

Disaster Ready Fund – Round 1 2023-24: NSW Application

Information briefing

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SENSITIVE – NSW GOVERNMENT



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Advice to attendees



This information session is being recorded to ensure documentation of questions to be updated to the Frequently Asked Questions on the Disaster Ready Fund NSW Application webpage.

- Presentation slides will be published on the webpage and notified to all registrants.
- The recording retained by the NSW Reconstruction Authority is not for distribution and will not be published.
- Please post questions during the session – there will be two sections for Q&A

About the Disaster Ready Fund

What is the Disaster Ready Fund?



The Australian Government's flagship disaster resilience and risk reduction initiative is a commitment of \$1 billion to be made available over five years, from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028.

- The Disaster Ready Fund provides investment in disaster mitigation infrastructure and systemic disaster risk reduction projects, to address any, or multiple, natural hazards including extreme weather and climate-driven hazards and geological hazards.
- **Each financial year, up to \$200 million will be made available to states and territories.**
- **Only Australian states and territory governments are eligible to apply for funding via an overarching NSW Application comprising suitable Project proposals.**
- Project proposals cannot be submitted directly to the Commonwealth.
- The DRF will replace the former Emergency Response Fund, which will terminate on 30 June 2023.

NSW Application



NSW Reconstruction Authority is the nominated lead agency NSW and has multiple roles in relation to this process:

1. Providing consistent, accountable, and transparent information for Project proponents;
2. A potential Project proponent eligible to submit a project proposal for screening; and
3. Suitability screening and prioritisation of Project proposals for inclusion in the NSW Application

- NSW Reconstruction Authority has complete discretion on Projects that will be submitted under the NSW Application.
- From a probity perspective, there is therefore a need to have sufficient separation of roles to ensure there is no risk to the integrity and probity of the process where the NSW Reconstruction Authority may be perceived as screening and completing the suitability assessment on its own project.
- NSW Reconstruction Authority staff putting forward a Project proposal **WILL NOT BE** involved in the suitability screening.
- The assessment of state and territory Applications and awarding of funding will be coordinated by the Australian Government.

Round 1 2023-24



Proposals are due to NSW Reconstruction Authority by 5pm AEDT 14 February 2023.



Program objectives



1

Increase the understanding of natural hazard disaster impacts, as a first step towards reducing disaster impacts in the future.

2

increase the resilience, adaptive capacity and/or preparedness of governments, community service organisations and affected communities to minimise the potential impact of natural hazards and avert disasters.

3

reduce the exposure to risk, harm and/or severity of a natural hazard's impacts, including reducing the recovery burden for governments and vulnerable and/or affected communities.

Eligibility and mandatory requirements

Eligible hazard types

Projects can target any, or multiple, natural hazards that can result in disaster.

Geological hazards

- Disasters caused by **geological hazards**, e.g.
 - Avalanches, mudslides and landslides
 - Earthquakes
 - Volcanic eruptions
 - Sinkholes
 - Tsunamis

Extreme weather hazards

- Disasters caused by **extreme weather hazards**, e.g.
 - Bushfires/wildfires
 - Heatwaves
 - Damaging wind incidents, including but not limited to dust storms and tornados
 - Storms and tropical cyclones
 - Severe thunderstorms, hailstorms and blizzards
 - Floods, flash flooding, including storm surges
 - Coastal erosion, and coastal inundation
 - Sea level change
 - Pollen storms
 - East Coast lows
 - Geomagnetic solar storms (X or M Class)

Drought is excluded as an eligible activity in recognition of the pre-existing Future Drought Fund in place to support funding for drought-related activity.

Eligible project types: Stream 1

Projects under either Stream 1 or Stream 2 can encompass one or more eligible activity types, and can also be joined-up, and or multi-jurisdictional.

