

Thank you Chair and Committee for allowing me to make a statement.

The 23/24 High Risk Weather Season again tested the resilience of many Australian communities

Tropical cyclones, record breaking rainfall, heatwaves and bushfires as well as rapid onset severe storms, yet again, challenged the capabilities and capacities of our systems and people.

Since last October, **44** disasters have been declared nationally, affecting around **195** Local Government Areas.

NEMA prepared for all eventualities and our national preparedness program provided essential support to states and territories as they prepared responded and transitioned to recovery over multiple events.

NEMA not only continues to evolve national emergency capabilities it also continues to make significant progress in relation to our systems, processes and our people.

We continue to work with states and territories to build capability in the emergency management sector through:

- Increasing our **National Emergency Management Stockpile** with an additional \$27 million over the next three years to support the rapid provision of critical emergency management goods and services such as temporary emergency shelter.
- Enhancing our **national aerial response capability** with the investment in multi-capability aircraft fleet providing rescue, relief and disaster support capability as well as firefighting.
- Focusing on the continued development of national emergency management technologies including the **Public Safety Mobile Broadband**, and

- The new **National Messaging System** to improve emergency messaging and the safety of communities during times of crisis is well into development.
- We continue to focus with states and local governments on delivering recovery programs from the floods and other disasters of recent years through NEMA's largest funding program, the **Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements**.
- We are currently evaluating projects for Round 2 of the **Disaster Ready Fund**, a \$1 billion investment to drive risk reduction and resilience across Australian communities.
- Working to solve insurance issues by delivering the **Hazards Insurance Partnership and Strategic Insurance Projects** which are identifying the most pressing insurance issues and working to reduce risk and costs.

With a warmer than normal winter forecast and with a La Nina watch, we shall continue to prepare for the next High Risk Weather Season. We shall also continue to support recovering communities as well as ensure we continue to build resilient communities through the ongoing delivery of our disaster risk reduction programs.

Thank you for your time, I now welcome your questions.