

# Call for Expressions of Interest

T7-A6: Assisted relocations after flood

Expressions of Interest due **5pm AEST, 4 AUGUST 2025**  
to [research@naturalhazards.com.au](mailto:research@naturalhazards.com.au)



---

# Overview

Natural Hazards Research Australia (hereafter the Centre) is seeking Expressions of Interest from project teams for the following project:

## T7-A6: Assisted relocations after flood

---

<b>Project description</b>	This project aims to build disaster management capability by collaborating with key agencies and community stakeholders in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales. Together they will develop a case study on assisted relocations at scale, providing actionable findings to improve the responsiveness and efficacy of existing and future initiatives to enhance community disaster resilience.
<b>Estimated duration</b>	Two years
<b>Budget</b>	The budget envelope for this project is \$250,000 to \$300,000 (ex GST) The research team should note that this is a competitive process. Expression of Interest submissions will be assessed on value for money and justification for any funds requested.
<b>Related Centre research priorities for 2024–26<sup>1</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Understanding and mitigating risk</li><li>→ Land-use planning and urban design</li></ul>
<b>Supporting organisations</b>	New South Wales Reconstruction Authority
<b>Centre contact</b>	For any questions regarding this Call for EOIs, please email <a href="mailto:research@naturalhazards.com.au">research@naturalhazards.com.au</a> .
<b>Online project briefing</b>	[For more information or questions, an online project briefing webinar will be held at <b>10:00am AEST, 16 July 2025</b>
<b>Submission of EOI</b>	EOIs must be prepared using the Centre's <a href="#">EOI submission form</a> and <a href="#">Budget Template</a> . EOIs are to be submitted to <a href="mailto:research@naturalhazards.com.au">research@naturalhazards.com.au</a> by <b>5:00pm AEST, 4 August 2025</b>

---

---

<sup>1</sup> Natural Hazards Research Australia (2024) *Biennial Research Plan 2024–26*, accessible at <https://www.naturalhazards.com.au/sites/default/files/2024-07/NHRA%20ResearchPlan24%E2%80%9326%2004.pdf>

---

# Statement of requirements

## Background and context

Community relocation is defined by the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC, 2021)<sup>2</sup> as, “The intended permanent movement and establishment elsewhere of people exposed and vulnerable to the existing or anticipated effects of disaster or climate change.”

Managed retreat through assisted relocations will be a vital tool for governments internationally to deploy to adapt to climate change and mitigate natural hazard risk.

Recent examples of assisted community relocations include the relocation of Grantham (Queensland) following major flooding in 2011 and in Christchurch, New Zealand, following the 2010/11 earthquake.

Key indicators for evaluating post-disaster assisted relocations have mostly focused on outputs rather than resilience and adaptation outcomes and the social, environmental and economic impact on communities. The United States National Academy of Science acknowledges, “There are many lessons to be learned from communities that have experienced relocation, including international communities, but these lessons often go unmarked.”<sup>3</sup>

Following extreme rainfall and flooding across the Northern Rivers in February-March 2022, the New South Wales (NSW) Government commenced delivery of the Resilient Homes Program (RHP) and the Resilient Lands Program (RLP). Together, these programs are aimed to strengthen the community’s adaptive capacity through assisted relocations. These programs present a new model of how disaster-impacted regions can transition towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

Examining the roll-out of assisted relocations through the RHP and RLP in the Northern Rivers presents a valuable opportunity for learning and application in real-time, informing not only program and customer service improvements in the Northern Rivers context but also outlining the key lessons that can inform broader policy development for post-disaster recovery and managed retreat.

## Project description

The project will work with RHP and RLP administrators and relevant communities to collaboratively develop a case study of assisted relocations at scale, providing actionable findings to improve the preparedness, responsiveness and efficacy of existing and future initiatives to enhance community disaster resilience.

