



Australian Government

National Emergency  
Management Agency

OFFICIAL

Coordinator-General

EC23-004629

Councillor Darriea Turley AM  
President  
Local Government New South Wales  
GPO Box 7003  
Sydney NSW 2001

[lgnsw@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:lgnsw@lgnsw.org.au)

Dear Councillor Turley

I write to inform you of some enhancements we are making to the National Emergency Management Agency's (NEMA) Recovery Support Officer and Regional Planning Officer Network, now renamed the Coordination and Planning Officer Network.

The Australian Government is committed to best supporting communities impacted by disasters. As you know, State and Territory Governments have the primary responsibility for preparedness, response and recovery, and the Australian Government works alongside them to support and supplement their resources and capability. In this context, NEMA champions a community-informed, State and Territory led, and federally facilitated approach to building our country's disaster resilience and supporting communities when they need it most. To this end, the establishment of NEMA last year saw, for the first time, an end-to-end national Agency charged with enabling more secure, stronger and resilient communities before, during and after emergencies.

In recovery, one of the largest vehicles for Commonwealth support is through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). The DRFA provides a wide-range of co-funded support programs, from personal hardship payments, through to road and infrastructure repairs, and even, more recently, household resilience packages including buy backs. We have heard from State, Territory and Local governments that one of the biggest challenges in recovery is understanding these funding support options, and that the process of applying can be difficult to navigate. We are committed to reducing these challenges.

Over the next 18 months, the NEMA Coordination and Planning Officer Network will be strategically positioned in both metro and key regional areas to ensure we are best able to partner with States and Territories to support you and your communities. When required, this includes an enhanced ability to surge alongside State and Territories to disaster impacted areas for defined periods. Our people will be upskilled in disaster planning and have a thorough knowledge of DRFA and broader Commonwealth programs and capabilities available to support you. I am certain that these enhancements will lead to stronger coordination with States and Territories, more joined up support for communities and an enhanced ability to surge support when required.

Further complementing these enhancements is the significant support already available through the DRFA for dedicated support officers to local governments and communities affected by disasters. Through State and Territory and Commonwealth co-funding under the DRFA, there are currently over 115 support officers deployed to support communities across the country.



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Over the coming months, my staff and I will provide you further information and ensure any new Coordination and Planning Officers are formally introduced to local stakeholders. In this process of enhancement, I assure you that no community in active recovery will be left unsupported.

I would respectfully request you share this letter with your Local Government organisations and if you would like more information about NEMA's Coordination and Planning Officers, please contact Mr Andrew Hocking, First Assistant Coordinator General, National Resilience Capability Programs Division, at [andrew.hocking@nema.gov.au](mailto:andrew.hocking@nema.gov.au).

I look forward to NEMA continuing to enhance our partnerships that enable more secure, stronger and resilient communities before, during and after disasters.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Moon AM  
**Coordinator-General**

31 July 2023

