

PREMIER'S BRIEFING NOTE

Governance

Tracking Folder No. TF/09/16513

Document No. DOC/09/71308

To: THE PREMIER
Date: 1 July 2009
Subject: Red Cross Final Distribution Report on the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal launched for the Central and Southern Queensland storms of November 2008

Approved / Not Approved / Noted

Premier

Date

Date Action Required by:

Requested by:
(if appropriate)

• RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

- sign the attached letter to Mr Greg Goebel, Executive Director, Australian Red Cross (Queensland), thanking the Red Cross for distributing the funds donated to the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal (the appeal) launched to help those affected by the Central and Southern Queensland storms of November 2008, on behalf of the Queensland Government (Attachment 1).

• KEY ISSUES

- Mr Goebel wrote to you on 3 June 2009 to provide a copy of the Distribution Committee Report for the appeal launched to help those affected by the severe storms throughout Central and Southern Queensland in November 2008.
- Mr Goebel wishes to place on record his appreciation for the assistance provided by this department in administering the appeal, and in particular the work of Glenys Jenkin, Senior Policy Officer, Executive Services, for her work on the Distribution Committee.
- The Appeal raised a total of \$1 748 000.
- The Red Cross received a total of 868 applications for assistance from the Appeal.
- Payment was approved on 740 applications, disbursing all of the donated funds. The Red Cross commenced payments to eligible applicants on 6 February 2009.
- The Red Cross distributed the donated funds on the basis of one application per family or household group and directed assistance to those who had suffered damage to their principal place of residence and/or personal belongings as a result of the November 2008 storms. Funds were distributed as personal hardship assistance and were not intended to compensate for all losses.
- Payment amounts ranged from \$200 to \$5000, depending on the applicants losses and capacity to recover. A breakdown of the funding distribution is at Attachment 2.

Contrary to Public Interest

• CONSULTATION

- Red Cross and Financial Management of this Department.

• BACKGROUND

- On 18 November 2008, you announced the commencement of the Appeal to assist people who have been affected by the severe storms that struck Queensland in November 2008.

Comments (Premier or DG)

Ken Smith
Director-General

Action Officer: Mike Kirton
Area: Executive Services
Telephone: 322 44815

Approvals by Director /ED / DDG
documented in notes in TRIM

For reply please quote: ES/GJ05 – TF/09/16513 – DOC/09/71375

Mr Greg Goebel
Executive Director
Australian Red Cross
PO Box 1822
MILTON QLD 4064

Thank you for your letter of 3 June 2009 providing the final report from the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal Distribution Committee on the distribution of the funds donated to the appeal launched to help those affected by the severe storms that struck Central and Southern Queensland in November 2008.

I am very pleased to note that the donated funds have gone to those in most need within the storm affected communities. The Red Cross is a well respected organisation and the principles and processes applied by the Distribution Committee demonstrate a fair and responsible approach to fund disbursement.

Partnerships such as those developed between my Government and the Australian Red Cross highlight the importance and benefit of a collaborative approach, ensuring that a positive outcome is achieved for disaster affected families. I am sure that the assistance provided to those affected by this disaster has been truly appreciated.

I would like to thank the Australian Red Cross, the Distribution Committee members and the administrative support team who have all played an important role in ensuring that the donated funds have been applied for the benefit of the storm affected communities.

I look forward to receiving the audited financial statements from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

ATTACHMENT 2

PAYMENTS FROM THE PREMIER'S DISASTER RELIEF APPEAL FOR THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND STORMS OF NOVEMBER 2008

Category	Category Description	Number of applicants	Payment Amount	Total Payments
A	Highest need with the most limited capacity to recover	56	\$5000	\$280 000
B	Significant need with a limited capacity to recover	187	\$3600	\$673 200
C	Moderate need with a moderate capacity to recover	388	\$1800	\$698 900
D	Ineligible for assistance - little or no damage and a significant capacity to recover	128	Nil	Nil
E	Special needs category for smaller requests such as old age pensioners requesting assistance to pay their insurance excess	109	Various amounts between \$200 and \$1700	\$95 900
TOTAL PAYMENTS				\$1 748 150

RTI RELEASED

CRISIS CARE COMMITMENT CRISIS CARE COMMITMENT CRISIS CARE COMMITMENT



Wednesday, 3 June 2009

Premier
Care of Parliament House
Alice and George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Premier, *Anna,*

Please find enclosed a copy of the final report for the distribution of the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal for the storms that occurred in November 2008. Overall we received 868 applications for assistance and distributed funds totalling \$1,748,000 to 740 applicants.

All applications were categorised on the basis of hardship with those experiencing the most hardship receiving \$5000. Other payments were \$3600 and \$1800, with a range of smaller applications between \$200 and \$1700.

During the process we received five appeals against decisions and these were reconsidered by the distribution committee with a number successfully providing additional information to enable them to receive assistance.

The attached report provides details of the processes involved in the distribution of funds as well as the full accounts of the amounts paid in each category and to residents in different suburbs.

I would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to help vulnerable people and place on record our appreciation of the assistance provided by the Premier's Department and in particular the work of Glenys Jenkin (Senior Policy Officer), on the distribution committee.

Kind Regards,

Greg Goebel
GREG GOEBEL
Executive Director

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PREMIER'S BRIEFING NOTE
Governance

Tracking Folder No. TF/09/18631
Document No. DOC/09/76617

To: THE PREMIER
Date: 8 July 2009
Subject: Ceasing Collections to the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal launched for the Northern and North West Queensland Monsoonal Floods and Tropical Cyclones Charlotte and Ellie

Approved / Not Approved / Noted
Premier *[Signature]*
Date *21.7.09*
Date Action Required by:
Requested by:
(if appropriate)

• RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

- approve that donations to the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal (the Appeal) launched to help those affected by the Northern and North West Queensland Monsoonal Floods and Tropical Cyclones Charlotte and Ellie cease to be collected on 31 July 2009.

• KEY ISSUES

- Donations to the Appeal have slowed considerably.
- As at 2 July 2009 the balance of the Appeal was \$8.384 million and \$8.19 million has been transferred to the Red Cross to facilitate payment.
- The Red Cross commenced payments to eligible applicants on 4 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 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).
- The remaining funds have 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.
- Therefore, it is recommended that donations to the Appeal cease to be collected on 31 July 2009.
- In order to cease collecting by 31 July 2009, the banks which have voluntarily accepted donations on behalf of the Appeal (CBA, NAB, Westpac, Suncorp and Bank of Queensland) will need to be notified in advance of the ceasing collections date so they can advise their branches accordingly and provide a final statement on donations to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).
- SmartServices Queensland will also need to be advised as they are still providing advice on how to donate to the Appeal.
- The Premier's website will need to be updated to advise the public that donations to the Appeal have ceased.

• CONSULTATION

- Australian Red Cross and Financial Management, DPC.

• BACKGROUND

- On 5 June 2009, TF/09/15368 was forwarded to your office recommending that donations to the Appeal cease to be collected on 30 June 2009. As the original proposed ceasing collections date has now passed, it is recommended that donations cease to be collected on 31 July 2009.

[Signature]
(Ken Smith
Director-General
10-07-09)

Comments (Premier or DG)

Action Officer: Glenys Jenkin Approvals by Director /ED / DDG
Area: Executive Services documented in notes in TRIM
Telephone: 303 30679

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
	2095	7916250	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.