



## National Emergency Medal Tropical Cyclone Debbie 2017

On 30 March 2020, the Honourable Ben Morton MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet announced that Tropical Cyclone Debbie 2017 has been declared a nationally-significant emergency for the purpose of the National Emergency Medal.

The National Emergency Medal may be awarded to members of eligible organisations, or individuals, who have given sustained or significant service during national emergencies.

It is currently issued to recognise the bushfires that happened in Victoria in February 2009, the floods that happened in Queensland during December 2010 and January 2011, and Cyclone Yasi Tropical Cyclone Debbie 2017 and the floods that happened in the North Queensland in January and February 2019.



### Administered by a specific committee

The Department of Defence does not administer the National Emergency Medal.

The medal is administered by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat at Government House which provides a Secretariat to the National Emergency Medal Committee. A nationally significant emergency event must be declared by the Governor-General under the National Emergency Medal Regulation 2011, including specific criteria for the award.

### Eligibility criteria

The National Emergency Medal Committee determined the following criteria for Tropical Cyclone Debbie 2017:

- Service performed during Tropical Cyclone Debbie 2017 will be recognised though the clasp, 'TC DEBBIE 2017'
- Service must be in the protection of lives and property; or in the service of interests, that are not their own; in direct response to the emergency (including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response).
- The geographical areas consist of the following local government areas, as at 25 March 2017.
  - New South Wales: Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield, Tweed.
  - Queensland: Banana, Brisbane, Bundaberg, Burdekin, Central Highlands, Charters Towers, Fraser Coast, Gladstone, Gold Coast City, Goondiwindi, Gympie, Hinchinbrook, Ipswich, Isaac, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Mackay, Maranoa, Moreton Bay, Noosa, North Burnett, Palm Island, Redland, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim, Somerset, South Burnett, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville, Western Downs, Whitsunday, Woorabinda Aboriginal.



## National Emergency Medal and Tropical Cyclone Debbie 2017

- The qualifying period begins on 25 March 2017 and ends on 10 April 2017; and
- The minimum duration of service that a person is required to have completed to qualify for sustained service is 5 days.

The National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011 established two avenues of consideration for how the National Emergency Medal may be awarded:

1. The Governor-General may, on the recommendation of the Secretariat, award to a person who has given sustained service during a nationally-significant emergency the Medal and a clasp denoting the nationally-significant emergency.
2. The Governor-General may, on the recommendation of the Committee, award to a person who has given significant service during a nationally-significant emergency the Medal and a clasp denoting the nationally-significant emergency.

## Applications

Defence will develop a list of eligible ADF personnel and employees of Defence. Individuals are not required to submit an application.