

# NDRRA A DHCD PERSPECTIVE

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# Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA)

- Many NTG agencies have a part to play – all are eligible to recover costs through NDRRA.
- There is no requirement for a State of Emergency or Disaster to be declared, however eligible NDRRA events can only be declared through Emergency Management Australia,(EMA), who issue each event with an Australian Government Reference Number, (AGRN).
- NTG expenditure must exceed the small disaster criterion of \$240,000, to be recognised as an eligible NDRRA event.
- Financial assistance is made in accordance with the NDRRA Determination and assessment criteria (Treasury Guidelines).
- Local government councils can seek partial reimbursement for both response and recovery actions during and after eligible events.
- DHCD facilitates the expedient release of funds as required.

# Eligible Financial Assistance – Other Agencies

- ❖ Evacuation (DPIR & NTPFES)
- ❖ Emergency shelter, temporary accommodation, provision of food (Territory Families)
- ❖ Replacement of essential furniture and personal items (Territory Families)
- ❖ Environmental health (DoH)
- ❖ Building inspections – NT Government assets (Ex public housing) (DIPL)
- ❖ Repair of public housing assets (DHCD)
- ❖ Repairs to essential non local government public infrastructure (PWC & DIPL)

# Eligible Financial Assistance – Local Government Councils

- ❖ Clean up and removal of debris
- ❖ Tree replacement programs (only when considered an integral component of an essential public asset)
- ❖ Repairs to uninsurable local government infrastructure
- ❖ Local road repairs

# Non-eligible Items

Only uninsured loss or damage qualifies for relief. NDRRA assistance is not intended to replace the need for insurance and are not intended to provide compensation for losses.

- Where **insurance** is or should have been in place
- GST
- Activities that would be part of '**normal**' business and budgeted for (e.g. normal staff wages, rec leave loading, super payments)
- Internal cross hire charges in relation to plant and equipment
- Where damage is primarily the result of poor planning or lack of mitigation measures
- Infrastructure upgrades (e.g. mitigation measures)

# The Claims Process




- ❖ There are essentially 3 ways a council can claim NDRRA:
  1. A council can expend its own funds and seek reimbursement at a later date;
  2. A council can submit an application to DHCD and if successful receive funds in advance of work being done; and
  3. A hybrid mix.
  
- ❖ Claims should be submitted ASAP to ensure eligible works are completed within the EMA imposed “allowable time limit” requirements.

# Record Keeping Required

- ❖ DHCD reports actual and estimated expenditure to Treasury on a monthly basis, in line with Commonwealth reporting requirements
- ❖ Separate financial records for Local Government NDRRA expenditure incurred including:
  - Set up a separate ledger account for each event;
  - Tax invoices (annotated for each disaster);
  - Tenders, quotes, purchase orders etc; and
  - before and after photos with GPS coordinates where possible any other proof of expenditure (over-time, contract labour documentation etc).
- ❖ Reporting templates are required for road claims (and are referred to Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics for comment as required).



Stanley Chasm Tour Access Road - RO-0226 - January 2010

	<p>Chainage 0.83 - Jay Creek</p> <p>Description of damage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of gravel pavement materials and seal from creek crossing.</li> </ul> <p>Proposed flood damage repair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace select fill and pavement</li> <li>• Apply 14mm aggregate seal.</li> </ul>
	<p>Excavate to suitable material 20m<sup>2</sup>                  20m<sup>3</sup> select fill                  150m<sup>2</sup> cut pavement                  Stabilised Sub-base 150m<sup>2</sup>                  Stabilised base-course 150m<sup>2</sup></p>
	<p>14mm seal 150m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Estimate \$28,460</p>

This causeway has been undermined full width at this section. Half the road has already been filled to open the road up to the public. Requires cut of material to a suitable pavement and then re-instated. 14mm re-seal.

Estimate for works: \$28,460

Establishment: \$12,000

This section of road requires a minimum of \$40,460 GST inclu

Inspected by Malcolm Hill

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# Coordination of NDRRA

- The Department of Housing and Community Development will coordinate all claims to the Department of Treasury and Finance on behalf of councils
- It is the responsibility of councils to work with the Department's respective regional offices to submit claims to the Head Office (Darwin)
- It is the responsibility of councils to maintain appropriate records and other necessary documentation

# Acquittal and Audit Process

- Funding provided in advance still needs to be acquitted – actual proof of expenditure
  - Expenditure must occur before the “allowable time limit” expires or prior approval from EMA must be obtained
  - Acquittal should happen immediately after expenditure has occurred – not necessarily the end of the financial year
  - Advance funding may have to be repaid if works are not completed within the “allowable time limit” and an extension has not been obtained
  - Nov/Dec Commonwealth audit occurs – comprehensive
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# Acquittal and Audit Process (cont)

- Should audit reveal an ineligible claim the NT will not be reimbursed
- Future claims of a similar nature will be rejected at the assessment phase
- NT is never fully reimbursed – payment is based on annual Commonwealth thresholds of state revenue. For 2016/17;
- Zero expenditure is reimbursed for the first \$13.176m
- 50% is reimbursed between \$13.176m and \$23.058m
- 75% of expenditure above \$23.058m is reimbursed

# Allowable Time Limit (ATL)- Explained

- Expenditure relating to a declared event to be eligible must be incurred within the ATL
- The ATL is 24 months after the end of the financial year in which the relevant event occurred (e.g. Event occurred in February 2016 => ATL would expire 30/06/2018)
- Eligible expenditure is when the physical repair work has commenced within the ATL, designs and tendering processes are not considered as the commencement of works under ATL guidelines
- If councils cannot complete the works by the ATL, a request for extension to the ATL can be made EMA for essential public assets only
- A request for an extension must be sought at the earliest opportunity and before 31<sup>st</sup> December of the financial year in which the ATL expires, to allow EMA to process and assess the request

## For more information contact:

Your DHCD regional office;

or

Peter Thornton (Head Office)

Ph: 8999 8520

Email: [peter.thornton@nt.gov.au](mailto:peter.thornton@nt.gov.au)

Donna Hadfield (Head Office)

Ph: 8999 8820

Email: [donna.hadfield@nt.gov.au](mailto:donna.hadfield@nt.gov.au)

or

<https://dhcd.nt.gov.au/local-government-and-community-services/local-government-funding>



If there are any questions or any uncertainty's surrounding anything to do with NDRRA or the process involved in lodging a claim, ask your regional office, Peter Thornton or Donna Hadfield.

**DO NOT leave it to chance**