Stream 1 - Infrastructure projects

- **Stream One:** Infrastructure projects which are directed at achieving any or all of the following:
 - resilience to a future natural disaster that could affect an area (whether directly or indirectly);
 - preparedness for a future natural disaster that could affect an area (whether directly or indirectly); and
 - reduction of the risk of a future natural disaster that could affect an area (whether directly or indirectly).
- Stream One projects must fall into one or more of the following categories:
 1. investment in **grey infrastructure**;
 2. investment in **green-blue infrastructure** (including nature based solutions);
 3. investment in **hazard monitoring infrastructure**;
 4. **business case development** for future infrastructure (including investigation, modelling, concept and detailed design activities).

Eligible project types: Stream 2



Systemic risk reduction projects that build the long term sustainability of a community or communities in an area at risk (directly or indirectly) by a future natural disaster:

Stream 2: Systemic risk reduction projects

1. **Supporting a better understanding of risk**, through a better evidence base to understand and raise awareness of risk – to improve understanding of natural hazards and their potential impacts over time (i.e. Hazard mitigation plans and resilience strategies);
2. **Strengthening decision making** by enhancing governance networks and communities of practice, including the development and/or alignment of resilience and risk reduction strategies;
3. **Adaptation projects** that improve land use planning and development practice projects, including but not limited to the preparation of regional or local plans and updating land use planning instruments and building codes;
4. **Projects that build the capacity and capability** of businesses, community sector organisations and/or at-risk communities to improve their preparedness and resilience to the impacts of future disasters;
5. **Projects that enable and incentivise private investment** in disaster risk reduction.

Eligible Project proponents



Eligible Project proponents to the NSW Application include:

Australian Government Guidelines	New South Wales Limit
<p>At the discretion of the Applicant.</p> <p>Can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. NSW Government Agencies including the NSW Reconstruction Authorityb. Large Non-Government Organisationsc. Medium to Small Non-Government Organisationsd. Peak bodiese. Local Governmentf. Community groups	<p>The NSW Reconstruction Authority welcomes and encourages NSW Government Agencies and, or large Non-government organisations to come forward with aggregated Projects or consortia's, e.g. on behalf of multiple Councils or community groups, to achieve efficiencies and greater impact.</p> <p>For example, this could mean aggregating multiple Projects that are consolidated under a single project management structure and proposal</p>

Other parameters



Requirement	Australian Government Guidelines	New South Wales Limit
Australian Government funding allocations per Project	No limits.	New South Wales will give preference to projects of minimum \$1m total Project value including the mandatory co-contribution.
Australian Government funding allocations per state and territories	Minimum \$7.5 million per state and territory under Round 1 to support equitable distribution.	In accordance with the Australian Government guidelines.
Eligible locations	Projects must be delivered within the Applicant's respective jurisdiction/s or area of operation.	Projects must be based in: a) New South Wales, or b) For cross-jurisdictional Projects, must have a significant NSW-based component
Project period	Must commence from 1 July 2023 with a maximum project period of three (3) years	In accordance with the Australian Government guidelines.

Mandatory co-contributions



The Australian Government requires minimum 50 per cent mandatory co-contributions for all Projects (whether financially or in-kind).

- Commonwealth funding from any source (including historical) cannot be used to cover co-contributions, either fully or in-part.
- Projects must provide written advice in the Proposal form submitted to the NSW Reconstruction Authority, stating either:
 1. A confirmed (actual) co-contribution,
 2. An in-principle co-contribution, or
 3. A request for a waiver or reduced co-contribution.
- Under the Australian Government guidelines, funds that a Project has already invested in a program or project on or any time after 1 July 2019 are eligible co-contributions (only where the Commonwealth's contribution from the DRF is expected to extend or enhance that program or project subject to alignment with the DRF Objectives).

Requests for waivers or reduced co-contributions

Requests for waivers or co-contribution reductions will only be considered by the Australian Government in rare and exceptional circumstances at the discretion of its Program Delegate.

