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Premier of NSW

Paul Toole

Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Police

Steph Cooke

Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, Minister for Flood Recovery

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT INVESTS \$200 MILLION TO IMPLEMENT FLOOD INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS

The NSW Government has committed almost \$200 million in new funding to implement a number of the recommendations from the independent Flood Inquiry.

The funding will ensure emergency services are better equipped to respond to future disaster events and support impacted communities during recovery.

It builds upon work that is already underway to implement recommendations of the Inquiry, including passing legislation to establish the NSW Reconstruction Authority and appointing a Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Management in the NSW Police Force.

Key elements of the package are additional dedicated flood rescue vehicles, including 60 Inflatable Rescue Boats and 16 high clearance vehicles, the ability to train an additional 2,350 personnel in flood rescue, support for volunteer initiatives, and increased funding to ensure seamless coordination of evacuation centres and emergency accommodation.

Premier Dominic Perrottet said the key focus of this funding was the State's emergency response and recovery functions.

"Events of this year alone show that the conditions we are facing and the magnitude of the natural disasters need this level of support to ensure our frontline agencies are well-placed to continue delivering for the community," Mr Perrottet said.

The \$199.4 million new funding includes:

- \$159.5 million to enhance NSW's flood rescue capability for our emergency services agencies and volunteer organisations (recommendation 4), including the NSW State Emergency Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, Marine Rescue NSW, Surf Life Saving NSW and the Volunteer Rescue Association;
- \$16.8 million to support the Department of Communities and Justice in its delivery of key disaster welfare functions, including evacuation centres (recommendation 5);
- \$11.9 million to better support volunteerism, including training community members who may become 'spontaneous' volunteers in a disaster

- (recommendation 6);
- \$6.5 million to enhance Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley flood evacuation modelling (recommendation 26);
- \$2.2 million to commence the establishment of the NSW Reconstruction Authority following passage of legislation (recommendation 15);
- \$1.9 million to support support NSW specific climate and weather research (recommendation 2);
- \$1.8 million to Service NSW to enhance customer support for disaster affected individuals and businesses by streamlining grants delivery (recommendation 10);

“Our combat agencies will benefit from more resources to respond to disasters, and our service agencies will be better equipped to support the people of NSW through the recovery process,” Mr Perrottet said.

Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Police Paul Toole said the NSW Government’s response balanced the need for rapid changes with long-term planning.

“The current flood risk across parts of the Central West, as well as the ongoing recovery of communities hit by floods earlier this year including the Northern Rivers, clearly shows us, that no matter where you live in the State, now is the time for action to better prepare, respond and recover the next time a disaster strikes,” Mr Toole said.

“Already as part of our response to the Inquiry, we have announced Deputy Commissioner Peter Thurtell APM’s appointment as the new Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Management to oversee and coordinate emergency services’ response to future natural disasters right across the State.”

Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience and Minister for Flood Recovery Steph Cooke said the funding will allow first responders to better protect communities from a range of weather events.

“The NSW Government is committed to addressing the recommendations in the independent Flood Inquiry which will equip us to better respond to and recover from all types of natural disasters,” Ms Cooke said.

“Many communities across inland NSW continue to be confronted with major flooding and we remain focused on supporting all of the impacted families, farmers and business owners during this difficult time, but we are also working hard to improve the capability of our combat agencies to better fight the floods of the future.”

The NSW Government continues to progress implementation of all the recommendations from the Inquiry and will make further announcements in 2023.

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