

**Submission
No 4**

REVIEW OF THE NSW RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY ACT 2022

Name: Mr Nathan Bourne

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Dear Committee

I wanted to provide a reflection on the NSW Reconstruction Authority in terms of the personnel engaged and the timeliness of support provided specifically in the Northern Rivers region.

The NSW RA since its establishment appears to have not achieved much to expedite the recovery of the communities assets. There appears to be another level of approvals and red tape created that slow approval processes.

Constant churn of senior personnel, program changes, and lack of independent review/audit of the processes implemented create confusion and often don't achieve the desired outcomes.

The personnel employed by NSW RA don't all appear to be disaster reconstruction experts but a splattering of existing government personnel with tourism, finance, marketing, legal and emergency service backgrounds. There are some high quality people however.

There needs to be a clear disaster stage definition showing who should be engaged at which point. There are phases in a disaster starting with the emergency response, immediate restoration then permanent restoration.

The correct amount of time needs to be spent and the focus needs to be on the recovery from the disasters (not just action for the sake of action e.g. Resilient Housing Program).

I think leaning on the work of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority as a best practice approach is a good starting point.

I hope the NSW RA receives the resources required to achieve their aims and there is simple and effective processes implemented to get the job on reconstruction completed in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely

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