

From: Mark DOMINICK
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Joe BUFFONE s. 22(1)(a)(ii) National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Fund; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - Bundaberg Flood Levee application - further information as requested [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 28 April 2021 10:33:22 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[RE National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - request for further information on risks SECOFFICIAL.msg](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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

As requested last week, please find attached further information on potential risks associated with the Bundaberg Flood Levy East application under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (NFMIP).

The attached document contains responses from the applicant (Queensland Reconstruction Authority - QRA) to a request for further information on the impacts of the levee on properties upriver and on adjoining lands, community attitudes towards the levee, and how the Levee fits into the Bundaberg 10 year Action Plan.

For reference, I will also send you (in a separate email) the full application for the Bundaberg Levy that was sent to the Department by QRA on 12 Feb 2021 – the size limitation prevents me attaching it to this email.

Impacts of the levee on properties upriver and on adjoining lands

In its response to the question of whether the levy could increase the risk of flooding to adjoining lands, QRA references an engineering report which assesses that the proposed Levee will not make flooding worse elsewhere. QRA has also provided a fact sheet on the project (included in the attached email) which states the following: *The proposed levee has been designed to ensure that its construction will not make flooding worse elsewhere. The hydraulic model of the Burnett River was used to address this very issue for a range of potential levee options. The potential levees were modelled, and the change in flood level outside of the levee was measured. In general, it is possible to displace water from areas like Bundaberg Creek and Kendall Flats but not from areas like the Burnett River and the North Bundaberg floodplain.*

The factsheet does caveat, however, that this would not be the case in a 'rare but extreme' flooding event in which the levee is overtopped. On this point, the factsheet states: *It is possible that in the future, a rare but extreme flood may occur which would cause the levee to be overtopped. It is important that the community understands this risk, and that there will be a management plan in place to respond to a rare overtopping scenario should it occur..... Generally, it is impractical to build a levee high enough to completely eliminate the possibility of overtopping. A risk-based approach is therefore required to balance the level of protection afforded by a levee (i.e. minimising the chance of it overtopping) against the practicality and cost of its construction.*

Community attitudes towards the levee

A mandatory requirement for applicants that is set out in the NFMIP Guidelines is community consultation. To meet this requirement, QRA has referenced community consultations undertaken in 2016 and in 2018. QRA advises that the overall outcome of these consultations was 'positive'.

The consultations on the project appear to be comprehensive, and include correspondence sent in 2016 to about 600 owners of properties in Bundaberg North encouraging property owners to participate in engagement activities for the project. Community information meetings were also held, a dedicated website and information hotline were established, and advertisements were placed in the local media. The consultation report from 2016 (included in the attached email), states that the Bundaberg Levee East proposal '*was generally supported, recognised that would have positive impact on businesses. Issues raised related to: impact on property access, negative impacts on property values, potential to back up local drains, need for pumps and issues of ongoing maintenance*'.

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With respect to the need to acquire properties to build the levy, QRA advises that 4 lots of privately owned undeveloped land will be required to be acquired along the levee alignment in east Bundaberg. All lots are owned by one commercial entity. The landowner was consulted as part of levee alignment planning and at the time of consultation raised no objections to the proposed alignment.

In addition to the information supplied by QRA, I note that a number of media reports note that there is some opposition to the proposed Levee in the Bundaberg community. In particular:

- An ABC article from yesterday (26 Apr 2021) states that *'The Bundaberg community has not unanimously supported the levee'*, and that *'Bundaberg North resident Walter Whitbread said he had collected signatures from 4,000 people against the levee'*.
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-26/bundaberg-flood-levee-project-hits-snag-over-federal-funding/100095864>
- An article from the 'Bundaberg Today' newspaper article from 16 April 2021 titled *'Strong opposition to Bundaberg East Flood Levee'* states that a *'newly formed "Bundaberg Flood Protection Group" has been created by concerned Bundaberg residents who want to see flood protection for those who are most at risk of future flooding'*. The group's 'elected President' is quoted as saying that *'the East Bundaberg Levee poses significant construction risks'*, and that the *'levee also does very little for the residents of North Bundaberg and other low lying suburbs who were heavily impacted by the 2013 floods'*.
<https://bundabergtoday.com.au/news/2021/04/16/strong-opposition-to-bundaberg-east-flood-levee/>

How the Levee fits into the Bundaberg 10 year Action Plan

You also asked for further clarification on how the proposed levy fits into the Bundaberg 10 year Action Plan, and whether the levee could go ahead if the Floodway House Purchase Scheme project does not. QRA responded with advice that the Bundaberg 10 year Action Plan (Options 1-4) are independent of each other. QRA also advises that *'the Floodway House Purchase Scheme identified in the Bundaberg Flood 10 year Action Plan (Option 4) is not contingent of the levee and is specific to properties in North Bundaberg on the opposite side of the river to the proposed levee. This option was not well supported during community consultation and is subject to further consideration.'*

With respect to the assessment by the NFMIP panel of the Bundaberg Flood Levy East application, this was undertaken on the information supplied by the applicant only. The panel did not review any material from individuals or groups opposing the project. On balance, I think that QRA's application reasonably reflects risks and community attitudes. As the media reporting notes, however, there does appear to be some level of community concern about the project, and it is open to the Minister to weigh whether these concerns, and the risks which underpin them, have been sufficiently addressed in the proposal, in deciding on the application.

I trust that the information above covers off on your questions from last week. Please let me know if you would like any further information. The information above hasn't been cleared through DG EMA, but please let me know if you would like us to formalise the above advice through a Ministerial Submission.

Regards
Mark

Mark Dominick
Assistant Secretary
Disaster Preparedness Branch
Emergency Management and Coordination Group
Department of Home Affairs
t: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive**From:** Mark DOMINICK**Sent:** Thursday, 22 April 2021 12:22 PM**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>

Subject: RE: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - Bundaberg Flood Levee application[SEC=OFFICIAL]**OFFICIAL**

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

I've gone back to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority with a request for the additional information. Please see this attached. I think what I have asked for covers off on those aspects we discussed yesterday, but if there is anything else please let me know.

Once we have a response back from QRA, we'll collate it with our own research and information on risks from the original application and send it through to you.

Regards

Mark

Mark Dominick

Assistant Secretary

Disaster Preparedness Branch

Emergency Management and Coordination Group

Department of Home Affairs

t: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

OFFICIAL**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 April 2021 3:31 PM**To:** Mark DOMINICK s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Subject: Re: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - Bundaberg Flood Levee application[SEC=OFFICIAL]**OFFICIAL**

Hey Mark,

Thanks for this.

The Minister is after how all the projects fit together - ie the risks around the levy and whether and how these other programs deal with that.

Thanks for your work on this.

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

Sent by Email+

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From: "Mark DOMINICK" s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Date: Wednesday, 21 April 2021 at 12:43:29 pm
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - Bundaberg Flood Levee application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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

Following on from our conversation yesterday regarding the Bundaberg Flood Levee application, we went back to the applicant to confirm whether any of the funding sought from the Commonwealth would be used for any other/ancillary project. In particular, confirmation was sought on whether the application only relates to the construction of the flood mitigation aspects of the Bundaberg Flood Levy, and not the other projects outlined in the Bundaberg 10 year Action Plan (i.e. the Bundaberg North Evacuation Routes, the Upper Floodplain Evacuation Improvements, and the Floodway House Purchase Scheme).

As per the response below, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority has advised that the requested funding commitment only relates to the Bundaberg East Levee project.

Please let me know if you would like any further information.

Regards

Mark

Mark Dominick
 Assistant Secretary
 Disaster Preparedness Branch
 Emergency Management and Coordination Group
 Department of Home Affairs
 t: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

OFFICIAL**OFFICIAL**

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @qra.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 April 2021 5:00 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @qra.qld.gov.au>; National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Fund <national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - request for further information on application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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

Thank you for your email.

We can confirm that the requested funding commitment only relates to the Bundaberg East Levee project.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Regards

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



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

General Manager
Resilience

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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cid:image002.jpg@01D73B61.2F6ABDB0



From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Sent: Tuesday, 20 April 2021 4:41 PM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@qra.qld.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@qra.qld.gov.au); National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Fund

<national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@qra.qld.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@qra.qld.gov.au); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Subject: RE: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - request for further information on application
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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

As discussed on the phone, we have a further question regarding the Bundaberg Flood Levee.

Could you please confirm whether any Commonwealth funding sought under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program will be used for any other/ancillary project. In particular, please confirm whether the application only relates to the construction of the flood mitigation aspects of the Bundaberg Flood Levy and not the other projects outlined in the Bundaberg 10 year Action Plan (i.e. the Bundaberg North Evacuation Routes, the Upper Floodplain Evacuation Improvements, and the Floodway House Purchase Scheme).

Grateful for your response by 9.30am tomorrow if possible.

Please contact s. 22(1)(a)(ii) should you have any questions.

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Kind regards,

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program
Emergency Management and Coordination
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national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@gra.qld.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@gra.qld.gov.au)>

Sent: Thursday, 25 March 2021 1:14 PM

To: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Fund <national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@gra.qld.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@gra.qld.gov.au)>

Subject: RE: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - request for further information on application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon,

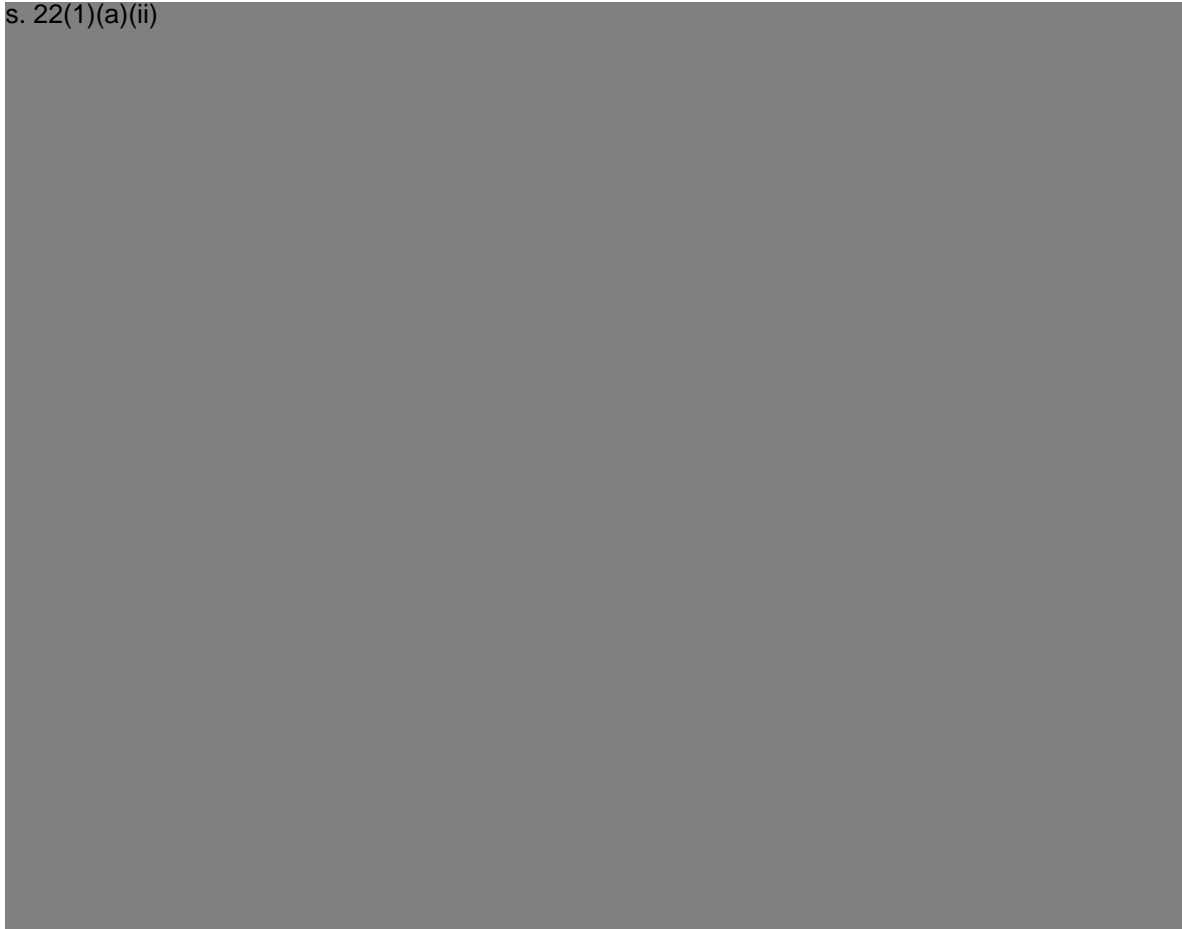
Thank you for your email. Responses are provided below

Project	Item requiring clarification	Response
Project 1: Bundaberg Flood Levee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application indicates that some aspects of the project relates other purposes such as café and entertainment facilities. What aspects of the project does the funding request cover? 2. Does requested funding request covers all aspects of the project, would Queensland be open to partial funding for the levee component? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project includes some proposed amenity enhancements to the levee structure which are considered essential for the urban setting of this levee and related community benefit. Whilst there is provision in the levee design for a future lettable commercial area under the observation deck on the levee, there are no café or entertainment setup or fit-out cost inclusions in the funding requested. 2. The Queensland Government is seeking a 50% co-contribution from the Commonwealth, of currently identified construction related costs for this important flood mitigation project.

