this definition.</p>	Adapted from NSW Government (2018)
Systemic disaster risk	<p>Systemic risk refers to the threat that individual failures, accidents or disruptions present to a system through processes such as contagion. The notion of systemic risk refers to the risk or probability of breakdowns in an entire system as opposed to the breakdown of individual parts or components.</p> <p>Systemic risks are interconnected with nonlinear cause – effect relationships. The term ‘systemic’ describes the extent to which a risk is embedded in the larger context of societal processes. Systemic risk requires a more holistic approach to hazard identification, risk assessment and risk management, because investigating systemic risk goes beyond the usual agent consequence analysis. Instead, the analysis must focus on interdependencies and ripple or spillover effects that initiate impact cascades between otherwise unrelated risk clusters.</p> <p>Systemic risk is hard to quantify and hard to predict. Systemic risk cannot be measured or governed by separately quantifying the contributing parts. As systems and services become more hyperconnected and globalised, the propensity for system disruptions and reverberations are intensified, setting up the feedback loops with cascading consequences that are difficult to foresee.</p> <p>It may not be possible to mitigate or repair certain changes once tipping points and thresholds are reached.</p>	AIDR

Term	Definition
Systemic risks	<p>The risk that a shock triggers through panic or otherwise the failure of a chain of communities, natural environments, markets or institutions. A chain of significant losses to institutions resulting in losses of life, livelihoods, assets, trust, or essential goods and services availability, often evidenced by substantial financial market, political, social and/or ecological volatility. Systemic risks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High complexity • Transboundary, often spanning multiple communities, cultures, markets, regions, jurisdictions and/or ecosystems • Highly interconnected and complex, stochastic and nonlinear in their cause – effect relationship • Are nonlinear and include tipping points. <p>Adapted from UNDRR / AIDR / Schweizer and Renn (2019)</p>
Vulnerability	<p>The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards. The propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also emphasises distinguishing between contextual vulnerability and outcome vulnerability.</p>

I can't find an answer to my question

I can't find my question in this list of FAQs. Where may I seek more information?

If you would like further information about eligibility criteria, timeframes and costs, or if you have any questions about the application form, please contact Resilience NSW up to two business days prior to the EOI closing date and time via drf@resilience.nsw.gov.au. Resilience NSW will determine at its discretion whether to respond to a request for further information.

