An aerial photograph of a coastal residential neighborhood. The top half of the image shows a vast, bright blue sky filled with large, fluffy white clouds. Below the sky, a dark blue horizontal band contains the title text. The bottom half of the image shows a dense residential area with houses of various colors (blue, red, white, brown) and green roofs. A wide, sandy beach is visible on the left side, with waves breaking onto the shore. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a coastal environment.

THE SECOND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

To implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians throughout Australia and acknowledge their connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

We acknowledge and honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who have, over several millennia, developed sophisticated ecological knowledge and practices to predict, prepare for, cope with, and survive natural hazard events, drawing from their intimate relationship with Country.

Who is this document for?

The Second National Action Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Second National Action Plan) is for all Australians – individuals, communities, organisations and sectors, and governments. By effectively coordinating and aligning action, this Second National Action Plan aims to reduce systemic disaster risk in order to create stronger, more secure and more resilient communities before, during and after disasters.

This Second National Action Plan also aims to mature Australia's disaster risk reduction system, further enable disaster risk reduction action across all of society, and empower all Australians to take locally-led, targeted and coordinated action.

In recognition of the variable terminology and phrases used across jurisdictions, contexts and sectors, a Glossary of terms, and how they are used within this Second National Action Plan, is at [Appendix 1](#).

Why is this document needed?

We recognise those who have lost loved ones, homes, businesses and livelihoods in disasters across Australia and the dedication of emergency workers, frontline service providers and volunteers who work tirelessly to provide safety and relief.

Climate change is exacerbating existing vulnerabilities, increasing the frequency and severity of natural hazards, and magnifying their impacts. In the coming years we expect climate change to affect entire communities as extreme weather events impact homes, livelihoods, and the environment. We accept that further changes to the climate are coming, even with strong and decisive global action to reduce emissions. Australia has committed to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and to reduce emissions to 43 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. While we play our part to reduce emissions and mitigate global climate change, we must also prepare for impacts which cannot be avoided, which is why Australia has invested in developing a National Climate Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Plan.

Understanding and planning for our future climate risk is a critical part of this effort. The Australian Government is working to assess and identify risks posed by climate change through the National Climate Risk Assessment, to help governments, businesses and communities understand and respond to these risks. Further information on the National Climate Risk Assessment can be found at: www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/policy/adaptation/ncra.

Thank you

The Second National Action Plan represents the culmination of an extensive multi-sector collaboration process to identify and determine the most significant and transformational actions which can be taken to reduce the impacts of disasters on all Australians.

The National Emergency Management Agency, on behalf of the Australian Government, is grateful for the generosity of the people from all levels of government, sectors, organisations, experts, practitioners and community groups who shared their time, effort, and expertise to make this Second National Action Plan possible.

MINISTERIAL FOREWORD

Australia has reached a significant milestone in increasing our resilience to disasters; Australian Emergency Management Ministers have endorsed this Second National Action Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

We stand united in our commitment to the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

We live in one of the most disaster prone regions in the world and Australia has faced extraordinary challenges since the First National Action Plan. In 2022 alone, 70% of Australians lived in a disaster declared region, and many communities faced multiple, rolling disasters, compounded by the lingering impacts of COVID.

The increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards we are already facing has strengthened and re-affirmed our commitment to collective disaster risk reduction action.

Australia's Sendai Framework Midterm Review found that while substantial effort is under way across all sectors of society and progress has been made, there is still much to be done to reduce disaster risk and better protect communities by 2030.

I recognise that reducing disaster risk and building resilience is a whole of society effort and thank governments, industries, communities, households, not-for-profits and more for stepping up and embracing this challenge.

There is an important leadership role that all governments must play in driving this systemic change to how Australia approaches resilience and risk reduction.

Risks are increasing due to factors such as climate change, population growth, decisions on land-use planning, building and urbanisation. The pace of change and increasing rate of severe to catastrophic disasters needs to be met with equivalent action to minimise the creation of new risks, and manage existing risks.

While natural hazard events are inevitable, catastrophic disasters don't have to be. We must be committed to taking harm out of the system, to reduce the impact of events like bushfires, floods, storms, and cyclones.

The task for this Second National Action Plan is to help mature our disaster risk reduction system by setting out the outcomes and actions to which all members of society may contribute to realise meaningful change.

The Second National Action Plan is for all Australians, for all of us to work together to drive coordinated action towards the goals that we have heard from Australian communities they need.