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

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



Please advise if you have any further questions.

Regards

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



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

General Manager
Resilience

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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cid:image002.png@01D5FBAF.6504A730



From: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Fund [<mailto:national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au>]

Sent: Friday, 19 March 2021 2:44 PM

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

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

Subject: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - request for further information on application
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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

Thank you for providing the applications to the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (NFIMP). We appreciate the significant investment of time and effort that you have already devoted to this process, including

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any clarification provided following the initial project review process.

The Program Review Panel (the panel) is currently in the process of assessing applications for funding under the NFMIP.

In accordance with clause 6.2.3 of the January 2021 Program Guidelines (attached) the panel is responsible for substantiating claims made in applications. In order to meet their responsibilities and assist the panel to make its recommendations, the panel have requested some further information or clarification in relation to a number of projects.

The specific questions the panel have are listed in the table below:

Project	Item requiring clarification	Response
Project 1: Bundaberg Flood Levee	Application indicates that some aspects of the project relates other purposes such as café and entertainment facilities. What aspects of the project does the funding request cover? Does requested funding request covers all aspects of the project, would Queensland be open to partial funding for the levee component?	

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

This opportunity to provide additional information will allow the panel to make robust, evidence based recommendations in accordance with the *Emergency Response Fund Guidelines* and ensure that Department meets its probity responsibilities under clause 6.6 of the attached guidelines.

Please contact s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Director EMA Strategy, (cc'd) should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kind regards,

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program

Emergency Management and Coordination

Department of Home Affairs

national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Mark DOMINICK
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Fund; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - request for further information on risks [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 23 April 2021 12:58:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[Bundaberg action plan factsheet FAQs.pdf](#)
[Bundaberg flood protection study community engagement report.pdf](#)

Good afternoon Mark

In response to the request for further information on the application to the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program for the Bundaberg Levee project, Queensland provides the following responses and attached community consultation summary document. Additionally, the detailed Bundaberg Levee business case and supporting information was provided directly to the Deputy Prime Minister by the Queensland Deputy Premier, in correspondence dated 15 March 2021. The detailed business case is consistent with Infrastructure Australia requirements.

Queensland would be pleased to provide any further technical information required to consider the Bundaberg Levee application and is available to discuss the responses below.

1. ***Potential impact from the levee on the broader river system. In particular, are you able to please provide information on the impacts of the levee on properties upriver and on lands adjoining the proposed levee. Will the proposed levee create greater flood risks in areas not protected by the levee? If so can you please provide details.***

- Potential impacts from the levee placement were assessed as part of flood modelling and associated studies conducted by Jacobs. The government engaged Jacobs, an internationally recognised engineering firm, to undertake an independent review of previous flood studies, floodplain risk management plans and the community consultation process. A detailed flood study was prepared to support identification of the levee alignment.
- The proposed levee has been designed to ensure that its construction will not make flooding worse elsewhere, including on properties not protected by it or on properties upriver from the levee.
- Further information on this matter can be found in *Fact Sheet – Bundaberg East Levee* (refer attachment).

2. ***Summary of the feedback received in community consultations on the project, and community attitudes towards the levee. How many properties will be impacted by a buyback, have the property owners been consulted, and are there sections of the community who oppose the project as currently designed. If so, can we please understand the basis of any concerns.***

- A summary of community feedback on 2016 engagement is contained in the consultation report – *Bundaberg Flood Protection Study – Stage 2 Consultation Report* (refer attachment).
- Further engagement was undertaken in June 2018. The majority of people who provided feedback during this community engagement on the levee reported positive feedback on the proposed levee design, alignment and concept.
- To enable the construction of the levee, 4 lots of privately owned undeveloped land will be required to be acquired along the levee alignment in east Bundaberg. All lots are owned by one commercial entity. The landowner was consulted as part of levee alignment planning and at the time of consultation raised no objections to the proposed alignment.
- The Floodway House Purchase Scheme identified in the Bundaberg Flood 10 year Action Plan (Option 4) is not contingent of the levee and is specific to properties in North Bundaberg on the opposite side

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of the river to the proposed levee. This option was not well supported during community consultation and is subject to further consideration.

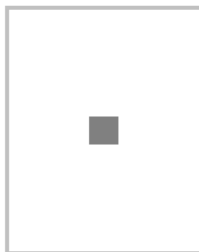
3. ***Funding commitment only relates to the Bundaberg East Levee project - could we please receive an explanation of how the Levee and other projects outlined in the Bundaberg 10 year Action Plan are linked or interdependent. In particular, are the Bundaberg North Evacuation Routes, Upper Floodplain Evacuation Improvements, and the Floodway House Purchase Scheme project enabling projects for the Levee, or are they completely separate projects. For example, could the Levee go ahead if the Floodway House Purchase Scheme project does not?***

- Of all of the Bundaberg Flood Action Plan options the Bundaberg levee is the most beneficial in protecting and mitigating flood impacts.
- The Bundaberg 10 year Action Plan Options 1-4 are independent of each other.
- The options were developed from an original list of 11 options and involved extensive community input to their review and assessment.
- Initial Upper Floodplain Evacuation Route improvements were completed in conjunction with Bundaberg Regional Council in 2019, with State funding of \$1million.

Please advise if you have any further questions.

Regards

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



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

General Manager
Resilience

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

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cid:image002.png@01D5FBAF.6504A730

From: Mark DOMINICK [mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 21 April 2021 5:45 PM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @qra.qld.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @qra.qld.gov.au>; National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Fund <national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au>

Subject: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - request for further information on risks

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

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

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Thank you for the additional information provided yesterday regarding the Bundaberg East Levee project. As discussed earlier today, we would like to request further information pertaining to potential risks with the project.

Firstly, could we please request specific information on the impact that the levee will have on the broader river system. In particular, are you able to please provide information on the impacts of the levee on properties upriver and on lands adjoining the proposed levee. Will the proposed levee create greater flood risks in areas not protected by the levee? If so can you please provide details.

Secondly, could we please request a summary of the feedback received in community consultations on the project, and community attitudes towards the levee. How many properties will be impacted by a buyback, have the property owners been consulted, and are there sections of the community who oppose the project as currently designed. If so, can we please understand the basis of any concerns.

Thirdly, I note your response below that the requested funding commitment only relates to the Bundaberg East Levee project, however could we please receive an explanation of how the Levee and other projects outlined in the Bundaberg 10 year Action Plan are linked or interdependent.

In particular, are the Bundaberg North Evacuation Routes, Upper Floodplain Evacuation Improvements, and the Floodway House Purchase Scheme project enabling projects for the Levee, or are they completely separate projects. For example, could the Levee go ahead if the Floodway House Purchase Scheme project does not?

Thank you for your assistance and responsiveness as we work through the application process, its greatly appreciated.

Best regards
Mark

Mark Dominick
Assistant Secretary
Disaster Preparedness Branch
Emergency Management and Coordination Group
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: [Mark DOMINICK](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Joe BUFFONE](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii); [National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Fund](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: For reference - Full application - Bundaberg Flood Levee East [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 28 April 2021 10:41:27 AM
Attachments: [Queensland Applications for National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - Email 1 of 22 - Bundaberg East Levee.msg](#)
[Queensland response request for further Information - National Flood M....docx](#)

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

Further to my previous email, please find attached the full application for the Bundaberg Levy that was sent to the Department by QRA on 12 Feb 2021 for your reference.

Regards

Mark

Mark Dominick
Assistant Secretary
Disaster Preparedness Branch
Emergency Management and Coordination Group
Department of Home Affairs
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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Fund](#)
Subject: Queensland Applications for National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - Email 1 of 22 - Bundaberg East Levee
Date: Friday, 12 February 2021 3:06:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Application - National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - Bundaberg East Levee....pdf](#)
[Attachment 1 - Images of Flood Modelling - Bundaberg East Levee.pdf](#)
[Attachment 2 - Bundaberg Flood Levee Design JDA Presentation.pdf](#)
[MBN21-11 - Letter to Hon David Littleproud MP.PDF](#)
[NFMIP Application Cover Sheet.pdf](#)
[Att 1 - List of applications - National Flood Mitigation Infrastructuredocx](#)

Good afternoon,

Please find attached:

- Queensland's application cover sheet;
- A copy of the relevant Queensland Minister's endorsement of Queensland's applications; and
- An application from Queensland for the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program.

Please note that each application will be sent as a separate email. May I ask that you please confirm via return email that you have received all 22 emails.

Regards

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



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

General Manager

Resilience

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

P s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @qra.qld.gov.au

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

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National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program

Project Application Form

This project application form is to be completed for each project that seeks funding from the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program.

In order for this application to be considered eligible, all sections must be completed, with the finalised application attached to the Application Covering Sheet, prepared by the relevant state or territory government.

Grey instructional text should be deleted prior to submission.

Part 1B – Application Overview	
State/territory	Queensland
Project name	Bundaberg Flood Levee
Will this project be delivered by a third party, such as a commercial service provider or through a local government?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name of the third party or local government	<p>The Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) is leading the business case/funding identification phase of the project.</p> <p>Lead agency responsibility for delivery phase of the project will be determined subject to securing funding for project construction.</p> <p>Bundaberg Regional Council has been consulted about and is supportive of project.</p>
State/Territory Contact officer	<p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p>General Manager, Resilience Queensland Reconstruction Authority Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@qra.qld.gov.au</p>

Part 2B – Project Overview	
Will this project result in the construction of a new asset?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, where will this asset be located	The Bundaberg Flood Levee will be located within the Bundaberg local government area. The levee will run parallel to the southern bank of the Burnett River, across Bundaberg Creek along Quay Street, in central Bundaberg.
Will this project result in the improvement of an existing asset?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, where is this asset located?	N/A
If yes, provide an overview of the works	N/A

Part 3B – Existing Infrastructure	
Has the asset ever been impacted by a natural disaster?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details of the event	In January 2013, ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald produced extreme rainfall and flooding across Queensland with some of the most severe impacts in the Bundaberg region. Bundaberg City experienced its largest flood on record. North Bundaberg and other

	<p>low-lying areas of the city were affected, along with numerous coastal and rural communities along the Burnett River and other river and creek systems across the Bundaberg region.</p> <p>Approximately 2,400 properties were destroyed or damaged, 7,000 people were evacuated and 600 businesses were damaged. This devastation brought about the need to implement effective long-term flood mitigation solutions.</p> <p>Following this event, Bundaberg Regional Council and the Queensland Government have been working with the community and independent experts to identify potential works that will provide flood mitigation solutions for the people of Bundaberg, their homes, businesses and the local economy.</p>
Has financial assistance, such as that available under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, ever been received for this asset?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please provide details	<p>No funding has been received under the DRFA.</p> <p>The <i>Bundaberg 10-year Action Plan</i> was launched in June 2017 with a commitment of \$4 million to further develop the engineering concepts, costings and planning for major flood mitigation works in the Bundaberg region.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has committed \$42.5 million towards the construction of the Bundaberg Flood Levee.</p>
Has financial assistance previously been, or is currently being, provided through Commonwealth, state/territory or other initiatives to support this asset?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Part 4B – Detailed project overview	
Detailed project description	<p>The Bundaberg Flood Levee will involve the construction of a levee consisting of two main segments covering about 1.7km:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City Alignment is approximately 1,045m long and generally extends along the northern edge of Quay Street from the intersection of Toonburra Street across Saltwater Creek to the intersection of Scotland Street. The alignment then follows Scotland Street to the intersection of Cran Street. 2. The Sugar Mill Alignment is approximately 680m long and crosses Distillery Creek. It extends from the intersection of Cran Street and Scotland Street and runs east along Cran Street and parallel to the river bank until it terminates north of the sugar mill. <p>The key feature of the project is a concrete floodwall, which will range in height (depending on geography and hydrology) between approximately 0.4m and 2m.</p> <p>The floodwall will protect against all floods on record. This would be complemented by flood gates and a pump station across Bundaberg Creek that would be closed in the event of an emerging flood event in order to protect assets behind the levee.</p> <p>Additional architectural design features will also be included to facilitate recreational use and other amenity values in the vicinity of the levee. At certain points (for example, Scotland Street crossing) vehicle access gates, which can be closed in the event of a flood, will ensure access across the levee is maintained for local residents.</p>
Why is this project required?	<p>Construction of the levee will reduce the risk and impact of flood events and mitigate flooding for over 600 buildings and increase flood protection, mitigate damage, and protect the Bundaberg East area from a 100-year average recurrence interval design flood event.</p> <p>The primary objectives which drive the need for flood mitigation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduced flood risk to life and reduced flood impacts on people • reduced flood risk to property • to achieve a balanced investment approach that considers social, economic and environmental issues, long-term reduction in flood risk, and adaptable levels of protection. <p>Flood modelling of the anticipated impacts of the construction of the Bundaberg Flood Levee (Attachment 1) and a design overview of the levee (Attachment 2) are attached to the application.</p> <p>Further information related to the design, construction and benefits of the levee can be provided.</p>
Are documents attached to provide evidence of this need?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

What are the proposed outcomes for this project?	<p>Geotechnical testing and the under-seepage modelling has concluded a flood prevention wall is the most viable and effective solution for flood protection in Bundaberg.</p> <p>The key anticipated benefits of the Bundaberg Flood Levee are primarily reductions in expected future costs of flooding and additional amenity enhancements to the area.</p> <p>In particular, construction of the levee is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce the risk and impact of flood events and mitigate flooding for over 600 buildings in all but the worst floods • increase flood protection, mitigate damage and protect the Bundaberg East area from a 100-year average recurrence interval design flood event.
What is the proposed delivery timeframe for this project?	<p>Proposed delivery timeframes for the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-21 – finalisation of geotechnical investigations; surveying and essential services mapping; preparations of detail design specification; and tender documentation. • 2021-22 to 2022-23 project delivery.

