

# NDRRA & SDRA

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements      State Disaster Relief Arrangements

## Information sheet 2016-17

### What is NDRRA?

NDRRA is a joint funding initiative of the Commonwealth and State Governments to provide disaster relief and recovery payments and infrastructure restoration to help communities recover from the effects of natural disasters and terrorist events. This program is managed on a whole-of-government basis by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (the QRA).

### Meaning of natural disaster

A natural disaster (or terrorist event) is a serious disruption to a community or region caused by the impact of a naturally occurring rapid onset event that threatens or causes death, injury or damage to property or the environment and that requires significant and coordinated multi-agency and community response.

(Extract from *Commonwealth Determination Section 1.1*)

#### NDRRA eligible disasters include:

- Bushfire
- Landslip
- Terrorist Event
- Cyclone
- Meteor Strike
- Tornado
- Earthquake
- Storm
- Tsunami
- Flood
- Storm Surge

### Activation

In Queensland, the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services is responsible for activating the NDRRA. The NDRRA activation relies on the damage, loss and personal hardship information provided by State and Local Government Agencies.

Activation of the NDRRA allows for eligible expenditure to be reimbursed by the QRA to activated State and local government agencies, in compliance with the Commonwealth Determination and the Queensland Guidelines.

NDRRA can be activated when:

- Collated eligible expenditure incurred by state and local government agencies on eligible relief measures exceeds the Small Disaster Criterion (2016/17 is \$240,000); and
- the event meets the definition of a natural disaster (refer definition above).

If an event does not meet the above criteria, the State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA) may be activated.

**Note:** The *activation* of the NDRRA is not dependent upon the *declaration* of a disaster situation. A *declaration* of a disaster situation is a separate action and provides extraordinary powers for the protection of the public during a disaster situation under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

The Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements are based upon partnership arrangements between state and local government agencies. The declaration of a disaster situation and/or the activation of the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements and/or the activation of the NDRRA are independent and are not interlinked or conditional, although they may occur for the same event.

### Commonwealth/State Funding of NDRRA

For simplicity, the publicly acknowledged funding split is 75% Commonwealth, 25% State for Categories A, B and C. The funding split for Category D assistance is agreed to when the measure is approved.

*Should there be any (unintended) inconsistencies between this information sheet and the Australian Government NDRRA Determination, the Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Guidelines then those documents will take precedence.*

## Relief measures available under NDRRA:

### Category A

**Counter Disaster Operations** – reimbursement of extraordinary disaster management costs, private debris clearing, evacuation costs, evacuation centres to reduce personal hardship and distress. *Note: local governments do not have a trigger point for this relief measure.*

**NDRRA activation requested by:** Any state or local government agency. State/local governments are to contact the QRA via email ([NDRRA@qldra.org.au](mailto:NDRRA@qldra.org.au)) detailing disaster situation and to request activation of this relief measure.

**Administrating Authority:** Once activated, please contact the QRA. Ph: **1800 110 841** Email: [Submissions@qldra.org.au](mailto:Submissions@qldra.org.au)

**Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme** – to alleviate personal hardship and distress:

- Immediate Hardship Assistance – a grant to address the immediate needs (e.g. food, clothing, emergency accommodation or medical supplies) of individuals and families who are unable to provide for their own recovery from their own resources.
- Immediate Hardship Assistance – Essential Services – a grant to individuals or families who are suffering hardship by loss of essential services for more than five days, and are unable to provide for their own recovery from their own resources.
- Essential Household Contents Grant – a financial contribution towards the repair or replacement of uninsured essential household contents.
- Structural Assistance Grant – a financial contribution toward the repair of damage to an uninsured dwelling (including caravans and residential vessels) caused by an eligible disaster to return it to a safe, habitable and secure condition.

The Essential Household Contents and Structural Assistance Grants are income tested.

**NDRRA activation requested and administered by:** Department of Communities, Child Safety & Disability Services (DCCSDS). Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**.

If local government identifies that local service providers have reached their capacity to provide a service to people identified as experiencing personal hardship as a direct result of a disaster event, or that there are no local service providers to assist in the event of a disaster they are to advise DCCSDS. DCCSDS will assess this request and, if required, will contact the QRA to request activation.

### Category B

**Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme** – to assist homeowners with grants up to \$5,000 to inspect and/or repair damaged essential services (electricity, gas, water, sewerage/septic systems) that are uninsured. Income tested.

**NDRRA activation requested and administered by:** DCCSDS. Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**.

If local government identifies that local service providers have reached their capacity to provide a service to people identified as experiencing personal hardship as a direct result of a disaster event, or that there are no local service providers to assist in the event of a disaster, they are to advise DCCSDS. DCCSDS will assess this request and, if required, will contact the QRA to request activation.

**Restoration of Essential Public Assets (including Emergent Works)** – restoration or replacement of eligible uninsured essential public assets damaged as a direct result of an eligible disaster to pre-disaster standard. Local governments must have eligible damage exceeding their trigger points to be able to submit for reimbursement.

