

NWQROC

North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils

5 June 2014

Natural Disaster funding
Productivity Commission
LB2 Collins St East
Melbourne VIC 8003

The North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils submits the following views with respect to the Productivity Commissions inquiry into Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements.

- NDRRA funding should not be reduced but should be increased as cost shifting to local governments is not viable or sustainable.
- NDRRA funding requirements should always encompass a “betterment” strategy in order to improve resilience of infrastructure assets.
- Funding supplied for betterment/resilience measures should be increased before the event and will have the consequence of reduced reliance on NDRRA after the disaster event
- If there is to be a reduction in funding, any reduction in NDRRA funding should only occur over a significant period of time – certainly not next year, and only after there has been the opportunity to undertake substantial resilience works.
- The decision making process to include or exclude day labour needs to be transparent, logical and based on Value for Money criteria. The decision whether or not to use day labour should be a decision for individual councils based on the aforementioned criteria and each council’s knowledge of its local circumstances and context. This may require Councils to complete a detailed review and business case submission, including where some percentage of day labour may be more effective, together with some assistance from external contractors.

Please contact Bob Owen if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,

Bob Owen
SECRETARY

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