Part 5B – Financial	
What is the estimated cost for this project?	\$85 million
Will a co-contribution be provided?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, what is the value of the co-contribution?	The Queensland Government has committed \$42.5 million towards the project and is seeking a 50 per cent funding contribution to the cost of the Bundaberg Flood Levee from the Commonwealth Government.
If yes, who is providing the co-contribution?	Queensland Government

Part 6B – Community Consultation	
Has community consultation been undertaken prior to the submission of this application?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please provide details of this consultation	<p>Significant community consultation and engagement has occurred during the development of the Bundaberg Flood Levee proposal and the associated development of the <i>Bundaberg 10-year Action Plan</i>.</p> <p>Commencing in 2016, concept designs were presented to local and state government agencies for review, and information sessions were held for the community to engage with the project, view the concept designs and provide feedback.</p> <p>In June 2017, the Queensland Government provided funding of \$4 million for further engagement with community and industry specialists to refine and progress flood mitigation solutions. This work is now complete and resulted in the selection of the Bundaberg Flood Levee as the preferred option. There is a high expectation among community that the Bundaberg Flood Levee project will proceed to construction.</p>

	Further information about consultation undertaken can be provided, upon request.
Are documents attached to provide evidence of this consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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Figure 1

Do nothing

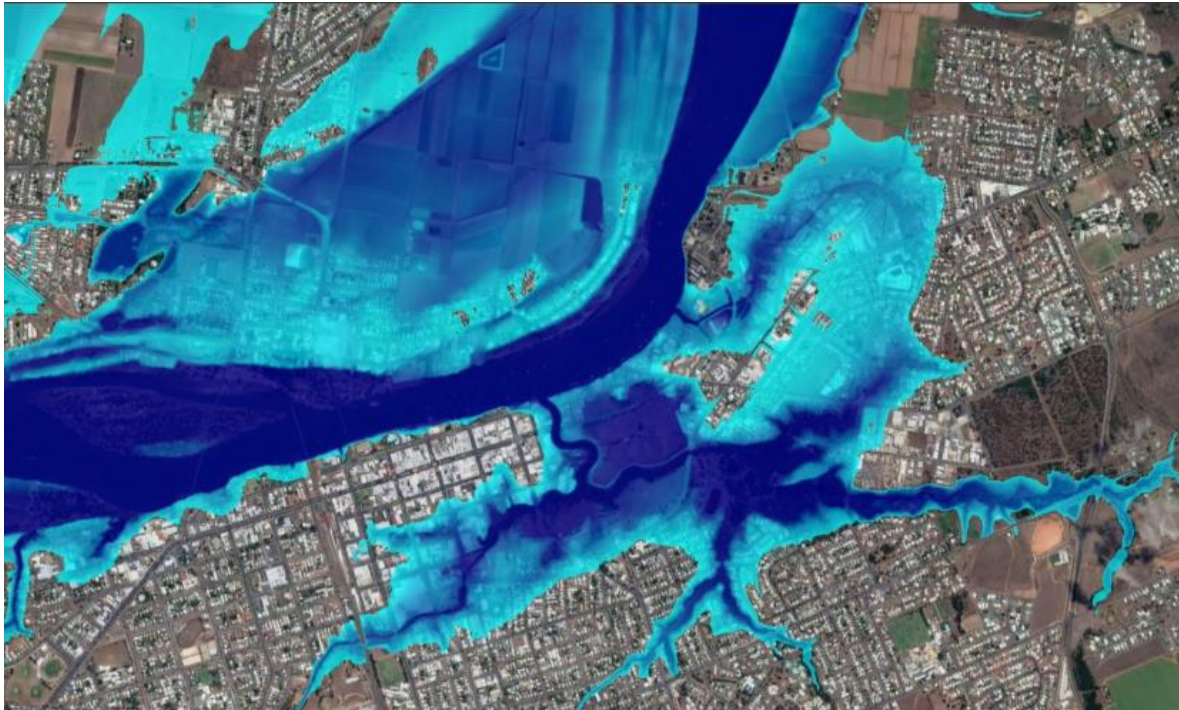
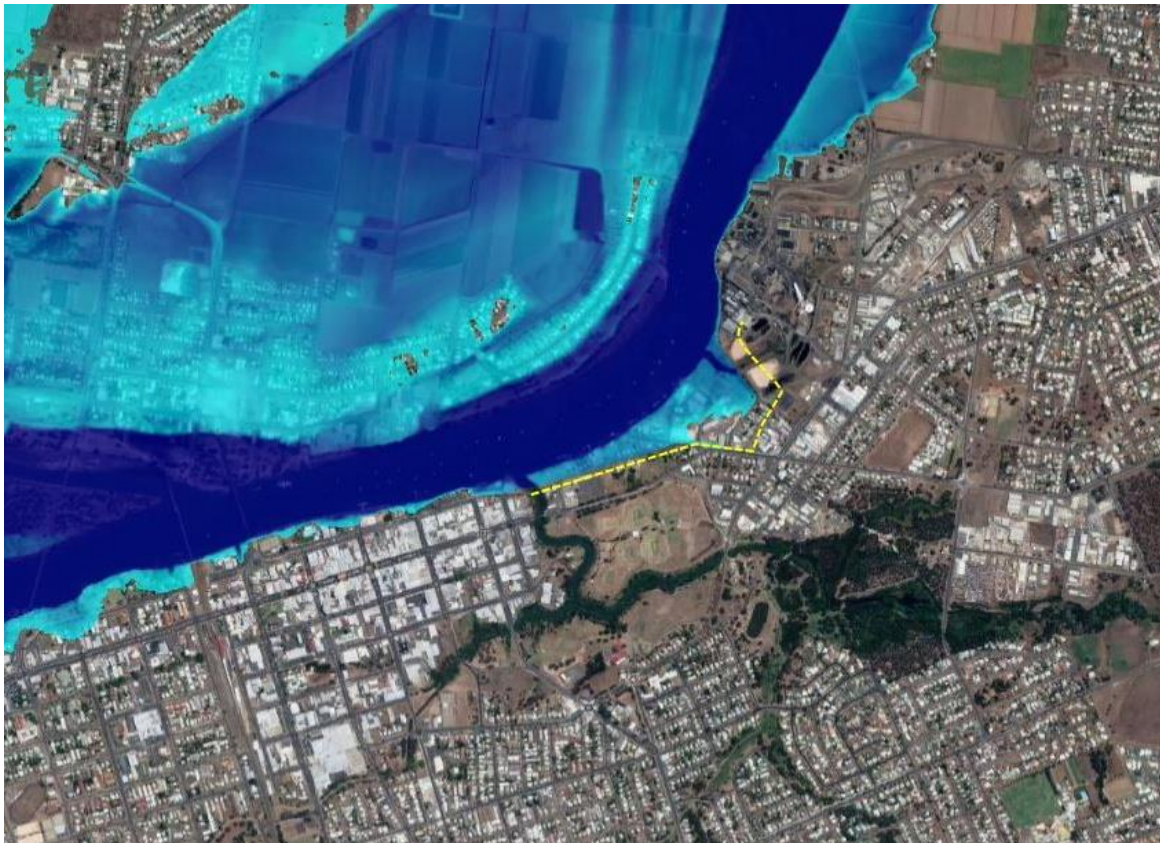


Figure 2

Construct levee



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Hon Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning

Our ref: MBN21/11

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ABN 65 959 415 158

12 FEB 2021

The Honourable David Littleproud MP
 Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management
 minister.littleproud@awe.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 22 December 2020 to the Honourable Mark Ryan MP, Queensland Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Fire and Emergency Services inviting the Queensland Government to submit applications for the \$50 million National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (the program).

As noted in my letter of 5 February 2021, as the Minister responsible for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and Minister for Local Government, I will endorse applications on behalf of the Queensland Government. The Honourable Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Fire and Emergency Services has been copied into this letter.

The Queensland Government appreciates the opportunity to apply for funding under the program. As you know, Queensland has a strong commitment to flood risk reduction and this program provides an opportunity to strengthen resilience across Queensland communities.

I am pleased to endorse the submission of 20 applications under the program, which will be sent by QRA to Emergency Management Australia. A summary of Queensland's applications is enclosed.

I note the updated guidelines provided to Queensland on 1 February 2021 require projects to be submitted in order of priority. In Queensland, with its level of exposure to multiple disaster events, projects that help reduce flood risk and keep people safe are of equal importance to the communities which submitted them.

However, in light of the Australian Government's request for prioritisation, and while hoping you will consider all of the submissions as worthy of funding, Queensland has classified five of the projects as high priority, based on critical impact to people and public safety.

Given the number of applications seeking funding for sensible, practical and much needed projects to help protect communities from flooding, I also encourage you to consider allocating the full \$100 million towards the program, as originally promised had the program opened on time in 2019-20.

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I look forward to further advice on the outcome of your assessment. If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Chief of Staff in my office, by email at s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@ministerial.qld.gov.au or by telephone on s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely



STEVEN MILES MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning

Enc

cc: The Honourable Mark Ryan MP
Minister for Police and Corrective Services and
Fire and Emergency Services
police@ministerial.qld.gov.au

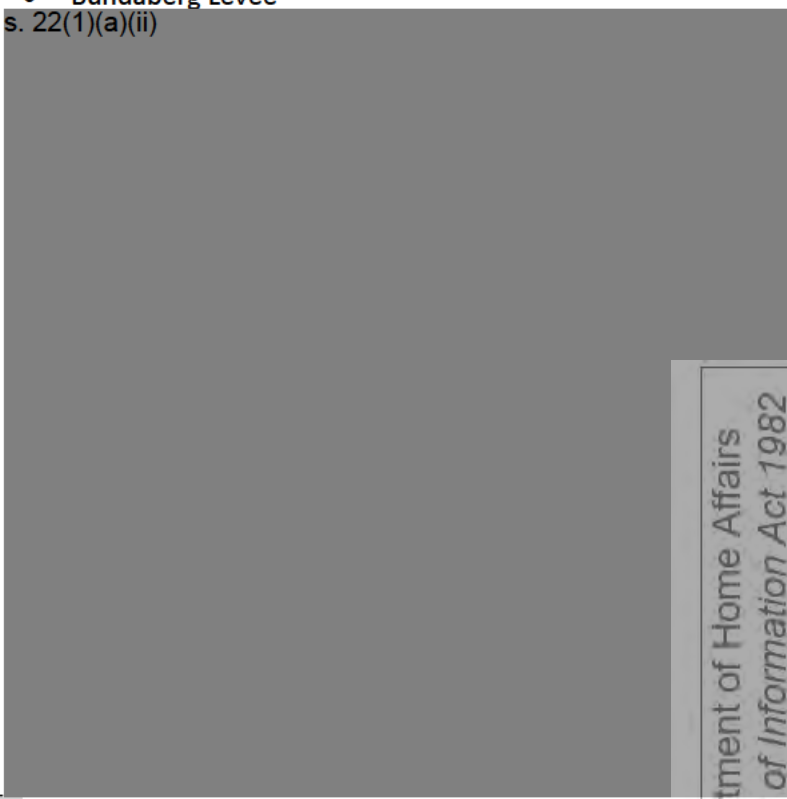
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National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program
Application Covering Sheet


Email completed application forms to national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au

Part 1A – Applicant Information	
State/territory	Queensland
Organisation/Department	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Contact Officer	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) General Manager Resilience Queensland Reconstruction Authority s. 22(1)(a)(ii) gra.qld.gov.au

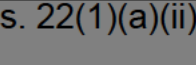
Part 2A – Submission overview	
Number of applications submitted	20
Total value of bids submitted	\$127,364,901
Name of applications submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bundaberg Levee s. 22(1)(a)(ii) 
Are these applications eligible for funding as per the criteria outlined in the Program Guidelines?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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Part 3A – Prioritisation

Order of prioritisation	<p>Queensland has categorised five of the projects as high priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bundaberg Levee <p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> 
Basis for this prioritisation	<p>All of the projects submitted under the program have been identified by their communities as important projects to mitigate flood risk and as such cannot be prioritised over one another.</p> <p>Queensland has categorised five of the projects as high priority given their critical impact to mitigating risk and increasing public safety.</p>

Part 4A – Minister's clearance

Minister's Name	The Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
Title	Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
Date of clearance	12 February 2021
Signature	See attached letter from Deputy Premier Miles to Minister Littleproud
Minister's Office contact	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  @ministerial.qld.gov.au

Attachment 1

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - Queensland applications

Location (LGA)	Project description	Cost
Priority projects		
Bundaberg Regional Council (Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning)	Bundaberg Levee Construction of a levee consisting of two main segments covering about 1.7 kilometres. The key feature of the project is a concrete floodwall, which will protect against all floods on record. This would be complemented by flood gates and a pump station across Bundaberg Creek that would be closed in the event of an emerging flood event in order to protect assets behind the levee. It will mitigate flood impacts for over 600 buildings. The Queensland Government has committed \$42.5 million towards the project and is seeking a 50 per cent funding contribution from the Australian Government (total project value \$85 million).	\$42,500,000

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

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National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program

Queensland Applications

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information to support Queensland's applications under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program.

