NEW SOUTH WALES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

# **Disaster Ready Fund** Round 2, 2024–25

NSW State Government Applicants Local Government Applicants Not-For-Profit Applicants Social Enterprise Applicants



# Disaster Ready Fund Round 2, 2024-25

Eligible Applicants can express interest in being included in the NSW Government application (State Application) to the Commonwealth Government's Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) Round 2. The NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) is the Lead Agency for the NSW Application. **The EOI is a mandatory step in the NSW application process.** 

To be considered for inclusion in the State Application, an Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted<sup>1</sup>. Projects deemed as successful through the EOI process will be requested to complete a full proposal, to be submitted according to the Commonwealth's timelines and requirements in early 2024.

The rationale for running this two-stage process is to increase overall efficiency of effort for interested organisations through early selection of the project concepts most aligned to the Commonwealth investment principles, and the state's disaster risk reduction priorities.

The following outlines the screening requirements for Applicants submitting an EOI.

<u>Funding Criteria</u> <u>Key information</u> <u>Key dates</u> <u>Further information on criteria</u> <u>How to submit a project</u> Applicant support

# Program objectives (set by the Commonwealth):

This funding supports projects that:

- 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; and
- 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.

# Applicant eligibility criteria:

To submit an EOI, applicants must:

- be a NSW Government cluster, NSW Government department, NSW Government agency, or other stateowned entity, such as statutory authority or government owned corporation; and
- Either:
  - a) contribute, or have previously contributed, at least 50 per cent to the total project expenditure in accordance with the conditions in <u>Applicant co-contribution</u>;
  - b) if an Applicant cannot contribute 50%, they may apply for a NSW state co-contribution of up to 25% (i.e. if an Applicant cannot contribute 50%, they may apply for a <u>NSW State co-contribution</u> of up to 25% (i.e. Applicants must still contribute 25% as per a)). Applying for a NSW state co-contribution will be factored into the value for money assessment (see inclusion criteria below); or
  - c) request <u>a waiver or partial-waiver</u> (co-contribution reduction) from the Commonwealth Government (separate to the NSW state co-contribution mentioned above). Only to be considered in rare and exceptional circumstances.
- only apply for eligible project expenditure;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The RA also has discretion to accept a final proposal without an EOI submission. However, this will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

<sup>2</sup> Disaster Ready Fund New South Wales Application

• demonstrate why the project is not able to be funded through other sources

### OR

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or be auspiced by an eligible Organisation; and
- be registered for GST; and
- be an eligible entity:
  - o a local Government entity; or
  - A not-for-profit entity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) or a Not-For-Profit registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) or a social enterprise with a certification through Social Traders (unincorporated orgs are not eligible).
- only apply for <u>eligible project expenditure;</u>
- demonstrate why the project is not able to be funded through other sources;
- for Not-for-Profits or social enterprise not be in administration or have debts owning to NSW Government; and
- Either:
  - a) contribute, or have previously contributed, at least 50 per cent to the total eligible project expenditure in accordance with the conditions in <u>Applicant co-contribution</u>; or
  - b) if an Applicant cannot contribute 50%, they may apply for a NSW <u>state co-contribution</u> of up to 25% (i.e. Applicants must still contribute 25% as per a)). Applying for a NSW state co-contribution will be factored into the value for money assessment (see inclusion criteria below); or
  - c) request a <u>waiver or partial-waiver</u> (co-contribution reduction) from the Commonwealth Government (separate to the NSW state co-contribution mentioned above). Only to be considered in rare and exceptional circumstances.

### Project eligibility criteria:

#### Projects must meet all the below criteria to be eligible for consideration:

- be a maximum of three (3) years in duration (projects should commence from 1 July 2024);
- be delivered in NSW or with a significant NSW based component;
- align with the program objectives
- target at least one <u>eligible natural hazard type;</u>
- target at least one <u>eligible category</u> in Stream One or Stream Two
- be risk informed in accordance with the Investment Principles
- be <u>aligned with plans</u> in accordance with the <u>Investment Principles</u>, this can include alignment to the <u>Second National Action Plan</u>, or provides evidence that the project contributes to the development of plans
- for place-based projects, demonstrate <u>initial consultation</u> with relevant stakeholders including Councils and First Nations peoples or communities;
- for infrastructure projects, demonstrate land ownership or land-owner consent and that the project is shovel-ready with up-to-date costings and project completion set to occur within the maximum timeframe.

