

Disaster Ready Fund Round One Outcomes – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Disaster Ready Fund?

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government's flagship disaster risk reduction initiative which will provide up to \$200 million per year to fund projects that reduce the risk or impact of natural hazards and disaster events.

The Australian Government is committed to investing in resilience initiatives to reduce the risk of disaster impacts and ensure that communities are in the best possible position for recovery when disaster does occur. This investment seeks to mitigate potential disaster loss and damage, it seeks to reduce harm, loss of life, property loss and the impacts on economic productivity and furthermore is cheaper than disaster response. For every dollar spent on disaster risk reduction, there is an estimated \$9.60 return on investment.

Investing in resilience and risk reduction is a key priority outlined in the UN [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) and Australia's [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#).

The DRF is intended to be an enduring fund, to provide all levels of government, external territories, as well as affected stakeholders, the certainty they need to plan for robust investments in resilience projects to reduce systemic disaster risk and the impacts of disasters predicated by natural hazards.

How much funding was available under DRF Round One 2023-2024?

Up to \$200 million was available under DRF Round One for 2023-2024.

What kinds of projects could be funded under Round One 2023-2024?

Projects under DRF Round One 2023-24 could target a broad range of natural hazards, and could include:

(Stream 1) Infrastructure projects, such as

- investment in grey infrastructure;
- investment in green-blue infrastructure (including nature based solutions);
- investment in hazard monitoring infrastructure; and
- business case development for future infrastructure (including investigation, modelling, concept and detailed design activities).

(Stream 2) Systemic risk reduction projects, such as

- supporting a better understanding of risk, through a better evidence base to understand and raise awareness of risk – to improve understanding of natural hazards and their potential impacts over time;



- strengthening decision making by enhancing governance networks and communities of practice, including the development and/or alignment of resilience and risk reduction strategies;
- adaptation projects that improve land use planning and development practice projects, including but not limited to the preparation of regional or local plans and updating land use planning instruments and building codes;
- projects that build the capacity and capability of businesses, community sector organisations and/or at-risk communities to improve their preparedness and resilience to the impacts of future disasters;
- and projects that enable and incentivise private investment in disaster risk reduction.

Who could apply?

Australian states and territories were eligible to apply for funding in Round One 2023-24.

States and territories were expected to work with local governments and communities to identify suitable proposals.

Each state and territory nominated a lead agency. The lead agency was considered as an Applicant and had responsibility for coordinating proposals for their jurisdiction and submitting the applications to the National Emergency Management Agency.

How were applications assessed?

Applications were assessed against the eligibility criteria, as specified in the [DRF Guidelines](#). Eligible applications proceeded to the assessment stage and were assessed by the DRF Assessment Panel. The Panel assessed applications against the selection criteria and provide applications with an overall rating.

The Minister for Emergency Management made the final decision on the projects to receive funding under the DRF.

What were the outcomes of Round One?

Round one applications were open from January 2023 until March 2023. Out of the over 300 applications received, the Australian Government has announced 187 projects will share in \$200 million under Round One of the DRF in 2023-24.

These projects provide DRF funding across all jurisdictions in Australia and include:

- almost \$65 million of Commonwealth investment in 74 infrastructure projects;
- almost \$84 million of Commonwealth investment for 74 systemic risk reduction projects; and
- over \$51 million of Commonwealth investment for 39 projects that will deliver both infrastructure and systemic risk reduction outcomes.

A complete list of successful projects will be published on [NEMA's website](#) once announced.

Our application was successful – what are the next steps?

States and territories have been formally notified of outcomes. Where applicable, [lead agencies in each state and territory](#) will be in touch with delivery partners to advise outcomes, provide feedback and seek input into next steps.



- Once funding agreements have been co-signed by relevant ministers:
 - Commonwealth funds will be transferred to state and territory governments as soon as possible from July 2023.
 - Lead agencies will in turn be responsible for disbursing these funds to project partners, where applicable.
 - An Implementation Plan for each project will need to be developed and submitted to NEMA, via lead agencies, within three months of funding agreements being signed. A template for these plans will be agreed between NEMA and lead agencies as part of funding agreement negotiations.
- Once the projects commence:
 - Lead agencies will need to report on progress and outcomes through periodic performance reports, a final report and an audit report.
 - The content and frequency of these reports will be agreed between lead agencies and NEMA as part of funding agreement negotiations.

If you require further information or feedback on a successful project, NEMA recommends you contact the [lead agency in your state or territory](#).

Our application was unsuccessful – why was this the case and can we reapply in Round Two?

Over 300 applications were submitted for Round One. Unfortunately not every project could be funded.

If you require further information or feedback on your unsuccessful project, NEMA recommends you contact the [lead agency in your state or territory as a starting point](#).

Planning for Round Two, which will provide up to \$200 million in 2024-25, has commenced. Stakeholder consultations are scheduled to commence from mid-2023.

When will more funding be available under DRF?

Funding for Round Two will become available from 1 July 2024.

Round Two of the DRF will build on the experience and outcomes from Round One, as well as ongoing stakeholder engagement. Further timing information about Round Two will be released in the second half of 2023.

To receive updates on the progress of Round Two, please email Disaster.Ready@nema.gov.au.

More information

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