

Disaster Recover Funding Arrangements (DRFA) – Status (12 January 2024)

A word from the Projects Team

On 15 May 2023, Nambucca Valley council (NVC) created the Projects Team. Since day one, the Team dedicated most of its time to council disaster funding applications for the repair of our sealed roads and landslides. Despite the limited resources and the other grant-funded projects to deliver, the Team has achieved a milestone. We are pleased to share it with you.

Background information

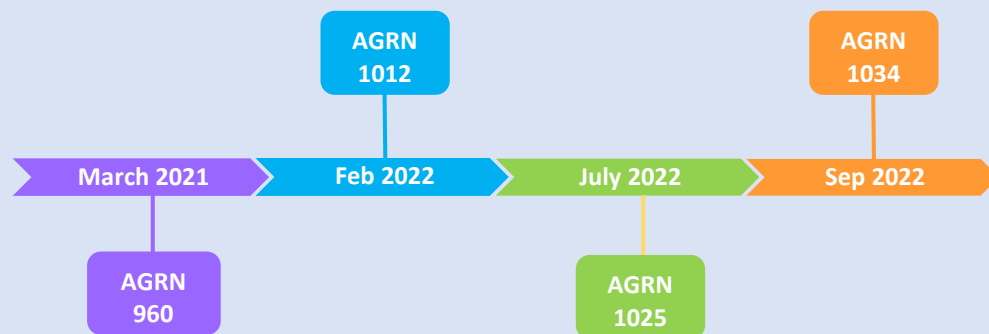
What is the DRFA?

On 1 November 2018, the Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 (DRFA) came into effect. The DRFA are the Commonwealth's arrangements for providing financial support to states and territories for expenditure on relief and recovery measures for natural disasters.

Natural disaster declarations

A disaster declaration is a frequently updated list of Local Government Areas (LGAs) that have been impacted by a natural disaster. Disaster declarations are issued by the NSW Government and incorporate an Australian Government Reference Number (AGRN).

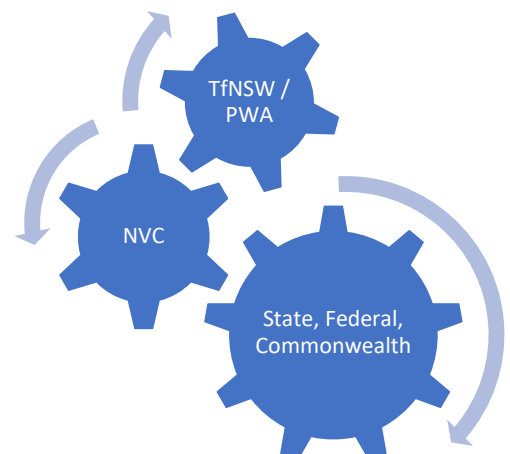
The AGRNs for which the Nambucca Valley Council 'opted in', and which are still active, are AGRN960, AGRN1012, AGRN1025, and AGRN1034.



Process to access funding

The process is very time-intensive. Most of our disaster repairs are coordinated with Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW), while only a few are coordinated with Public Works Advisory (PWA). Both agencies have a dedicated Program Manager with whom we have been dealing in a very cooperative and constructive way.

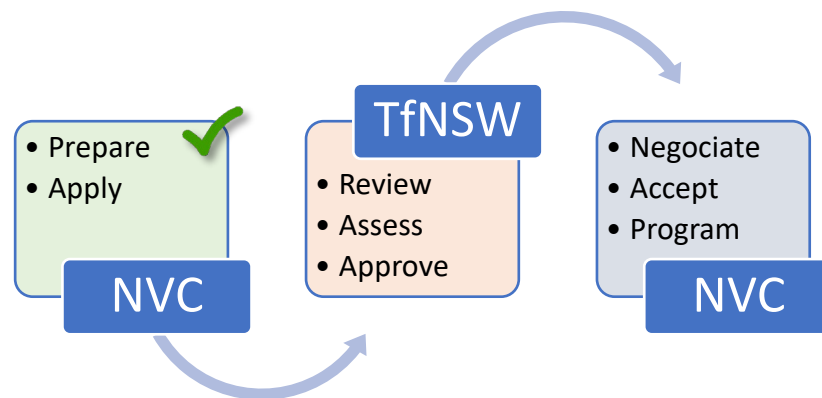
- TfNSW receive instructions they pass on to councils; these instructions have been changing causing delays for both TfNSW and Councils. Due to a change of deadlines, the AGRN960 damages rolled into the AGRN1012, extending our access to funding.



- As for PWA, works related to the clean-up of playgrounds, boat ramps, and repairs of existing retaining structures along a river or stormwater with an outlet to a river, have been completed early with some greater projects being delivered (for example the retaining wall at the Nambucca RSL carpark)

Current status

- NVC is pleased to announce that the hard work performed by the Project Team from 15/5/2023 to 31/12/2023, led to submitting, within the timeline, all the funding requests to TfNSW to assist with (i) the repair of our sealed roads (rural and urban) and (ii) all the eligible landslides.



- NVC is now waiting for TfNSW to provide their feedback and is ready to start negotiating and reach the best agreement possible for the Valley. NVC applications' total value is over \$100m. This amount contains a lot of contingencies and project management costs. TfNSW will apply minoring percentages when, in their mind, the damages are not just due to bad weather, which will impact the contingency and project management percentages.
- Due to TfNSW workload peak, TfNSW will need time to process all the funding requests. While this is another delay, it will allow more time for NVC to refine our submissions.
- To get some repair works started, NVC has requested from TfNSW that some roads and some landslides be considered and treated as priorities. We hope for some good news soon.

Red Hill

- The Red Hill (Congarrini) and Taylor's Arm Rd landslides are "standalone" landslides. To assess the bearing capacity and shearing properties of the geological formation, we have drilled 20-meter-deep boreholes. These parameters are crucial for the design of a retaining structure and for the construction of a road. We have also submitted a request for a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA). This CBA would model different options, such as local repairs vs road realignment, to allow informed decision-making.

Communication with the public



While we have been focussing on attempting to submit as many applications as we could, we did not invest much time in communicating. We received phone calls and emails from the community, essentially from those directly affected by landslides and damages. We thank you for your patience and your understanding. When NVC receives the required funding and starts programming the repair works, we will attempt to communicate the good news and the timing of the repairs.