### s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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<th>National Secretary in accordance with &quot;Single Index 2020&quot;</th>
<th>( \text{RtntrResponse} )</th>
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<td>Executive Council for the purpose of consultation with states and territories with common legal and cultural heritage and private investment</td>
<td>( \text{Oct 2020} )</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kauri Oilfield</td>
<td>( \text{Oct 2020} )</td>
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<td>Loddon Valley</td>
<td>( \text{Oct 2020} )</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yarra Valley</td>
<td>( \text{Oct 2020} )</td>
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**Ongoing**
- Ongoing development and implementation of projects in the Northern Rivers region.
- Ongoing engagement with stakeholders for project feasibility.
- Ongoing coordination with state and federal authorities for project implementation.

**Completed**
- Completion of initial feasibility studies.
- Final report submitted to the Government.
- Approval for project funding.

**In Progress**
- Development of project specifications.
- Preliminary design and engineering studies.
- Initial public consultations.

**Future Plan**
- Project milestones and timelines.
- Budget allocation for project implementation.
- Monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes.

**Challenges**
- Funding constraints.
- Resistance from local communities.
- Regulatory requirements.

**Solutions**
- Seeking additional funding from various sources.
- Engaging with community members for support.
- Streamlining regulatory processes.

**Expected Outcomes**
- Improved infrastructure.
- Increased economic activity.
- Enhanced community welfare.

**Next Steps**
- Finalising project details.
- Submitting final reports.
- Initiating community engagement campaigns.

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**Notes**
- The table above represents the current status of various projects under s. 22(1)(a)(ii) of the Act.
- Further details can be found in the Government's official report on the matter.

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**Image Information**
- Released by: Department of Home Affairs
- Released under the Freedom of Information Act, 1982

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**Document Reference**
- Document 50
- Page 332
Meeting Brief – Mr Robert Glasser re: Implementation of the NDRRF, 9.30am Wednesday 23rd October, MI.46, APH

Person/ Organisation
Dr Robert Glasser – member of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) Consultative Group, Immediate former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Visiting Fellow at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), Interim CEO of CARE Australia

Has the Minister met with this person/organisation in the past?
Yes - 30 July 2019 and 19 August 2019

Purpose of Meeting
What is the person/organisation seeking?
- To discuss the current status of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Framework) implementation

What are the Government’s objectives?
- Discuss the importance of Mr Glasser continuing to work with the Australian Government on disaster risk reduction issues, including the APMCDRR

Key Messages
- The Government is prioritising more coordinated and targeted action to reduce disaster risk and losses.
  - Thank Mr Glasser for working with the Department to develop the Framework.
  - Reducing disaster risk is an issue relevant to many areas beyond emergency management, including the finance and insurance sectors.
- The Australian Government will drive coordinated national action to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.
- A first National Action Plan is being developed by a working group of representatives from governments, industry and the community sector
  - It will identify specific projects being done to reduce disaster risk.
  - For the first time, it brings together initiatives from the emergency management sector and beyond in a single picture of coordinated effort.
  - The working group for the first National Action Plan includes representatives from each state and territory and one representative each from the Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience and Safer Communities (Lee McDougall); Australian Red Cross (Andrew Coughlin); Resilient Sydney (Kristen Gabriel); QBE Insurance Group (Sharanjit Paddam)
  - For this first National Action Plan we are also engaging with a targeted group of stakeholders including: Planning Institute of Australia; Engineers Australia; Australian Building Codes Board; Australian Sustainable Financing Initiative; Investor Group on Climate Change; Within the Commonwealth, independent bodies like APRA, RBA and Infrastructure Australia.
  - A co-design workshop was held in Canberra on 16 October 2019 with the working group to develop the National Action Plan.
The Department of Home Affairs is currently working with a strategic communications expert to synthesise content and visuals and will provide you with a draft National Action Plan by COB Monday 28 October.

- The intention is to update the National Action Plan each year:
  - The first will provide a foundation and identify the need to engage a broader range of partners in the next update.
- It will ensure that we are collectively on track to achieving the series of five-year outcomes described within the Framework and the 2030 Goals. This is an opportunity to showcase the good work being done at a local, state and national level across all sectors of the economy.
- The Department of Home Affairs is engaging a monitoring, evaluation and learning specialist to design a MEL framework to capture progress made on the Framework outcomes.
  - Anticipate that the learning from this will inform future updates to the National Action Plan.
- You will make a national statement of action to the Australian Parliament in November about progress implementing the Framework and detailing projects and initiatives in the National Action Plan.

- The Australian Government is hosting the 2020 APMCDRR in Brisbane in June next year. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is the lead Commonwealth department for APMCDRR 2020, and along with them we welcome Mr Glasser’s involvement in this important event.
  - The Department of Home Affairs, through Emergency Management Australia, is leading content development for Pillar 2: Resilient Infrastructure and Systems.

Background
- Mr Glasser played an integral role in the policy sprint to co-design the Framework.
- Mr Glasser is currently an Australian Strategic Policy Institute visiting fellow and Honorary Associate Professor at the Australian National University. His latest publication released in March 2019, *Preparing for the Era of Disasters*, recommends actions for government to take to prepare for future disasters.
- On 25 July 2019, Mr Glasser was appointed as an interim CEO by the CARE Australia Board until the recruitment of a new CEO takes place.
- Mr Glasser is internationally recognised as former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- He is responsible for leading and overseeing the United Nations (UN) Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (formerly UNISDR) in the executions of its functions and policy directions, overseeing the management of the Trust Fund, carrying out high-level advocacy and resource mobilisation activities for risk reduction and implementation.
- He was the head of UNISDR when the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was developed.

List of Attendees
Dr Robert Glasser

Consultation
Nil
<table>
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<th>Contact officer:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luke Brown, Assistant Secretary, Disaster Preparedness Branch</td>
<td>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</td>
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<td>Phone: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</td>
<td>Division: Emergency Management Australia</td>
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Attachments:

A: Biography (including photo)
B: Draft Terms of Reference for the Expert Advisory Forum
C: Proposed membership for the Expert Advisory Forum
Attachment A: Biography

Name: Dr Robert Glasser
Title: member of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) Consultative Group/ Visiting Fellow/ Interim CEO
Organisation: APMCDRR/ASPI/ CARE Australia.