- In the first instance, the NSW Reconstruction Authority will consider the requests in its suitability screening and prioritisation of Proposals, and ensure the NSW application is compliant with the co-contribution requirements of the Australian Government.
- NSW must discuss any requests for waivers or reductions with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) before submitting the NSW Application.
- Waivers, if accepted by NEMA, will be required to submit an additional form which includes a business case with the Project proposal.

Requests for waivers or reduced co-contributions



- Please advise the NSW Reconstruction Authority **no later than 14 February 2023** if your Project is seeking a waiver or reduced co-contribution so that NEMA can be advised and a decision sought on additional information that it requires to be submitted with the Project proposal.
- Email to: drfnsw@resilience.nsw.gov.au

Questions?

Project proposals – what to expect

Australian Government selection criteria



Project details

(weighted 40%)

- the level(s) of disaster risk prior to and upon conclusion of the proposed project;
- how the project will deliver lasting benefits and enable adaptation to future climate and disaster impacts; and
- how the project will avoid and manage the potential for maladaptation (including any potentially negative social, environmental or economic outcomes).

Likelihood of project success

(weighted 30%)

- capacity to complete the project in adherence with relevant industry and legislative standards;
- capability (including previous experience in undertaking similar scale projects), including confirmation of the ability to deliver this project within the agreed maximum three (3) year timeframes; and
- value for money.

Alignment with existing plans and strategies

(weighted 30%)

- detail on the extent to which the project meets the Program Objectives
- evidence the project is supported by local government[s] and/or relevant communities, including First Nations stakeholders where relevant;
- detail on how the project aligns with any existing state, territory or local government disaster risk reduction policies, risk assessments; and
- detail regarding why this project is not able to be funded through other potentially more appropriate sources.

Q4 Responses to Australian Government criteria: Project Detail



Project details (2,000 words limit). Please fill in the text box below or attach to this Form.

Response must address the following:

- *What the project is, in detail?*
- *What risk or problem does the Project seek to address? An indication of the risk before and after the proposed project?*
- *Who (or what) does this impact and how?*
- *What evidence (quantitative/qualitative) can you draw on to indicate the size and severity of the risk?*
- *How will the Project enable adaptation to future climate and disaster impacts?*
- *How will the project avoid and manage the potential for maladaptation (including any potentially negative social, environmental or economic outcomes)?*
- *Reference any or all of the four domains of social, economic, built and ecological*

Q8 Project Logic



Problem Statement:

What is the underlying issue that you are trying to address? Who is affected by it? What are the root causes? The problem statement should be targeted and specific, but must not simply state the need for your project.

Light blue rectangular area for writing the problem statement, with a small red dot in the center.



Goal:

How will you address the issue outlined in your problem statement? This goal is your objective.

Light blue rectangular area for writing the goal.

Defining the 'why' – example of a Problem Statement



We believe _____

[Who are the target groups? What is the community need?]

needs a way to _____

[What is the systemic issue or risk? Clearly articulate the outcome(s) of the system you would like to mitigate or shift]

because _____

[Why does it matter? What are the underlying costs from not addressing this problem?]

Q8 Project Logic



1. Inputs
2. Outputs: activities
3. Outputs: participation
4. Assumptions
5. Short-term outcomes
6. Medium-term outcomes
7. Long-term outcomes
8. External factors

Project inputs and outputs	
Inputs	<p>What resources do you have?</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and staffing • Funding • Time • Knowledge • Networks • Places and spaces • Equipment • Partner organisations and groups
Outputs: Activities	<p>Describe and count the activities that are part of your project. These are the actions required in order to produce project outputs.</p> <p>What will have been done when you have finished delivering the project?</p> <p>*Is there evidence to suggest that the activities will lead to outcomes?</p>
Outputs: Participation	<p>Who is the target group for your project?</p> <p>What are the demographics of this target group? Who else is involved and what is their role?</p> <p>*Be careful not to confuse outputs (what is delivered) with outcomes (what changes are caused)</p>
Assumptions	<p>What unexamined beliefs do you have about how or why the project will work? This could be assumptions around the participants, engagement, activities etc.</p>

