

**PREMIER'S BRIEFING NOTE**

*Governance*

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**To: THE PREMIER**  
**Date: 3 June 2009**  
**Subject: Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal - Northern and North West Queensland monsoonal floods and Tropical Cyclones Charlotte and Ellie**

Approved / Not Approved / Noted

Premier .....

Date .....

Date Action Required by: .....

Requested by: .....  
*(if appropriate)*

**• RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that you:

- note the update on the disbursement of funds donated to the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal (the Appeal) to help those affected by the Northern and North West Queensland monsoonal floods and Tropical Cyclones Charlotte and Ellie, and
- approve that the Appeal cease to collect donations on 30 June 2009.

**• KEY ISSUES**

- To date, the Appeal has raised a total of \$8.17 million.
- Applications for assistance from the Appeal closed on 30 April 2009.
- The Red Cross will commence payments to eligible applicants on Friday, 5 June 2009.
- A total of 2135 applications for assistance from the Appeal were received and assessed by the Red Cross Distribution Committee. Of these:
  - o 2095 applications were deemed eligible for payment, with individual payment amounts ranging between \$500 to \$10 000 depending on the severity of the damage and the applicant's capacity to recover (disbursements will total \$7 916 250)
  - o 37 applicants were considered ineligible for assistance as these applicants were assessed as having little or no damage to property and had a significant capacity to recover, and
  - o three applicants withdrew as they found that insurance would cover their losses.
- A breakdown of funding disbursements is attached, for your information (Attachment 1).
- A contingency of \$253 750 has been held back to consider any appeals received in relation to the payments made from the Appeal.
- The Red Cross will accept appeals against funding decisions for a period of 30 days. Should the entire contingency not be disbursed, the remaining funds will be disbursed equally to applicants in most need with a limited capacity to recover.
- Donations have slowed considerably. In addition, it will prove challenging to distribute funds beyond 30 June 2009 as the Red Cross anticipate that they will have completed disbursements and reviewed all appeals and late applications by this date. It may also be viewed negatively if all funds are not disbursed in a timely manner.
- It is therefore recommended that donations to the Appeal cease to be collected on 30 June 2009, in accordance with your previous media statement.

**• PUBLIC COMMITMENTS**

- In a media statement on 15 May 2009, you indicated that the Appeal will stay open until the end of June 2009 (Attachment 2).

**• CONSULTATION**

- Australian Red Cross (Queensland) and Financial Management of this department.

**• BACKGROUND**

- On 6 February 2009, you launched the Appeal with a Government contribution of \$500 000 and announced that the Red Cross would distribute the donated funds on behalf of the Government. The Appeal was sanctioned under the *Collections Act 1966* to collect donations for a period from 6 February 2009 up to 30 June 2010.

Comments (Premier or DG)

Ken Smith  
Director-General

Action Officer: Glenys Jenkin  
Area: Executive Services  
Telephone: 07 552 3000  
Approvals by Director /ED / DDG documented in notes in TRIM  
RTI Document No. 37

PREMIER'S DISASTER RELIEF APPEAL - DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE DECISIONS  
 VERSION 1 AGREED ON 28/5/09 (02/06/09 After checking Categories)

8170000

	# OF APP	\$ ALLOC	
A+	47	10000	470000
A	244	7500	1830000
B	454	5000	2270000
C	971	3000	2913000
E	379	433250	433250
	<b>2095</b>		<b>7916250</b>
			253750 BAL TO ALLOCATE

Withdraw 3  
 D 37  
 BLANKS  
 # of Apps 2135  
 ADDITIONAL FUNDS RECEIVED

BALANCE TO ALLOCATE

A+ = \$10,000 - severe damage to home and household contents and limited capacity to recover. Many of these applicants have no insurance or have been advised by their insurer that they are not covered for this event. In some cases access to a drinkable water supply has been severed (pumps for dams etc) and access roads to properties have been washed away. While this payment amount is large, this amount will not completely cover these applicants' losses but will significantly assist with the recovery process.

A = \$7,500 - severely impacted by the event but may not have been devastated to the extent of those in Category A+. In most instances there has been severe damage to residences and contents however the capacity to recover may be higher.

B = \$5,000 - damage to contents and/or lower level damage to residences. In some instances these applicants do not own their home but have significant losses to their contents and other damage.

C = \$3,000 - lower level damage to owner occupied residences / lesser damage to household contents.

E = various payments between \$500 - \$2,000 - this category has been applied where the losses are below the Category C payment amount and range from insurance excess payments for pensioners, minor structural damage and lesser level damage to household contents.

D = ineligible for assistance - little of no damage and significant capacity to recover. In some instances investigations have been undertaken to confirm that the residence in question did not receive any damage at all.



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### **Premier and Minister for the Arts The Honourable Anna Bligh**

**Friday, May 15, 2009**

#### **Payments to flow from Premier's \$8M Flood Appeal**

Ingham: Payments from the Premier's North and North West Queensland 2009 Flood Appeal will begin early next month, Premier Anna Bligh said today.

More than 2,100 people have made application for assistance.

"The Appeal, which remains open until the end of June, has so far raised more than \$8.076 million," Ms Bligh said.

"The Red Cross and its distribution committee are now processing the applications and the first of the payments will be made in the coming fortnight.

"On behalf of all Queenslanders I say a big thank you to the more than 20,390 groups or individuals who have made donations so far.

"Be it the \$874,416 from the Sydney Bushfire Appeal Concert, or individuals, school groups, banks or car sales groups, their thoughtfulness will be greatly appreciated by flood victims.

"It is always heartening to know Aussies will dig deep to help out in a time of need."

The State Government launched the Appeal on February 6 with \$500,000. Major donors so far include: the PNG Government (\$1 million), Australian Government (\$500,000), Rio Tinto (\$250,000) and Woolworths (\$150,000).

Others include;

ØFelix Resources (staff and company) - \$71,750,

ØCSR Limited, Bank of Queensland & Gold Coast City Council - \$50,000,

ØEnergex (staff and management) \$48,266,

ØTownsville City Council - \$35,000,

ØTyco Flow Control Pacific Pty Ltd and Staff - \$32,930,

ØAdventist Development and Relief Agency Trust, Logan City Council - \$30,000,

ØMoreton Bay Regional Council, Caltex, Queensland Hotel Association, AWB Ltd, Lion Nathan, Caltex - \$25,000,

ØQueensland Chinese Forum - \$23,061,

ØRACQ, Returned Services League of Australia, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Genesys - \$20,000,

ØJames Frizelle's Auto Group - \$18,750,

ØRedcliffe Leagues Club \$13,593,

ØABN - AMRO Morgans \$13,000,

ØPort of Brisbane \$11,912,

ØData #3 \$11,250, and

ØEric Donald Aldridge, Goldman Sachs JB Were Managed Fund, JBW Foundation (Trust), City of Wanneroo, Redland Council, Campbell Brothers, Merwah Shires Council

ØCredit Union Australia, Mike Carney Motor, Powerlink, WHK Horwarth Pty Ltd, Australian Credit Union, Vodafone Australia Foundation and Mr I. and Mr M. Howard-Smith each donated \$10,000.

No donation - whether it be \$20 or \$2 - is too small. Donations can be made to the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal Fund at any of the big banks including the Commonwealth, Westpac, NAB, ANZ, Suncorp Metway and the Bank of Queensland.

Cheques can be made out to the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal Fund or donors can contact the Smart Services Queensland Call Centre on 1800 173 349 with their credit card details. This line will be open 24 hours a day.

Applications for support from the fund closed on 30 April 2009.

**Media contact: Premier's Office 3224 4500**