The following elements have been addressed:

1. Prioritisation
2. Consultation (refer Table 1)
3. Purpose and Outcomes (refer Table 1)
4. Other project clarification

1 – Prioritisation

Queensland has prioritised National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program projects using the [Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework](#), which recognises national and international disaster risk reduction, mitigation and adaptation approaches, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the National Risk Reduction Framework and relevant implementation materials such as the [Guidance for Strategic Decisions on Climate and Disaster Risk \(Guidance on Prioritisation\)](#).


The key considerations from the Framework are:

- Issue identification
- Alignment to broader government policy
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Evidence base
- Community benefits realisation
- Collaboration
- Innovation.

Below is Queensland's prioritised list:

1. Bundaberg Levee

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



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Background

In 2019, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA), in consultation with a range of government and industry stakeholders, developed the [Queensland Disaster Resilience and Mitigation Investment Framework](#) (the Framework). The Framework provides guidance on effective investment decision-making and prioritisation to support disaster resilience and mitigation across Queensland.

The Framework embraces the guiding principles of the [Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2017](#) (QSDR) and enables the four QSDR objectives:

1. Queenslanders understand their disaster risk
2. Strengthened disaster risk management
3. Queenslanders are invested in disaster risk reduction
4. There is continuous improvement in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Table 1: Additions for Consultation; and Purpose and Outcomes

Location (LGA) and Project description	Elements for clarification: Consultation; and Purpose and Outcomes	
Project	Consultation (clause 5.5)	Purpose and Outcomes (clause 2.3)
ALL PROJECTS	It is imperative to note that some projects do not lend themselves to community consultation (e.g. culvert upgrades, bitumen seal), however, all projects have been identified as priorities by the relevant council to the Queensland Government, through QRA.	<p>In relation to the below outcome “reduction in the expected future eligible expenditure under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018”, the below information can be applied to all projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in mitigation has proven to reduce risk to the community and reduce reconstruction costs from future events. Mitigation projects have resulted in communities being less vulnerable to flooding events, assets functioning sooner and expenditure under the DRFA reduced for future events. An upfront investment of approximately \$90 million through the Queensland Betterment Fund to assets that have been impacted by subsequent events has seen more than \$145 million in avoided reconstruction costs under the DRFA, as well as improvements to community connectedness, with some assets that previously took months to return to functionality returning as soon as waters receded.
Bundaberg Regional Council Bundaberg Levee	<p>Addition: The following links to factsheets and media articles demonstrate the degree of public consultation that has occurred over several years with respect to this project:</p> <p>https://dilgpprd.blob.core.windows.net/general/bundaberg-action-plan-the-story-so-far.pdf</p> <p>https://www.bundabergnow.com/2020/09/28/community-calls-for-flood-levee/</p> <p>https://www.bundabergnow.com/2020/09/25/flood-protection-bundaberg-regional-council-election-priority/</p> <p>https://bundabergactionplan.initiatives.qld.gov.au/</p>	<p>Addition: This application will support Bundaberg mitigate its priority flood risk, and reduce the impact of flood events.</p> <p>The Bundaberg Levee will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduction in the impact of future floods on Bundaberg; reduction in the expected future eligible expenditure under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018; addressing household insurance affordability as a result of the construction of the flood mitigation infrastructure; and ancillary to the above, local job creation.

Location (LGA) and Project description	Elements for clarification: Consultation; and Purpose and Outcomes	
Project	Consultation (clause 5.5)	Purpose and Outcomes (clause 2.3)
	https://dsdmipprd.blob.core.windows.net/gener al/bundaberg_action_plan_factsheet-faqs.pdf	<p>In its 2021-22 Pre-Budget Submission to the Commonwealth, Suncorp Group Limited (Suncorp) argued that we must build more resilient communities through greater disaster mitigation in the face of climate impacts and a growing population settling in exposed regions. Suncorp highlighted the Bundaberg East flood levee as a project of significance.</p> <p>It is expected insurance premiums may be reduced for up to 600 properties in Bundaberg East that will be protected by the levee. In Queensland, flood mitigation investments in Roma and St George have shown a net benefit of \$64.7 million and \$25.7 million, respectively, over the next 50 years, and have led to insurance premiums in these communities lowered by amounts exceeding 50 per cent, and in some cases 90 per cent (Financial Review, Apr 23, 2017).</p> <p>Bundaberg has suffered significant flood impacts in the past from the Burnett River. The last flood event occurred in 2013 with an insured loss of \$987 million, the majority of which was centred on Bundaberg.</p> <p>Flooding is considered relevant in 10,376 building policies in Bundaberg where the median premium is \$1307.</p> <p>Measures to reduce the flood frequency or flood depth for exposed residents would assist to compress premiums. Bundaberg Regional Council (BRC), in concert with the Queensland Government, has developed a comprehensive 10yr Action Plan to reduce flood risk.</p> <p>The plan includes permanent mitigation works to protect targeted areas in the catchment. Removing high flood risks for residents could result in an average premium reduction of \$349 (27%) for those residents (Insurance Council of Australia, Mitigation and Policy-in-Force Analysis, REPORT 20/12/19).</p>

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

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Mark DOMINICK
Cc: Joe BUFFONE; Hayley PETRIE; Kaylene ZAKHAROFF; Ereni WEBER; National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Fund; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: For reference - Full application - Bundaberg Flood Levee East [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 28 April 2021 1:17:21 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi there Mark,

Thanks for all the attached info and for your earlier email.

We would appreciate a brief that covers:

- The process the Intergovernmental panel went through in their selection process – ie was there further analysis on the information provided by the state governments?
- A detailed section on the risks and sensitivities
- An expansion on the benefits paragraph that was included in the table – unlocked economic potential and “had community support”. Is there a separate evaluation or assessment from the Intergovernmental Panel?
- How the levee fits in with the other State Government mitigation plans for Bundaberg

We would appreciate by 3pm Friday please.

Thanks again!

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

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

Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture, Drought, and Emergency Management
MG.64, Parliament House, Canberra
P s. 22(1)(a)(ii) M s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: Mark DOMINICK s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 April 2021 10:41 AM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Cc: Joe BUFFONE s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Fund <national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: For reference - Full application - Bundaberg Flood Levee East [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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

Further to my previous email, please find attached the full application for the Bundaberg Levy that was sent to the Department by QRA on 12 Feb 2021 for your reference.

Regards
Mark

Mark Dominick
Assistant Secretary
Disaster Preparedness Branch
Emergency Management and Coordination Group
Department of Home Affairs
t: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) m: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au

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Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Background Brief

For information

PDMS Number: MB21-000558

To: Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management

Subject: National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program – Bundaberg Flood Levee Application

Your office requested additional details relating to Queensland's application for funding from the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (the Program) for the Bundaberg Flood Levee.

Background

1. On 12 April 2021, the Department's recommendations under the Program, funded through the s. 34(3) [REDACTED] were finalised and lodged with your office for decision. **Attachment A**
2. The two funding options recommended by the Director General of Emergency Management Australia (EMA) include funding for a component of the cost of the Bundaberg Flood Levee (the levee). The levee was identified by the Queensland Government as Queensland's priority application.
3. The Director General's recommendation followed the advice from the intergovernmental Program Review Panel (the Panel) that assessed the project as a highly impactful flood mitigation infrastructure project in accordance with the Program's Guidelines. The levee project received the highest rated score nationally for all projects submitted to the Program.
4. The project involves construction of a 1.7 kilometre concrete floodwall (built to a flood level equivalent of that experienced in 2013) to protect Bundaberg East. The project also includes construction of flood gates and a pump station across Bundaberg Creek that would be closed prior to or during an emerging flood event to protect assets behind the levee. The design includes recreational use and other amenities. However, Queensland has confirmed that Commonwealth funding would not be used for the non-flood mitigation elements of the project.
5. The levee has been developed as part of a 10-Year Action Plan. The Plan identifies, scopes and assesses a package of hard infrastructure and other initiatives to enhance Bundaberg's resilience to flood. This has included several technical engineering studies, flood risk assessments, and substantial community consultation.
6. Following the Department's submission of its recommendations for the Program, additional information was sought from Queensland about the levee in line with a request from your office. This information, provided to your office on Wednesday, 28 April 2021, is at **Attachment B**.
7. The Panel has not been reconvened to undertake any further assessment of the levee project in light of the additional information.

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive**Key Issues***Application Review Process*

8. The assessment criteria for the Program were outlined in the Program Guidelines.
9. Each panel member assessed projects using the applications and supporting documents against the Guidelines and from the perspective of their agency's responsibilities. Further analysis was also considered, including information searches regarding:
 - past natural disaster events, disaster impacts, and notifications and claims under the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements* (DRFA) (and its predecessor);
 - previous applications to Government for funding from other relevant programs for the specific project;
 - evidence of community consultation and any issues that may have been publicly raised or reported; or
 - eligibility for funding through other relevant Government programs, primarily infrastructure, disaster risk reduction and/or recovery programs.
10. Requests for further information were collated from the Panel's assessments and were sent to the relevant state or territory government contacts for a response and/or supporting documentation.
11. Assessments were undertaken and recorded individually by Panel members and brought forward for discussion at two separate Panel meetings. From these discussions, the Panel agreed to a short list of eligible projects.
12. Panel members provided the Department with scoring of the projects against an assessment matrix. A weighted score was generated for each project using an agreed formula.
13. The Civil, Commercial and Employment Law Branch within the Department, reviewed the assessment process for the Program and advised that sufficient steps were taken throughout the assessment process to mitigate probity and assurance risks.
14. Further information about the assessment process has been provided in **Attachment A**.

Benefits of the Bundaberg Flood Levee

15. The Panel discussed the merits, risks and issues associated with the levee, but noted in particular that:
 - there would likely be significant future avoided recovery costs for the Commonwealth and communities more broadly, noting the Australian Government has funded more than half of Queensland's eligible recovery costs under the DRFA since the 2010-11 floods and Tropical Cyclone Yasi—the economic cost to buildings caused by of a flood event in the area is estimated by Queensland to be between \$55 million – \$182 million depending on the scale of the event.
 - there was a clear commitment to the project from the Queensland Government, supported by significant co-contribution at half the cost (\$42.5 million of the \$85 million project). Among other things, this demonstrated the likelihood the project would be successful.
 - construction of the levee was assessed as highly likely to reduce the risk and impact of flood events for over 600 buildings, mitigate damage and the risk of loss of life, and have a positive impact on both insurability and insurance premiums.

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- the evidence provided by Queensland indicated significant community consultation and support for the project.
- the levee has been designed to ensure that its construction will not increase flooding risk or impacts elsewhere, including on properties not protected by it or on properties upriver from the levee.
- Funding from other Commonwealth infrastructure, risk reduction or recovery programs was deemed inappropriate or insufficient for this project.
- the project is reasonably expected to support local jobs.

Risks and Sensitivities

16. On 27 November 2020 and 15 March 2021, the Deputy Premier of Queensland wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister in his capacity as the Minister for Infrastructure requesting Commonwealth funding for the levee. On 21 April 2021, the Deputy Prime Minister responded and noted that the project had been submitted to the Program for consideration and confirming that there was no other funding program in the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications for this type of project **Attachment C**.
17. The Director General EMA's advice in MS21-000705 is based on the assessment of the Panel, and on the information provided by the applicant. The panel did not review any material from individuals or groups opposing the project.

