

SUMMARY OF NT GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Rec #	Description	Responsibility	NT position
National coordination arrangements			
3.1	<p>Forum for ministers</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should restructure and reinvigorate ministerial forums with a view to enabling timely and informed strategic decision-making in respect of:</p> <p>(1) long-term policy improvement in relation to natural disasters</p> <p>(2) national preparations for, and adaptation to, natural disasters, and</p> <p>(3) response to, and recovery from, natural disasters of national scale or consequence including, where appropriate, through the National Cabinet or equivalent intergovernmental leaders' body.</p>	Joint	Support.
3.2	<p>Establishment of an authoritative disaster advisory body</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should establish an authoritative advisory body to consolidate advice on strategic policy and relevant operational considerations for ministers in relation to natural disasters.</p>	Joint	Support.
3.3	<p>Revise COMDISPLAN</p> <p>The Australian Government should revise the COMDISPLAN thresholds to provide that a request for Australian Government assistance, including Defence assistance, is able to be made by a state or territory government when:</p> <p>(1) it has exhausted, or is 'likely to exhaust', all government, community and commercial resources</p> <p>(2) it cannot mobilise its own resources (or community and commercial resources) in time, or</p> <p>(3) the Australian Government has a capability that the state or territory does not have.</p>	Commonwealth	Support.
3.4	<p>Integrating disaster management of the Australian Government</p> <p>Australian Government agencies should work together across all phases of disaster management.</p>	Commonwealth	Support.
3.5	<p>Establishing a standing resilience and recovery entity</p> <p>The Australian Government should establish a standing entity that will enhance national natural disaster resilience and recovery, focused on long-term disaster risk reduction.</p>	Commonwealth	Support.
3.6	<p>Enhanced national preparedness and response entity</p> <p>The Australian Government should enhance national preparedness for, and response to, natural disasters, building on the responsibilities of Emergency Management Australia, to</p>	Commonwealth	Support.

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	include facilitating resource sharing decisions of governments and stress testing national disaster plans.		
Supporting better decisions			
4.1	National disaster risk information Australian, state and territory governments should prioritise the implementation of harmonised data governance and national data standards.	Joint	Support in principle.
4.2	Common information platforms and shared technologies Australian, state and territory governments should create common information platforms and share technologies to enable collaboration in the production, analysis, access, and exchange of information, data and knowledge about climate and disaster risks.	Joint	Support in principle.
4.3	Implementation of the National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability Australian, state and territory governments should support the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability and aligned climate adaptation initiatives.	Joint	Support in principle.
4.4	Features of the National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability The National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability should include tools and systems to support operational and strategic decision making, including integrated climate and disaster risk scenarios tailored to various needs of relevant industry sectors and end users.	Joint	Support in principle.
4.5	National climate projections Australian, state and territory governments should produce downscaled climate projections: (1) to inform the assessment of future natural disaster risk by relevant decision makers, including state and territory government agencies with planning and emergency management responsibilities (2) underpinned by an agreed common core set of climate trajectories and timelines, and (3) subject to regular review.	Joint	Support in principle.
4.6	Consistent impact data standards Australian, state and territory governments should work together to develop consistent data standards to measure disaster impact.	Joint	Support.

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4.7	<p>Collection and sharing of impact data</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should continue to develop a greater capacity to collect and share standardised and comprehensive natural disaster impact data.</p>	Joint	Support.
Declaration of national emergency			
5.1	<p>Make provision for a declaration of a state of emergency</p> <p>The Australian Government should make provision, in legislation, for a declaration of a state of national emergency. The declaration should include the following components:</p> <p>(1) the ability for the Australian Government to make a public declaration to communicate the seriousness of a natural disaster</p> <p>(2) processes to mobilise and activate Australian Government agencies quickly to support states and territories to respond to and recover from a natural disaster, and</p> <p>(3) the power to take action without a state or territory request for assistance in clearly defined and limited circumstances.</p>	Commonwealth	Support.
National emergency response capability			
6.1	<p>Assessment of the capacity and capability of fire and emergency services in light of current and future natural disaster risk</p> <p>State and territory governments should have a structured process to regularly assess the capacity and capability requirements of fire and emergency services, in light of both current and future natural disaster risk.</p>	States and territories	Support.
6.2	<p>A national register of fire and emergency services personnel and equipment</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should establish a national register of fire and emergency services personnel, equipment and aerial assets.</p>	Joint	Support in principle.
6.3	<p>Interoperable communications for fire and emergency services across jurisdictions</p> <p>State and territory governments should update and implement the National Framework to Improve Government Radio Communications Interoperability, or otherwise agree a new strategy, to achieve interoperable communications across jurisdictions.</p>	States and territories	Support in principle.
6.4	<p>Delivery of a Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should expedite the delivery of a Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability.</p>	Joint	Support in principle.

