



Public Accounts Committee – Hearing, Monday 26 April 2021

Responses to Questions Taken on Notice – Resilience NSW

QUESTION 1

The CHAIR: When you say you negotiated the criteria with the Commonwealth, were there different criteria for the early co-funding Bushfire Industry Recovery Program stream two grants compared to the fast-tracked priority local infrastructure projects?

Mr PRESLAND: There is one set of guidelines or criteria from the Commonwealth in relation to the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery fund.

The CHAIR: Did that cover the whole of the early co-funding round?

Mr PRESLAND: Yes, that would have covered the whole.

The CHAIR: Have you got a copy of that criteria there?

Mr PRESLAND: Not handy, no.

Ms PRENDERGAST: We can provide it on notice.

ANSWER:

Details of the final Commonwealth criteria for Local Economic Recovery (LER) projects can be found at <https://www.bushfirerecovery.gov.au/local-recovery-projects>.

Proposed projects are required to align to the following:

Balance and need

Diverse local and regional recovery needs are balanced, effort and funding duplication is avoided, vulnerable groups/diverse populations are supported, and unintended consequences are minimised (for example, adverse impacts on another region's economy or for a particular business, or adverse impacts on vulnerable groups). It is expected that each agreed priority region will receive some LER funding, and that projects where possible include those that cover each of the four recovery domains – economic, social, built and natural environments.



Resilience
NSW

Alignment

Projects align to and support medium-long term economic recovery needs identified in state local and regional recovery plans and are consistent with relevant national policy frameworks, including the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, and the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

Enduring benefit

Local and regional recovery is tangible, sustainable (i.e. delivers ongoing benefits and employment opportunities), builds future resilience, and reduces future disaster risk.

Funding stream suitability

Funding stream is suitable and preferable to other possible funding streams.

Local participation, support and delivery

Communities participate in planning and development processes, and support proposed projects. Projects optimise local and Indigenous employment and procurement opportunities, including opportunities for local trades, services and other input-supplying businesses.

Evidence base

There is an evidence base for project need and benefit. Evidence may be quantitative or qualitative, such as local and regional advice.

Feasibility

Projects are feasible, risks and consequences are acceptable, and appropriate mitigation strategies are identified. Project proponents can demonstrate delivery capacity and experience and project readiness supports commencement within LER timeframes. Cost is an effective, efficient and ethical use of resources.



QUESTION 2

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: *When we are talking about the governing Federal guidelines, that is that arrangements document or is there a separate document?*

Mr PRESLAND: *There is a set of guidelines—I am pretty sure it is referred to as guidelines—that the National Bushfire Recovery Agency negotiated with all the States. So that is on the Local Economic Recovery fund, which relates to the \$458 million that was provided nationally.*

The CHAIR: *When were those guidelines settled with the Commonwealth?*

Mr PRESLAND: *I do not have the exact date when it was finalised. It would be late October or November but I can find that date.*

The CHAIR: *Late October or November of 2020? Is that right?*

Mr PRESLAND: *I will check. I can take that on notice and provide the exact date.*

ANSWER:

NSW received final advice on the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Framework on 20 November 2020 with approval to extend the project delivery time by an additional 12 months to 30 June 2023.