Other state mitigation plans for Bundaberg

18. The Bundaberg 10-Year Action Plan is comprised of four proposed mitigation activities, including the levee. The levee has been determined to be the most beneficial mitigation option to protect and mitigate against flood. The four options included in the 10-Year Action Plan are independent of each other **Attachment D**.
19. The options were developed from an original list of 11 options and involved extensive community input to their review and assessment.

Consultation

20. The Department has engaged with the Queensland Government throughout the Program's application and assessment processes.
21. Representatives from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Finance, The Treasury, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency (NDNQFRA), and the Bureau of Meteorology were all members of the Panel.

Sensitivities

22. 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.

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Authorising Officer	Contact Officer
<p>Joe Buffone PSM Director General Emergency Management Australia</p> <p>30 / 04 / 2021 Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	<p>Mark Dominick Assistant Secretary, Disaster Preparedness Branch</p> <p>Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>

CC

- Minister for Home Affairs
- Secretary
- A/g Deputy Secretary, Emergency Management and Coordination Group
- Group Manager Legal
- Chief Finance Officer
- Assistant Secretary Disaster Risk Reduction Branch
- Assistant Secretary Disaster Recovery Branch

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The Hon Michael McCormack MP

**Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina**

Ref: MC21-002031

21 APR 2021

Dr Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports
Queensland Government
GPO Box 2644
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Steven

Dear Deputy Premier

Thank you for your letters of 27 November 2020 and 15 March 2021, supporting the construction of the Bundaberg Flood Levee in the Bundaberg Region. I appreciate you highlighting the significance of this project and its potential economic and community benefits.

I understand that the Queensland Government submitted an application for funding under Emergency Management Australia's National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program. I look forward to hearing the outcome for this application.

Unfortunately, there are no other programs open in the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications for funding for this type of project. You may wish to advise officers in your Department to monitor the GrantConnect website at www.grants.gov.au, which provides details of all Australian Government grant opportunities.

Thank you again for your advocacy and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Michael McCormack

Michael McCormack

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Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Submission

For decision

PDMS Ref. Number: MS21-001012

Date of Clearance: 07/05/2021

To **Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management**

Subject **National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program – Bundaberg Flood Levee application, and options to mitigate potential risks**

Timing *Your decision on the 2020-21 National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program is sought by no later than 12 May 2021, to enable grant agreements and signed determinations to be prepared and lodged with the Department of Finance by 4 June.*

Recommendations

That you:

1. **note** that, while the proposed Bundaberg Flood Levee was highly rated by the 2020-21 National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program Review Panel, recent media reporting indicates that the project is not supported by some members of the Bundaberg community; noted / please discuss
2. **note** the advice at **Attachment A** on risks associated with the Bundaberg Flood Levee, which was provided to your office on 30 April 2021; noted / please discuss
3. **note** that it is open to you to make funding for the Bundaberg Flood Levee conditional on Queensland's assurance that these risks will be appropriately mitigated; and noted / please discuss
4. s. 47C(1) noted / please discuss

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management

Signature.....

Date:...../...../ 2021

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Minister's Comments				
Rejected Yes/No	Timely Yes/No	Relevance <input type="checkbox"/> Highly relevant <input type="checkbox"/> Significantly relevant <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant	Length <input type="checkbox"/> Too long <input type="checkbox"/> Right length <input type="checkbox"/> Too brief	Quality Poor 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Excellent Comments:



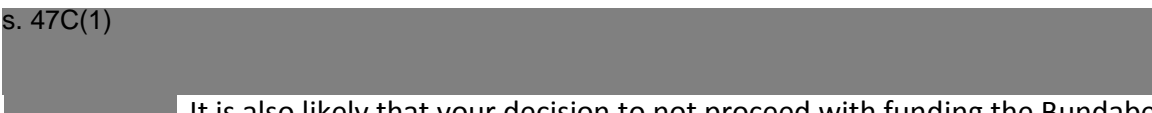
Key Issues

- On 12 April 2021, the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) presented you with recommendations for projects to fund under the 2020-21 National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (the Program) – MS21-000705 refers. These recommendations were based on an assessment of applications undertaken by an interdepartmental Program Review Panel (the Panel).
- State and Territory Governments, in consultation with Local Governments and communities, were eligible to apply for funding under the Program. In total, 74 applications with a combined value of \$232 million were received, with all States and Territories applying for funding.
- Of the 74 applications received, 20 were shortlisted by the panel as being highly eligible for funding under the Program. The project ranked highest by the Panel was the Bundaberg Flood Levee, for which Queensland has sought a funding contribution from the Commonwealth of \$42.5 million.
- On 21 April 2021, your office requested information on potential risks attached to the Bundaberg Flood Levee proposal. Following the receipt of further information from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA), advice was provided to your office on 28 April 2021, and included in a Background Brief, lodged with your office on 30 April 2021. (**Attachment A**). On 6 May 2021, your office requested a further submission outlining options to mitigate potential risks in the event you award funding to the Bundaberg Flood Levee proposal – this advice is presented below.
- As noted in the Background Brief, recent media reports indicate that there is some opposition to the proposed Levee in the Bundaberg community. For example, an ABC News article of 26 Apr 2021 states that *'The Bundaberg community has not unanimously supported the levee'*. Based on these media reports, opposition to the levee appears to stem mostly from residents and businesses in some parts of Bundaberg that will not be protected by the levee.

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6. The Department sought clarification from the QRA on community attitudes towards the levee. In its response, the QRA noted that consultations on the project were conducted in 2016 and 2018. Based on information provided by QRA, the consultations appear to have been extensive, and included correspondence sent to about 600 owners of properties in Bundaberg North, community information meetings, a dedicated website, an information hotline and advertisements placed in the local media.
7. The Department is unaware of the extent of concerns about the Bundaberg Levee proposal in the Bundaberg community, and the assessment of the Panel was based on the information supplied by the applicant, which was generally positive and indicated a broad level of community support. The panel also relied on information supplied by QRA that the proposed levee has been designed to ensure that its construction will not make flooding worse elsewhere.
8. Noting the aforementioned media reports, however, there does appear to be some level of community concern about the project, and it is open to you to weigh whether these concerns, and the risks which underpin them, have been sufficiently addressed in deciding on the application.

Options to mitigate potential risks with the Bundaberg Levee proposal

9. s. 47C(1)

10. It is also open to you to defer a decision on funding for the Bundaberg levee to 2021-22. The
s. 34(3)

11. s. 47C(1)

It is also likely that your decision to not proceed with funding the Bundaberg levee at the present time would be criticised by proponents of the project.

Next Steps

12. Following your decision on the projects to be funded under the 2020-21 Program, the Department will work with State and Territory Governments to develop bilateral grant agreements.

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13. Your decision on the Program is sought at the earliest opportunity, and no later than 12 May 2021. s. 47C(1)

Background

14. In accordance with the *Emergency Response Fund Act 2019* (the Act) (Section 20 (1)(c)-(f)) the ERF may be used to provide a grant of financial assistance to carry out a project that is directed towards achieving resilience to, preparedness for, or a reduction of risk of future disasters, or the long-term sustainability of a community in an area that is at risk of being affected by a natural disaster. Section 34 of the Act prescribes an annual limit of \$50 million which may be drawn from the Emergency Response Fund each financial year for this purpose.

15. s. 34(3)

16. s. 47C(1)

Consultation – internal/external

17. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority was consulted on the potential risks associated with the Bundaberg Flood Levee project.
18. Legal Division within the Department of Home Affairs were consulted on the development of this submission.

Consultation – Secretary

19. The Secretary was not consulted on the approach in the submission.

Sensitivities

20. The release of the Australian National Audit Office Report 'Award of Funding under the Community Sport Infrastructure Program' on 15 January 2020 has brought increased scrutiny to the awarding of government grants. It is likely that a decision to fund projects that are not recommended by the Director General EMA or not in the merit order as assessed by the Panel would be open to scrutiny.
21. 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.

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Financial/systems/legislation/deregulation/media implications

22. There has been recent media interest in the Emergency Response Fund, and the outcomes of this program are expected to receive media coverage.

Attachments

Attachment A Background Brief – *National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program – Bundaberg Flood Levee Application* (MB21 000558)

<p>Authorising Officer</p> <p>Cleared by:</p> <p>Joe Buffone Director General Emergency Management Australia</p> <p>Date: 07/05/2021 Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
--

Contact Officer Mark Dominick, Assistant Secretary, Disaster Preparedness Branch, s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

CC Minister for Home Affairs
Secretary
Deputy Secretary, Emergency Management and Coordination
Group Manager Legal
Chief Finance Officer
Assistant Secretary Disaster Risk Reduction

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Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Submission

For decision
PDMS Ref. Number MS21-000705
Date of Clearance: 09/04/2021

To Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management

Subject National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program - project funding recommendations

Timing *At your earliest convenience to enable funding arrangements for successful projects to be established before the end of the financial year.*

Recommendations

That you:

1. **note** that as per your announcement of 11 December 2020, the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) established the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (the Program) drawing on the \$50 million pre-disaster resilience component of the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) in 2020-21. noted // please discuss
2. **note** that a total of 74 applications from States and Territories were received for funding under the Program, with a combined value of \$232 million (Attachment A refers). noted / please discuss
3. **note** that an assessment of these applications was undertaken by an interdepartmental Program Review Panel and two alternative funding options are presented for your decision. noted / please discuss
4. **indicate** your preference for which option you endorse. Option 1 / Option 2 / not agreed
5. should you not agree to either Option 1 or 2 at Recommendation 4, **indicate your decision** on the specific projects to fund at Attachment A. indicated / not applicable

s. 47C(1)

6.

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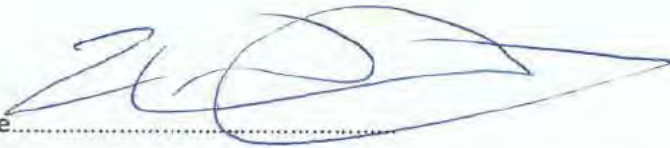
7. s. 47C(1)

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

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

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management

Signature



Date: 25 / 2021

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Minister's Comments				
Rejected Yes/No	Timely Yes/No	Relevance <input type="checkbox"/> Highly relevant <input type="checkbox"/> Significantly relevant <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant	Length <input type="checkbox"/> Too long <input type="checkbox"/> Right length <input type="checkbox"/> Too brief	Quality Poor 1.....2.....3.....4.....5 Excellent Comments:

Key Issues


1. On Friday, 11 December 2020, you announced the establishment of the Program. The Program draws on the \$50 million pre-disaster resilience component of the ERF available for allocation in 2020-21.
2. State and Territory Governments, in consultation with Local Governments and the community, were eligible to apply for funding. The application period ran from 21 December 2020 to 12 February 2021. To assist applicants in preparing their applications, Program Guidelines setting out the Program's eligibility requirements and selection criteria were made available to applicants. A copy of the Guidelines is at [Attachment C](#).
3. In total, 74 applications with a combined value of \$232 million were received, with representation from all States and Territories.
4. Assessment of the applications was undertaken by an interdepartmental Program Review Panel (the Panel), comprised of representatives from Departments of Home Affairs, Prime Minister & Cabinet, Treasury, Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency, and the Bureau of Meteorology. The methodology for the assessment of applications is at [Attachment D](#).
5. Assessed criteria include the proposal's relative impact on reducing the flood risk and impact on communities, and the proposal's capacity to lower household or Local Government insurance premiums. The priority of the application as nominated by each State and Territory, relative to other applications in their jurisdiction, was also a consideration.
6. Based on the findings of the Panel, two options have been developed for your consideration in deciding which applications to award funding to. These options are presented below. Should you not agree with either of these funding options, it is open to you to individually nominate which of the 74 applications to fund from the \$50 million available for award in the 2020-21 Program, by recording your decision at [Attachment A](#).

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~~PROTECTED | CABINET~~Assessment Panel Findings

7. The table at **Attachment A** provides a summary of the 74 applications received, and the Panel's assessment of each application against the selection criteria, including a weighted score for each application.
8. Of the applications received, 20 applications were shortlisted by the Panel on the basis that they rated highly against the selection criteria as set out in the Program Guidelines (the Guidelines). The combined value of these 20 applications is \$82.6 million.
9. The remaining 54 projects were assessed by the Panel as not meeting, or only partially meeting the selection criteria, or not being sufficiently evidenced to make a full assessment.
10. Of the projects not shortlisted, some were deemed by the Panel to be ineligible under the guidelines as they were projects which had alternate sources of funding, such as road funding programs administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. Other projects were assessed by the panel as not sufficiently demonstrating flood mitigation benefits to existing communities.
11. Drawing on the 20 projects shortlisted, two options for distribution of the available \$50 million in ERF funding are presented below for your consideration.

