

**Question on Notice  
No. 52  
Asked on 7 February 2007**

MR CRIPPS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR PURCELL) -

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the department's natural disaster payments and programs-

- (1) Why did the department's contribution to the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program decrease from \$7.9M in 2004/05 to \$4.3M in 2005/06 and what is the expected level for 2007?
- (2) Why did Natural Disaster Relief Payments decrease from \$1.8M in 2004/05 to \$891,000 in 2005/06?

**ANSWER:**

- (1) The Australian Government has been responsible for determining the notional funding allocations each year for all the states and territories since the program's introduction in 2003/04.

Queensland's notional allocation in 2004/05 was \$3.325 million, which subsequently increased to \$3.510 million due to the allocation of additional funds from states that were under-subscribed. Queensland's contribution was \$3.321 million, taking the total Australian and State Government funding for 2004/05 to \$6.831 million, not \$7.9 million.

The Australian Government contributed funding of \$2.130 million under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program to Queensland projects in 2005/06. Queensland's contribution was \$2.172 million, taking the total Australian and State Government funding for 2005/06 to \$4.302 million.

The total amount of Australian Government funding available nationally under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program in 2004/05 was \$15 million. The total funding available in 2005/06 was \$9 million, which accounts for the decrease in both the Australian and State Governments' funding contributions in 2005/06.

The notional Australian Government allocation to Queensland for 2007/08 is \$4.485 million, due to the inclusion of funding previously allocated to the Regional Flood Mitigation Program. The State funding component will increase to match the Australian Government component, taking the available Australian and State Government funding to approximately \$9 million.

- (2) For 2005/06 the Department's records indicate that \$7.8 million of assistance was paid by the Department of Emergency Services.

Total Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements relief and recovery assistance provided to Queensland disaster affected communities totalled \$87.3 million in 2004/05. It is expected that assistance in 2005/6 once finalised and certified by the Auditor General will exceed \$134.6 million.