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6.5	<p>Multi-agency national-level exercises</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should conduct multi-agency, national-level exercises, not limited to cross-border jurisdictions. These exercises should, at a minimum:</p> <p>(1) assess national capacity, inform capability development and coordination in response to, and recovery from, natural disasters, and</p> <p>(2) use scenarios that stress current capabilities.</p>	Joint	Support.
6.6	<p>Employment protections for fire and emergency services volunteers</p> <p>The Australian Government should consider whether employment protections under the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) are sufficient to ensure that fire and emergency services volunteers will not be discriminated against, disadvantaged or dismissed for reasons associated with their volunteer service during natural disasters.</p>	Commonwealth	Support.
Role of the Australian Defence Force			
7.1	<p>Improve understanding of Australian Defence Force capabilities</p> <p>State and territory governments should take steps to ensure that there is better interaction, planning and ongoing understanding of Australian Defence Force capabilities and processes by state and territory fire and emergency service agencies and local governments.</p>	States and territories	Support.
7.2	<p>Review of Defence Assistance to the Civil Community manual</p> <p>The Australian Government should review the content of the Defence Assistance to the Civil Community manual to ensure consistency of language and application with a revised COMDISPLAN.</p>	Commonwealth	Support.
7.3	<p>Legal protections for Australian Defence Force members</p> <p>The Australian Government should afford appropriate legal protections from civil and criminal liability to Australian Defence Force members when conducting activities under an authorisation to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.</p>	Commonwealth	Support.
National aerial firefighting capabilities and arrangements			
8.1	<p>A sovereign aerial firefighting capability</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should develop an Australian-based and registered national aerial firefighting capability, to be tasked according to greatest national need. This capability should include:</p> <p>(1) a modest, very large air tanker/large air tanker, and Type-1 helicopter capability, including supporting infrastructure, aircrew and aviation support personnel, and</p> <p>(2) any other aerial firefighting capabilities (e.g. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), line-</p>	Joint	Support in principle.

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	scanning, transport, and logistics) that would benefit from a nationally coordinated approach.		
8.2	<p>Research and evaluation into aerial firefighting</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should support ongoing research and evaluation into aerial firefighting. This research and evaluation should include:</p> <p>(1) assessing the specific capability needs of states and territories, and</p> <p>(2) exploring the most effective aerial firefighting strategies.</p>	Joint	Support in principle.
8.3	<p>Developing the aerial firefighting industry's capability</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should adopt procurement and contracting strategies that support and develop a broader Australian-based sovereign aerial firefighting industry.</p>	Joint	Support.
Essential Services			
9.1	<p>Supply chains – government review</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments, in consultation with local governments and the private sector, should review supply chain risks, and consider options to ensure supply of essential goods in times of natural disasters.</p>	Joint	Support.
9.2	<p>Comprehensive information</p> <p>State and territory governments should include road closure and opening information on all roads within their borders on public apps.</p>	States and territories	Support.
9.3	<p>Provision of information</p> <p>State and territory governments should provide information to the public on the closure and opening of roads. Information should be provided in real-time, or in advance based on predictions, where possible.</p>	States and territories	Support.
9.4	<p>Collective awareness and mitigation of risks to critical infrastructure</p> <p>The Australian Government, working with state and territory governments and critical infrastructure operators, should lead a process to:</p> <p>(1) identify critical infrastructure</p> <p>(2) assess key risks to identified critical infrastructure from natural disasters of national scale or consequence</p>	Commonwealth	Support.