**NDRRA activation requested by:** Any state or local government agency. State/local governments are to contact the QRA ([NDRRA@qldra.org.au](mailto:NDRRA@qldra.org.au)) requesting activation of this relief measure and providing details of the disaster situation and estimated expenditure of damaged assets.

**Administrating Authority:** Once activated, please contact the QRA. Ph: **1800 110 841** Email: [Submissions@qldra.org.au](mailto:Submissions@qldra.org.au)

**Natural Disaster Assistance (Concessional Loans and Grant Packages) for Non-Profit Organisations** – concessional loans to non-profit organisations to repair or replace damaged plant and equipment, and/or repair essential premises. Combination of loan and grant assistance up to the maximum amount of \$100,000 loan and \$5,000 grant for any one applicant.

**NDRRA activation requested by:** DCCSDS. Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

If local government identifies a need for the activation of this relief measure, they are to contact DCCSDS directly requesting activation. DCCSDS will assess this request and, if required, will contact the QRA to request activation.

**Administrating Authority:** Once activated, please contact QRAA. Ph: **1800 623 946**

**Natural Disaster Assistance (Concessional Loans) for Small Business** – concessional loans to small business operators who are unable to provide for their own recovery. Loan up to \$250,000 over seven years.

**NDRRA activation requested by:** Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business & the Commonwealth Games (DTESEB). Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

Department of State Development (DSD), on behalf of DTESEB, will provide regional support to source information from local governments, industry bodies, small businesses and “on the ground” observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure. If local governments identify a need for the activation of this relief measure, they are to contact DTESEB directly to request activation. DTESEB will assess this request and, if required, will contact the QRA to request activation.

**Administrating Authority:** Once activated, please contact QRAA. Ph: **1800 623 946**

**Natural Disaster Assistance (Concessional Loans) for Primary Producers** – concessional loans to primary producers who are unable to provide for their own recovery. Loan up to \$250,000 over seven years.

**NDRRA activation requested by:** Department of Agriculture & Fisheries (DAF). Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

DAF regional officers source information from local governments, industry bodies, primary producers and “on the ground” observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure. If local governments identify a need for the activation of this relief measure, they are to contact DAF directly to request activation. DAF will assess this request and, if required, will contact the QRA to request activation.

**Administrating Authority:** Once activated, please contact QRAA. Ph: **1800 623 946**

**Essential Working Capital Loans Scheme for Non-Profit Organisations** – concessional loans to non-profit organisations that have suffered a significant loss of income by providing a loan for essential working capital required to continue operations. Loan up to \$100,000.

**NDRRA activation requested by:** DCCSDS.  
Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

If local governments identify a need for the activation of this relief measure, they are to contact DCCSDS directly requesting activation. DCCSDS will assess this request and, if required, will contact the QRA to request activation.

**Administrating Authority:** Once activated, please contact QRAA.  
Ph: **1800 623 946**

**Essential Working Capital Loans Scheme for Small Business**  
– concessional loans to small businesses that have suffered a significant loss of income by providing a loan for essential working capital required to continue business operations. Loan up to \$100,000.

**NDRRA activation requested by:** DTESB. Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

DSD, on behalf of DTESB, will provide regional support to source information from local governments, industry bodies, small businesses and “on the ground” observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure. If local governments identify a need for the activation of this relief measure, they are to contact DTESB directly to request activation. DTESB will assess this request and, if required, contact the QRA to request activation

**Administrating Authority:** Once activated, please contact QRAA.  
Ph: **1800 623 946**

**Essential Working Capital Loans Scheme for Primary Producers**  
– concessional loans to primary producers that have suffered a significant loss of income by providing a loan for essential working capital required to continue operations. Loan up to \$100,000.

**NDRRA activation requested by:** DAF. Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

DAF regional officers source information from local governments, industry bodies, primary producers and “on the ground” observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure. If local governments identify a need for the activation of this relief measure, they are to contact DAF directly to request activation. DAF will assess this request and, if required, will contact the QRA to request activation.

**Administrating Authority:** Once activated, please contact QRAA.  
Ph: **1800 623 946**

**Freight Subsidies to Primary Producers** – assistance up to \$5,000 for movement of stock, feed, machinery, fuel, water and building/fencing materials.

**NDRRA activation requested by:** DAF

DAF regional officers source information from local governments, industry bodies, primary producers and “on the ground” observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure. If local governments identify a need for the activation of this relief measure, they are to contact DAF directly to request activation. DAF will assess this request and, if required, will contact the QRA to request activation.

**Administrating Authority:** Once activated, please contact DAF.  
Ph: **3224 8832**

## Category C

Category C relief measures may be made available where the community is severely affected by an eligible disaster and existing standard NDRRA relief measures are insufficient to support community recovery. Category C is only available in exceptional circumstances.

Approval is by the Prime Minister and the Premier.

**Community Recovery Fund** – aimed at community recovery, community development and community capacity building for the future.