### Additional inclusion screening:

The following will be used to assess project suitability in the EOI stage:

- projects with clear impact and outcomes that are aligned to the Program objectives;
- projects that address an unmet need or identified gap in the project location;
- represent value for money (including the co-contribution requirement and demonstrate why this project is not able to be funded through other sources);
- demonstrated organisational and resourcing capacity and capability to deliver the project.

# Key Information

# NSW Application to the DRF

The RA – as a Lead Agency – can submit a State Application under the Commonwealth Government's DRF. To do this, RA is undertaking this EOI process to identify high potential projects to include in the State Application.

Eligible project Applicants must submit an EOI to the RA and successful projects will be invited to the final proposal stage.

The RA has complete discretion regarding projects that will be included in the NSW Application and submitted to the Commonwealth Government for assessment.

The Commonwealth Government is the final decision maker for successful projects and for awarding funding.

# EOI further information

Applicants are required to read this NSW EOI document in full to self-assess whether the Applicant and project meet the NSW eligibility criteria and screening inclusions.

Submission of an EOI does not guarantee an invitation to the final proposal stage or inclusion in the NSW Application and/or consideration by the Commonwealth Government.

Noting the Commonwealth Government has not released the DRF Round 2 Guidelines at the time of this EOI process being undertaken, RA has based the EOI eligibility requirements on the Commonwealth Government Program Objectives identified above. Following the EOI phase, and the selection of the Applicants to be invited to submit a final proposal, RA reserves the right to update the eligibility criteria for the final proposal stage to confirm alignment of the invited Applicants and Projects with the Commonwealth eligibility requirements and the Commonwealth Government's DRF Round 2 guidelines (once released).

Where the EOI screening Panel requires additional clarification from an applicant or a nominated government advisor, RA reserves the right to do so in exceptional circumstances or where a potentially unacceptable risk has been identified. Nominated Government advisors from NSW Government agencies may be contacted specifically where a non-government proposal is deemed to encroach materially upon an agencies area of policy responsibility.

Applicants should note that the RA can also submit an EOI for a project proposal for inclusion in the NSW Application. As RA is the Lead Agency for the NSW Application, probity measures have been implemented to ensure that there is a complete separation between RA staff who will be undertaking the EOI assessment and screening, and the individuals who will be involved in the development of the RA EOI submission. The DRF Probity Advisor (refer below) will also be providing oversight of the process to ensure this separation is maintained.

# What to consider when submitting an EOI

In addition to the Applicant and Project eligibility criteria, as part of the EOI inclusion screening you should demonstrate how the project meets the below considerations:

### Risk informed (mandatory):

- A disaster risk is identified relevant to the project location/s;
- Disaster risk evidence is drawn upon to outline the case for the project including the level of disaster risk prior to and upon conclusion of the proposed project. This should include consideration of exposure and relative vulnerability to the identified hazard;
- Where there is no existing risk assessment tool or limited understanding of risk to inform the project, a sufficient explanation is provided as to how the project will contribute to the assessment of risk and
- 4 Disaster Ready Fund New South Wales Application

increase the understanding of natural hazard disaster impacts.

### Aligned with plans (mandatory):

- Relevant existing national, state, local or community hazard mitigation and resilience plans, policies, or frameworks the project is aligned to are identified; or it is articulated how the project will develop or contribute to the development of these policies, plans or frameworks where they do not currently exist;
- This may include the Second National Action Plan

#### Clear impact and outcomes

- The project impact and outcomes are clear and aligned to the Program objectives;
- Project outcomes realistically deliver on identified plans and reduce disaster risk;
- Clear causal links between activities and outcomes (project logic), or for built infrastructure projects there is clear, logical, viable project staging.

#### Unmet need or identified gap in the project location

• The project addresses an unmet need / gap or provides a needed enhancement/extension to an existing successful program in the location.