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	(3) identify steps needed to mitigate these risks (4) identify steps to make the critical infrastructure more resilient, and (5) track achievement against an agreed plan.		
9.5	<p>Improving coordination arrangements between critical infrastructure sectors and with government</p> <p>The Australian Government should work with state and territory governments and critical infrastructure operators to improve information flows during and in response to natural disasters:</p> <p>(1) between critical infrastructure operators, and (2) between critical infrastructure operators and government.</p>	Joint	Support.
Community Education			
10.1	<p>Disaster education for individuals and communities</p> <p>State and territory governments should continue to deliver, evaluate and improve education and engagement programs aimed at promoting disaster resilience for individuals and communities.</p>	States and territories	Support.
Emergency Planning			
11.1	<p>Responsibility for local government disaster management capability and capacity</p> <p>State and territory governments should take responsibility for the capability and capacity of local governments to which they have delegated their responsibilities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters, to ensure local governments are able to effectively discharge the responsibilities devolved to them.</p>	States and territories	Support in principle.
11.2	<p>Resource sharing arrangements between local governments</p> <p>State and territory governments should review their arrangements for sharing resources between their local governments during natural disasters, including whether those arrangements:</p> <p>(1) provide sufficient surge capacity, and (2) take into account all the risks that the state or territory may face during a natural disaster.</p>	States and territories	Support.
Evacuation planning and shelters			

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12.1	<p>Roadside vegetation management State and territory governments, working with local governments and fire and emergency service agencies, should ensure that there are appropriate arrangements for roadside vegetation management that take into account, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) priority access and egress routes (2) road priority, utility and strategic value (3) cost, and (4) residual risk to national natural disasters. 	States and territories	Support.
12.2	<p>Evacuation planning – Evacuation routes and seasonal populations State and territory governments should ensure that those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update them where appropriate, including in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) roles and responsibilities of state and territory governments, local governments and local communities (2) education and signage about evacuations and evacuation routes, including education of seasonal populations (3) the adequacy of evacuation routes; including contingencies if evacuation routes or centres are assessed as not being able to cope, and (4) the potential inability to evacuate, either by reason of circumstances or personal characteristics. 	States and territories	Support.
12.3	<p>Evacuation planning – Essential services and supplies State and territory governments should ensure that those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update them where appropriate, including in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) key risks that essential service outages have on communities during a severe or catastrophic natural disaster (particularly communications and power) d (2) availability of essential supplies, including food and water, and (3) consequence management and compounding events such as the loss of essential services or health impacts. 	States and territories	Support.
12.4	<p>Sheltering terminology should be made nationally consistent State and territory governments should, as a priority, adopt nationally consistent terminology and functions for the different sheltering facilities, including evacuation centres, Neighbourhood Safer Places, places of last resort and natural disaster shelters.</p>	States and territories	Support.

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12.5	<p>National community education</p> <p>State and territory governments should provide further community education on the function and limitations of different sheltering facilities, including evacuation centres, Neighbourhood Safer Places, places of last resort and natural disaster shelters. This education should be nationally consistent.</p>	States and territories	Support.
12.6	<p>Evacuation planning – Evacuation centres</p> <p>State and territory governments should ensure those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review these plans, and update them where appropriate, to account for the existence and standard of any evacuation centres and safer places (however described) in the community, including:</p> <p>(1) the capacity of a centre to handle seasonal population variation</p> <p>(2) the suitability of facilities to cater for diverse groups, including vulnerable people, and those evacuating with animals, and</p> <p>(3) the existence of communications facilities and alternate power sources.</p>	States and territories	Support.
12.7	<p>Evacuation planning – Planning for evacuations across boundaries</p> <p>State and territory governments should ensure those responsible for evacuation planning periodically review those plans, and update where appropriate, to provide for coordination between states and territories in cross-border areas and to provide cross-border access to evacuation centres.</p>	States and territories	Support.
Emergency information and warnings			
13.1	<p>Development and implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System</p> <p>State and territory governments should expedite the development and implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System. It should ensure that there is national consistency in the visual display of the AFDRS and action to be taken in response to each rating.</p>	States and territories	Support in principle.
13.2	<p>Education on the Australian Fire Danger Rating System</p> <p>State and territory governments should deliver education to ensure that the public understands the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System ratings, the potential danger attached to each rating, and the action that should be taken in response to each rating.</p>	States and territories	Support in principle.
13.3	<p>The Australian Warning System</p> <p>State and territory governments should urgently deliver and implement the all-hazard Australian Warning System.</p>	States and territories	Support in principle.