Project outcomes	
Short-term outcomes (timeframe)	<p>What will be different if your activities are completed?</p> <p>These outcomes would usually be expected on completion of a project, and often include changes in skills, knowledge, attitude, awareness or motivation.</p> <p>*Outcomes answer the question: What is different as a result of our activities? Outcomes should link to your goal/objective.</p> <p>**Will these short-term outcomes logically lead to the medium-term outcomes?</p>
Medium-term outcomes (timeframe)	<p>What changes will happen as a result of your project.</p> <p>Medium-term outcomes may take some time to be seen, and can include changes in behaviour, practice or systems or the application of skills and knowledge</p> <p>*Is the connection between long and medium-term outcomes supported by theory or evidence?</p>

Outputs versus Outcomes

In simple terms, an **output** is the action or activity you undertook to contribute to making change happen (e.g., a workshop).

An **outcome** is the actual change you want to achieve (e.g., a shift in behaviour).

A “Theory of Change” is a statement of the change the group is seeking - focused on a chain of outcomes.

Whether you use a theory of change or program logic, the intent is to clearly articulate how you think change may happen.

This means making clear the linkages between inputs, activities, intermediate results, and longer-term outcomes.

Ideally, there are no ‘miracle leaps’ or ‘heroic assumptions’ but rather plausible links between your inputs, outputs and outcomes.

Project Logic Q8 continued

External Factors - example:

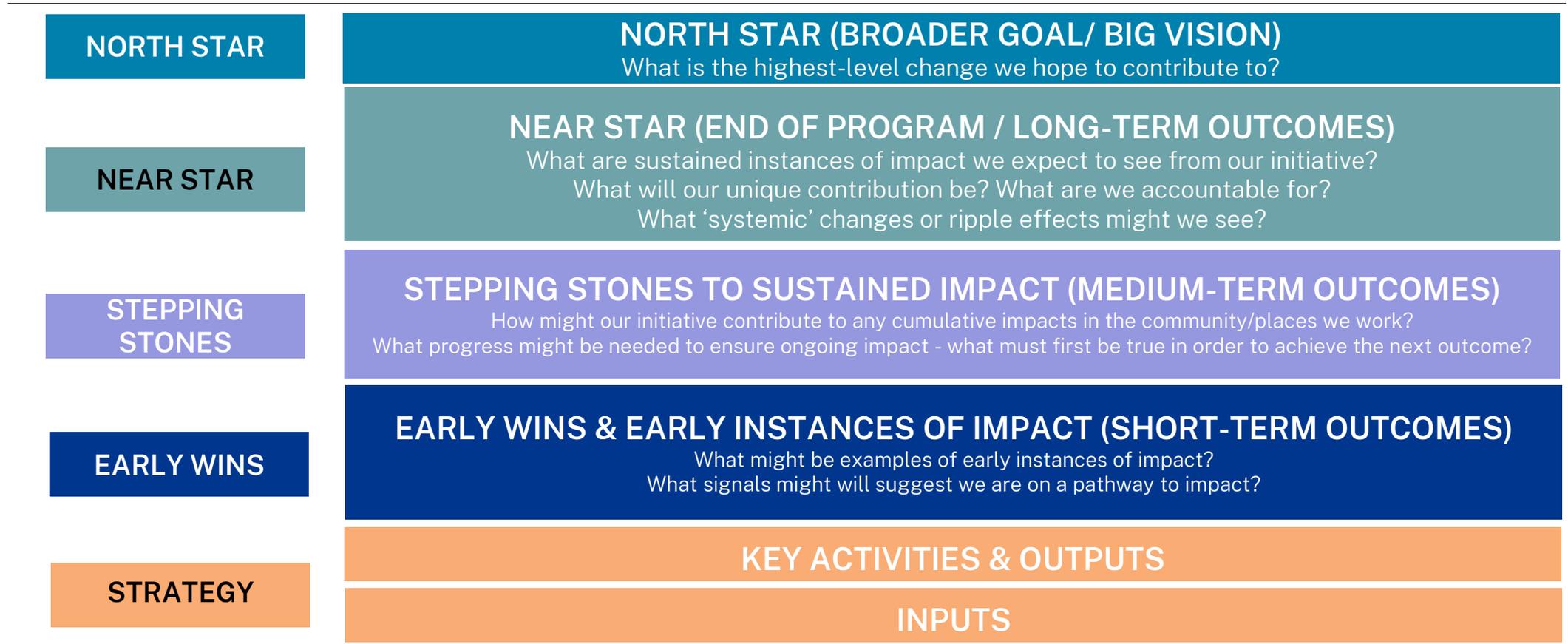
“In 2023 we’re noticing and recognising fragmentation in our communities, and the ability of organisations to adapt to the many disruptions and forces that are at play is live and has real consequences with delivery of projects.