### Represents value for money

- Co-contribution provided
- The budget ask is reasonable (including staff costs) considering the potential impact of the proposal

### **Capacity and Capability**

- At least one senior, experienced staff member is accountable for the project;
- The project is resourced appropriately for delivery within 3 years;
- A previous example of a similar scale project or program successfully delivered is provided;
- Risks to project delivery, maladaptation and mitigation strategies are identified.

#### The funding request guidance below may also be considered by applicants.

The below is given as guidance. Applicants may consider these funding ranges (total project value) when applying for a DRF funding amount:

Funding request guidance	Stream 1 Infrastructure	Stream 2 Systemic DRR
NSW Government Applicants	\$1m - \$15m	\$1m - \$12m
Local Government & Not-For-Profit Applicants	\$500,000 - \$10m	\$300,000 - \$3m

### Final proposal stage

Successful EOIs will be invited to submit a final Proposal early in 2024.

Final proposals will be made using an application form provided by the Commonwealth Government. This form has not yet been released.

RA has complete discretion to consider and apply any new criteria or requirements from the Commonwealth Government DRF Round 2 Guidelines to projects that have been selected from the EOI process and to be considered as part of the assessment of the final proposals (i.e. the criteria from the EOI phase may differ to those to be used for the final proposals assessment on the basis of the Commonwealth Guidelines once released).

Successful EOIs cannot make material changes at the final proposal stage unless this is first discussed with and approved by the RA. Any unapproved material changes to the project scope in the final proposal, or final proposals that are incomplete, or lack basic detail or evidence to support the project will not progress into the State Application.

Applicants invited to submit a final proposal will be notified and sent a Proposal template for completion. This must not be shared with anyone outside of the Applicant organisation or consortium.

### What to consider when submitting a final proposal

Final proposals will need to consider the questions in the final proposal form and the DRF Round 2 guidelines released by the Commonwealth Government when the round is formally opened.

At the time of document preparation (2 November 2023), the final proposal form and the Commonwealth Government DRF Round 2 guidelines have not been released.

# Late and incomplete applications

Late submissions will not be accepted unless RA is satisfied that the acceptance of a late submission would not compromise the integrity and competitiveness of the process.

Where an EOI or Final Proposal form has not been completed and/or the submission deadline has passed, RA reserves the right to provide the Applicant with the opportunity to submit the required information or the project may be excluded from further consideration.

# Key dates

Key dates for the EOI, final proposals and the NSW Application are below (subject to change):

Milestone	Date (subject to change)
EOI opens	6 November 2023
EOI closes	8 December 2023
Application process (for final proposals) opens (only successful EOIs invited)	January 2024 (TBC)
Notification of unsuccessful EOIs	January 2024 (TBC)
Application process (for final proposals) close	February 2024 (TBC)
NSW Application submitted to the Commonwealth Government	April 2024 (TBC)
Unsuccessful feedback provided upon request	May 2024 (TBC)
Commonwealth Government announces successful project in DRF Round 2	From June 2024 (TBC)
Notification of unsuccessful final proposals and (upon request) feedback provided	From June 2024 (TBC)
Estimated project commencement	From 1 July 2024 (TBC)

# Applicant eligibility criteria - further information

# **Co-contributions**

The Commonwealth Government requires all projects to provide a co-contribution of 50% or seek a Commonwealth Government waiver (only in rare or exceptional circumstances below).

As part of this EOI process, Applicants may apply for a NSW co-contribution of 25% of a project's eligible costs (the applicant to provide the other 25%). While applicants may apply for the NSW 25% co-contribution, there is no guarantee applications will be approved and any requests that are approved will be at NSWRA's complete discretion.

Applicants should also consider that applying for a 25% NSW co-contribution will be factored into the value for money assessment (see inclusion criteria).

Co-contribution costs can include, but are not limited to:

- a direct (cash) funding contribution provided at the time of project commencement;
- funds the Project has already invested in a program or project on or any time after 1 July 2020, and 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. The Commonwealth will not fund project cost
  overruns;
- any costs associated with the project's delivery, for example construction or project delivery; and
- other in-kind costs, such as wages directly attributable to the delivery of the project, and/ or supplies, materials, and specific equipment required to execute the project.