**NDRRA activation requested by:** DCCSDS

**Administrating Authority:** Once activated, please contact DCCSDS.  
Ph: **13QGOV (137468)**

**Special Disaster Assistance (Clean up and Recovery Grants)** of \$10,000 or \$25,000 may be made available for sectors that have suffered direct impact from the eligible disaster. Grants can be used for clean-up and reinstatement but not for providing compensation for losses (i.e. loss of income/trade):

Non-Profit Organisations – **NDRRA activation requested by:** DCCSDS

Small Business – **NDRRA activation requested by:** DTMESB

Primary Producers – **NDRRA activation requested by:** DAF

**Administrating Authority:** Once activated, please contact QRAA. Ph: **1800 623 946**

The requesting agency will source information from local governments, industry bodies, Chambers of Commerce, primary producers, small businesses and “on the ground” observation from staff visiting the affected areas for each sector. The requesting agency will then review the information collated and if it meets the requirements as set by the Commonwealth, a Business Case will be drafted and forwarded to the QRA for review, then on-forwarding to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. If endorsed by the Premier, it will be forwarded to the Commonwealth for approval by the Prime Minister.

Further information on the requirements for Category C activation is located in the Commonwealth Determination, Guideline 3.

## Category D

Approval is by the Prime Minister and the Premier.

May be made available when the community is so severely affected by an eligible disaster that additional funding is required to meet particular circumstances of the event and where a gap or need for special assistance above and beyond the standard suite (Category A and B) of the NDRRA assistance arises.

If local governments identify a need for a Category D Extraordinary Special Assistance relief measure, they are encouraged to contact the relevant State Government agency. The State Government agency will collate and review the information and, if necessary, prepare a Business Case and forward to the QRA for review, then on-forwarding to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. If endorsed by the Premier, it will be forwarded to the Commonwealth for approval by the Prime Minister.

**Administrating Authority:** Dependent upon the type of assistance made available.

## State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA)

The SDRA is an all hazards relief program that is **100% State funded** and **covers natural and non-natural disasters**. The purpose of the SDRA is to address personal hardship and community response needs for disaster events where the NDRRA is unable to be activated. SDRA relief measures for Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme and Counter Disaster Operations are the same relief measures that are activated under the NDRRA, as detailed above.

The SDRA is able to be activated when the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services identifies that local service providers have reached their capacity to provide a service to people identified as experiencing personal hardship as a direct result of a disaster event, or that there are no local service providers to assist in the event of a disaster.

The Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (supported by the QRA) is responsible for activating and coordinating the delivery of the SDRA assistance measures.

*Additional funding outside the NDRRA & SDRA could be made available by the Commonwealth to assist communities to recover, such as the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) and the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Allowance (AGDRA). Information on funding available by the Commonwealth is located on:*

[www.disasterassist.gov.au](http://www.disasterassist.gov.au)

### Further Information:

Commonwealth NDRRA Determination

[www.disasterassist.gov.au](http://www.disasterassist.gov.au)

Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Guidelines

[www.qldreconstruction.org.au](http://www.qldreconstruction.org.au)

Submission Guide for NDRRA Funding Applications

[www.qldreconstruction.org.au](http://www.qldreconstruction.org.au)

For information concerning the NDRRA/SDRA program please contact:

**Mr Mark Drew**

General Manager, Strategic Policy  
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Ph: **1800 110 841**

Email: [info@qldra.org.au](mailto:info@qldra.org.au)

[www.qldreconstruction.org.au](http://www.qldreconstruction.org.au)

## Key contacts quick guide

### Category A

#### Counter Disaster Operations

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority  
Ph: **1800 110 841**

#### Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme

- Community Recovery Hotline Ph: **1300 173 349**
- DCCSDS Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

### Category B

#### Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme

- Community Recovery Hotline Ph: **1300 173 349**
- DCCSDS Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

#### Restoration of Essential Public Assets (including emergent works)

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority  
Ph: **1800 110 841**

#### Natural Disaster Assistance (Concessional Loans and Grant Packages) for Non-Profit Organisations

- DCCSDS Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**  
QRAA Ph: **1800 623 946**

#### Natural Disaster Assistance (Concessional Loans) for Small Business

- DTESB Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**
- QRAA Ph: **1800 623 946**

#### Natural Disaster Assistance (Concessional Loans) for Primary Producers

- DAF Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**
- QRAA Ph: **1800 623 946**

#### Freight Subsidies to Primary Producers

- DAF Ph: **3224 8832**

### Category C

#### Community Recovery Fund

- DCCSDS Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

#### Special Disaster Assistance (Clean up and Recovery Grants)

- QRAA Ph: **1800 623 946**

### Category D

#### Extraordinary Special Assistance

- The Administrating Authority is dependent upon the type of assistance made available.

#### NDRRA/SDRA Activation

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority
- Email: [NDRRA@qldra.org.au](mailto:NDRRA@qldra.org.au)
- Ph: **0417 644 595**