Brief work history:

Dr Robert Glasser is the former Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). He was appointed as Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction in January 2016. Prior to his UN service, from 2008, Dr. Glasser was the Secretary General of CARE International, a major non-governmental humanitarian organisation, active in over 80 countries. From 2003-2007, Dr Glasser was the Chief Executive of CARE Australia. Prior to joining CARE, he was Assistant Director General at the Australian Agency for International Development.
# Disaster Risk Reduction Framework Expert Advisory Forum

## DRAFT Terms of Reference

### Purpose

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Expert Advisory Forum (EAF) is formed to advise the federal Minister for Natural Disaster and Emergency Management (the Minister), and the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management (MCPEM) on cross-sectoral implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (Framework).

### Membership

The EAF consists of influential, senior industry, not-for-profit and academic leaders.

Members will be appointed by the Minister. The Minister will determine membership composition.

The Chair may agree to invite other representatives to participate in the EAF if it would assist to progress, or inform discussion on, specific matters.

### Chairing

The Chair will be a member of the EAF as appointed by the Minister.

### Scope

The EAF will:

- consider the causes and impact of disaster risk across Australia’s built, social, natural and economic environments, and identify opportunities to reduce it through greater and more effective cooperation between governments and non-government sectors, consistent with the Framework’s Strategies for Action
- drive national implementation of the Framework and National Action Plan, enhancing collaboration and understanding between governments and non-government sectors on reducing disaster risk
- act as the national non-government reference point for implementing the Framework and National Action Plan
- provide advice to the Minister, and to MCPEM on progress, barriers and opportunities to implement the Framework and National Action Plan, including any recommended updates to the National Action Plan each year;
- provide feedback and advice on disaster risk reduction issues identified by the EAF and the Minister; and

### Operations

The EAF will meet at times and locations to be agreed between the Chair and Members, and Minister as appropriate.

The EAF will progress its activities as determined by its Chair. The Australian Government Department of Home Affairs will provide secretariat and any project support for the EAF if requested.

### Review

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the Minister after three meetings of the EAF.
Attachment C: Proposed membership for the Expert Advisory Forum

s. 47C(1)
MINISTER: David Littleproud  
ADVISER: 5.22(1)(a)(ii)  

Meeting Brief with Institute of Actuaries  
3:00pm Tuesday 29 October 2019, Sydney CPO, 1 Bligh Street, Sydney  

Person/ Organisation  
Actuaries Institute representatives (full list of attendees at page 3)  

Has the Minister met with this person/organisation in the past?  
No  

Purpose of Meeting  
What is the person/organisation seeking?  
- An introductory meeting to speak about the Actuaries Institute who are an important stakeholder on emergency management and disaster risk reduction issues.  
- An opportunity for Actuaries Institute to share their perspectives on disaster risk and public policy.  

What are the Government's objectives?  
- Discuss the importance of the Actuaries Institute continuing to work with the Australian Government on emergency management and disaster risk reduction issues.  

Key Messages  
- The Government values the important role of the Actuaries Institute engaging on disaster risk reduction issues.  
- The Government recognises the need for more coordinated and targeted action to reduce disaster risk and losses.  
  - Thank the Actuaries Institute for working with the Department to develop the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Framework).  
  - Reducing disaster risk is an issue relevant to many areas beyond emergency management, including the finance and insurance sectors.  
  - There is great opportunity to better connect the efforts of business, community and government.  
- The Australian Government will drive coordinated national action to implement the Framework.  
  - A first National Action Plan is being developed by a working group of representatives from government, industry and the community sector  
    - It will bring together initiatives from the emergency management sector and beyond in a single picture of coordinated effort.  
    - It will help ensure we are collectively on track to achieving the series of five-year outcomes described within the Framework.  

Background  
- The Actuaries Institute are a representative body of the actuarial profession.  
- They publish the Australian Actuaries Climate Index which tracks extreme weather conditions and sea levels across Australia and how these vary over time. The fourth quarterly update, published on 12 September 2019, shows how extreme weather continued throughout Autumn 2019 consistent with projections from the Bureau and CSIRO.
• The Actuaries Institute sits on the Financial Disclosure Committee of the Climate Measurement Standards Initiative, an Australian industry-lead collaboration between insurers, banks, scientists, regulators, reporting standard professionals, service providers and supporting parties.
  o Its purpose is to develop open-source technical business and scientific standards for climate physical risk projections of future repair and replacement costs of residential and commercial buildings and infrastructure in Australia.

• The Actuaries Institute have called on the Commonwealth to increase its investment in disaster resilience to address the increasing natural hazard risk that many communities are facing.
  o They support innovative funding models which include investment from the private sector, but maintain that governments need to increase funding for disaster risk reduction.

• Members of the Actuaries Institute have also been engaged in the Australian Sustainable Finance Initiative which was established to set out a roadmap for realigning the finance sector to support greater social, environmental and economic outcomes for the country.

• The Actuaries Institute supports improving the variety, availability and uptake of insurance, noting that insurance is not currently affordable for many households in high hazard and/or lower socio-economic areas.

• The Government has accepted the findings of the Northern Australia Insurance Premiums Taskforce that reducing the risk is the only sustainable way to address affordability issues.
  o Without action, insurance affordability is likely to become an ever greater issue in more parts of Australia, with more extreme weather at scales and locations we have not seen in our lifetime (Townsville after the flood).

• The total economic cost of rapid-onset hazards such as fire, flood and storm is currently estimated to be $18.2 billion per year. This is set to rise to $39 billion per year by 2050 due to growing population and the infrastructure needed to support it and without accounting for climate change.

• Insurance is a key risk transfer mechanism. There is a relatively high uptake of residential insurance in Australia, however affordability in Northern Australia is a very real issue, due to the high risk of cyclone and related flooding.

• In informal, but practical terms, the Australian Government is the ‘insurer of last resort’ for all of these events.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Findings

• The November 2018 first interim report from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission’s inquiry into insurance premiums in Northern Australia finds that governments, industry, communities and individuals can all contribute to risk reduction:
  o Household level risk reduction often does not equate to substantially reduced premiums and there is work to be done here, however, risk reduction initiatives at a community level (such as flood levees) can significantly reduce risks (and premiums) for many residents within a local area.
  o Stronger Australian building standards have proven to be one of the most effective mechanisms for improving resilience and reducing premiums.
  o There are also opportunities for governments (including local councils), insurers and developers to work together to avoid new developments in higher risk areas, thereby reducing the potential for unacceptably high insurance premiums in the future.