Option 1 (recommended) – fund the highest ranked shortlisted project in each State and Territory

12. As part of the application requirements, States and Territories were asked to rank their projects in order of priority. Under this option, funding would be awarded to the highest priority project as nominated by the State or Territory applicant, or if that project has not been shortlisted, the highest priority one for that State or Territory which has.
13. This option would award each State, except for Queensland, funding in full for their highest priority shortlisted project. Queensland would receive partial funding of \$32.2 million for its highest priority project, the Bundaberg Levee. This equates to 76 per cent of the \$42.5 million contribution requested from the Commonwealth for that project.
14. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

15. The projects recommended for funding under this option, and the amount of funds the projects would be awarded, is listed below in Table 1.
16. The advantage of this option is that it places a high degree of weighting on the priority of the project, as assessed by the State or Territory where the project is located. The States and Territories are likely to be familiar with the projects in their jurisdictions, and the relative flood mitigation benefits they will achieve. This option will also ensure an equitable outcome in the award of funds by ensuring that each State and Territory receives funding for a priority project.

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17. Another advantage of this option is that it provides a significant proportion of the funds sought from the Commonwealth for the Bundaberg Levee project. The Bundaberg Levee project is a priority project which will deliver significant flood mitigation benefits to the Bundaberg community. This project was assessed by the Panel to be the highest rated project from all applications received.
18. The Queensland Government has advised that it would be supportive of the Commonwealth Government contribution to the construction of the Bundaberg East Levee being staged, as the project would be delivered over three years. s. 47C(1)

19. s. 47C(1)

Table 1: Projects recommended for funding under Option 1

#	S/T	Project Name	Project Description	Amount Requested	Proposed Funding
1	QLD	Bundaberg Levee	The project involves construction of a levee 1.7km in length, and associated infrastructure. This is a priority project noting that Bundaberg is prone to major flood events.	\$42,500,000	\$32,250,000

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

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~~PROTECTED | CABINET~~**Option 2 – fund all 20 shortlisted projects, with reduced funding for the Bundaberg Levee**

20. This option would award funding to all 20 projects shortlisted by the Panel. Projects ranked 2 to 20 by the Panel would receive the full amount of funding requested. The top ranked project (Bundaberg Levee) would receive partial funding of \$9.9 million – the remaining balance of the available \$50 million after projects ranked 2 to 20 have been funded.
21. The advantage of this option is that it provides disbursement of available funds over a large number of eligible projects, thereby achieving flood mitigation benefits across as many communities across Australia as possible. All States and Territories would also receive funding under this option, contributing to an equitable outcome.
22. The disadvantage of this option is that it would only award \$9.9 million, or 23 per cent of the funds requested by Queensland, for the Bundaberg levee, leaving a shortfall of \$32.6 million.
23. As noted above, the Queensland Government has advised that it would be supportive of a partial grant for the Bundaberg East from this year's Program. s. 47C(1)
24. The projects recommended for funding under this option, and the amount of funds the projects would be awarded, is listed below in Table 2.

Table 2: Projects recommended for funding under Option 2

#	S/T	Project Name	Project Description	Amount Requested	Proposed Funding
1	QLD	Bundaberg Levee	The project involves construction of a levee 1.7km in length, and associated infrastructure. This is a priority project noting that Bundaberg is prone to major flood events.	\$42,500,000	\$9,900,500

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

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

Alternative to Options 1 or 2

25. Should you not agree with either of these funding Options, it is open to you to individually determine which or the 74 applications to fund from the \$50 million available for award in the 2020-21 Program. To do so, please record your decision against each of the projects listed at Attachment A.

s. 47C(1)



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s. 47C(1)

Next Steps

31. Following your approval of projects for funding under the NFMIP, the Department will prepare letters from you for your signature to State and Territory emergency management ministers to inform them of the successful projects in their jurisdictions. The Department will then work with State and Territory Governments to develop bilateral agreements and determine project specific timeframes, including: funding delivery, estimated dates of completion, project delivery milestones, and audit and assurance mechanisms.

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

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

Background

40. In accordance with the Emergency Response Fund Act 2019 (Section 20 (1)(c)-(f)) the ERF may be used to provide a grant of financial assistance to carry out a project that is directed towards achieving resilience to, preparedness for, or a reduction of risk of future disasters, or the long-term sustainability of a community in an area that is at risk of being affected by a natural disaster. Section 34 of the Act prescribes an annual limit of \$50 million which may be drawn from the Emergency Response Fund each financial year for this purpose.

41. s. 34(3)

42. Under the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) Guidelines, the Director General of Emergency Management Australia is the Commonwealth Officer responsible for providing advice to the Minister for Emergency Management regarding use of the ERF.
43. State and Territory Governments, in consultation with Local Governments and the Community, were eligible to apply for funding. Applications opened on 21 December 2020 and closed on 12 February 2021. A total of 74 applications from eight jurisdictions totalling over \$232 million were received. A summary of the applications received is at Attachment A.

Consultation – internal/external

44. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Finance, The Treasury, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency (NDNQFRRA), and the Bureau of Meteorology were consulted on the proposed funding options.
45. Legal Division, Finance Division, Emergency Management Australia (Recovery, Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction Branches), within the Department of Home Affairs were consulted on the development of this submission.
46. The Civil, Commercial and Employment Law Branch reviewed the assessment process for the grants program and have advised that based on the documents reviewed, they are comfortable that steps have been taken to mitigate probity and assurance risks.

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Consultation – Secretary

44. The Secretary was not consulted on the approach in the submission.

Sensitivities

45. The release of the Australian National Audit Office Report '*Award of Funding under the Community Sport Infrastructure Program*' on 15 January 2020 has brought increased scrutiny to the awarding of government grants. The report concluded that the award of grant funding in the Community Sports Infrastructure Program was not informed by appropriate assessment processes and sound advice. The report highlighted the importance of the program guidelines in deciding grant funding. In line with the grants management framework, and for probity reasons including equity and fairness to all applicants, merit-based funding decisions are recommended.
46. It is likely that a decision to fund projects that are not recommended by the Director General EMA or not in the merit order as assessed by the Program Review Panel would be open to scrutiny.
47. It is important that the States and Territories are notified of the successful projects in a coordinated manner to ensure they are all informed within the same timeframes. Applicants may have technical questions about the terms of their offer, including where the amount awarded is different from the amount requested. This best practice stakeholder management was also an area of focus in the Australian National Audit Office Report.
48. Limited timeframes were available for the applicants to compile their applications with a number of jurisdictions noting the timing as a significant challenge. The timing of the program may have resulted in some jurisdictions submitting applications that were considered to be of an inadequate quality. This was mitigated by providing jurisdictions with an opportunity to provide additional information or clarification of their applications. There were some delays in providing this additional information from jurisdictions, particularly New South Wales and the Northern Territory, due to the impacts of flooding events at that time. However, this also resulted in further delays to the program.
49. 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.

Financial/systems/legislation/deregulation/media implications

50. s. 47C(1)

51. There has been significant media interest in the Emergency Response Fund and the outcomes of this program.
52. The Department assesses that the list of recommended projects represent a proper use of Commonwealth resources and are consistent with associated legislation and guidelines, including: the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines; the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013; Emergency Response Fund Act 2019; Emergency Response Fund Guidelines; and, the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program Guidelines.

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- Attachment A** Application Summary and Decision Table
- Attachment B** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
- Attachment C** National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program Guidelines
- Attachment D** Assessment Methodology and Matrix

<p>Authorising Officer</p> <p>Cleared by:</p> <p>Joe Buffone Director General Emergency Management Australia</p> <p>Date: 09/04/2021 Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
--

Contact Officer Mark Dominick, Assistant Secretary, Disaster Preparedness Branch, s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

CC Minister for Home Affairs
 Secretary
 Deputy Secretary, Emergency Management and Coordination
 Group Manager Legal
 Chief Finance Officer
 Assistant Secretary Disaster Risk Reduction

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Project Summary and Decision Table

- This table provides a summary of all applications received through the NFIMP. Projects ranked 1-20 indicate the shortlisted projects, while projects shaded grey were not shortlisted.
- The applications have been ranked in order of the Program Review Panel's rating following a merit-based assessment process of all applications using the criteria under the Program Guidelines.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Approval using this attachment is only required if the Minister should not approve either Option 1 or Option 2 as at Recommendation Four of the Submission. Please indicate your alternative preference by circling 'Yes' and initialling the box in the final column.*
- *Note that the total funding available under this Program must not exceed \$50 million.*

Project Rank	State or Territory	Priority given by State or Territory	Project Name	Project Description	Total Project Cost	Amount requested	State or Territory Contribution	Review Panel Rating	Summary of the Review Panel's Assessment	Minister's Funding Approval and Initial
1	QLD	1	Bundaberg Levee	The project involves construction of a levee consisting of two main segments covering about 1.7 kilometres. The key feature of the project is a concrete floodwall, which will protect against all floods on record. This would be complemented by flood gates and a pump station across Bundaberg Creek that would be closed in the event of an emerging flood event in order to protect assets behind the levee.	85,000,000	42,500,000	42,500,000	76.67%	The Panel shortlisted this project to consider for NFIMP funding. The Panel noted this was well regarded as flood mitigation infrastructure, noting the significant expense. The Panel assessed it met the majority of the criteria for the NFIMP and was a high-impact project with the potential to protect 600 buildings, a significant co-contribution from the state (half the cost), unlocked economic potential, and had community support. However, the project appeared to include other expenses including entertainment areas and beautification measures and would result in an allocation of most of the \$50m if approved.	Yes/ No

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

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Australian Government

Department of Home Affairs

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program

Guidelines January 2021

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Change log

Version	Date	Changes
v1.0	11 December 2020	Original program guidelines document
v1.1	28 January 2021	<p>Added <i>application</i> key term.</p> <p>(new) 2.1.3 Added contact information.</p> <p>(new) 4.2.4 Clarified Departmental funding of project costs.</p> <p>(new) 5.1 Added Application Form Criteria</p> <p>(new) 5.1.1 Clarified application submission destination.</p> <p>(new) 5.2.3 Clarified role of local governments in program applications.</p> <p>5.3 Clarified the definition of flood mitigation infrastructure for the purposes of funding eligibility.</p> <p>(new) 5.3.3 Added additional information on what flood mitigation infrastructure may include.</p> <p>5.7 Clarified process for estimating costs.</p> <p>5.8 Clarified project cost exclusions.</p> <p>6. Corrected numbering of sections.</p> <p>6.2.1 Changed approver of panel membership to Director General Emergency Management Australia.</p> <p>6.6.2 Added equality of access to information.</p> <p>8.1 Clarified applicability of <i>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018</i> state assurance activities.</p> <p>8.2.1 Aligned timing of the submission audit reporting with the <i>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018</i>.</p> <p>General formatting updates.</p>

1. Glossary of key terms

Key term	Definition
applicant	The state or territory government applying funding under the <i>program</i> .
application	The method undertaken by the applicant in order to request funding under the <i>program</i> .
contact officer	The key working level contact identified by the <i>applicant</i> as the primary point of contact for all engagements on the application or program following submission of the application.
Council of Australian Governments (COAG)	Primary intergovernmental forum in Australia from 1992 to 2020.
Department	The Department of Home Affairs responsible for administering the <i>program</i> .
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018	The arrangements under which the Australian Government provides financial assistance to state and territory governments to assist relief and recovery activities following an eligible natural disaster.
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Management System	The processes and controls implemented by a state or territory government agency and third-party organisations (where applicable) in relation to an estimated reconstruction cost, as defined by the <i>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018</i> .
Emergency Response Fund (ERF)	<p>The Emergency Response Fund was established in December 2019 and is administered under the <i>Emergency Response Fund Act 2019</i>, with operational guidance provided in the <i>Emergency Response Fund Program Guidelines</i>.</p> <p>The Emergency Response Fund provides \$150 million annually to support emergency response and recovery from natural disasters in Australia that have a significant or catastrophic impact.</p> <p>The Emergency Response Fund also provides an additional \$50 million annually to build resilience to, prepare for, or reduce the risk of future disasters, or build the long-term sustainability of communities that are at risk of being affected by a future disaster.</p>
<i>Emergency Response Fund Act 2019</i>	The legislation that establishes the Emergency Response Fund.
essential public asset	Defined as 'an asset which must be a transport or public infrastructure asset of an eligible undertaking which, the state considers, and the department agrees, is an integral part of a state's infrastructure and normal functioning of a community' as per the <i>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018</i> .
flood mitigation infrastructure	An essential public asset with the primary purpose of reducing the risk of flood to, and/or impact of flooding on, a community or communities.
Minister	The Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management who is the accountable authority for the program.
National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework	The framework developed by the Australian Government that outlines the strategic priorities, drivers for action and guiding principles for national disaster risk reduction activities.
program	The National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program 2020-21.

Key term	Definition
program administrator	A member and/or section within the Emergency Management and Coordination Group of the Department of Home Affairs.
program review panel	The expert panel established to ensure the success of the program through the impartial assessment of applications and development of evidence-based recommendations.
project	A flood mitigation infrastructure activity undertaken by the relevant state and territory government in the context of the program.
recipient	The state and territory government receiving program funding for a successful project.
state appointed auditor	An auditor appointed by the state or territory government to conduct audit and assurance activities.

