



**Finance
& Services**

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Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Administration: Financial Assistance

Presentation to the Regional Organisation Of Councils

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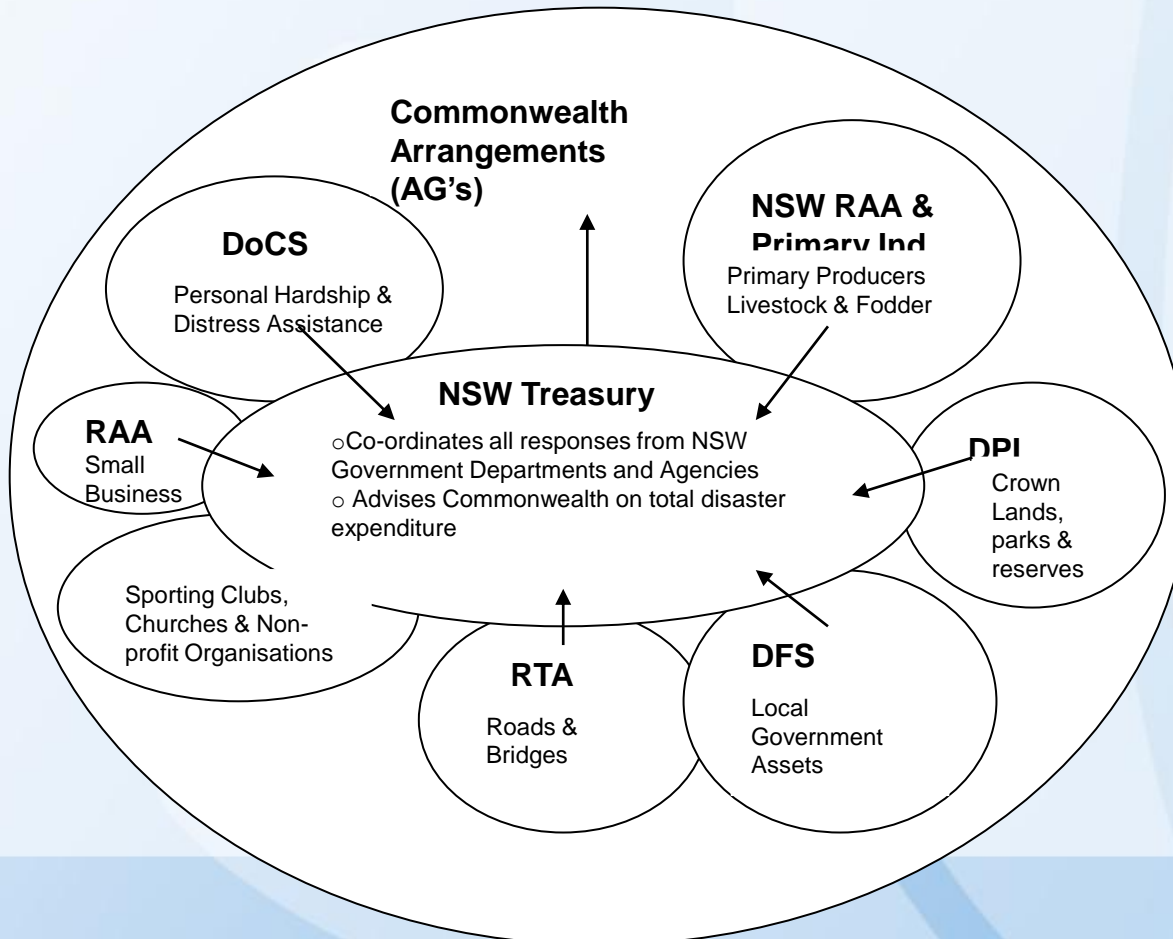
Natural Disaster Relief & Recovery Administration: Financial Assistance

- Introduction
- Funding Arrangements
- Regional Contacts
- NDRRA Program Process
- Eligible/Non Eligible Expenditure
- Future Changes
- Questions

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	DEPARTMENT OR AUTHORITY
Personal Hardship & Distress Assistance	Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS)
Primary Producers Livestock and Fodder	NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) NSW Department of Primary Industries
Small Businesses	Any bank or NSW Rural Assistance Authority
Assistance for Councils Roads and Bridges Other assets	Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) Department of Finance and Services (DFS)
Trustees of Parks and Crown Reserves	Department of Primary Industries Crown Lands Division
Sporting Clubs	NSW Treasury
Church and Voluntary Non-profit Organisations	NSW Treasury

The interaction between the Commonwealth's Attorney-General's Department, NSW Treasury and other NSW Government Departments and Authorities is shown below.



Financial Assistance Funding Arrangements

- NSW Treasury makes the declaration of natural disasters.
- In order for a natural disaster to be declared by NSW Treasury, a minimum damage threshold of \$240,000 for the event must be achieved.
- The funding arrangement DFS administers is that Councils are reimbursed for:
 - Emergency Debris Cleanup
 - and
 - Eligible Asset Restoration *Works*.