By examining the Northern Rivers context, both pre- and post-disaster, the project will analyse the broader economic, social and institutional governance factors which influenced the design and delivery of assisted relocation programs.

The project will examine homeowners’ journeys to identify service delivery gaps and explore the many dimensions underpinning community and household decisions to accept or decline buybacks in voluntary schemes or assisted relocations, including but not limited to emotional, risk, social and cultural, financial and other factors..

---

2 <https://www.iag.com.au/content/dam/corporate-iag/iag-aus/au/en/documents/corporate-iag-planned-report-0323.pdf> page 5

3 Community-driven relocation: Recommendations for the US Gulf Coast Region and beyond, Chapter 12, page 359: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/27213/chapter/12#359>

---

This includes exploring conflicting knowledge, values and priorities among individuals, the community and organisations that may create tensions and impact the roll-out and success of assisted relocations in the Northern Rivers.

The project will consider the relationship between the RHP and RLP to highlight key learnings that can be applied to enhance policy outcomes and customers' experience.

It will do this by:

- mapping the assisted relocation journey of homeowners across the RHP and RLP programs and identifying the capacity of collaborative partners to support homeowners through assisted relocations
- collecting evidence and learnings about the delivery and implementation of the assisted relocation component of the RHP and RLP
- engaging with local communities to understand what constitutes effective place-based adaptation and disaster resilience within the context of assisted relocations
- engaging with local First Nations communities to determine appropriate co-design processes that lead to place-based participation and support for assisted-relocation reform.

## Expected outputs

Outputs are the products that are expected to be delivered by this project.

### Core outputs

- Literature review and interviews with a select number of key personnel involved in existing or previous assisted relocation programs from Australia and internationally to explore the varied contexts, implementation and resilience outcomes.
- Collate and deliver a final report, outlining:
  - a comparison of the assisted relocation model in the Northern Rivers versus models in other jurisdictions and nations, including how these programs manage the pre-disaster preparedness and recovery post disaster contexts
  - an analysis of what is working well in the Northern Rivers (i.e. governance, communications, stakeholder management, administration) and for whom
  - an analysis of the evolution of the RHP and RLPs, including impacts from changes made during their implementation, such as impacts to their alignment and the assisted relocation process (what were the changes in response to, who initiated these and what were their impacts)
  - an analysis of recovery post disaster implementation and pre-disaster preparedness
  - an analysis of key learnings for future delivery of post-disaster assisted relocation under the RHP and RLP
  - an analysis of the homeowner journey across RHP and RLPs
  - practice and policy considerations on how these learnings may be applied to accelerate effective post-disaster adaptation program development in other regions.
- A toolkit to support the policy response in other disaster impacted jurisdictions. This will comprise:
  - a set of guidance documents addressing findings and implement learnings/ policy and practice options for assisted relocations
  - a methodology for the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of outcomes of assisted relocation programs and policy frameworks, including longer term outcomes from assisted relocation
  - workshops (up to three) with RHP and RLP teams and wider NSW Reconstruction Authority staff to apply learnings in real-time to improve current/existing operational activities
- academic publications in high-ranking international journals.
- other innovative outputs that your team can deliver to address the outcomes can be detailed below.

### Additional outputs

---

- project plan and plain language statement
  - quarterly progress reports
  - project evaluation report
  - relevant communications outputs including but not limited to a presentation and a poster
-

## Collaborative approach

Researchers are expected to undertake the research using a collaborative approach to assist in the translation and transfer of knowledge to end-users and to ensure the project meets their needs. Researchers are encouraged to outline their approach to ensuring effective collaboration which could include embedding researchers within end-user organisations for a period to time.

## Anticipated outcomes

This project will evaluate and identify what is working well and what can be improved upon in the establishment and delivery of post-disaster assisted relocation under the RHP and the RLP. It will also outline how these learnings can be applied to accelerate effective post-disaster adaptation program development in other regions.