These actions should guide our decisions around investment and building capability, and should be inclusive of the needs of all members of society. We recognise the need for strong leadership, coordination, and collaboration to achieve this goal.

It is not inevitable risk continues to grow.

Now is the time for all of us to work together to implement the Second National Action Plan, reduce our risk and to continue building a disaster-resilient Australia for generations to come.



Senator the Hon Murray Watt
*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries,
Forestry and Emergency Management*

Endorsed by:

The Hon Jihad Dib MP
*NSW Minister for Emergency
Services*

The Hon Jaclyn Symes MP
*VIC Attorney-General,
Minister for Emergency Services*

The Hon Mark Ryan MP
*QLD Minister for Fire and
Emergency Services*

The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
*WA Minister for Emergency
Services; Innovation and ICT;
Medical Research; Volunteering*

The Hon Joseph Szakacs MP
*SA Minister for Police, Emergency
Services and Correctional Services*

The Hon Felix Ellis MP
*TAS Minister for Police, Fire
and Emergency Management*

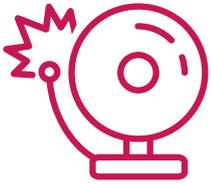
Mr Mick Gentleman MLA
*ACT Minister for Police
and Emergency Services*

The Hon Kate Worden MLA
*NT Minister for Police,
Fire and Emergency Services*

“Whole-of-nation’ effort and cooperation is necessary to make Australia more resilient to natural disasters. This calls for action, not only by governments and individuals, but also by industry, businesses, charities, volunteers, the media, community groups and others.”

**Royal Commission
into National Natural
Disaster Arrangements**

DISASTER RISK OUTLOOK



Disasters cost the Australian economy **\$38 BILLION** per year on average

Deloitte Access Economics, 2021



The estimated cost of disasters is forecast to reach at least **\$73 BILLION** per year by 2060

Deloitte Access Economics, 2021



10% INCREASE

The increase and intensity in short duration extreme rainfall events in recent decades. By 2030 this is forecasted to increase by a further 7% and up to 15% more by 2050

State of the Climate Report 2022, CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology

\$16 BILLION+

Since 2010-11, the Commonwealth Government has provided through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

National Emergency Management Agency

ROI

For every \$1.00 invested through resilience initiatives, there is an estimated \$9.60 return on investment

Insurance Council of Australia, 2022

70% OF AUSTRALIANS

Live in a Local Government Area that was subject to a disaster activation in 2022

National Emergency Management Agency

OVER 60%

Of Australians do not believe their community learns from past experiences

Fire to Flourish National survey, 2021



2.46 BILLION
REPTILES



181 MILLION
BIRDS



143 MILLION
MAMMALS



51 MILLION
FROGS

The estimated* number of wildlife present in the 11.46 million hectares of woodland and forest habitats that burned in the 2019-2020 Black Summer bushfires

*Dickman CR 2021, 'Ecological consequences of Australia' s "Black Summer" bushfires: Managing for recovery, Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management, vol.7, no.6, pp. 1162-1167



198 FLOODS
impacting 466 LGAs



129 BUSHFIRES
impacting 217 LGAs



38 CYCLONES
impacting 390 LGAs

have been declared as disasters under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements in the last 10 years*.

*from 01/01/2013

116
LIVES LOST

The number of reported human lives lost from declared disaster events since 2013

Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience 2023, Insurance Council of Australia 2023

56% INCREASE

THE NUMBER OF EXTREME FIRE WEATHER DAYS IN AUSTRALIA OVER THE LAST 4 DECADES

This was an annual increase in fire season length across Australia by an additional 27 days over the last 41 years (1979-2019). This is forecast to increase by a further 20% by 2030 and up to 40% by 2050

State of the Climate Report 2022, CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology



496 LGAs
IMPACTED BY DISASTERS

This is 92% of all LGAs in Australia impacted since 2013. In addition to the 537 councils represented by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), NEMA includes two more, the ACT and Weipa

National Emergency Management Agency



APPROXIMATELY
17.6 MILLION PEOPLE

Lived in disaster declared LGAs in 2021-22. There were just over 1.6 million disaster assistance payments to Australians in this period*. The average annual household cost of extreme weather in 2021-22 was \$1,532, which is forecast to increase to \$2,509 by 2050

* In 2021-22 1,646,035 Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and Disaster Recovery Allowance payments were made.

Insurance Council of Australia, 2022

THE SECOND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Disasters are not 'natural'. Natural hazards such as flood and fire only lead to disaster if they intersect with an exposed or vulnerable society and exceed people's capacity to cope. Australia's disaster risk environment is complex.