Disaster resilience funding

• The 2019-20 Federal Budget includes $130.5 million in funding over five years to assist states and territories implement the strategies in the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Framework). This commitment comprises:
  o $104.4 million for a five-year national partnership agreement with states and territories to support state and local initiatives; and
  o $26.1 million for the Commonwealth, in consultation with states and territories, to deliver national initiatives.

• The commitment is conditional on funding (as a total) being matched by states and territories, consistent with previous national agreements on disaster resilience.

• The Government also agreed to $50 million per annum for disaster preparedness and mitigation infrastructure as part of the Emergency Response Fund.
List of Attendees
- Elayne Grace, CEO, Actuaries Institute
- John McLenaghan, Public Policy Adviser, Actuaries Institute
- Vanessa Beenders, Practice Excellence Adviser, Actuaries Institute

Consultation
- Nil

Clearance

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<td>§ 22(1)(a)(ii)</td>
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<td>Mobile Phone: § 22(1)(a)(ii)</td>
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Attachments:

A: Biographies (including photo)
Attachment A: Biography

Name: Elayne Grace
Title: Chief Executive Officer
Organisation: Actuaries Institute

Brief work history:
Elayne Grace is CEO of the Actuaries Institute. She was previously Deputy CEO and Head of Public Policy from 2013 – 2017, responsible for the development and implementation of the Institute’s public policy strategy. Elayne has 25 years’ international experience with leading consulting firms and major insurers. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries of Australia and of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (UK) and has a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and Finance.

Name: John McLenaghan
Title: Head of Public Policy
Organisation: Actuaries Institute

Brief work history:
John McLenaghan is the Actuaries Institute’s Head of Public Policy. John has held senior policy roles in government departments and agencies, ministerial offices, and industry associations. John was Group Head of Government Industry Affairs with a major financial institution. He joined the Institute in 2014 and he been involved in the development of major Institute submissions to the FSI, Treasury, APRA, ASIC and the Productivity Commission. He has also been involved in the development of almost 20 Green Papers and Dialogues. John also supports the Institute’s Banking and Superannuation Practice Committees, the Anti-discrimination Working Group, the DI taskforce and the Royal Commission Steering Committee. John holds MA and MBA degrees.
Brief work history:
Vanessa Beenders is the Practice Excellence Adviser of the Actuaries Institute. Her prior background spans government, financial services and education in both public and private sectors. Vanessa has worked in the Commonwealth Department of Treasury, including as an adviser in the Federal Treasurer’s office. Her experience in financial services was with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia Group and included corporate strategy, equities research and government relations. Vanessa has also worked as a primary school teacher. She has a Bachelor of Economics (Hons) and Bachelor of Education (Primary).
MINISTER: David Littleproud

ADVISER: s.22(1)(a)(ii)

Mr George Karagiannakis, Executive Manager, Government Relations, IAG,
3pm Wednesday 23rd October M1.46 APH

Person/ Organisation
George Karagiannakis, Executive Manager, Government Relations, Insurance Australia Group Limited (IAG)

Has the Minister met with this person/organisation in the past?
No.

Purpose of Meeting
What is the person/organisation seeking?
- To progress the Expert Advisory Forum (EAF) and facilitate a meeting between the Minister and Mr Peter Harmer (IAG CEO)
- Discuss the $50 million commitment to disaster preparedness and mitigation as part of the Emergency Response Fund.

What are the Government’s objectives?
- Seek IAG’s agreement for the Department of Home Affairs to progress the EAF, including settling membership
- Seek IAG’s agreement for Mr Harmer’s role to be announced as part of your national statement of action to the Australian Parliament in November
- Update IAG on the development of the National Action Plan
- Affirm the important role that the Australian Business Roundtable (ABR) for Disaster Resilience and Safer Communities and IAG play
  - Thank IAG for their involvement in the Understanding Disaster Risk National Forums and on the working group to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Framework).

Key Messages
- The EAF will be an important mechanism for building momentum to implement the Framework, and should be identified as a new initiative in the National Action Plan.
  - Propose the first meeting take place in the first quarter of 2020.
- Seek IAG in-principle agreement to work towards making this announcement in the statement to parliament at the end of November, and including it in the National Action Plan.
- A first National Action Plan is being developed by a working group of representatives from governments, industry and the community sector
  - It will identify specific projects being done to reduce disaster risk.
  - For the first time, it brings together initiatives from the emergency management sector and beyond in a single picture of coordinated effort.
  - The working group for the first National Action Plan includes representatives from each state and territory and one representative each from the ABR (Lee McDougall); Australian Red Cross (Andrew Coughlin); Resilient Sydney (Kristen Gabriel); QBE Insurance Group (Sharanjit Paddam)
For this first National Action Plan we are also engaging with a targeted group of stakeholders including:
Planning Institute of Australia; Engineers Australia; Australian Building Codes Board; Australian Sustainable
Financing Initiative; Investor Group on Climate Change; Within the Commonwealth, independent bodies like
APRA, RBA and Infrastructure Australia.

- A co-design workshop was held in Canberra on 16 October 2019 with the working group to develop the
National Action Plan.
- The Department is currently working with a strategic communications expert to synthesise content and
visuals and will provide you with a draft National Action Plan by COB Monday 28 October.
- The intention is to update the National Action Plan each year:
  - The first will provide a foundation and identify the need to engage a broader range of partners in
the next update.
- It will ensure that we are collectively on track to achieving the series of five-year outcomes described within
the Framework and the 2030 Goals This is an opportunity to showcase the good work being done at a local,
state and national level across all sectors of the economy.
- The Department is engaging a monitoring, evaluation and learning specialist to design a MEL framework to
capture progress made on the Framework outcomes.
  - Anticipate that the learning from this will inform future updates to the National Action Plan.
- You will make a national statement of action to the Australian Parliament in November about progress
implementing the Framework and detailing projects and initiatives in the National Action Plan.

Background

EAF
- George Karagionnakis met with  and  on 12 September 2019 to discuss the EAF and made
some revisions to the proposed terms of reference that had been agreed by the Australia-New Zealand Emergency
Management Committee (ANZEMC) to remove the reference to the ANZEMC. They had instead agreed that
members of ANZEMC would be welcome to attend meetings of the EAF, rather than have the EAF report into
ANZEMC. Draft Terms of Reference for the EAF is at Attachment B. A proposed membership list is at Attachment C.