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13.4	An education campaign on the Australian Warning System State and territory governments should ensure that the implementation of the Australian Warning System is accompanied by a carefully developed national education campaign that considers the needs of all Australians.	States and territories	Support in principle.
13.5	The development of national standards for mobile applications The Australian Government should facilitate state and territory governments working together to develop minimum national standards of information to be included in bushfire warning apps.	Joint	Support in principle.
13.6	Exploring the development of a national, all-hazard warning app Australian, state and territory governments should continue to explore the feasibility of a national, all-hazard emergency warning app.	Joint	Support in principle.
Air quality			
14.1	Nationally consistent air quality information, health advice and interventions Australian, state and territory governments should: (1) develop close to real-time, nationally consistent air quality information, including consistent categorisation and public health advice (2) greater community education and guidance, and (3) targeted health advice to vulnerable groups.	Joint	Support in principle.
14.2	National Air Quality Forecasting Capability Australian, state and territory governments should develop national air quality forecasting capabilities, which include broad coverage of population centres and apply to smoke and other airborne pollutants, such as dust and pollen, to predict plume behaviour.	Joint	Support in principle.
Health			
15.1	Australian Medical Assistance Teams Australian, state and territory governments should review Australian Medical Assistance Team capabilities and procedures and develop necessary training, exercising and other arrangements to build capacity for domestic deployments.	Joint	Support.

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15.2	<p>Inclusion of primary care in disaster management</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should develop arrangements that facilitate greater inclusion of primary healthcare providers in disaster management, including: representation on relevant disaster committees</p>	Joint	Support.
15.3	<p>Prioritising mental health during and after natural disasters</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should refine arrangements to support localised planning and the delivery of appropriate mental health services following a natural disaster.</p>	Joint	Support.
15.4	<p>Enhance health and mental health datasets</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should agree to:</p> <p>(1) develop consistent and compatible methods and metrics to measure health impacts related to natural disasters, including mental health, and</p> <p>(2) take steps to ensure the appropriate sharing of health and mental health datasets.</p>	Joint	Support.
Wildlife and heritage			
16.1	<p>Environmental data</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should ensure greater consistency and collaboration in the collation, storage, access and provision of data on the distribution and conservation status of Australian flora and fauna.</p>	Joint	Support.
Public and private land management			
17.1	<p>Public availability of fuel load management strategies</p> <p>Public land managers should clearly convey and make available to the public their fuel load management strategies, including the rationale behind them, as well as report annually on the implementation and outcomes of those strategies.</p>	Joint	Support in principle.
17.2	<p>Assessment and approval processes for vegetation management, bushfire mitigation and hazard reduction</p> <p>Australian, state and territory governments should review the assessment and approval processes relating to vegetation management, bushfire mitigation and hazard reduction to:</p> <p>(1) ensure that there is clarity about the requirements and scope for landholders and land</p>	Joint	Support in principle

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	managers to undertake bushfire hazard reduction activities, and (2) minimise the time taken to undertake assessments and obtain approvals.		
17.3	Classification, recording and sharing of fuel load data Australian, state and territory governments should develop consistent processes for the classification, recording and sharing of fuel load data.	Joint	Support in principle.
Indigenous land and fire management			
18.1	Indigenous land and fire management and natural disaster resilience Australian, state, territory and local governments should engage further with Traditional Owners to explore the relationship between Indigenous land and fire management and natural disaster resilience.	Joint	Support.
18.2	Indigenous land and fire management and public land management Australian, state, territory and local governments should explore further opportunities to leverage Indigenous land and fire management insights, in the development, planning and execution of public land management activities.	Joint	Support.
Land-use planning and building regulation			
19.1	Communication of natural hazard risk information to individuals State and territory governments should: (1) each have a process or mechanism in place to communicate natural hazard risk information to households (including prospective purchasers) in 'hazard prone' areas, and (2) work together, and with the Australian Government where appropriate to explore the development of a national mechanism to do the same.	States and territories	Support.
19.2	Guidance for insurer-recognised retrofitting and mitigation The insurance industry, as represented by the Insurance Council of Australia, working with state and territory governments and other relevant stakeholders, should produce and	Industry	Support.