Commonwealth funding from any source (including historical) cannot be used by an Applicant to cover their

co-contribution, either fully or in-part.

### Requests for Commonwealth co-contribution waivers or reductions

Applicants may request a waiver or partial-waiver (co-contribution reduction) from the Commonwealth Government (separate to the state co-contribution mentioned above). These will only be considered in rare and exceptional circumstances at the discretion of RA and the Commonwealth Government. Recent natural disasters or high recent disaster expenditure will not qualify as exceptional circumstances.

Additional information on the waiver request will be required as part of the Final Proposal, in line with requirements set by the Commonwealth Government (yet to be released). Additional information may include evidence justifying the waiver request, strong demonstrated community need for the project, high project benefits to the community, and considerations such as delivery challenges, remoteness and/or the vulnerability of the community.

The NSW Reconstruction Authority reserves the right to request additional information from an Applicant in considering any request.

# Eligible expenditure

Projects can only expend DRF funding on eligible expenditure incurred on eligible project activities, for eligible hazard types.

This includes:

- construction and/or procurement of materials, including supply costs, in order to deliver the project;
- staff (incl. contractor and consultancy) salaries and on-costs, including administration costs such as training, utilities and travel that are directly attributed to the provision of the project;
- writing, reporting, consultation and engagement costs insofar as they are directly relevant to the delivery of the project;
- upgrading of existing materials and assets so long as the upgrades meet the intent of the DRF Objectives; and/or
- community engagement and communications initiatives directly related to the delivery of the project.

Contingency costs to account for unforeseen financial circumstances, such as increased labour and supply costs, can be included and should be factored into proposals and must be commensurate with the size and complexity of the proposed Project. For infrastructure projects, proponents are encouraged to submit the most up to date cost estimate possible.

Costs to manage the project may form part of the application for funding and could include costs such as training, utilities and travel, so long as they can be directly attributed to the provision of the project.

### Ineligible expenditure

Applicants cannot expend funding on ineligible expenditure incurred, including:

- projects that have already received full funding or a commitment of full funding, including projects that have received funding from another source for the same purpose, as articulated in the application (i.e. 'double-dipping');
- wages that are not related to the direct delivery of the funded activities;
- road infrastructure works (e.g. road maintenance) that do not have the primary purpose of reducing community exposure to risk, harm and/or severity of a natural hazard's impacts;
- repair, recovery or relief works will not be funded (i.e. repair of infrastructure damaged by natural hazard);
- retrospective costs, including costs incurred by the Applicant and/or implementation partners prior to the endorsement of the Implementation Plan;
- costs incurred in the preparation of an application, other than costs incurred to complete and submit the Implementation Plan;
- activities conducted outside of Australia or outside an Commonwealth non-self-governing territory;

- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation;
- overseas travel;
- interstate travel, where that interstate travel is not undertaken as part of a multi-jurisdictional project;
- the introduction of plants, animals or other biological agents known to be, or that could become, environmental or agricultural weeds and pests.
- Activities that contribute to commercial gain for a funding recipient (expenditure or provision of money or services as part of a scheme or effort to generate profit or financial advantage of any kind).

Applicants must note that all project expenditure must be in line with project eligibility requirements and DRF objectives. Recovery activities are not eligible under the DRF.

### Consultation

To meet eligibility criteria for place-based projects, Applicants must demonstrate initial consultation with relevant impacted stakeholders including First Nations peoples and communities.

If the Project has a place-based focus, details must be provided on the consultation with relevant local governments and First Nations communities. This includes practical on-ground impacts in one or more local government areas, where those entities are impacted (e.g., infrastructure projects).

If initial consultation is not demonstrated, the EOI submission may be excluded from the process at the discretion of the RA.

