



MC24-001397

Mr Frank Mills
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Dear Mr Mills

Thank you for your email to the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon Chris Bowen MP, concerning the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands seeking a letter of support for an application to the second round of the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) grant program. Minister Bowen has asked me to thank you for your correspondence and to reply on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I am pleased that you are seeking funding to benefit your community and increase its resilience, and acknowledge the ongoing challenges that Cocos (Keeling) Islands are experiencing arising from tidal inundations, coastal erosion and flooding.

As you are aware, the DRF grant program is administered by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in partnership with states and territories, and therefore within the portfolio of the Minister for Emergency Management Senator the Hon Murray Watt. It would be inappropriate for Minister Bowen to provide a letter of support for an application to a program within another Commonwealth minister's portfolio. I encourage you to continue to engage with the Western Australian Department of Fire and Emergency Services, which I understand will liaise with the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts in relation to your and other Indian Ocean Territories' applications. I am also advised that NEMA will engage with Minister Bowen's department during the assessment process. A factsheet outlining the application process is here: [Disaster Ready Fund Round Two - Indian Ocean Territories Factsheet \(nema.gov.au\)](https://nema.gov.au).

I would like to take this opportunity to also provide you with an update on Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Plan. Over the coming weeks the department anticipates releasing a National Adaptation Plan Issues Paper for consultation alongside the First Pass Risk Assessment Report. My team will contact you directly once these documents are published online at [Climate adaptation in Australia - DCCEEW](#).

Thank you again for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

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