2. Overview

2.1 Purpose

- 2.1.1 These guidelines provide information on the administration of the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (the *program*). The intended users are the Australian Government, as the *program administrator*, and state and territory governments, as the intended *applicants*.
- 2.1.2 These guidelines may be updated at any time during the course of the *program* to provide further details as they arise, while maintaining the integrity and transparency of the program.
- 2.1.3 Queries regarding the *program* should be directed to national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au

2.2 Context

- 2.2.1 Many Australian communities are exposed to flooding, with varied impacts and damage that can be substantial and devastating. The Australian Government, in the State of the Climate 2020, reported that heavy rainfall events in Australia are becoming more intense, with an increase in the intensity of short-duration extreme rainfalls. Such events are associated with flash flooding and an increased risk to communities. Further, Deloitte Access Economics¹ found flooding to be the most costly natural hazard-related cause of disaster when both tangible and intangible losses are taken into account. However, for many households and communities the ability to reduce flood risk is beyond their control.
- 2.2.2 This *program* reflects the Australian Government's commitment to support impactful, national flood mitigation priorities through the provision of \$50 million in 2020-21 from the Emergency Response Fund. In line with National Priority 3: Enhanced investment of the *National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework*², the *program* will target high priority locally and nationally significant flood mitigation infrastructure activities, with a view to maximising broader social and economic outcomes, including through limiting future disaster recovery needs and costs.

2.3 Program purpose and outcomes

- 2.3.1 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.
- 2.3.2 The outcomes to be achieved through the *program* are:
 - reduction in the impact of future floods on a specific community or communities
 - reduction in the expected future eligible expenditure under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018
 - positive change in the insurability of the existing flood mitigation infrastructure
 - addressing relevant household or local government insurance affordability as a result of the improvement or construction of the flood mitigation infrastructure
 - ancillary to the above, local job creation.

¹ Deloitte Access Economics, (2019). *The social and economic cost of the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough*. Brisbane: Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

² Australian Government. Department of Home Affairs, (2018). *National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework*. Canberra: Department of Home Affairs.

3. Timeframes

3.1 Delivery timeframes

- 3.1.1 Applications for the *program* will open on 21 December 2020, and close at 5pm AEST on 12 February 2021.
- 3.1.2 The Australian Government *project review panel* will assess applications in early 2021, with the intent to make a recommendation to the *Minister* and announce successful *projects* in March 2021.
- 3.1.3 Funding agreements with relevant state and territory governments will be established following this announcement, with the first milestone payment to be made prior to 30 June 2021.

3.2 Milestones

- 3.2.1 *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 bilateral agreement.

4. Funding and agreements

4.1 Funding source

- 4.1.1 The *program* is funded from the \$50 million component of the *Emergency Response Fund* and is made available through the *Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Fund*.
- 4.1.2 The *Emergency Response Fund* is intended to complement existing sources of funding for relevant activities.

4.2 Allocation of funding

- 4.2.1 A maximum of \$50 million is available in 2020-21 for the *program*. Allocations will consider:
- prioritisation of projects submitted by the state and territory government
 - availability of other Australian Government funding sources
 - relative flood risk and mitigation impact
 - reduction of relevant household or local government insurance premiums;
 - likelihood of project success, and
 - equitable share across all state and territory jurisdictions, where possible and reasonable.
- 4.2.2 There is no funding cap for each application or limit on the number of *applications* that can be submitted by a state or territory government.
- 4.2.3 A co-contribution from the state or territory government, and/or other appropriate funding partners is desirable but not essential.
- 4.2.4 The *Department* may provide funding for some or all of the estimated project costs.

4.3 Project funding agreements

- 4.3.1 Funding for successful *project* proposals will be provided to state and territory governments through the establishment of a relevant funding arrangement under the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations*.

5. Eligibility criteria

5.1 Application form criteria

5.1.1 An *application* will only be deemed valid for assessment if the application:

- is made using the provided Application Form (see Attachment A)
- is complete with all particulars
- is submitted by a state or territory government agency
- demonstrates support by the relevant state or territory emergency management minister
- is provided to the *Department* via email at national.flood.mitigation@homeaffairs.gov.au, and
- is provided to the *Department* by 5pm AEST 12 February 2021.

5.2 Only a state or territory government may apply for *program* funding

- 5.2.1 Only a state or territory government may apply for *program* funding. However, a state or territory government may use a third party to deliver the *project* on its behalf, including through the procurement of a commercial service provider or through funding a local government.
- 5.2.2 This does not diminish the responsibility of state and territory governments to assure and audit the project's preservation of eligibility, integrity and expenditure. Further details are at Section 8: Audit and Assurance.
- 5.2.3 Interested local governments with eligible *projects* should contact their state or territory government's emergency management agency to discuss the state or territory government's support for and submission of that *project* on the local government's behalf.

5.3 Only *flood mitigation infrastructure* may be eligible for *program* funding

- 5.3.1 *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.
- 5.3.2 Eligible infrastructure may include, but is not limited to: dams, levees, bridges, culverts and other drainage systems, rainfall and river height measurement systems, weather radar systems and flood warning infrastructure, where that infrastructure appropriately meets the definition of *flood mitigation infrastructure*.
- 5.3.3 *Flood mitigation infrastructure* may also include non-physical components, such as specific information technologies, that in their absence would render the flood mitigation infrastructure wholly inoperable.
- 5.3.4 State and territory governments are responsible for assessing and demonstrating that the infrastructure is *flood mitigation infrastructure* in accordance with paragraphs 5.3.1 to 5.3.3 above.
- Such evidence may include business cases, flood mitigation strategies and other supporting documentation that demonstrates eligibility.

5.4 A project must be for the improvement of an existing or construction of a new flood mitigation infrastructure

- 5.4.1 State and territory governments may apply for *program* funding to support the improvement of an existing or the construction of a new *flood mitigation infrastructure*.

5.4.2 The improvement of an existing, or the construction of new, *flood mitigation infrastructure* must have an outcome of reducing flood risk to, **and** the impact of flood on, a specific community or communities, **and** at least one of the following outcomes:

- reduction in expected future eligible expenditure under the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018*
- material improvement in the insurability of the existing *flood mitigation infrastructure*, and/or
- addresses relevant household or local government insurance affordability as a result of the *flood mitigation infrastructure*.

5.4.3 State and territory governments are required to provide assurance to the Australian Government that the evidence supporting claims of the achievability of relevant outcomes are authoritative and can be relied on.

5.5 State and territory governments must consult with local governments and communities

5.5.1 State and territory governments are required to consult with, and evidence the consultation with, relevant local governments and/or community or communities on the need for and decision to implement the specific *flood mitigation infrastructure project*.

5.5.2 State and territory governments may draw on consultation previously undertaken with appropriate local governments and/or community or communities, where it can be demonstrated that the consultation is relevant and that the outcomes of this consultation remain unchanged.

5.6 State and territory government must indicate the relevant priority of projects

5.6.1 State and territory governments are required to disclose and evidence each *project's* relative priority within the state or territory and why each *project* has been submitted for *program* funding.

5.6.2 If a state or territory government is submitting multiple applications, each *project* must be prioritised within that group of applications.

5.6.3 The framework for determining prioritisation must be clearly articulated to allow for a national level assessment of relative priority across multiple states and territories.

5.7 Processes for estimating cost of projects

5.7.1 Consistent with the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements*³, the estimated *project* costs must be determined through:

- a market response, or
- cost estimation.

5.7.2 If 'market response' is the selected method, the applicable procurement processes must be followed when requesting pricing from the market.

5.7.3 If *cost estimation* is the selected method, *states* must verify the estimated **construction** cost by:

- using an internal engineer or quantity surveyor with the appropriate level of expertise and experience, or

³ Australian Government. Department of Home Affairs, (2018). *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements*. Canberra: Department of Home Affairs, page 29, sections 6.4.2, 6.4.6, and as relevant, 6.4.7.

- engaging an independent engineer or quantity surveyor with the appropriate level of expertise and experience.

5.8 **Project cost exclusions**

5.8.1 Estimated and actual *project* costs must not include:

- costs already incurred by the *applicant* or a local government, in the delivery of a *project* or *application* associated with this *program*
- costs already incurred or expected to be incurred by the *applicant* or a local government, in the development of a *project* or *application* associated with this *program*,
- costs already incurred by any party in relation to the maintenance, improvement or construction of the relevant *flood mitigation infrastructure*
- the cost of the acquisition of land or property.

5.9 **State and territory governments must disclose other *project* funding sources and amounts**

- 5.9.1 State and territory governments must disclose all *project* funding sources and amounts provided or committed in relation to the *flood mitigation infrastructure*.
- 5.9.2 State and territory governments are also required to disclose whether and how *projects* will be delivered if the full funding request is not available through the *program*.

5.10 **Only *projects* that do not have an existing full funding commitment are eligible for *program* funding**

- 5.10.1 *Projects* where the *program* funding would be used to replace funding already committed to the *project* from other sources are not eligible under this *program*.

6. Application and assessment processes

6.1 Application process

- 6.1.1 *Applications* must be approved by the respective state or territory government emergency management minister prior to submission to the *Minister*. Evidence of this approval should be submitted with the *application*.
- 6.1.2 Completed *applications* are to be provided to the *Minister*, through the *Department*, by 5pm AEDT on 12 February 2021.
- 6.1.3 *Applications* must be submitted using the Application Form template at Attachment A.
- 6.1.4 The Australian Government reserves the right to discuss the *application* or *project* and request additional information from the state or territory government through the *contact officer*.

6.2 Program Review Panel

- 6.2.1 The *program review panel* will consist of members of the *Department*, and other key Commonwealth agencies, as agreed by the Director General Emergency Management Australia. The *program review panel* will be chaired by a member of the *Department* delegated by the Director General Emergency Management Australia, being the Commonwealth official responsible for making recommendations to the *Minister* concerning the use of funding, in accordance with the *Emergency Response Fund Guidelines*.
- 6.2.2 *Program review panel* members will cover a range of relevant subject matter knowledge and expertise to ensure that:
 - *projects* and/or the *program* complement other Australian Government programs; and
 - there is no alternative funding source or duplication of proposals.
- 6.2.3 The *program review panel* will be responsible, where necessary, for substantiating with *applicants* any claims associated with flood risk, disaster recovery funding, insurance, and community impact where the evidence provided by an *applicant* is considered insufficient.
- 6.2.4 The Australian Government, through the *program review panel*, reserves the right to engage the services of a subject matter expert or representative from a non-government organisation, if required.
- 6.2.5 Allocations may also consider the advice of, and data provided by, Commonwealth agencies, such as the Bureau of Meteorology and the CSIRO.

6.3 Assessment principles

- 6.3.1 To ensure consistency, a predetermined assessment matrix, which refers to the eligibility and assessment criteria outlined in these *guidelines* will be used by the *program review panel*.
- 6.3.2 Assessment against this matrix will result in *applications* receiving a weighted score, which will be used to inform funding allocation decisions.

6.4 Equity principles

- 6.4.1 To ensure an equitable and transparent distribution of funds, allocations will be made based on the merit of each individual *application*.
- 6.4.2 Consideration will be given to the equitable distribution of the *program* funds to ensure all state and territory governments have an opportunity to receive support for their priority initiative.

6.4.3 'Equitable distribution' does not mean an equal distribution of *program* funds.

6.5 Decision making

- 6.5.1 The *Minister* is responsible for making decisions about *projects* to receive *program* funding and the amount of *program* funding to be allocated to a *project*.
- 6.5.2 Advice to the *Minister* on the projects recommended to receive program funding will be provided by the Director General of Emergency Management Australia, informed by the *program review panel*. The *Minister* may take into account other advice as appropriate.

6.6 Probity

- 6.6.1 The *Department* will administer the *program* with fairness, transparency, contestability and accountability.
- 6.6.2 The *Department* will ensure equality of access to information by developing a regularly updated guidance document that in response to relevant queries submitted to the Department.

7. Monitoring and reporting

7.1 Project reporting

- 7.1.1 State and territory governments must undertake regular monitoring and reporting in line with the project-by-project requirements outlined in the bilateral agreement.
- 7.1.2 The Australian Government may request additional information and/or reporting, outside the agreed milestones, if deemed necessary.
- 7.1.3 *Project reporting* will be considered as supporting documentation during the audit and assurance process.

8. Audit and assurance

8.1 Program assurance is informed by the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018* state assurance activities⁴

- 8.1.1 The objectives of the *program* assurance activities are to provide the Commonwealth with reasonable assurance over:
- each state or territory government's *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Management System*, as it relates to state and territory government controls for:
 - market response
 - cost estimation
 - the eligibility and integrity of the expenditure included in the *project* expenditure acquittal form.
- 8.1.2 The *Department* will confirm, and the state or territory government must provide a copy of, the relevant assurance report provided for the purposes of the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018*⁵.