Disaster mitigation funding
- On 17 October 2019 IAG issued a media release that welcomed the $50 million increase in the Emergency Response
Fund for disaster preparedness and mitigation.
  - IAG stated that the additional $50 million will help protect communities by investing in projects and
strengthening infrastructure, before a natural disaster strikes, in addition to the funding available for post-
disaster recovery.
  - IAG Managing Director and CEO Mr Peter Harmer said: ““We’ve consistently highlighted the best way to
protect communities from the devastating impacts of natural disasters is by greater investment in
mitigation, which also reduces the physical, economic and social recovery costs following a disaster.”
- IAG is a founding member of the ABR.
- The ABR’s 2017 report, Building Resilience to Natural Disasters in our States and Territories, found the total costs of
natural disasters in Australia are forecast to hit $39 billion per year by 2050.
- The Roundtable’s report also highlighted the economic and social benefits of investing in resilient infrastructure
before a disaster strikes.

IAG
- IAG states that its role extends beyond transferring risk and paying claims. Furthermore, it seeks to work
collaboratively with the community to understand, reduce and avoid risk, and to build resilience and preparedness.
This results in better outcomes for the community and means fewer claims and lower costs for our business.
IAG works collaboratively with government, industry bodies and Australian and international organisations on a range of topics and issues that relate to customers, people and the community. These include climate change, disaster response and resilience, and diversity, inclusion and belonging.

ABR

The members of the ABR are the CEOs of Australian Red Cross, IAG, Munich Re, Optus and Westpac Group.

The ABR was founded to champion the need for a more sustainable, coordinated national approach to make communities more resilient and people safer.

The ABR’s vision is to:

- work collaboratively with governments to effect change in public policy and increase investment aimed at building safer and more resilient communities;
- actively improve the capacity of people and businesses to better withstand future natural disasters.

ABR members are jointly committing resources to work constructively with governments to deliver in five critical areas.

- Community education: to increase community awareness about exposure to natural hazards and how vulnerability can be reduced.
- Risk information: to identify and prioritise key risk areas.
- Adaptation research: provide research and global best practice standards to help future proof our communities.
- Mitigation infrastructure: to identify cost effective mitigation strategies to save money in key risk communities and protect lives and infrastructure.
- Strategic alliances: use our business networks and relationships as platforms to advocate change.

Other matters (not for discussion)

s. 47C(1)

List of Attendees

- George Karagiannakis, Executive Manager, Government Relations, IAG. Mr Karagiannakis’ Biography is at Attachment A.

Consultation

Nil

Clearance

Clearance officer:
Luke Brown, Assistant Secretary, Disaster Preparedness Branch
Phone: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Date: 22 October 2019

Contact officer:
Division: Emergency Management Australia
Branch: Disaster Preparedness Branch
Mobile Phone: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Attachments:

A: Biography (including photo)
B: Expert Advisory Forum – Draft Terms of Reference
C: Expert Advisory Forum – Draft membership list
Attachment A: Biography

Name: George Karagiannakis
Title: Executive Manager Government Relations
Organisation: IAG

Brief work history:
- IAG, February 1999 to Current
  - Executive Manager Government Relations
  - Head of Corporate Affairs and Government Relations
  - Senior Manager Government and Industry Relations
  - Senior Advisor External Relations
  - Senior Manager Governance and Risk Reporting
  - International Business Analyst
  - Senior Manager Policy and Government Relations
- Director – Treasurer, Australian Services Roundtable, January 2010 to Current
- Senior Manager Corporate Finance, Telstra Corporation, September 1988 – October 1998
- Chief Policy Officer, Australian Public Service (including Department of Finance, Communications, Aviation, and Defence)

Personal details (if known):
- Committee member of the Australian Professional Government Relations Association Inc.
- Tertiary Education:
  - Masters of Business Administration in International Studies from the University of New England
  - Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University.
**Disaster Risk Reduction Framework Expert Advisory Forum**

**DRAFT Terms of Reference**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Purpose</strong></th>
<th>The National Disaster Risk Reduction Expert Advisory Forum (EAF) is formed to advise the federal Minister for Natural Disaster and Emergency Management (the Minister), and the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management (MCPEM) on cross-sectoral implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (Framework).</th>
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<td><strong>Membership</strong></td>
<td>The EAF consists of influential, senior industry, not-for-profit and academic leaders. Members will be appointed by the Minister. The Minister will determine membership composition. The Chair may agree to invite other representatives to participate in the EAF if it would assist to progress, or inform discussion on, specific matters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chairing</strong></td>
<td>The Chair will be a member of the EAF as appointed by the Minister.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope</strong></td>
<td>The EAF will:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- consider the causes and impact of disaster risk across Australia’s built, social, natural and economic environments, and identify opportunities to reduce it through greater and more effective cooperation between governments and non-government sectors, consistent with the Framework’s Strategies for Action</td>
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<td>- drive national implementation of the Framework and National Action Plan, enhancing collaboration and understanding between governments and non-government sectors on reducing disaster risk</td>
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<td>- provide feedback and advice on disaster risk reduction issues identified by the EAF and the Minister; and</td>
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<td><strong>Operations</strong></td>
<td>The EAF will meet at times and locations to be agreed between the Chair and Members, and Minister as appropriate.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review</strong></td>
<td>These Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the Minister after three meetings of the EAF.</td>
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</table>
Attachment C: Expert Advisory Forum – Draft membership list

s. 47C(1)
KEY TALKING POINTS:

- The Australian Government is committed to addressing insurance affordability.
- We recognise it is a growing problem that hits the household and business back-pocket hard.
- Intervention in the market has a negative outcome.
- We are working closely with the insurance industry on this growing problem.
- It is a shared challenge and the Government is committed to doing its bit.
- We are treating the root causes, not just the symptoms, by supporting risk mitigation and building resilience against natural disasters.
- The Emergency Response Fund for instance will provide an additional $50 million to build resilience to prepare for or reduce the risk of future natural disasters.
- We are also finalising with the states and territories, as quickly as possible, a new national partnership agreement on disaster risk reduction.
- Taken together, these programs will deliver up to $76 million every year to help reduce disaster risk in our communities.
- This investment will be guided by the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Framework); a world-class blueprint for reducing the impact of disasters across our wide brown land.

If asked: What is the Government doing to reduce insurance premiums?

- The Australian Government is exploring the feasibility of establishing a national climate and disaster risk information capability to ensure climate and disaster risk information is both available and translated into decision-useful information.
- The 2019-20 Federal Budget includes $130.5 million in funding over five years to assist states and territories implement the disaster risk reduction strategies in the Framework, comprising:
  - $104.4 million for a five-year national partnership agreement with states and territories to support state and local initiatives; and
  - $26.1 million for the Commonwealth, in consultation with states and territories, to deliver national initiatives.
- In addition, the Emergency Response Fund will provide an additional $50 million to build resilience to, prepare for or reduce the risk of future natural disasters.
If asked: Does the Government support the establishment of a reinsurance pool?