The recent cascading and compounding experience of disaster and disruption has challenged us all. These disasters have drawn attention to the changing nature of risk, the limitations of our capacity, capability and existing disaster management arrangements, and revealed the underlying vulnerabilities which exist across society - whether it be housing, power, supply-chains, health and wellbeing, businesses, economies, and even the way governments work.

Recent experiences have highlighted the opportunity for all levels of government, all sectors, communities and individuals, to do things differently and to better share our learnings. Disaster resilience is a long-term outcome, which will require long-term commitment across years and political cycles.

Australia recognises the importance of reducing disaster risk and enhancing resilience beyond avoiding losses, to ensure we achieve the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) and enable all Australians to be safe and prosper.

[United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) is the key international framework driving disaster risk reduction, and seeks to achieve a substantial reduction of disaster risk by 2030. [Australia's National Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework](#) illustrated that while we have made great progress towards this goal, more work is needed.

Local, state and territory government, private sector and non-governmental perspectives are essential in building a national picture of the disaster risk reduction efforts occurring in Australia. This is reflected in our [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#), which guides our efforts to reduce disaster risks, and which is implemented through National Action Plans, with this being the Second National Action Plan. Consultation during the development of the Second National Action Plan reiterated support for National Action Plans as a meaningful implementation mechanism.

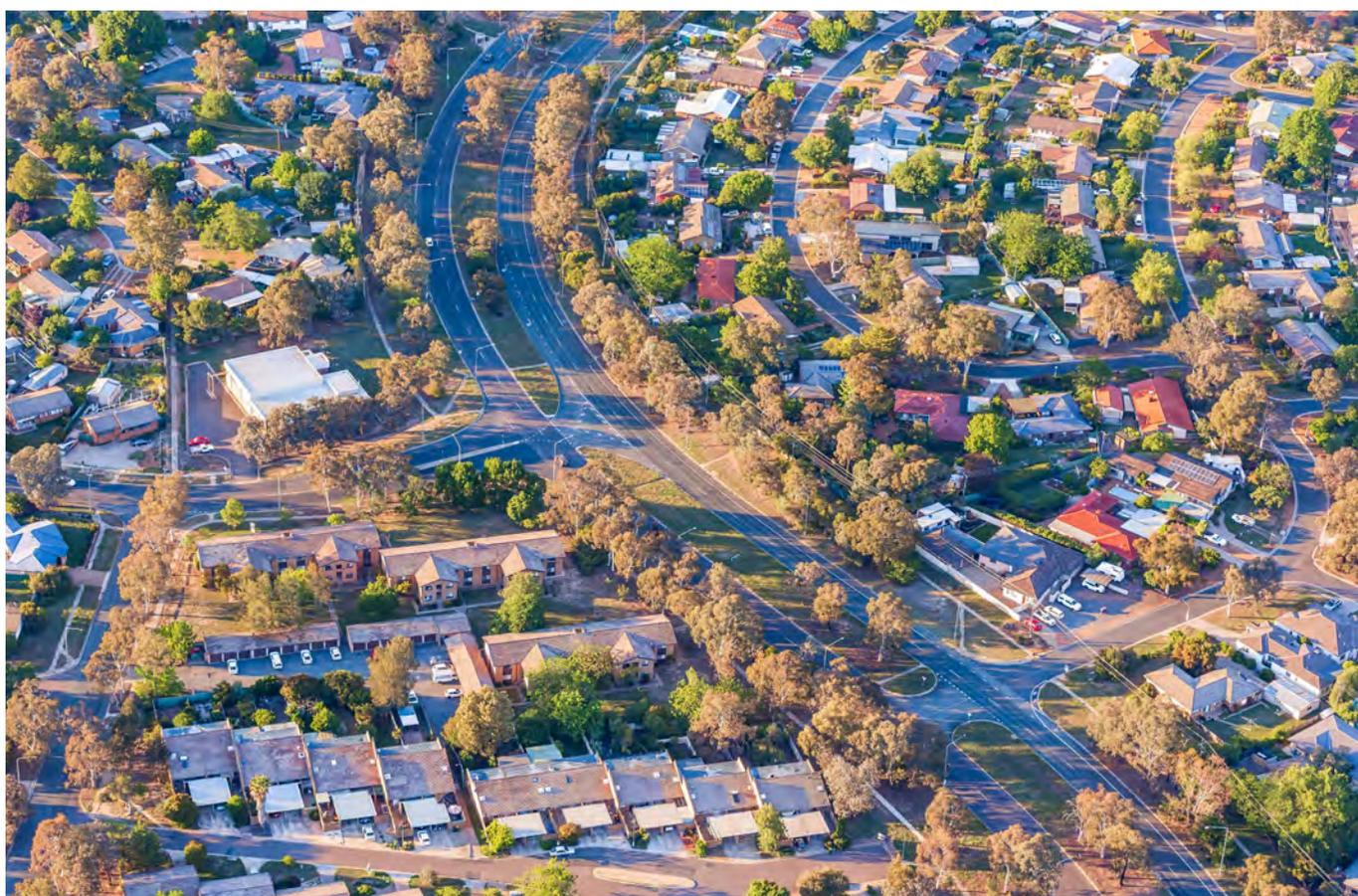
Local, state and territory, private sector and non-governmental perspectives are essential to build a national picture of the disaster risk reduction efforts in Australia, and all sectors of society have a role to play.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework is designed to be implemented by anyone who makes decisions as an individual, across contexts and sectors at national, state and local levels. The Framework should not prompt the question “*who will do this?*” but rather: “*How can my sector, organisation or community implement this Framework within our areas of responsibility?*”