# Project eligibility criteria – further information

### Natural Hazard Types

Projects must target at least one Natural Hazard type/s:

- Landslides (including avalanches, mudslides, sinkholes)
- Earthquakes
- Tsunamis

Extreme weather and climate-driven hazards, such as but not limited to:

- Bushfires (including wildfires)
- Heatwaves
- Tornados (including damaging wind incidents and dust storms)
- Storms (including severe thunderstorms, hailstorms and blizzards; East coast lows; geomagnetic solar storms (X or M Class))
- Cyclones
- Floods (including flash flooding)
- Coastal hazards (including coastal erosion, and coastal inundation; sea level change)
- Pollen storms

Note that drought is not an eligible natural hazard and is excluded from the DRF.

### Category – Stream One or Stream Two

Projects must target at least one eligible category in Stream One or Stream Two:

#### Stream One: Infrastructure

Infrastructure projects that 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);
- 8 | Disaster Ready Fund New South Wales Application

- 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; and/or
- 4. business case development for future infrastructure (including investigation, modelling, concept and detailed design activities).

'Area' may include but is not limited to built/urban, agricultural, and natural environments or ecosystems.

Stream One examples might include, but are not limited to:

- the construction of flood levees,
- fire breaks
- the construction of artificial reefs or sand nourishment on vulnerable coastlines,
- tsunami warning systems,
- bushfire warning systems, and
- investigation, planning and design to resolve emerging risks.

These are examples only. Applicants are encouraged to explore the full range of options available to them, including developing innovative solutions against each of the four categories under Stream One.

#### Stream One - alignment with existing plans

Please note the requirement for projects to be 'aligned with plans.' Acknowledging that disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies in NSW are evolving and new plans, such as the State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP), and Disaster Adaptation Plans (DAPs) are in development, please ensure alignment with existing local and regional resilience plans and other relevant plans. RA will work closely with successful applicants to also ensure alignment to priorities of the SDMP and Disaster Adaptation Plans as they become available.

Applicants may demonstrate alignment with the 'NSW focus areas.' These have been developed as part of the NSW EOI for the DRF Round 2 to give applicants an additional ability to align with State areas of focus (plans).

In NSW, there is an additional focus on:	This means:
Infrastructure resilience	Infrastructure projects that strengthen infrastructure resilience or reduce community exposure to risk, harm and/or severity of a natural hazard's impact. This can include essential infrastructure so that it remains operational in times of disaster – provided that the primary purpose of the works is risk reduction.
Easing 'choke points' in regional areas	This means addressing strategic vulnerabilities in essential infrastructure that would otherwise remain operational in times of disaster (for example, raising a small section of 'below flood level' road height on a road that is otherwise all above flood height and safe to use during a flood)

#### Stream Two: Systemic risk reduction

Systemic risk reduction projects that build the long-term sustainability of a community or communities in an area that is at risk of being affected (whether directly or indirectly) by a future natural disaster.

Stream Two projects must fall into one or more of the following categories:

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.

disaster risk assessments and frameworks);

- 2. Projects that deliver inclusive plans at the household, community, regional and state levels to mitigate identified risks and impacts.
- 3. strengthening decision making by enhancing governance networks and communities of practice, including the development and/or alignment of resilience and risk reduction strategies;
- 4. 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;
- 5. social 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; and/or
- 6. projects that enable and incentivise private investment in disaster risk reduction.

Stream Two examples might include, but are not limited to:

- the establishment of jurisdiction-wide risk mitigation frameworks or plans or hazard-based information systems,
- updating state and/or creating local government hazard resilience and response plans and strategies,
- hazard research to assist states and developers eliminate inappropriate land sources ahead of construction, and,
- supporting community sector organisations to develop systems, train staff or have materials in place prior to the impact of a natural hazard, including initiatives to support the most at-risk communities and/or vulnerable communities.

These are examples only. Applicants are encouraged to explore the full range of options available to them, including developing innovative solutions against each of the five activity types under Stream Two.

#### Stream Two - alignment with existing plans

Please note the requirement for projects to be 'aligned with plans.' Acknowledging that disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies in NSW are evolving and new plans, such as the State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP), and Disaster Adaptation Plans (DAPs) are in development, please ensure alignment with existing local and regional resilience plans and other relevant plans. Work which is expected to support and accelerate the development of state endorsed plans (e.g. DAPs) will also be viewed favourably. This could include ensuring the requisite capabilities, capacities and data are in place to develop effective plans. RA will work closely with successful applicants to also ensure alignment to priorities of the SDMP and Disaster Adaptation Plans as they become available.