- The Government has previously considered the merits of establishing a natural-disaster risk reinsurance pool and decided not to proceed. The Government has not changed its policy on this matter.

- The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is assessing the merits of a number of measures to address issues of access and affordability of insurance premiums in northern Australia.

- High insurance premiums are ultimately determined by the exposure of consumers and businesses to the risk of loss and damage. Reducing the risk is the only sustainable way to address affordability issues.

- The Government is treating the root causes, not just the symptoms, by supporting risk mitigation and building resilience against natural disasters.

- Any further questions on a proposed reinsurance pool should be referred to the Treasurer.

If asked: What is the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework?

- The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, released in April 2019, was co-designed across all levels of government, the private sector and community representatives.

  - The Framework sets the agenda across all sectors to reduce existing risk, prevent new risk being created and ensure we have the information to do so.

  - We are working with states and territories, as well as industry and the community sector, on a National Action Plan to implement the Framework.

- The Department of Home Affairs is leading whole-of-Government action to align current and future Commonwealth initiatives across the built, social, natural and economic environments with the Framework.

  - This will include ensuring funding programs appropriately account for climate and disaster risk.

- The Department is also working with the private sector to develop methods to support market-based products to generate additional commercial investment in risk reduction.
If asked: Is climate change impacting insurance premiums?

- The Government accepts the science of climate change and recognises that climate change is causing increases in extreme temperatures, fire weather, drought and high-intensity storms.

BACKGROUND AND CHRONOLOGY

The total economic cost of rapid-onset hazards such as fire, flood and storm is currently estimated to be $18.2 billion per year. This is set to rise to $39 billion per year by 2050 due to growing population and the infrastructure needed to support it and without accounting for climate change.

Insurance is a key risk transfer mechanism. There is a relatively high uptake of residential insurance in Australia, however the affordability of insurance in Northern Australia is a very real issue, due to the high risk of cyclone and related flooding.

In informal, but practical terms, the Australian Government is the ‘insurer of last resort’ for all of these events.

Media reporting in the week commencing 21 November 2019 (including in the Saturday Age and the Australian Financial Review) discussed Suncorp Insurance’s position on a proposed reinsurance pool to cut the costs of premiums for Australians in the north. Suncorp warned the scheme could be “very costly” for taxpayers and said mitigation should be part of the response to cyclones and storms.
To

Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management

Subject

Approval of Emergency Management Papers for MCPEM

Timing

5 November 2019 – to enable MCPEM papers to be distributed to members by the due date of 6 November (2 weeks prior to meeting in accordance with MCPEM Terms of Reference), as approved by s. 22(1)(a)(ii), EM DLO on 22 October.

Recommendations

That you:

1. note the agenda for the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management (MCPEM) meeting (Attachment A);

2. endorse the following papers you will present for MCPEM consideration:
   i. Agenda Item 13 - Preparedness Posture for the 2019-20 Summer Season (Attachment B);
   ii. Agenda item 14 - Implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (Attachment C);
   iii. Agenda Item 15 - Public Safety Mobile Broadband (Attachment D);
   iv. Agenda Item 17 - National Emergency Management Recovery Priorities (Attachment E);

3. note that the paper for the Commonwealth-led Agenda Item 11 - Police and Emergency Services Health and Wellbeing will be submitted to you and Minister Dutton separately for endorsement;

4. sign the attached letters to your emergency management Ministerial counterparts regarding mental health and wellbeing; and

5. note the MCPEM briefing pack will be provided to you by 8 November 2019, and that the Department will pre-brief you (and Ministers Dutton and Wood) ahead of the MCPEM meeting.
Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management

Date: 3/12/2019

Minister's Comments

Rejected Yes/No
Timely Yes/No
Relevance
Highly relevant
Significantly relevant
Not relevant

Length
Too long
Right length
Too brief

Quality
Poor
1
2
3
4
5
Excellent

Comments:

Key Issues

1. This Submission seeks your endorsement of the emergency management agenda papers (Items 13-17) you will present at the MCPEM meeting on 20 November 2019. Subject to your approval, the following emergency management papers will be circulated to jurisdictions ahead of the meeting:

- Agenda Item 13 - Preparedness Posture for the 2019-20 Summer Season (Attachment B);
- Agenda Item 14 - Implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (Attachment C);
- Agenda Item 15 - Public Safety Mobile Broadband (Attachment D); and
- Agenda Item 17 - National Emergency Management Recovery Priorities (Attachment E)
3. For Agenda Item 13 (Preparedness Posture for the 2019-20 Summer Season), it is proposed that you will lead a roundtable discussion with other ministers on jurisdictional and national plans for the current season. This will complement the other matters being discussed under this agenda item such as the summer season outlook, resource prioritisation and Guiding Principles for the Australian Arrangement for Interstate Assistance (AIA). A comprehensive brief for this discussion, along with other agenda item briefs will be prepared for you ahead of the meeting, and provided in a meeting pack by 8 November 2019. A pre-brief will also be scheduled in consultation with your office and Ministers Dutton and Wood’s offices respectively.

4. For Agenda Item 14 (Implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework) you have been provided with a draft National Action Plan for implementation of the Framework (Attachment A). The Department is working with a strategic communications expert to finalise visuals for the National Action Plan early in the week commencing Monday 28 October. We are concurrently liaising with relevant stakeholders to finalise and validate all content and will provide an updated draft to you in the week commencing Monday 28 October. We will send the draft National Action Plan to a graphic designer for typesetting on or before 1 November 2019. A final National Action Plan will be sent to you for your endorsement before being circulated to MCPEM, by COB Monday 18 November 2019.

5. For completeness, be aware that a separate submission is being put to the Minister Dutton, seeking his approval of the Policing items for the meeting. Minister Dutton’s office requested that the policing items be dealt with first on the agenda.

Background

6. MCPEM is the policy and coordination forum for police and emergency management ministers from all Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand, and a representative from the Australian Local Government Association.

7. The South Australian Minister for Police and Emergency Management, the Hon Corey Wingard MP, will chair the meeting on 20 November 2019. The Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Peter Dutton MP and the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Jason Wood MP, will attend the meeting to represent the Commonwealth on Policing matters.