The Second National Action Plan should be read in this light. Everyone has a role in decision-making, in reducing their own risk, and contributing to the resilience of our nation. Everyone has a role in ensuring we have an inclusive and enabling system which authorises and empowers action. The Second National Action Plan ensures all our efforts are aligned.

The Second National Action Plan:

- draws together **Outcomes** and **National Actions** identified as important by stakeholders, calibrated against global and government priorities
- ensures a strategic link to the **National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework**, its 4 priorities and its strategies for action
- includes suggestions for action drawn from consultation and good practice, aligned to the **National Actions** to achieve the **Outcomes**.



Further information on Australia’s disaster policy context and the First National Action Plan can be found at Appendix 2.

Risk reduction: A shared responsibility

In 2011, all Australian governments endorsed a resilience-based approach to emergency management through the [National Strategy for Disaster Resilience \(the Strategy\)](#). The Strategy recognises disaster resilience is a shared responsibility across society for individuals, businesses, non-government organisations and communities, as well as for governments. It represented a fundamental change by recognising that increased disaster resilience is not solely the domain of emergency management agencies, rather it is a shared responsibility across society.

State and territory governments have responsibility for coordinating and planning the response to, and recovery from, disasters within jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction deals with disaster risk reduction differently, with some legislating disaster risk reduction requirements, some delegating planning responsibility to local governments, some taking a hazard-specific approach, and some a sectoral approach. All jurisdictions have matured their approaches, building on lessons learned through lived experience of disasters and the outcomes of several reviews and reforms.

The National Emergency Management Agency is responsible for supporting states and territories through the Australian Government’s longer term disaster risk reduction and resilience building activities. The National Emergency Management Agency enables more secure, stronger and resilient communities before, during and after emergencies, by working through meaningful partnerships to build Australia’s capacity for disaster resilience, and support communities when they need it most.

Through the National Emergency Management Agency, the Australian Government’s Disaster Ready Fund is providing up to \$1 billion dollars over the next 5 years, from 2023-24, for natural disaster resilience and risk reduction activities across Australia. The Australian Government also provides financial assistance following eligible disasters. This funding is significant, and presents opportunities to do things differently and build-back-better to reduce future disaster risk.

While individuals and communities have their roles to play, they do not control many of the levers needed to reduce systemic disaster risks. Government, whether local, state or federal will always have a role in disaster risk reduction. Governments and industry must take coordinated action to reduce disaster risks within their control, to limit adverse impacts on communities.

Some level of risk will always remain, and individuals are responsible for their own safety.

Everyone has a unique combination of capabilities and capacity to prepare, cope and recover from disaster, which means they are vulnerable and resilient in different ways. Each level of society has aspects of resilience or vulnerability nested within it. Central to this is better understanding the systemic nature of risk and Australia’s vulnerability, as highlighted through the [Profiling Australia’s Vulnerability Report](#).



Policy context for the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health, and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

2030 Vision for Disaster Risk Reduction in Australia

In Australia, we are enabled and supported to actively reduce disaster risk and limit the impacts of disasters on communities and economies. All sectors of society understand and respond to social, environmental, technological and demographic changes which have the potential to prevent, create or exacerbate disaster risks. All sectors of society:

- make disaster risk-informed decisions,
- are accountable for reducing risks within their control, and
- invest in reducing disaster risk in order to limit the cost of disasters when they occur.