Pressures are coming from lots of different places:

- *Climate*
- *Less people/Labor shortages*
- *Compliance*
- *Cybersecurity*
- *Competing priorities”*

Long-term outcomes (timeframe)	<p><i>This should link to your goal statement and resolve the issue in your problem statement.</i></p> <p><i>It is likely to take a long time to see these outcomes, and will usually be influenced by a range of factors outside of your project.</i></p> <div data-bbox="1160 639 2204 874" style="background-color: #e6f2ff; height: 147px;"></div>
External factors	<p><i>What is outside of your control but will impact your project? Projects are situated in political, social, cultural and geographic environments that influence project delivery and outcomes.</i></p> <div data-bbox="1160 999 2204 1209" style="background-color: #e6f2ff; height: 132px;"></div>

Example: Program Logic and Theory of Change Format



Example: Short-, Medium- and Long-Term Outcomes

Simple Example: *Ice Cream Truck Business*



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Long-term outcome: a profitable ice-cream truck business that has many franchisees, a strong brand and a cult following of ice cream eaters across an entire region, operating 7 days per week

Medium term outcome: expansion of business to franchise model, with upgraded additional trucks, strong branding, and greater market presence in more communities (i.e. it reaches more people)

Short term outcome: a mobile ice cream truck that services a community and can be accessed by customers for events, making them happy, refreshed and likely to buy again

Output: delicious cold ice-creams that taste good and have lots of toppings and can be sold anywhere trucks can go

Inputs: ice-cream, sprinkles, cones, staff, 2nd hand truck,

Q4 Responses to Australian Government criteria: Likelihood of Project success



The likelihood of project success (1,000 words limit). Please fill in the text box below or attach to this Form.

Response must address the following:

- ***Confirmation of the ability to deliver this project within the agreed 3 year timeframes***
- ***Evidence of capacity to complete the Project to meet industry standards***
- ***Evidence of capacity and capability (including previous experience in undertaking similar scale projects)***

Examples of evidence could include references to:

- Project management frameworks and tools
- Track record / project information that the organisation has completed previously, with links to relevant documentation
- Information on your organisation, Project team staff, and expertise

Q4 Responses to Australian Government criteria: Alignment to Plans and Strategies



Alignment with existing plans and strategies (1,000 words limit). Please fill in the text box below or attach to this Form.

Response must address the following:

- *Detail on how the Project meets the Program Objectives*
- *Detail on how the Project aligns with any existing state, territory or local government disaster risk reduction policies; and*
- *Detail regarding why this Project is not able to be funded through other potentially more appropriate sources*

Examples: Plans and Strategies



The following policy guidance can be drawn upon:

International

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

National

- The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (2018)
- Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (2020)

NSW

- State Level Emergency Risk Assessment (2017)
- NSW State Emergency Management Plan
- NSW Flood Enquiry 2022

Q4 Governance

Project governance (1,000 words limit). Please fill in the text box below or attach to this Form.