8.2 State and territory government are required to submit an audit report to acquit the *project*

- 8.2.1 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 the end of the financial year (that is, for the audit of the period 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021, the audit report is due no later than 31 March 2022) in which the project was completed, unless otherwise specified in the funding agreement. This timeframe is consistent with the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements*.
- 8.2.2 State and territory governments must engage the services of a *state appointed auditor* to undertake the audit activity.
- 8.2.3 On request from the *Department*, the *state appointed auditor* must be available to the *Department* or its auditor for consultation on the audited *project* expenditure acquittal.
- 8.2.4 The audited *project* expenditure acquittal must be in the form prescribed at **Attachment B**.

8.3 State, territory and local government must maintain appropriate records

- 8.3.1 State, territory and local governments must keep an accurate audit trail for seven (7) years from the end of the *project*.
- 8.3.2 The *Department* may, at any time, request documentation from *applicants* to evidence the state or territory government's compliance with any aspect of the *program*.
- 8.3.3 State and territory governments must make available to the *Department* within one (1) month of the request, documentation relevant to a request by the *Department*.

⁴ Australian Government. Department of Home Affairs, (2018). *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements*. Canberra: Department of Home Affairs, page 44, section 10.

9. Public acknowledgement of Commonwealth funding

9.1 Joint announcements of approved *projects*

- 9.1.1 The announcement of an approved *project* or *projects* must be through a joint media release, or other joint announcement, unless otherwise agreed by the *Department*.
- 9.1.2 The *Department* and state or territory *contact officer* must work together on the details of a joint media release or other joint announcement.
- 9.1.3 When referring to an approved *project*, it must be described as:
- 'jointly funded by the Commonwealth and ^insert name of state^ under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program' or,
 - 'funded by the Commonwealth under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program.'

9.2 Arrangements for subsequent communication opportunities

- 9.2.1 State and territory governments, through the *contact officer*, must reach prior agreement with the *Department* on the nature and content of any subsequent events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to the *project*. This includes but is not limited to:
- any state or territory government media releases regarding the *project* or *program*
 - ceremonies related to the *project* or the specific *flood mitigation infrastructure*
 - media events that include reference to the *project* or *program*
 - plaques and signage related to the *project* and the specific *flood mitigation infrastructure*.

10. Attachment A – Application Form

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program

Application covering sheet

This covering application form is to be submitted by the relevant state or territory government, and must refer to, and include all applications being submitted.

Regardless of the number of applications being submitted by a state or territory government, only one application covering sheet is required.

Grey instructional text should be deleted prior to submission.

Part 1 – Applicant Information	
State/territory	<i>Choose an item.</i>
Organisation/Department	<i>Name of the organisation submitting the application</i>
Contact Officer	<i>Details of the contact officer, including name, title, email and phone number.</i>

Part 2 – Submission overview	
Number of applications submitted	<i>Choose an item.</i>
Total value of bids submitted	<i>Provide an approximate total value of all applications submitted</i>
Name of applications submitted	<i>Using dot points, list the name of the applications submitted</i>
Are these applications eligible for funding as per the criteria outlined in the Program Guidelines?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Part 3 – Prioritisation	
Order of prioritisation	<i>Please place applications in order of prioritisation</i>
Basis for this prioritisation	<i>Please provide a basis for this prioritisation, including any evidence which may have influenced this prioritisation.</i>

Part 4 – Minister's clearance	
Minister's Name	
Title	
Date of clearance	

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National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program

Project application form

This project application form is to be completed for each project that seeks funding from the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program. In order for this application to be considered eligible, all sections must be completed, with the finalised application attached to the Application Covering Sheet, prepared by the relevant state or territory government.

Grey instructional text should be deleted prior to submission.

Part 1 – Application Overview	
State/territory	<i>Choose an item.</i>
Project name	<i>What is the name of the project?</i>
Will this project be delivered by a third party, such as a commercial service provider or through a local government?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name of the third party or local government	<i>Name of the third party, such as the commercial service provider or local government who will be engaged to deliver the project.</i>
State/Territory Contact officer	<i>Details of the contact officer, including name, title, email and phone number</i>

Part 2 – Project Overview	
Will this project result in the construction of a new asset?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, where will this asset be located	<i>Provide clear details regarding the location of this asset.</i>
Will this project result in the improvement of an existing asset?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, where is this asset located?	<i>Provide clear details regarding the location of this asset.</i>
If yes, provide an overview of the works	<i>Provide an overview of the works that will be undertaken.</i>

Part 3 – Existing Infrastructure	
Has the asset ever been impacted by a natural disaster?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide details of the event	<i>Provide details of the disaster/s, including impacts and associated recovery activities, including costs.</i>
Has financial assistance, such as that available under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, ever been received for this asset?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please provide details	<i>Outline the assistance provided under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, including the Australian Government Reference Number (AGRN).</i>
Has financial assistance previously been, or is currently being, provided through Commonwealth, state/territory or other initiatives to support this asset?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Part 4 – Detailed project overview	
Detailed project description	<i>Provide a detailed description of the project.</i>
Why is this project required?	<i>Clearly articulate why this project is required. What would be the consequences if this project was not undertaken?</i>
Are documents attached to provide evidence of this need?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
What are the proposed outcomes for this project?	<i>Clearly articulate the proposed outcomes for this project, including community benefits.</i>
What is the proposed delivery timeframe for this project?	<i>Provide an overview of the proposed delivery timeframe for this project, i.e. when is it expected to be completed?</i>

Part 5 – Financial	
What is the estimated cost for this project?	<i>What is the estimated cost for this project?</i>
Will a co-contribution be provided?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, what is the value of the co-contribution?	<i>Outline the value of the co-contribution.</i>
If yes, who is providing the co-contribution?	<i>Provide an overview of who is providing the co-contribution (i.e. state or territory government, or local government) and outline if this funding is being provided on an ad hoc basis, or through an existing program.</i>

Part 6 – Community Consultation	
Has community consultation been undertaken prior to the submission of this application?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please provide details of this consultation	<i>Provide a detailed overview of the community consultation undertaken to support the development of this application, consideration should be given to the community feedback received, and how this shaped the application.</i>
Are documents attached to provide evidence of this consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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11. Attachment B – Project acquittal documentation

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program

Acquittal summary form

This acquittal summary form is to be completed by the state and territory government for each project that was provided with funding from the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program.

The acquittal summary form must be submitted within three months after the completion of the project. In order for the acquittal summary form to be accepted by the Australian Government, all relevant information and attachments must be included, with the declaration completed by the relevant responsible officer.

Grey instructional text should be deleted prior to submission.

Part 1 – General Information	
State/territory	<i>Choose an item.</i>
Project name	<i>What is the name of the project, as per the original application?</i>
Project reference number	<i>What is the project reference number provided by the Australian Government?</i>
State/Territory Contact officer	<i>Details of the contact officer, including name, title, email and phone number</i>

Part 3 – Acquittal overview (Project outcomes)	
Was the project delivered as per the bilateral agreement established between ^state name^ and the Australian Government?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If no, please justify.	<i>Provide a detailed justification outlining why the project was not delivered in line with the terms and conditions outlined in the bilateral agreement. What impact did this have on the project?</i>

Part 2 – Financial Information	
Amount allocated to the project	<i>The amount allocated to the project under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program. This figures should not include the value of a co-contribution (if applicable).</i>
Value of the funding being acquitted	<i>The value of the funding being acquitted in this acquittal summary form.</i>
Was a co-contribution provided?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, what was the value of the co-contribution?	<i>The value of the co-contribution provided.</i>
If yes, who provided the co-contribution?	<i>Provide an overview of who provided the co-contribution (i.e. state or territory government, or local government) and outline if the funding was provided on an ad hoc basis, or through an existing program.</i>

Part 3 – Acquittal overview (Financial)	
Was the project delivered in line with the requirements outlined in the <i>National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program / Program Guidelines</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

If no, please justify.	<i>Provide a detailed justification outlining why the project was not delivered in line with the requirements outlined in the National Flood Mitigation Program Program Guidelines.</i>
Where allocated funds used for ineligible expenses as outlined in section 5.7 of the <i>National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program Program Guidelines</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please detail.	<i>Provide a detailed justification outlining why funds provided under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program were used for ineligible expenses.</i>

Part 4 – Supporting documentation

Is the Financial Statement Claim attached?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
As per section 7.2 of the <i>National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program Program Guidelines</i> is a report from the state appointed auditor attached?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there financial documentation, such as contracts, invoices, receipts etc. attached to support this acquittal?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there additional documentation attached to support this acquittal?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please specify.	

Part 5 – Declaration

We/I certify that ^organisation and/or department name^ has delivered ^project name^ under the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program and in line with the requirements outlined in the bilateral agreement, established with the Australian Government on ^date^.

We/I certify that project activities, including expenditure, align and comply with the criteria set out in the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program, Program Guidelines.

We/I acknowledge that records relating to this funding must be kept for a minimum of seven (7) years. We also acknowledge that the Australian Government may request additional information, or conduct an audit to verify the accuracy of information contained in this acquittal summary form.

Name	
Title	
Signature	
Date	

National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program

Financial statement claim form

To support the acquittal summary form, the state and territory government must complete the financial statement claim form for each project that was provided with funding from the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program.

The headings in the financial statement claim form template should be amended, if required, to ensure expenditure is accurately outlined. Sub-headings should be included, where possible to assist with breaking down costs.

The declaration must be completed by the relevant responsible officer.

All relevant expenditure must be outlined in the table below, with the final figure to add up to the amount provided by the Australian Government.

	Net expenditure	Value of co-contribution (if applicable)	Australian Government Contribution
Project Management Costs			
<i>Total Project Management Costs</i>			
Construction Costs			
<i>Total Construction Costs</i>			
Audit and Assurance Costs			
<i>Total Audit and Assurance Costs</i>			

Declaration	
I certify the above stated expenditure by the ^state or territory name^ government is correct and conforms to the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program, Program Guidelines, and the terms and conditions outlined in the bilateral agreement, established on ^data^.	
Name	
Title	
Signature	
Date	



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National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (NFMIP) Assessment Methodology and Matrix

Methodology

During the panel discussion a number of criteria emerged which assisted the panel members with their assessment. These discussions were captured in the final Panel Assessment Spreadsheet. As a result 54 projects were not shortlisted based on the NFMIP eligibility criteria guidelines and additional considerations listed below:

- Projects relating to road works and upgrades that may be eligible to apply for funding under Department of Infrastructure road funding.
- Projects that could potentially receive support from another funding source.
- Projects relating to drainage/ storm water issues and general maintenance that can be managed by local council or state government.
- Projects that lacked evidence to support the claims in the application.
- Projects that lacked community consultation or did not demonstrate strong community flood mitigation benefits.
- Projects that did not meet the definition of an essential public asset.
- Projects that may hinder or conflict with already established Commonwealth emergency management initiatives.
- Projects that may be based on or result in poor urban planning, or may increase risk by opening up residential land in high risk flood zones.
- Projects that included beautification elements were clarified with the applicants, as the program should not fund any such elements.

Assessment Matrix

The below matrix was used by Panel members to score each project against the criteria. These weighted scores were compiled in the final Panel Assessment Spreadsheet to form the shortlist.

CRITERIA FROM GUIDELINES	EXPECTED OUTCOME	Not at all OR Not involved (Score - 0)	Satisfactory (Score - 1)	Good (Score - 2)	Excellent (Score - 3)	
Mandatory criteria (Must fulfil at least one)	Reduces flood risk to community (i.e. less likely to flood) (Weighting 25%)					0.00%
	Reduces impact of flood on community (e.g. impact - egress/supplies) (Weighting 25%)					0.00%
Other criteria (Must fulfil at least one or more)	Reduction of DRFA eligible costs (Weighting 20%)					0.00%
	Increase in asset insurability (Weighting 10%)					0.00%
	Community or local government insurance affordability (Weighting 20%)					0.00%

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Joe BUFFONE](#)
Subject: FW: ERF Flood Mitigation Program submission [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Monday, 10 May 2021 4:52:26 PM
Attachments: [ERF Submission with Attachment A only.pdf](#)

PROTECTED//CABINET

FYI Joe – signed ERF sub with Attachment A only to show the Minister’s selected projects.

PROTECTED//CABINET

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, 10 May 2021 4:23 PM
To: Mark DOMINICK ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: ERF Flood Mitigation Program submission [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi Mark,
Attached is the signed submission with the Minister’s nominated projects – numbers 2-20, and 23-25.

As the Minister wants to announce this ASAP today, grateful if you could you please put a quick phone call in to the states and territories informally notifying them of their approved projects. We have asked for the media release to be with the MO by 1630 as he won’t be available after 1700 for approval.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (our new DLO) will send the submission back formally through PDMS once we have the updated letter to the PM signed off.

Any issues please give us a bell.

Cheers,

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

Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP

Minister for Agriculture, Drought & Emergency Management

T: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au

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