



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

National Flood Infrastructure Mitigation Program

Frequently asked questions

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Contents

Table of Contents

Overview	3
National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program	3
This document	3
1. Program eligibility	4
1.1. Are flood warning studies or forecasting projects eligible for program funding?	4
2. Application submissions	4
2.1. Where do I submit my application?	4
2.2. Where can I find the funding application form?	4
2.3. Can submissions be approved by a minister other than the minister responsible for emergency management?	4
2.4. Can a state or territory apply for funding for multiple projects?	4
3. Program audit and assurance	4
3.1. At what point does the audit and assurance process occur?	4
4. Costs and funding	5
4.1. Will funding be made to state and territory governments based on estimated or audited costs?	5
4.2. Do estimated program costs need to be included in the final application?	5
5. Funding and agreements	5
5.1. Will this program continue beyond 2021?	5
5.2. Is there a time frame for when funded projects need to be completed by?	5

Overview

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) was established in December 2019 and provides the Australian Government with an additional and sustainable source of funding to be drawn upon when existing disaster recovery, preparedness and risk reduction programs are deemed insufficient.

As mandated by the Emergency Response Fund Act 2019 (the Act) there is \$150 million available annually to support disaster recovery activities, following a significant or catastrophic disaster and when existing programs are deemed insufficient.

The Act also provides \$50 million annually to support pre-disaster preparedness, resilience, disaster risk reduction and sustainability measures.

The Emergency Response Fund Program Guidelines (endorsed by the Senate on 12 March 2020) provides an overview of the fund, including relevant eligibility criteria and decision making processes. As per section 3 of the Guidelines, the Director General of Emergency Management Australia is responsible for making recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management regarding the use of the ERF. Following this advice, a formal decision of Government is required to access the funds.

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program

On 11 December 2020, the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, the Hon David Littleproud MP, announced the establishment of the \$50 million National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (the Program), funded through the ERF.

The Program will contribute to, or pay for, the improvement or construction of flood mitigation infrastructure to support local communities mitigate their priority flood risks and reduce the impact of flood events.

The Minister approved the Program design and supporting National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program Guidelines on Friday, 18 December 2020.

State and territory governments, in consultation with local governments and community are eligible to apply for funding, with the application round opening on Monday, 21 December 2020 and **closing at 5pm AEST on Friday, 12 February 2021.**

This document

This document should be read in conjunction with the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program Guidelines (Program Guidelines). It will be updated as questions are submitted to the Department of Home Affairs ('the Department'), provided to the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee and published on the Department's website as updates are made.

To ensure equality of access to information for all potential applicants, this document will be regularly updated and will include all relevant queries submitted to the Department. These queries will be generalised and anonymised to ensure identified identities are not disclosed.

1. Program eligibility

1.1. Are flood warning studies or forecasting projects eligible for program funding?

No. Under section 5.3 of the Program Guidelines, only flood mitigation infrastructure may be eligible for program funding. Flood mitigation infrastructure is an *essential public asset* as defined in the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018*, with the primary purpose of reducing the risk of flood to, and/or impact of flooding on, a community or communities.

2. Application submissions

2.1. Where do I submit my application?

Applications should be submitted to the Department at national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au by **5pm AEST on Friday, 12 February 2021**.

2.2. Where can I find the funding application form?

The Application Template can be found at **Attachment A** of the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program Guidelines, as well as on the Department's website: [Emergency management recovery assistance \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#).

2.3. Can submissions be approved by a minister other than the minister responsible for emergency management?

No. In accordance with section 6.1 of the Program Guidelines, applications must be approved by the respective state or territory government emergency management minister prior to submission. This is to ensure that applications are consistent and have the oversight of the respective jurisdiction's emergency services/management minister.

2.4. Can a state or territory apply for funding for multiple projects?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of project applications that may be submitted. However, in accordance with sections 4.2 and 5.6 of the Program Guidelines, the priority order of the projects must be advised, and the applicant must provide a justification basis for this prioritisation.

3. Program audit and assurance

3.1. At what point does the audit and assurance process occur?

In accordance with section 8.2 of the Program Guidelines, state and territory governments in receipt of program funding are required to submit an audited project expenditure acquittal to the Department no later than nine months from end of financial year in which the project was completed, unless otherwise specified in funding agreement.

State and territory governments must undertake regular monitoring and reporting in line with the project-by-project requirements outlined in the funding agreement.

The Australian Government may request additional information and/or reporting, outside the agreed milestones, if deemed necessary.

4. Costs and funding

4.1. Will funding be made to state and territory governments based on estimated or audited costs?

The Department may provide funding for some or all of the estimated project costs, noting that estimated costs must rely on the robustness and integrity of the estimation process as defined in section 5.7 of the Program Guidelines.

4.2. Do estimated program costs need to be included in the final application?

Yes. Financial details are to be provided in Part 5 of the application form. Applications will not be supported if they do not include estimated costs as defined in section 5.7 of the Program Guidelines.

5. Funding and agreements

5.1. Will this program continue beyond 2021?

This is a single year program. Decisions about the use of the \$50 million Emergency Response Fund and any future programs are a matter for the Australian Government.

5.2. Is there a time frame for when funded projects need to be completed by?

No. Project specific timeframes, including estimated date of completion, and delivery milestones will be determined with the relevant state and territory governments during the development of the funding agreement. However, the expected completion date must be included in the Project Application Form (Part 4), and this information may be used in part to assess which projects receive funding.