Cont....

- Maximum Council contribution towards eligible Recovery Costs is \$29,000.
- Time frame is the balance of the financial year in which the disaster occurred plus two financial years.
- Covers the assistance towards restoration or replacement of certain essential public assets

Natural Disaster Relief Arrangement Program Process

- NSW Treasury make a Natural Disaster Declaration. Based on estimates received from emergency response agencies.
- DFS Administrator notifies relevant DFS Regional Coordinator.
- Regional Coordinator notifies relevant Councils and briefs them on eligible expenditure for financial assistance and minimum record requirements.

Cont.....

- Council submit estimates seeking financial assistance.
- Grant submission prepared for approval by Minister for Finance & Services.
- Councils advised of grant offer via letter from the Minister.

Cont.....

- Councils complete eligible works and seek reimbursements via a completed certificate of expenditure.
- DFS assesses the value of completed works and NDRRA Administrator prepares payment submission for approval by Minister for Finance & Services.
- Payment advice and cheque issued by the Minister.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

Region	Contact Name	Telephone	Mobile
Sydney	Leon Martens	9852 0112	0429 929 466
Lismore	Katherine Emerton	6626 5670	0408 443 454
Wollongong	Richard Hart	4226 8507	-
Newcastle	Roger Davison	4908 4935	0412 260 845
Tamworth	Steve Hansen	6768 4230	0427 200 609
Bathurst	Trevor Liu	6339 5928	0427 226 184
Dubbo	Chris Evans	6885 9301	0418 490 014
Hay	Neil Evans	6993 1208	0408 694 062
Program Administration	Stuart Miller	9372 8871	-

Role of Regional Coordinators (NCR, SCR, RWR, HNE, SYD)

- Be first point of contact for Councils regarding natural disaster declaration issues.
- Following advice from NDRRA Administrator, notify councils of Natural disaster declaration and refer them to the DSTA website for details of eligibility, claiming, assessment guidelines, records etc.
- If NSW Treasury is considering making a declaration and if requested by the NDRRA Administrator, seek from Councils estimates of damage relating to a storm/flood/bushfire, etc.
- Discuss their interim assessment with council to enable a dialogue regarding eligibility, timing of works, justification of quantum of works to occur prior to finalisation of assessment.

Cont.....

- Assess Council grant requests ensuring cost are fair and reasonable and in line with the eligibility criteria.
- Conduct site inspections and documentation review as necessary to undertake assessments of Councils' grant request and payments request claims.
- Completion of grants assessments and payment assessments in a timely manner.

Eligible Assistance Expenditure

- Emergency Debris Cleanup
 - Debris cleanup, tree pruning, drain clearing etc, undertaken within the 1st 21 days
 - Financial Assistance only available to cover additional Council resources applied (labour/equipment) to perform (e.g. overtime hours, extra shifts, backfilling positions, agency staff contractor).
- Eligible Asset Restoration Work
 - Asset Repairs and Replacement type work e.g. Building structures, drainage works, fencing, rock protection, levees, recreational equipment, parking areas, playing fields.
 - Financial assistance to cover actual restoration cost regardless of whether performed by Council staff and equipment or using contract services.

Cont....

- Stormwater Assets
- Other Drainage Works
- Levee repairs
- Retaining Walls and Rock Protection
- Recreation Facilities
- Fencing

Not Eligible

- GST
- Items covered by insurance.
- Uninsured items that could reasonably be expected to be insured.
(major council buildings, libraries, halls, etc.)
- Construction Work in Progress

Cont....

- Natural assets such as beaches, riverbanks, groves of trees, etc.
- Costs incurred by trading undertakings that substantially recover their costs.
- Replacement of mature trees and shrubs with other mature specimens (a nominal amount of \$3).
- Water Supply and Sewerage infrastructure.

Cont....

- Structures not maintained in good order and condition are not eligible for assistance. Council expected to have asset maintenance plans.
- Structures with no asset management plan (where this could reasonable be expected to be maintained)
- Assets that have suffered prolonged deterioration.

Cont....

- Replacement of Council Plant, equipment, machinery (vehicles etc, should be insured).
- Council's collection of private household debris and waste.

Cont....

- Council oncosts and charge out loadings (claims must be at cost).
- Assistance for debris cleanup of public beaches is only eligible for patrolled and immediately adjacent areas (750 metres either side) within 21 days.
- Unmaintained parking areas (graded, surfaced and otherwise maintained areas are eligible for assistance).

FUTURE CHANGES

- New Commonwealth Determination
- Resilience Focus for the state and councils
- Insurance Review

QUESTIONS ?

www.publicworks.nsw.gov.au

Follow the links to Natural Disaster Relief & Recovery