8. MCPEM’s last meeting was on 28 June 2019 and was chaired by the South Australian Minister for Police and Emergency Management, the Hon Corey Wingard MP. MCPEM’s operating procedures provide for rotational arrangements of the chairing jurisdiction. Tasmania will chair meeting in 2020. The Commonwealth is next scheduled to chair meetings in 2026.

Consultation – internal/external


Consultation – Secretary

10. The Secretary was not consulted on the approach in this submission, however, he has been consulted on the overall agenda as the MCPEM Senior Officials Group Chair.
For Official Use Only

Client service implications

11. Nil.

Sensitivities

12. We anticipate the following issues will be raised at the Ministerial meetings.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

13. You will be provided with briefing to assist in addressing these issues.

14. In accordance with our long standing practices, should you wish for unclassified media lines to be prepared in relation to any issues please contact the Home Affairs Media Coordination team – media@homeaffairs.gov.au.

Financial/systems/legislation/deregulation/media implications

15. There may be some media interest in the MCPEM meeting. The Department will work with your Office should you, Minister Dutton and Assistant Minister Wood wish to issue a media release, or have a media event, following the meetings.

Attachments

Attachment A 20 November 2019 MCPEM Meeting – Agenda (as at 25 October 2019)

Attachment B Agenda Item 13 – Preparedness Posture for the 2019-20 Summer Season
Accompanying paper attachments:
  o Attachment A – Extract: Guiding Principles of the Australian Arrangement for Interstate Assistance

Attachment C Agenda Item 14 – Implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
Accompanying paper attachments:
  o Attachment A – Draft National Action Plan for the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
  o Attachment B – National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

Attachment D Agenda Item 15 – Public Safety Mobile Broadband
Accompanying paper attachments:
  o Attachment A – Public Safety Mobile Broadband Strategic Roadmap (COAG December 2018)
Attachment E  
Agenda Item 17 – National Emergency Management Recovery Priorities
Accompanying paper attachments:
  o Attachment A – Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 Factsheet
  o Attachment B – National Principles for Disaster Recovery
  o Attachment C – Delegation Report on Catastrophic Natural Disasters in the United States

Attachment F  
Letters from Minister Littleproud to Emergency Management Ministers (Australia and New Zealand) and Australian Local Government Association
  o The Hon. David Elliott MP
  o Mr Mick Gentleman MLA
  o The Hon. Craig Crawford
  o The Hon. Corey Luke Wingard B. App.Sc (Sport Sc.)
  o The Hon. Francis Michael Logan MLA
  o The Hon. Mark Shelton MP
  o The Hon. Lisa Neville MP
  o The Hon. Nicole Susan Manison MLA
  o The Hon. Peeni Henare
  o Mayor David O’Loughlin

Authorising Officer

Cleared by:

Robert Cameron
Director General
Emergency Management Australia

Date: 25 October 2019
Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact Officer Luke Brown, Assistant Secretary, Disaster Preparedness Branch, Emergency Management Australia, Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii).

Through N/A
(Chief Finance Office as required)

CC
  Minister Dutton
  Assistant Minister Wood
  Secretary
  Deputy Secretary, Security and Resilience
  Deputy Secretary, Policy
  Deputy Secretary, Executive
  First Assistant Secretary Executive Division
  First Assistant Secretary National Security and Law Enforcement Policy Division
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FRAMEWORK

RECOMMENDATIONS

s. 47C(1)
KEY ISSUES

National Action Plan for the implementation of the Framework

- The first National Action Plan (NAP) is a cross-sector collaboration and was co-designed with representatives from all levels of government, business and the community sector.

- The NAP explains initiatives underway to achieve the Framework’s five-year outcomes. This is an opportunity to showcase the good work being done at a local, state and national level across all sectors of the economy (see Attachment A - National Action Plan for implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework).

- The NAP will also form the basis of a statement to the Australian Parliament at the end of November by the Australian Government Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management, the Hon David Littleproud MP. This statement will outline progress implementing the Framework and detail projects and initiatives in the National Action Plan. The Minister’s statement to Parliament will also be an opportunity to highlight the good work that is happening across all sectors.

Disaster Risk Reduction funding arrangements

- The Australian Government committed $130.5 million over five years in the 2019 Federal Budget to reduce the risk and impact of disasters on Australians in line with the Framework (see Attachment B – National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework).

- The commitment comprises $104.4 million for state and local initiatives and $26.1 million for national initiatives, and is conditional on the entire $130.5 million package being fully matched by states and territories consistent with previous national agreements on disaster resilience.

- The Commonwealth proposes that funds are distributed annually using the following model:
CONSULTATION

Consultation was undertaken across the Commonwealth, jurisdictions, industry and the community sector in order to develop the first NAP.

Negotiations between Commonwealth, state and territory emergency management and central agencies on the disaster risk reduction funding arrangements are ongoing.
Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: National Action Plan for implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

Attachment B: National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
Dear [REDACTED]

Further to your discussion with Luke Brown this afternoon, attached is the latest draft National Action Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework. Please let us know any feedback you have.

As discussed, we propose to send an updated draft by ministerial submission on Friday afternoon following feedback from the ANZEMC. This submission will recommend that the Minister write to his MCPEM colleagues enclosing the National Action Plan and seeking their endorsement at the MCPEM meeting on 20 November. This letter would ideally be sent later next week. Thanks for your advice by phone that the submission can include a short deadline next week to achieve this.

The final professionally type-set, graphic designed National Action Plan will be available for the MCPEM meeting.

Please don’t hesitate to let us know if you have any questions.

Kind regards
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Director, Disaster Risk and Resilience Policy
Emergency Management Australia
Department of Home Affairs
M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

For-Official-Use-Only
To

Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management

Subject

Draft of the 2019 National Action Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

Timing

13 November 2019 – to enable the Department to prepare for the 20 November 2019 meeting of the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management (MCPEM). This timing was agreed with s. 22(1)(a)(ii) of your office on 6 November 2019.

Recommendations

That you:

1. agree to circulate the draft 2019 National Action Plan (Attachment A) to MCPEM members noting that it needs to be further refined;

2. agree to the amended MCPEM paper for agenda item 4 ('Implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework') proposing MCPEM members note, rather than endorse, the 2019 National Action Plan (Attachment B);

3. note the revised draft National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction at Attachment C; and

4. note the Department of Home Affairs is working with your office on your inaugural ministerial statement to the Australian Parliament later this year.

Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management

Signature

Date: /3/1/2019
Key Issues

1. On 28 June 2019, MCPEM tasked the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) to co-ordinate national action against the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Framework) and to prepare a National Statement of Action (now titled National Action Plan) that prioritises and describes that work. The National Action Plan is the initial implementation plan for the Framework. The Framework states that such a plan would be in place in 2019.

2. The draft 2019 National Action Plan is at Attachment A for your consideration and agreement to circulate to MCPEM members before the meeting on 20 November 2019.

3. The draft 2019 National Action Plan was developed by the Department, working closely with a time-limited working group of the ANZEMC and key external stakeholders. The key area of focus for the 2019 National Action Plan is ‘understanding disaster risk’. This is where many initiatives are already underway and will continue to be focused on over the next year. The 2019 National Action Plan sets out:

- some of the major initiatives underway that contribute to reducing disaster risk for Australians; and
- work that needs to be done to meet the goals and five-year outcomes of the Framework.
6. Each calendar year commencing November/early December this year, you will deliver a Ministerial Statement to the Australian Parliament based on the National Action Plan. The Department will continue to liaise with your office in relation to the timing and content of this statement in light of the delay finalising the 2019 National Action Plan.

7. The Department is separately consulting with the states and territories through central agencies on the draft National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction (NPA). A copy of the latest draft agreement is at Attachment C.

10. The Department is satisfied that the changes will maintain adequate accountability and performance assessment provisions under the NPA, while also ensuring engagement with robust monitoring, evaluation and learning arrangements to assess progress in delivering on the priorities and outcomes of the Framework.

11. Negotiations with officials are in the final stages with whole-of-jurisdictional comments on the revised NPA due to the Department by 15 November 2019.

12. Once settled with officials, your agreement will be sought to consult with the Prime Minister and for him to circulate an agreed NPA to First Ministers for their signature.

Background

13. Following your agreement in MS19-001996 [Attachment D], the Department convened a working group to develop the 2019 National Action Plan.

14. The working group includes representatives from each state and territory and one representative each from the Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience and Safe Communities, Australian Red Cross, Resilient Sydney and QBE Insurance Group. Working group members, in consultation with their respective jurisdictions/sectors, provided initiatives and valuable feedback developing the 2019 National Action Plan.

15. Input was also provided by other Commonwealth agencies and key non-government partners including the Planning Institute of Australia, Australian Building Codes Board, Australian Sustainable Financing Initiative and the Investor Group on Climate Change.
16. The Department will work with a graphic designer to professionally design and typeset the finalised 2019 National Action Plan.

17. A consultant has been engaged to develop monitoring, evaluation and learning arrangements for the 2019 National Action Plan. These arrangements will be developed in 2020 in consultation with the working group.

Consultation – Secretary

18. The Secretary was not consulted on the approach in this submission.

Client service implications


Sensitivities

20. In accordance with our long standing practices, should you wish for unclassified media lines to be prepared in relation to this issue please contact the Home Affairs Media Coordination team – media@homeaffairs.gov.au.

22. The Department will continue to work with states and territories, through ANZEMC, to address this feedback and finalise the 2019 National Action Plan.

Financial/systems/legislation/deregulation/media implications

23. Nil
Attachments

Attachment A  Draft 2019 National Action Plan
Attachment B  Amended MCPEM paper for agenda item 4 - Implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
Attachment C  Draft National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction (version 2)
Attachment D  MS19-001996 – Implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

Authorising Officer

Cleared by:

John Gibbon
A/g Director General
Emergency Management Australia

Date: 11 November 2019
Ph. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact Officer  s. 22(1)(a)(ii) A/g Assistant Secretary, Disaster Risk Reduction Branch, Ph. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

CC  Secretary
Deputy Secretary Security and Resilience Group
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FRAMEWORK

RECOMMENDATIONS

s. 47C(1)
KEY ISSUES

National Action Plan for the implementation of the Framework

- The draft inaugural National Action Plan is a cross-sector collaboration between a targeted group of representatives from state, territory and federal governments, business and the community sector.

- The draft inaugural National Action Plan identifies a range of initiatives underway to achieve the Framework’s five-year outcomes. This showcases some of the good work being done at a local, state and national level across all sectors of the economy (see Attachment A - National Action Plan for implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework).

Disaster Risk Reduction funding arrangements

- The Australian Government committed $130.5 million over five years in the 2019 Federal Budget to reduce the risk and impact of disasters on Australians in line with the Framework (see Attachment B – National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework).

- The commitment comprises $104.4 million for state and local initiatives and $26.1 million for national initiatives, and is conditional on the entire $130.5 million package being fully matched by states and territories consistent with previous national agreements on disaster resilience.

- The Commonwealth proposes that funds are distributed annually using the following model:
CONSULTATION

Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee

Consultation was undertaken across the Commonwealth, jurisdictions, industry and the community sector in order to develop the first National Action Plan.

Negotiations between Commonwealth, state and territory emergency management and central agencies on the disaster risk reduction funding arrangements are ongoing.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Draft 2019 National Action Plan for implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

Attachment B: National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
Hi

Please find attached a mock-up of what the National Action Plan could potentially look like. Given the original plan was to seek MCPEM’s endorsement of the Action Plan, we engaged a graphic design company to design it. Even though we will only be presenting a draft Action Plan to Ministers for noting, we were wondering if you would like to be able to present this mock-up on the day (given we now have it). It will help illustrate what the Action Plan could look like.

Grateful if you could let me know so we can give the secretariat some copies to take to Adelaide.

Cheers

A/g Assistant Secretary
Disaster Risk Reduction Branch | Emergency Management Australia
Security and Resilience Group
Department of Home Affairs

T:  | M:  | E: @homeaffairs.gov.au
Just FYI.

Thanks and for putting together our input.

A/g Assistant Secretary
Disaster Risk Reduction Branch | Emergency Management Australia
Security and Resilience Group
Department of Home Affairs
T:  | M:  | E: @homeaffairs.gov.au

From: @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 15 November 2019 5:27 PM
To: @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; @homeaffairs.gov.au>; @homeaffairs.gov.au>; John GIBBON @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Joe BUFFONE

Subject: EMA Response: URGENT MO request - Disaster preparedness and resilience [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Please find below EMA’s response to the request for information on disaster preparedness and resilience, particular the Commonwealth financial support for initiatives, over the past five years that has been cleared by Robert Cameron (Director General, Emergency Management Australia).

**Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience**

**National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework**

The Department of Home Affairs developed the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework in close consultation with stakeholders across a wide cross section of society, including state, territory and local governments, industry and the community sectors. The Australian Government released the Framework in April 2019.

