



24 October 2014

Office of the General Manager
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Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins Street East
Melbourne Vic 8003

Dear Sir/Madam,

Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements – Draft Report Submission

Blue Mountains City Council (Council) welcomes this opportunity to make this submission regarding Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements at a time where the City is still in the recovery phase of one of the worst bushfire natural disasters to impact upon a Local Government Area in NSW. This bushfire event resulted in the total loss of almost 200 homes, with another 100 severely damaged, as well as significant impacts on people and communities.

The reality for the Blue Mountains is that there is a high probability of future natural disaster events that will necessitate support to the Council and the community. Due to well documented changes in weather patterns, the consensus is that these events are likely to occur on a more frequent basis with the potential for ever more devastating outcomes. In this context, maintaining sufficient support for local communities to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from natural disasters is increasingly important.

This submission provides Council's views in relation to the recommendations contained in the Productivity Commission's draft report on the Australian Government's Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements. Key themes in this submission are Council's concerns about cost shifting to lower levels of government with very limited capacity to respond and the potential for reduced levels of support to the community during times of crisis.

If your office wishes to discuss any of the matters raised in Council's submission, then you may contact Nick Rigby, Manager, Environment

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT GREENWOOD
General Manager