Applicants may demonstrate alignment with the 'NSW focus areas.' These have been developed as part of the NSW EOI for the DRF Round 2 to give applicants an additional ability to align with State areas of focus (plans).

In NSW, there is an additional focus on:	This means:	
capability building across sectors and communities	This means empowering and equipping local leaders and stakeholders to create proactive disaster preparedness and risk reduction strategies and take actions that improve resilience outcomes for individuals and communities	
community awareness and preparedness	This means ensuring that all community members have an increased knowledge about the extent of local disaster risks and are supported to make decisions to better prepare for and reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of those risks	

coordination, governance, partnerships and networks	This means mechanisms to strengthen decision making, improve collaboration and reduce duplication in preparedness, risk reduction and resilience responses
social cohesion and social infrastructure	This means projects that foster the critical social inclusion, equity, connections and trust required to proactively build both preparedness and resilience in communities. Social infrastructure typically refers to community facilities that provide social, leisure, recreational and cultural benefits. It also refers to networks of community and individual support services and resources such as health, education and community development. In this case, we mean the critical networks of supports, spaces and places that help build and maintain social inclusion and connection in order to support local and regional disaster preparedness and resilience.
innovative funding models that unlock public-private partnerships and/or co- investment	This means the development and demonstration of innovative financing models to unlock and leverage investment in preparedness, resilience and reduction in systemic risks. Some examples include blended finance, impact investing and bonds.

# **Investment Principles**

Investment Principles for Round 2 of the DRF have been established by the Commonwealth Government. Projects **must** demonstrate they are risk-informed and aligned with plans.

Investment principle	Description	Project alignment
Risk-informed	Project applicants draw on evidence of disaster risk (e.g. risk assessments) when outlining case for funding.	Mandatory, all projects must demonstrate alignment with Principle
Aligned with plans	Proposals align with existing national, state and territory, and local hazard mitigation and resilience plans, or provide evidence that planning process is underway. Where plans do not exist or are in development, proposals could support the development of those plans.	Mandatory, all projects must demonstrate alignment with Principle
Priority targeted	Priority actions under the Second National Action Plan are incentivised (e.g. proposals that advance these actions given additional weight through the assessment process).	Incentivised, projects aligned with this Principle will better address merit criteria
Diverse and equitable outcomes	Investment decisions support outcomes across a broad range of hazard and project types, geographic areas and domains, including the social, built and natural environments, taking into account equity between lead agencies.	

# Second National Action Plan

As part of the mandatory requirement to align with plans, Projects that align to the Commonwealth Government's <u>Second National Action Plan</u> will also be viewed favorably.

# Inclusion screening – further information

Please refer to what to consider when submitting an EOI.

# How to submit a project

All EOIs must be submitted through the SmartyGrants online platform from 6 November to 8 December 2023: <a href="https://reconstruction.smartygrants.com.au/drfnswround2">https://reconstruction.smartygrants.com.au/drfnswround2</a>

EOI form questions can be viewed by clicking 'preview form'. Applicants should note that questions in both EOI and Proposal forms align with eligibility and inclusion screening and Applicants should consider how the project addresses these criteria when answering each question.

# **Applicant support**

RA will publish guidance materials, frequently asked questions and other information to assist Applicants in developing project submissions on the <u>Disaster Ready Fund Round 2 webpage</u>:

Information sessions will be made available for Applicants at EOI and may occur at Final Proposal stage to assist with further information. Details on timing and how to register to attend will be published on the webpage.

Requests for further information can be submitted in writing to the RA at: <u>drfnsw@reconstruction.nsw.gov.au</u>. Responses that are not directly addressed in in this document will be published on the <u>webpage</u> to ensure Applicants are provided with the same information.

RA has appointed O'Connor Marsden & Associates as the probity advisor for this program. Should you have any concerns regarding the probity or integrity of this program please email to the RA in the first instance at: <u>drfnsw@reconstruction.nsw.gov.au</u>.

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