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	communicate to consumers clear guidance on individual-level natural hazard risk mitigation actions insurers will recognise in setting insurance premiums.		
19.3	Mandatory consideration of natural disaster risk in land-use planning decisions State, territory and local governments should be required to consider present and future natural disaster risk when making land-use planning decisions for new developments.	States and territories	Support.
19.4	National Construction Code The Australian Building Codes Board, working with other bodies as appropriate, should: (1) assess the extent to which AS 3959:2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas, and other relevant building standards, are effective in reducing risk from natural hazards to lives and property, and (2) conduct an evaluation as to whether the National Construction Code should be amended to specifically include, as an objective of the code, making buildings more resilient to natural hazards.	Commonwealth	Support.
Insurance			
20.1	Debris clean-up arrangements Governments should create and publish standing policy guidance on whether they will or will not assist to clean-up debris, including contaminated debris, resulting from natural hazards.	Joint	Support in principle.
Coordinating relief and recovery			
21.1	Arrangements for donated goods State and territory governments should develop and implement efficient and effective arrangements to: (1) educate the public about the challenges associated with donated goods, for example, the storage and distribution of donated goods, and (2) manage and coordinate donated goods to ensure offers of support are matched with need.	States and territories	Support.
21.2	Reform fundraising laws Australian, state and territory governments should create a single national scheme for the regulation of charitable fundraising.	Joint	Support.
21.3	National coordination forums The Australian Government, through the mechanism of the proposed standing national	Commonwealth	Support.

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	recovery and resilience agency, should convene regular and ongoing national forums for charities, non-government organisations and volunteer groups, with a role in natural disaster recovery, with a view to continuous improvement of coordination of recovery support.		
21.4	National recovery resource sharing arrangements Australian, state and territory governments should establish a national mechanism for sharing of trained and qualified recovery personnel and best practice during and following natural disasters.	Joint	Support.
21.5	National level recovery exercises Australian, state and territory governments should work together to develop a program for national level recovery exercises, building on the work currently underway through the Community Outcomes and Recovery Subcommittee of the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee.	Joint	Support in principle.
Delivery of recovery services and financial assistance			
22.1	Evaluation of financial assistance measures to support recovery Australian, state and territory and local governments should evaluate the effectiveness of existing financial assistance measures to inform the development of a suite of pre-effective pre-determined recovery supports.	Joint	Support.
22.2	Appropriate sharing of personal information Australian, state and territory governments should ensure that personal information of individuals affected by a natural disaster is able to be appropriately shared between all levels of government, agencies, insurers, charities and organisations delivering recovery services, taking account of all necessary safeguards to ensure the sharing is only for recovery purposes.	Joint	Support in principle.
22.3	Review the thresholds and activation process for the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements In reviewing the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Australian, and state and territory governments should examine the small disaster criterion, and financial thresholds generally.	Joint	Support.
22.4	Nationally consistent Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements assistance measures Australian, state and territory and local governments should develop greater consistency in the financial support provided to individuals, small businesses and primary producers under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.	Joint	Support in principle.

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22.5	Develop nationally consistent, pre-agreed recovery programs Australian, state and territory governments should expedite the development of pre-agreed recovery programs, including those that address social needs, such as legal assistance domestic violence, and also environmental recovery.	Joint	Support.
22.6	Better incorporate 'build back better' within the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Australian, state and territory governments should incorporate the principle of 'build back better' more broadly into the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.	Joint	Support.
22.7	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements recovery measures to facilitate resilience Australian, state and territory governments should broaden Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to encompass funding for recovery measures that are focused on resilience, including in circumstances which are not 'exceptional'.	Joint	Support.
22.8	Streamline the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements processes Australian, state and territory governments should create simpler Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements application processes.	Joint	Support.
Assurance and accountability			
24.1	Accountability and assurance mechanisms at the Australian Government level The Australian Government should establish accountability and assurance mechanisms to promote continuous improvement and best practice in natural disaster arrangements.	Commonwealth	Support.
24.2	An independent accountability and assurance mechanism for each state and territory Each state and territory government should establish an independent accountability and assurance mechanism to promote continuous improvement and best practice in natural disaster arrangements.	States and territories	Support in principle.
24.3	A public record of national significance The material published as part of this Royal Commission should remain available and accessible on a long-term basis for the benefit of individuals, communities, organisations, businesses and all levels of government.	Commonwealth	Support.