Response must address the following:

- *How will the Project be governed?*
- *What stakeholders or collaborators will be important for the project's success?*
- *Have they been consulted or what are the plans for consultation?*
- *If the Project has a place-based focus, you must provide details of consultation with relevant local governments and First Nations communities (i.e. practical on the ground impacts in one or more local government areas, where those entities are impacted, for example an infrastructure project).*

For example:

- Articulate governance arrangements and how that will support the project's success.
- Knowing timeframes are tight and some consultation will not be possible, please detail what the plans are to collaborate or partner.

Q5 Milestones

Milestones			
Milestone description <i>(at least 1 milestone per 6 month period)</i>	Expected completion date	Project delivery partners	Issues/Risk identified
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Consider breaking your project into key stages for example:

- Program Initiation
- Planning & Design
- Implementation & Delivery
- Evaluation
- Close

Q6 Risk

Risks				
Relevant milestone	Key Risk/Issue	Likelihood <i>[Almost certain/ Likely/ Possible/ Unlikely / Remote]</i>	Risk significant <i>[Severe, Major, Moderate, Minor, Insignificant]</i>	Mitigation Strategy

- A risk matrix helps you to, calculate risk across various outcomes and interdependencies, to give you clear line of sight on whether risk is acceptable or unacceptable within the project.
- In simple terms, risk assessment is defined as the probability of an event multiplied by its impact.
- Risks assessed in this process could include the **program, implementation, organisational and activity risks**.
- This table is simple, correlates with your milestone table and is not word limited.

Q7 Budget



The proposal is broken down into:

- 3 x Financial years for the project budget
- Ensure it describes your project well
- Keep it simple – and if you are finding it to simple to convey your costings, attach a detailed project budget in the supporting documentation
- Always build in contingency costs particularly with construction projects (as a guide 5-10%)
- Provide evidence (not a requirement, but best practice)

Budget				
Item	Timeframe	Total budget	Commonwealth contribution	Co-contribution
Project management/ Administration costs		\$	\$	\$
Community and stakeholder engagement		\$	\$	\$
Construction costs		\$	\$	\$
Audit and assurance costs		\$	\$	\$
Contingency costs		\$	\$	\$
Other		\$	\$	\$
Total		\$	\$	\$

Supporting Information



The Australian Government will accept up to five (5) optional additional attachments limit of 20 MGB per file:

- Project proposal form submitted to NSW Reconstruction Authority
- Up to four (4) optional additional documents, maximum of 1,000 words

Examples:

- Policies or Strategies
- Design drawings
- Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks and Plans
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Role Descriptions
- Letters of Support or MOUs with project partners

Proposal Support

Book in for a 45-minute 1:1 online call from the 1st to 13th February 2023

Proposal Support



Orange Compass role:

- Our role is to provide advice to potential proponents on what information is required in the Proposal form and the type of information to be provided to best meet the requirements;
- All information provided to Orange Compass as part of this process will be kept confidential and not shared with any other potential proponents.

Things to note:

- Orange Compass cannot write the Proposal for any party or provide any evaluation type information on the project itself or the Proposal;
- Orange Compass will not be part of the eligibility and suitability review of the Proposal;
- No information in these meetings can be relied on unless otherwise confirmed in writing and parties are to form their own view on what and how much of the advice provided is taken on board.

Proposal Support – do I need to access this?



Prompts:

- Are you clear on your 'why'?
- Have you got ideas for how to make the current situation better?
- What do you think makes you/ your organisation best placed to resolve this problem?
- What questions are sitting with you? Bring your top three (3)

How to request Proposal support



Due to capacity, Proposal support is available on a limited basis and requests must be submitted in writing to the NSW Reconstruction Authority:

drfnsw@resilience.nsw.gov.au

- Requests must include:
 - Project name
 - Eligible hazard type(s)
 - Eligible Project activity type(s)
 - Confirm the Project is based in NSW
- Requests will only be accepted from **30 January 2023** to request one (1) 45-minute 1:1 online call to be scheduled from the 1st to 13th February 2023.

