



NSW Natural Disaster Assistance Schemes

The following schemes are available under the NSW Disaster Assistance Arrangements. More information on these schemes can be found in the *NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines*, available through the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services website: www.emergency.nsw.gov.au

Personal Hardship and Distress Assistance

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services can provide disaster relief grants to eligible individuals and families whose homes and essential household items have been destroyed or damaged by a natural disaster. People with limited financial resources and no insurance may be eligible for assistance for essential household items and structural repairs to the home.

Inquiries about the disaster relief grants and the eligibility criteria may be made by calling 1800 018 444.

Website: www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/disasterassistance

Primary Producers- Loans

Loans of up to \$130,000 are available (subject to certain eligibility criteria), at a concessional interest rate for those in urgent need. These loans may be used to meet carry-on requirements and the replacement and repair of damage not covered by insurance. The NSW Rural Assistance Authority administers this scheme. Inquiries should be directed to the Authority on 1800 678 593.

Website: www.raa.nsw.gov.au

Primary Producers- Transport Subsidies

Transport freight subsidies of up to 50 per cent on the carriage of livestock and fodder are available to help primary producers. The maximum subsidy available is \$15,000 per annum. Inquiries should be made to the nearest Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA) office. For general enquires, call (02) 6391 3242.

Website: www.lhpa.org.au

Small Businesses

Loans of up to \$130,000 are available at a concessional rate to small businesses affected by disasters and which meet certain eligibility criteria. This finance is available to those unable to obtain assistance through normal channels. The NSW Rural Assistance Authority administers this scheme. Inquiries should be directed to the Authority on 1800 678 593.

Website: www.raa.nsw.gov.au

Assistance for Councils

Grants are available to meet the additional costs of emergency work to restore essential services, including the provision of emergency levee banks, which are in excess of normal operations. Grants are available to meet 100 per cent of eligible emergency works and 75 per cent of eligible restoration works up to \$116,000 with 100 per cent cost recovery beyond that level. The Department of Finance and Services (NSW Public Works) administers this assistance. The contact number is (02) 9372 8871.

Website: <http://publicworks.nsw.gov.au>

Grants are available to help Councils to permanently restore roads and bridges to pre-disaster standards. These grants meet 75 per cent of the first \$116,000 expenditure and 100 per cent beyond that level. This assistance is administered by the NSW Roads and Maritime Services. The contact number is (02) 8588 5655.

Website: www.rta.nsw.gov.au

Trustees of Parks and Reserves

Provided the facilities concerned constitute "public assets", grants may be made available to those parties (i.e. community volunteer trustees) responsible for managing Crown land, parks and reserves, who do not have the financial capacity to meet restoration costs from their own resources.

Department of Primary Industries - Catchments and Lands Division administers this scheme and in regard to information and claims please contact 02 6883 3000

Website: <http://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au>

Sporting Clubs

A special scheme is available to assist sporting clubs in meeting the costs of restoration of essential club facilities that have been damaged or destroyed. The assistance is made available to those clubs which do not have the financial capacity to meet restoration costs from their own resources, but which have the capacity to repay any loan that may be granted. Under these arrangements the maximum assistance available is \$12,000, including a grant of up to \$2,000 and the balance by way of repayable advance with interest. NSW Treasury administers this scheme. The public enquiry number is (02) 9228 5181.

This finance is available to those unable to obtain assistance through normal channels.

Churches and Voluntary Non-profit Organisations

Loan assistance is available to churches and voluntary non-profit organisations for the restoration of essential facilities that have been damaged or destroyed. Eligible groups will usually perform a service for the community or environment and are funded by grants or donations.

Non-profit organisations that perform a commercial function, charge a fee for a service or represent commercial or industrial groups, e.g. industry bodies are not eligible for assistance. These organisations can recover costs from their members or through fees. As with other schemes, assistance is only available to those organisations which do not have the financial capacity to meet restoration costs from their own resources, insurance and are unable to obtain assistance through

normal channels. Advances are subject to a maximum of \$25,000 at a concessional interest rate per annum. NSW Treasury administers this scheme. The public enquiry number is (02) 9228 5181.

Motor Vehicle Stamp Duty Relief

Motorists whose cars have been written off as a result of a natural disaster may be eligible for a stamp duty refund on their replacement vehicle. Refunds are made where the written off vehicle was comprehensively insured and the insurance does not cover duty for a replacement vehicle. The Office of State Revenue administers these refunds and can be contacted on 1300 139 814.

Website: www.osr.nsw.gov.au

Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Arrangements

The above Schemes are eligible for Australian Government financial assistance, usually by way of partial reimbursement of actual expenditure, under Australian Government Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. Under the cost sharing formula, NSW pays for the first \$136.2 million of natural disaster costs in 2012-13, and can claim from the Australian Government half of all eligible Personal Hardship and Distress costs within this first threshold. The Australian Government then matches NSW expenditure for costs between \$136.2 million and \$238.3 million and beyond that covers three quarters of all costs.

Other assistance

Insurance

If you have a query relating to insurance you can call the Insurance Council on 1300 444 557. This service is available to all.