Project outcomes will contribute to the provision of a regional picture of the potential scale of climate migration. By establishing a better understanding of how natural hazard risk, climate change impacts, population dynamics and development settings shape population mobility trends, this project will inform long-term planning needed to mitigate slow-onset climate challenges and ensure positive and sustainable development outcomes.

Project outcomes will enable improved responsiveness and efficacy of existing and future assisted relocation programs (both pre- and post-disaster) through:

- new knowledge and evidence on how the RHP and RLP, and similar programs can reduce the effort, cost and time to recover from future disasters, including reducing the physical, financial, social and emotional impacts on members of the community
- increased disaster resilience and reduced natural hazard risk through social and built environment change
- a better understanding of barriers and opportunities to the successful implementation of current and future programs
- an improved understanding of community knowledge, values and capacity that may impact homeowners' ability to engage with assisted relocation programs
- evidence demonstrating the importance of consistent and tailored support for people relocating and how this can be managed logistically to complement development initiatives.

## Quality control and reporting

The project will be overseen and supported by a Project Management Committee (PMC) comprising the Principal Researcher, a Centre representative, and at least one stakeholder representative. Composition of the PMC will be determined in consultation with the Principal Researcher.

### Reports

---

The Centre expects that the outputs delivered by this project will meet the highest scientific standards and will be suitable for publication on the Centre website and in industry newsletters, as well as in high-quality scientific journals.

The successful research organisation/s must co-develop with end-users a project plan and project summary using the Centre's templates. The project summary should explain in plain language what the project is about, what questions it intends to answer and describe the expected practical outputs that will make use of the research findings. The project plan must be approved by the PMC and will become an attachment to the contract.

---

Reports (and any supporting material) must be submitted to the PMC's satisfaction and will be subject to review by PMC members. The project team will be required to ensure an internal peer review process is undertaken prior to the final report being submitted.

### **Milestone reporting**

---

The project team must report all milestone deliverables and engagement activities into the Centre's Project Management System. This will include sufficient justification for the completion of milestones to the satisfaction of the PMC and the Centre.

### **Communication**

---

To further assist with quality assurance, it is expected that:

- regular PMC meetings will be held
- the project team will use a consultative approach, documented in quarterly reports
- the Principal Researcher will give periodic presentations to key stakeholder groups to gain critical feedback on project milestones.

Additional quality control processes may be agreed as part of the project planning process.

## Contractual arrangements

A copy of the Research Services Agreement, the proposed form of contract for the purposes of this project, [can be found here](#).

The Centre reserves its rights to make amendments to the form of contract.

### **This agreement should be reviewed by applicants as part of the EOI submission.**

If you would like to request amendments to any of the terms and conditions set out in the proposed form of contract, details of the proposed changes and the reason the changes are requested must be included in the EOI submission form. Requests for any changes will be at the sole discretion of the Centre.

Selection as a shortlisted or preferred provider does not give rise to a contract (express or implied) between the shortlisted or preferred provider and the Centre for the supply of goods or services. No legal relationship will exist between the Centre and the shortlisted or preferred provider until such time as a binding contract in writing is executed by both parties.

In the case of consortiums, the Centre requests that one consortium member be nominated as Lead Research Provider and take responsibility for subcontracting other parties.

---

# Submitting an Expression of Interest

## Application and review process

The Centre will conduct an independent assessment process for the selection of a research provider to deliver the Research Project. An Assessment Panel will conduct evaluation of the EOIs that are received. Where required, the Panel may conduct interviews, request presentation or referee checks as part of the assessment process.

Following the assessment process the Centre may appoint one or more successful Applicants on Centre contract terms. Under the Centre contract, the preferred provider will co-develop a detailed Research Plan with input from key stakeholders.

