Dear Minister

**[Insert introduction specific to your charity, setting out your role and beneficiaries.]**

I am writing to put on record our opposition to the draft NSW Government proposal to impose arbitrary targets on charities for spending monies raised for disaster appeals. Our position is based on three main concerns, which are set out below.

First, there is no evidence presented (because it does not exist) that charities unnecessarily or inappropriately slow down the spending of money on communities affected by natural disasters such as bushfires and drought. The Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission conducted a thorough review of this matter following the last bushfire season and gave the charities concerned a clean bill of health.

Second, to meet their legal, counter-fraud and corporate governance requirements, charities must establish proper and thorough procedures for the disbursement of funds. This is essential to both protect donors (by ensuring their money only goes to those genuinely affected) and protect local communities (by stopping criminals putting in fraudulent claims). To establish an arbitrary target for all communities in New South Wales is to risk undermining a system that is performing well.

Third, charities are clear in their fundraising appeals on what they will spend donated money on, but there is always a range of spending phases – short, medium and long-term. The immediate, short term phase of cash grants differs substantially from the needs of longer term infrastructure (both physical and human) require significant planning and longer delivery phases.

To apply a single target across such wildly different projects is simply illogical and unjustified. Charities may not be in a position to know when funds will be fully disbursed as this requires significant input from local communities on what is most appropriate for their area.

**[Insert final para/sign off that explains to the minister the detrimental impact this would have on your charity and its beneficiaries].**

**Insert Chief Executive’s Signature Insert Chair’s Signature**