

National Disaster Recovery Organisation Ltd



NDRO | National Disaster
Recovery Organisation

Recovery to Revival for Impacted Communities

Submission to Senate Inquiry into Disaster Resilience

20 February 2023

Submission compiled by Wayne Smith, Chief Executive NDRO Ltd

Submission relating to the following section of the Senate Inquiry terms of reference,

(b) consideration of alternative models, including:

- i. repurposing or adapting existing Australian civil and volunteer groups, not-for-profit organisations and state-based services.

Introduction

The National Disaster Recovery Organisation Ltd (NDRO) is an Australian Charity established in July 2020 based in Queensland and registered in every State and Territory in Australia.

Our operations are dedicated to the delivery of humanitarian relief services into Australian communities adversely affected by declared disaster events. The charity operates exclusively within Australia.

The NDRO is a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) duly registered with the ACNC and the ATO.

Our Board is comprised of Wayne Smith, Timothy Stevens and Duke Myrteza with Wayne Smith acting as Chief Executive Officer.

Background

From July 2020 to July 2022, our efforts were focussed on research and planning, upskilling of key operatives, relationship building with stakeholders, outreach to Government at all levels and establishing a reliable funding process.

Wayne Smith has earned a QUT Graduate Certificate in Disaster Risk Management in 2021 and is studying a QUT Master of Business degree (Non-Profit Philanthropic Studies) 2022.

Collaboration was sought and gained between the NDRO, QUT and Asset College to create and deliver a Security Extension Course for the purposes of training Community Protection Officers (CPO)

The CPO's are the operatives in the field who carry out 24/7 mobile and foot patrols as a looting deterrent and the 24/7 manning of roadblocks to prevent loss of life through individual indiscretion by members of the public.

The Role of the NDRO

The NDRO is developing a range of valuable services to be offered to communities which have been adversely impacted by disaster events.

Much of what we are building has either never been done before or hasn't been successfully implemented in the past.

For example, some of the roles proposed for the CPO's to undertake are roles which both the SES and QLD Police say they have under control. We know that this position isn't entirely accurate.

Reports of looting emanate from every disaster whether it be flood, bushfire or cyclone. (1)

Reports of people losing their lives crossing flooded bridges and causeways happen far too often in nearly every flood event. (2)

Police, SES and Fire Services are predominantly reactionary bodies specially trained to respond rapidly to dynamic and changing events during emergency events such as natural disasters.

The ADF can also be added to this cohort but only at the behest of State authorities and mainly because of its superior logistical capabilities. The ADF is at times been called upon to undertake activities in support of disaster stricken communities. (3)

The NDRO seeks to support these groups during the initial phase of a disaster by undertaking the more restricted activities such as mobile and foot patrolling of damaged and evacuated areas and roadblock positioning. (4),(5),(6)

This will enable first responder agencies to focus on more exigent matters requiring their immediate attention. While the provision of support services for first responders is important, the NDRO will continue to deliver critically important long-term, innovative programmes to affected communities. These programmes will include,

1. Multi skilled and specially trained CPO's to help deter looting 24/7
2. CPO's to be deployed at roadblocks 24/7 to help protect human life
3. Creation and delivery of Security Extension Courses (CPO) in conjunction with QUT and Asset College.
4. Dedicated industry specific teams of Business rebuilding volunteers
5. Experienced Business Coaches to help rehabilitate damaged businesses
6. Dedicated and specially trained disaster counselling for disaster survivors
7. Recuperation Home parks located in various locations around the country
8. Long term community revitalisation programmes
9. Mitigation programmes to provide permanent communication hubs in LGA's

NDRO Programme Contributors

- Mr Stephen Simmons (now retired) built a career in senior levels of the correctional industry in Queensland for 34 years. He has a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of custodial operations having been responsible for a diverse range of areas including but not limited to emergency response and incident management.
- Dr Jo Stephens is an Australian registered counsellor and registered paramedic. She has 30 years' experience as a health professional in a myriad of clinical, managerial, educational and academic roles. She has been a paramedic and nurse, practicing in remote, rural, regional towns and metropolitan areas throughout Queensland. Jo is also an Adjunct Senior Lecturer with Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and practices as a registered counsellor in her own private counselling practice in Brisbane and in the not-for-profit sector supporting regional and rural communities. She has a particular interest in working with people on the autism spectrum, people with disability and their families. She also supports paramedics, police, nursing and allied health professionals seeking counselling and reflective practice support.
- Dr Joanne Durham is a Senior Lecturer in Disaster Risk Management at QUT. She has vast experience in disaster management accumulated from over 25 years volunteering and working in countries around the world.
- Asset College is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and the largest provider of Security Courses in Australia.

References

1. 'Looters target inundated Victorian homes as Australians warned of flood-induced price hikes' Lifted from <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/looters-target-inundated-victorian-homes-as-australians-warned-of-flood-induced-price-hikes/uayduaw77>
Published 17 October 2022 at 8:04am, updated 17 October 2022 at 4:35pm
Source: SBS, AAP
2. Queensland-NSW flood updates: Alleged looters arrested after families forced to flee homes Rhiannon Lewin / Queensland News / Updated 03.03.2022
3. Looters target bushfire-devastated NSW areas, leaving police disgusted Steven Trask / Bushfires / Updated 04.01.2020
4. 'Left and right of arc': The legal position of the Australian Defence Force in domestic disaster response using the 2009 'Black Saturday' Victorian bushfires as a case study Janine Fetchik, Australian National University Lifted from - <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/ajem-apr-2012-left-and-right-of-arc-the-legal-position-of-the-australian-defence-force-in-domestic-disaster-response-using-the-2009-black-saturday-victorian-bushfires-as-a-case-study/#:~:text=With%20the%20exception%20of%20Defence,19>.
5. Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience
'Motorist behaviour during the 2015 Shoalhaven floods'
Andrew Gissing, Katharine Haynes, Lucinda Coates, Chas Keys- Peer-reviewed Article
Lifted from <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/ajem-apr-2016-motorist-behaviour-during-the-2015-shoalhaven-floods/>
6. 'Causal Pathways of Flood Related River Drowning Deaths in Australia'
MAY 18, 2017 · RESEARCH ARTICLE Deaths between 2002 and 2012 Lifted from <https://currents.plos.org/disasters/article/causal-pathways-of-flood-related-river-drowning-deaths-in-australia/>