The Australian Government is working closely with industry, communities, and all levels of government to implement the Framework. This includes:

- publishing national guidance to help key decision makers understand and act to reduce risk, as well as guidance on how to prioritise disaster risk investment.
- working to establish a new national capability to ensure that people have access to the best information and guidance needed to make risk-informed decisions.

$s. 22(1)(a)(ii)$
Happy to discuss if you need anything further.

Best

Executive Officer to Robert Cameron OAM
Hi there,

Could EMA please provide information on disaster preparedness and resilience, particular the Commonwealth financial support for initiatives, over the past five years by email and copy in @homeaffairs.gov.au by nlt cob TODAY Friday 15 November 2019.

Please include information on:

- Disaster preparedness
  - NAFC
  - Annual briefings
- Resilience building
  - Including reference to Betterment funding
- Risk reduction
  - National frameworks including the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
    - Commonwealth funding for implementation—including current and previous NPA funding.
    - Commonwealth funding for states to undertake risk reduction initiatives

For your reference, PMO have requested the information.

Please feel free to give me a call to chat through any details or contact the EMA Advisers.

Kind regards,

Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Hon David Littleproud MP
Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management
M1.46, Parliament House, Canberra
P: M
E: @homeaffairs.gov.au
E: @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU

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QUESTION: Disaster Risk Reduction

KEY TALKING POINTS:

- The Australian Government is committed to reducing the impacts natural disasters have on Australian communities and the economy.

- We will do this under Australia’s National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework – a world best blueprint for reducing the risk of disasters for communities.
  - This is a framework for coordinated effort to understand and act on climate and disaster risk, not only by governments but together with all sectors of the economy and local communities.

- The Australian Government makes significant investment across a number of portfolios in projects that reduce the impacts of natural hazards.
  - For example, the Australian Government’s investment of $100 billion over 10 years in transport infrastructure includes investment in projects that incorporate mitigation against natural hazard risks.

- The Australian Government will invest $130.5 million over the next five years to deliver disaster risk reduction initiatives at the national, state and local level.

- The Emergency Response Fund will provide an additional and sustainable way to build resilience to, prepare for or reduce the risk of future natural disasters.

If asked: Is climate change impacting natural disasters in Australia?

- The climate is changing.

- Australian Government takes its advice on climate science from the Bureau of Meteorology and the CSIRO. In State of the Climate 2018 they set out the evidence for how the climate is changing, including how:
  - heatwaves, fire weather and drought have become more frequent and intense, and
  - rainfall has decreased in the southeast and southwest of Australia but has increased in parts of northern Australia, with some rainfall events becoming more intense.

- The underlying trends are clear: Australia is projected to experience more extremes into the future.

- These hazards become disasters when they damage our communities beyond their ability to cope.
If asked: ‘What will the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework deliver?’

- The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework sets out the foundational work required nationally, across all sectors, to address existing disaster risk, minimise new disaster risk, and deliver better climate and disaster risk information.

- The Framework encourages us to rethink how we reduce disaster risk and address issues such as where and how we live, how our money is invested and the resilience of essential services like food, telecommunications and power.

- It will help to ensure our decision makers are equipped with the right tools and information to understand the risks and make better decisions.

- The Australian Government is working closely with industry, communities, and state and territory governments to implement the Framework.

- A pilot project to establish a national climate and disaster risk information capability will be completed in 2020.

If asked: ‘What is being done to implement the Framework?’

- We are working with states and territories, as well as industry and the community sector, on a National Action Plan that sets out specific actions to implement the Framework.

  - For the first time this will give the big picture of how this effort comes together across Australia to reduce risk for Australians.

- The Government has committed to ensure that our own programs and investments are in line with the Framework.

- The Department has:
  - published resources to help key decision makers understand and act to reduce risk, and
  - held forums across the country to encourage decision makers across all sectors to take action to reduce disaster risk.

- We are working to establish a new national capability to ensure that people have access to the best information and guidance needed to make risk-informed decisions, to ensure we can continue to be resilient in the future.

  - A pilot project is underway in the freight sector to demonstrate the benefits and feasibility of the new national capability and is due to be completed in mid-2020.
If asked: ‘How much does the Australian Government contribute to disaster resilience?’

- As part of the 2019 Federal Budget, the Australian Government has committed $130.5 million over five years from 2019-20 to reduce the risk and impact of disasters on Australians in line with priorities of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

- The funding includes:
  - $104.4 million to support states and territories in reducing disaster risks at the state and local level, and
  - $26.1 million to deliver initiatives that reduce disaster risk at the national level, for the benefit of all Australians.

- The Emergency Response Fund will allow the Australian Government to draw from as much as $50 million per year to build preparedness to future natural disasters, and build the long-term sustainability of communities that are at risk of being affected by a future natural disaster.

If asked: ‘Disaster season is coming, why is the Framework taking so long to implement?’

- Framework implementation is already underway and we are developing the first national action plan that captures these initiatives across sectors. I look forward to reporting on our progress in a National Statement to Parliament later in 2019.

- The Framework sets the foundation for the next five years from 2019-2023 to address systemic disaster risk in all sectors.

- Organisations, governments and communities are all responsible for reducing disaster risk.
  - Already we are seeing organisations and governments using the tools and guidance we have published to change the way they are planning and investing, to reduce disaster risk.
  - I encourage organisations, governments and communities to be looking at what they each can be doing to implement the framework.
  - This is not about quick fixes. Some projects will be long-term.
If asked: ‘When will a new national partnership agreement be negotiated and spending start?’

- Funding negotiations with the states and territories have commenced and are progressing.
- The aim is to finalise a new national partnership agreement as soon as possible.
- Once the national partnership agreement is finalised, spending on risk reduction activities under that agreement can start.
- The Government invests in reducing risk in other portfolios, including the $100 billion infrastructure portfolio.

BACKGROUND AND CHRONOLOGY

In 2017, the Australian Government identified the need to reform Australia’s approach to disaster risk reduction, recognising that changes to natural hazards, population growth and urbanisation means that without action, more Australians will be affected by natural hazards and the cost of disasters will continue to grow.

On 11 September 2019, the ABC reported on documents obtained under a freedom of information request to the Department of Environment and Energy about the Secretaries Group on Climate Risk and scenario planning exercises conducted by the Group. The article included claims that there is no overarching government framework to help governments plan, and that climate change needs to be considered at a whole-of-government level because it has consequences that cut across government departments.