Ministry for Police & Emergency Services

NATURAL DISASTER ASSESSMENT

Interim Version for December 2012 - February 2013¹

Local Government Area:

General Manager Name:

General Manager Contact Details:

The information below is current as of the following date:

PART A - NATURAL DISASTER DETAILS

Type of Natural Disaster:

- Bushfire
- Flood
- Cyclone
- Landslide
- Meteorite Strike

- Earthquake
- Storm
- Storm Surge
- Tsunami
- Tornado

Date Disaster Commenced

Description of Natural Disaster as it occurred in the local government area:

PART B - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I confirm that:

- a) the public assets listed in the attached schedule have been damaged as a result of the natural disaster described above
- b) a true and accurate description of damage has been provided and
- c) a fair and reasonable estimate of repair and restoration costs has been provided, based on the most reliable information available at this time.

General Manager

Please scan and e-mail completed notices to: NaturalDisasters@mpes.nsw.gov.au or fax to (02) 8247 5951

¹ This version incorporates the requirements of the 2012 Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) Determination, which was effected on 18 December 2012.



Ministry for Police & Emergency Services

PART C - SCHEDULE OF DAMAGE TO ESSENTIAL PUBLIC ASSETS

a) Assets Associated with Transport (including Roads and Road Infrastructure) - These may include Council assets, not reasonably coverable by insurance, that are used to provide or facilitate transport in the community, free of charge or at a nominal charge well below the costs of production.

Ref No.	Description of Public Asset	Description of Damage Sustained	Date(s) that Damage Occurred	Estimated Cost of Clean-up, Repair and/or Restoration
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
Total Cost Estimate				

* Add rows as required

b) Assets Associated with Education - These may include Council assets, not reasonably coverable by insurance, that are used to provide education services to the community, free of charge or at a nominal charge well below the costs of production.

Ref No.	Description of Public Asset	Description of Damage Sustained	Date(s) that Damage Occurred	Estimated Cost of Clean-up, Repair and/or Restoration
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
Total Cost Estimate				

* Add rows as required

c) Assets Associated with Welfare - These may include Council assets, not reasonably coverable by insurance, that are used to provide welfare services to the community, free of charge or at a nominal charge well below the costs of production.

Ref No.	Description of Public Asset	Description of Damage Sustained	Date(s) that Damage Occurred	Estimated Cost of Clean-up, Repair and/or Restoration
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
Total Cost Estimate				

* Add rows as required

d) Assets Associated with Health - These may include Council assets, not reasonably coverable by insurance, that are used to provide health services to the community, free of charge or at a nominal charge well below the costs of production.

Ref No.	Description of Public Asset	Description of Damage Sustained	Date(s) that Damage Occurred	Estimated Cost of Clean-up, Repair and/or Restoration
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
Total Cost Estimate				

* Add rows as required

e) Assets Associated with Justice - These may include Council assets, not reasonably coverable by insurance, that are used to provide justice services to the community, free of charge or at a nominal charge well below the costs of production.

Ref No.	Description of Public Asset	Description of Damage Sustained	Date(s) that Damage Occurred	Estimated Cost of Clean-up, Repair and/or Restoration
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
Total Cost Estimate				

* Add rows as required



Michael Gallacher MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for the Hunter

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 7 February 2013

NATURAL DISASTER DECLARATIONS EXTENDED FOLLOWING BUSH FIRES ACROSS NSW

Federal Minister for Emergency Management Mark Dreyfus and NSW Minister for Emergency Services Michael Gallacher have announced a further 20 areas are eligible for disaster assistance following bush fires across NSW.

The Natural Disaster Declarations recently made in relation to bush fires now come to a total of 71 Local Government Areas. The additional areas now included are:

- Bathurst
- Bega Valley
- Bourke
- Brewarrina
- Central Darling
- Cessnock
- Cobar
- Dubbo
- Eurobodalla
- Gwydir
- Lithgow
- Mid-Western Regional
- Moree Plains
- Muswellbrook
- Narrabri
- Narromine
- Oberon
- Singleton
- The Unincorporated Area
- Wellington

“Communities in these areas have been threatened and disrupted by fires that have burnt during periods of persistent and dangerous fire conditions,” Mr Dreyfus said.

“Emergency services and residents in all of these areas have been at a heightened state of alert throughout the danger periods and many have been involved in fire fighting efforts either in their own communities or in neighbouring areas.

“A number of fires in the Far West of NSW have had a significant impact on rural properties, causing millions of dollars in damage to pasture, fencing and other farm infrastructure,” Mr Dreyfus said.

This declaration triggers a number of disaster assistance schemes to assist with the cost of disaster relief and recovery. These disaster assistance schemes are made available by the NSW Government through the NSW Disaster Assistance Arrangements and they are supported by the Commonwealth Government through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

Minister Gallacher said the extension of the Natural Disaster Declaration to a further 20 areas is a further reminder of the extraordinary period of bush fire activity NSW experienced this year.

"Whilst the bush fire activity has calmed across the state, firefighters and emergency service personnel remain on alert.

"I would again like to thank the hard working members of our emergency services, who have made exceptional efforts to contain the fires and who are providing help and comfort to those suffering in the clean-up activity," Minister Gallacher said.

If you see an unattended bush or grass fire contact triple zero (000) and stay up to date at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au. For more information about disaster assistance visit www.emergency.nsw.gov.au.

ENDS

Media: Tess Salmon 0467 740 017