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| To: | All SLSNSW Clubs and Branches |
| From: | Surf Life Saving New South Wales |
| Date: | 9 June 2016 |
| Pages: | 3 |
| Subject: | NSW Emergency Financial Assistance and Information |

To: SLSNSW Club and Branch Presidents and Secretaries,

Following the recent storms over the weekend 3rd – 5th June, the following Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been declared Natural Disasters. Please note that these LGAs are those Councils in operation since 12 May 2016 following the recent Council changes and mergers.

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| 1. Bega Shire | 18. Liverpool |
| 2. Blacktown City Council | 19. Maitland |
| 3. Byron | 20. Northern Beaches |
| 4. Camden Council | 21. Parramatta |
| 5. Campbelltown City Council | 22. Penrith |
| 6. Canterbury-Bankstown Council | 23. Port Macquarie-Hastings |
| 7. Central Coast | 24. Queanbeyan-Palerang |
| 8. City of Sydney | 25. Randwick |
| 9. Coffs Harbour | 26. Ryde |
| 10. Eurobodalla | 27. Shellharbour |
| 11. Fairfield | 28. Shoalhaven |
| 12. Hornsby | 29. Sutherland |
| 13. Inner West | 30. The Hills |
| 14. Kiama | 31. Tweed |
| 15. Ku-ring-gai | 32. Waverley |
| 16. Lane Cove | 33. Willoughby |
| 17. Lismore | 34. Wingecarribee |
| 35. Wollondilly | |
| 36. Wollongong | |
| 37. Woollahra | |

For those SLS volunteers who are assisting with emergency operations, please note that the NSW Premier has signed an order activating Part 3A of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*. This order allows for the activation of provisions to prevent detrimental action being taken against an employee who is absent while taking part in an emergency operation.

Financial assistance for SLSCs

For those clubs in the LGAs listed in the above Natural Disaster Declarations there are a number of schemes available:

1. Natural Disaster Assistance Scheme – Sporting Clubs (grants administered by NSW Treasury)

Loan amount: Maximum assistance available is \$12,000, including a grant of up to \$2,000 and the balance by way of a repayable advance with interest.

Focus: A special scheme is available to assist sporting clubs in meeting the costs of restoration of essential club facilities that have been damaged or destroyed. The assistance is made available to those clubs which do not have the financial capacity to meet restoration costs from their own resources, but which have the capacity to repay any loan that may be granted.

Link: <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/emergency-events/severe-weather/disaster-assistance.html>

2. Natural Disaster Assistance Scheme – Churches and voluntary non-profit organisations (administered by NSW Rural Assistance Authority)

Loan amount: Loans up to a maximum of \$25,000 at a concessional interest rates per annum.

Focus: Loan assistance is available to churches and voluntary non-profit organisations for the restoration of essential facilities that have been damaged or destroyed. Eligible groups will usually perform a service for the community or environment and are funded by grants or donations.

Link: <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/emergency-events/severe-weather/disaster-assistance.html>

Financial assistance for individual club members

1. NSW Office of Emergency Management Disaster Relief Grants

Focus: Relief grants to eligible individuals and families whose homes and essential household contents have been damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster.

Eligibility criteria include:

- Low-income earner and meet income and assets test
- Demonstrate that affected home is your principle place of residence, and that damage was caused by the disaster
- Not be covered by insurance

Closing date: Applications must be lodged within four months of the disaster occurring

Link: https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/media/admin/708/_/jo9mlj1lk8wxcsk4sg/Factsheet_DisasterReliefGrants.pdf



2. Federal Government Disaster Recovery Allowance

Please note that the Department of Human Services website does not yet include reference to the current NSW floods therefore we would encourage individuals to contact the Department before applying to ensure eligibility.

Focus: Short-term income support payment to assist individuals who can demonstrate their income has been affected as a direct result of a disaster; it is payable for a maximum of 13 weeks

Closing date: Once an event is declared a major disaster you will have six months to lodge your application with the Department of Human Services

Link: <http://www.disasterassist.gov.au/FactSheets/Documents/AustralianGovernmentDisasterRecoveryAllowance.pdf>

3. Federal Government Disaster Recovery Payment

Please note that the Department of Human Services website does not yet include reference to the current NSW floods therefore we would encourage individuals to contact the Department before applying to ensure eligibility.

Focus: The Disaster Recovery Payment is a one-off, non-means tested payment of \$1000 for eligible adults and \$400 for eligible children who have been adversely affected by a major disaster. Eligibility criteria apply.

Closing date: Once an event is declared a major disaster you will have six months to lodge your application with the Department of Human Services

Link: <https://www.ag.gov.au/EmergencyManagement/Disaster-assistance-and-grants/Documents/disaster-recovery-payment-factsheet.pdf>

Other forms of assistance

While these are not grants or financial assistance, these are other useful services or waivers that individuals affected by the natural disasters may wish to utilise.

1. NSW Births Deaths and Marriages

Focus: Those affected by the natural disaster can have their certificates and drivers licences replaced at no cost

Link: <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/emergency-events/severe-weather/disaster-assistance.html>

2. Office of State Revenue

Focus: Motorists whose cars have been written off as a result of a natural disaster may be eligible for a stamp duty refund on their replacement vehicle. Refunds are made where the written off vehicle was comprehensively insured and the insurance does not cover duty for a replacement vehicle.

Link: <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/emergency-events/severe-weather/disaster-assistance.html>

The Surf Life Saving Foundation Grant Seeking Unit are available to all Clubs and Branches to assist with any grant application and can be contacted via the below staff who can assist with all enquiries:

GSU Manager, Susan Ahmelman – (07) 3399 1501

GSU Research and Communications – Cameron Stanley – (07) 3177 5844