How to request Proposal support



- Due to capacity restraints on this support, the NSW Reconstruction Authority reserves the right to decline the provision of this advisory support if the request is too close to the closing of the project proposals and/or where the advisory support is at capacity.
- Proponents will be advised in writing on the outcome of the request for Proposal Support.

How to submit a Proposal

How to submit a Project proposal



The NSW Reconstruction Authority will only accept proposals submitted on the Proposal Form.

- Guidance on how to submit a proposal and form:

www.nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw/disaster-ready-fund

- Proposals are due to the NSW Reconstruction Authority by **5pm AEDT 14 February 2023**.
- The NSW Reconstruction Authority will advise Project proponents of the outcome of the suitability check by **AEDT 5pm 3 March 2023**.

Proposal checklist



Only complete Proposals Forms will be accepted and must include:

- Address all three (3) Australian Government criteria.
 - Must include a completed Program Logic.
 - Must include a completed indicative budget.
 - Can include max. five (5) supporting document attachments (optional).
- The appropriate office bearer must certify the form including:
 - i. that the mandatory co-contribution is confirmed (actual) or in principle;
 - ii. there are no perceived or existing conflicts of interest;
 - iii. the person has read the Australian Government guidelines and understands the monitoring and evaluation obligations for successful Projects.

Suitability and prioritisation



A Suitability and Prioritisation screening process to be undertaken by the NSW Reconstruction Authority for the NSW Application will involve the following review steps:

1. That a complete Project proposal form and all attachments listed by the proponent are submitted by the due date to NSW Reconstruction Authority;
2. That the Project meets the Australian Government's minimum eligibility requirements;
3. Screening of Projects against suitability criteria, which will be considered by the NSW Reconstruction Authority when determining which Projects will be put forward in the NSW Application; and
4. Prioritisation of Projects which best meet the DRF objectives for inclusion in the NSW Application.

Suitability criteria

Suitability criteria in order of relative importance are as follows:

1. Outcomes and benefit
2. Demonstrated need including risk being addressed
3. Capability to deliver
4. Demonstrated strategy to mitigate risk of adverse outcomes from the Project
5. Value for Money including co-contribution

- Selection of a Project to be included in the NSW Application is no guarantee of funding to be provided under this Program.
- The NSW Application, when submitted to the Australian Government, will form part of the Australian Government's competitive process in order to identify the projects to receive funding under the Fund.
- As such, the NSW Reconstruction Authority's role is to identify suitable projects to be included in the NSW Application and is not an assessor for the Fund.

Probity arrangements



NSW Reconstruction Authority staff who are involved in the development of an internal and, or external project Proposal:

- **will not be involved in** the screening of proposals for the NSW Application;
- **will not have access to** information on the process other than what is in the public domain; and
- **can provide advice or assistance to other NSW Government Agencies or proponents** who may also be submitting a project proposal provided:
 1. confidentiality is maintained; and
 2. the Project proponent is aware of the staff members' involvement in the developed of another proposal by NSW Reconstruction Authority.

Support available



NSW Reconstruction Authority will make available materials and additional resources for Projects:

1. Proposal guidance and form with FAQ on website: www.nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw/disaster-ready-fund
 2. Information briefing calls on 23rd, 24th and 30th January 2023
 3. Request for Proposal Support available from the 1st to 13th February 2023 in writing: drfnsw@resilience.nsw.gov.au
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Probity arrangements



NSW Reconstruction Authority has appointed O'Connor Marsden & Associates as the probity advisor for the NSW Application.

- Should you have any concerns regarding the probity or integrity of this program please email to the NSW Reconstruction Authority in the first instance at: drfnsw@resilience.nsw.gov.au

Questions?