### Key dates

---

<b>30 June 2025</b>	Call for EOIs opens
<b>16 July 2025</b>	Online project briefing
<b>4 August 2025</b>	Due date for EOIs

## Submission requirements for this EOI

Project teams responding to this EOI are required to submit their response using the Centre's [EOI submission form](#) and [Budget Template](#). Submissions must include:

- a statement of capability (max 600 words), including the proposed contributions of each research team member to the project
- a statement (max 400 words) about the diversity of the project team
- a statement (max 400 words) about the project's inclusion and respect of First Nations peoples, philosophies, cultures, rights and/or knowledges
- an outline (max 1000 words) describing how the project team intends to approach the project, strategies for effective collaboration and an indicative methodology
- an indicative schedule of work and interim milestones/project outputs as described in this document
- a proposed project budget in line with the budget envelope provided, including details of any in kind contribution from research organisation/s – a detailed budget to be provided using the downloadable [Budget Template](#) provided on the Centre's website
- a clear statement (max 400 words) describing the outcomes that will be delivered for this project and how they will be used by stakeholders
- a clear statement (max 400 words) describing the outputs that the proposed approach to this project will deliver and how the findings could translate into practice
- a statement (max 500 words) demonstrating the project team's relevant industry and stakeholder engagement
- a risk management statement (max 500 words)
- any requested changes to the Centre's proposed form of contract
- up to two-page CVs for each proposed project team member.



## Additional information

In responding to this Call for Expressions of Interest, advice should be provided on any known or anticipated impacts of COVID or other pandemic restrictions or human resource risks on the timely delivery of the project. Where appropriate, risk management for the impacts of pandemic restrictions should be incorporated into the EOI.

### Frequently asked questions

Additional information provided to individual respondents will also be published on the Centre's website to ensure access to all interested parties. Respondents are encouraged to check the website for any additional information via these published FAQs, prior to the closing date.

### Online project briefing

An online webinar scheduled for **10:00am AEST, 16 July 2025** will provide a more detailed briefing of the project and the opportunity for interested parties to pose specific questions.

Registrations for this webinar can be made via the project page on the Centre's website. Once completed, a recording of this webinar will be posted to the website to ensure all interested respondents have access to this information.

### Evaluation criteria

After the closing date, the Centre will review submitted EOIs against the evaluation criteria below. The evaluation criteria provide an indication of those matters that should be included in the EOI and supporting material – details are provided in the table below.

The Centre reserves the right not to offer the work, or only allocate a proportion of the available funding, if a proposal does not meet the Centre's needs. The Centre reserves the right to invite any other specific researchers as it sees fit to submit proposals before or after the closing date.

#### Mandatory evaluation criteria

- **Registered Australian business:** The respondent holds a valid Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN)
- **Public liability insurance:** The respondent has or will obtain appropriate insurance
- **Specific research capability:** Demonstrated research expertise and/or experience in working with state government agencies

Submissions to Expressions of Interest must clearly explain how this expertise addresses the project requirements outlined here.

Evaluation criteria	% weighting
<b>Research capability:</b> the capacity and capability to deliver an excellent research project in an Australian environment	20
<b>Project approach:</b> a demonstrated understanding of the project requirements and a proposed project approach and methodology that is appropriate, feasible and robust Relevant outline of a collaborative approach to assist in the translation and transfer of knowledge to end-users and to ensure the project meets their needs.	20

---

<b>Project outcomes and outputs:</b> demonstrate a high-level understanding of the intentions of the project and how outputs/outcomes translate to practice	20
---	----

---

<b>Industry engagement:</b> strong track record of industry engagement with the ability to support and influence Australian disaster management at a national or state/territory level through interaction with key stakeholders	20
--	----

---

<b>Value for money:</b> value with money refers to an application representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of Centre resources. Consideration of the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each application including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ the quality of the application and activities represented by the technical assessment</li> <li>→ fitness for purpose of the application in contributing to Centre objectives</li> <li>→ the potential research provider's relevant experience and performance history</li> <li>→ whole of life costs (in-kind, other costs, risks, legal risks)</li> </ul>	20
---	----

---