2030 Disaster Risk Reduction Goals

Take action to reduce existing disaster risk

Minimise creation of future disaster risk through decisions taken across all sectors

Equip decision-makers with the capabilities and information they need to reduce disaster risk and manage residual risk

Framework Priorities

1

Understand disaster risk

2

Accountable decisions

3

Enhanced investment

4

Governance, ownership and responsibility

Reducing systemic disaster risk through aligned action by all levels of government and society

Achieved through the national synthesis of commitments aligned to **National Actions**

Ambitious national actions provide authorising environment and drive collective action towards achieving **Outcomes**

All of society identify their responsibilities and priorities aligned to **National Actions** to achieve **Outcomes**

OUTCOMES AND NATIONAL ACTIONS

This table presents the Second National Action Plan Outcomes and National Actions to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework Priorities.

Priority	Outcome	National Action
1. UNDERSTAND DISASTER RISK	1 An increased understanding of disaster risk across Australian society	1 Create consistent, accessible information, tools, guidance and programs to help everyone better understand their disaster risk and responsibilities, prepare risk mitigation plans and take appropriate action to manage their risks.
		2 Improve disclosure of disaster risk across all stakeholders to support a shared understanding of risk and the development of hazard risk mitigation plans.
	2 An effective and connected disaster risk reduction knowledge system that provides a solid foundation for action	3 Collaborate to harmonise and improve how data, information and research is produced, shared, tailored and used to inform effective approaches to risk reduction.
		4 Build evidence, intelligence and insights by integrating local knowledge and lived experience, including traditional knowledge, to inform effective decisions.
		5 Facilitate continuous improvement through monitoring and evaluating risk reduction activities and sharing lessons.
2. ACCOUNTABLE DECISIONS	3 Disaster risk is addressed in all relevant decisions	6 Create hazard mitigation plans and scale across different levels, from individual and household plans, through to community, regional, state and national plans.
		7 Strengthen risk-informed decision-making across all systems to address disaster risk and deliver co-benefits.
		8 Strengthen risk-informed land-use planning, building control systems and settlement decisions to minimise the creation of new risk and address legacy risk.
	4 More decision-makers are informed, empowered and capable of reducing risk and building resilience	9 Incorporate a range of community values into decision-making processes that acknowledge the broader benefits achievable through inclusive disaster risk reduction.
		10 Enable and equip decision-makers to make adaptive and agile decisions when faced with imperfect information, and in a changing risk environment.
		11 Strengthen the capability and capacity of individuals and communities to become leaders and make informed risk reduction decisions relevant to their local contexts.
		12 Facilitate greater emergency management sector professionalisation, capability and participation, including volunteerism.

Priority	Outcome	National Action
3. ENHANCED INVESTMENT	5 Investment provides highest disaster risk reduction benefit	13 Align investment decisions with hazard risk mitigation plans and strategies at local, state, regional and national levels.
		14 Explicitly consider future disaster risk and betterment in investment decisions for disaster-specific and other funding streams.
	6 Investment in resilience is attractive	15 Create mechanisms for innovation, valuing resilience beyond avoided costs and showcase project results which demonstrate effective outcomes.
		16 Provide the environment for sustainable funding and consistent policy settings and processes to encourage the development of pipelines of investment for disaster risk reduction projects.
	7 Financing and investment systems account for disaster risk and resilience	17 Pursue innovative finance models for risk reduction initiatives, including through co-investment and public-private partnerships, to encourage greater funds towards resilience outcomes.
		18 Enable greater integration of disaster risk reduction into the financial system by exploring cooperation, optimising policy, regulatory frameworks, standards and guidance.
	4. GOVERNANCE, OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY	8 Disaster management arrangements are inclusive, networked and aligned, supported by meaningful partnerships
20 Form and encourage meaningful partnerships and support place-based, community-led, locally-implemented, regionally-coordinated approaches to disaster risk reduction, which ensure equity and inclusion across the system.		
21 Better align recovery and resilience activities, governance, funding, policy and processes to support betterment and long-term disaster risk reduction.		
9 Increased recognition of shared ownership and responsibility for risk management		22 Understand barriers and disincentives to risk reduction to ensure all in Australian society are empowered to exercise choice to reduce risk without disadvantage.
		23 Strengthen mechanisms to improve cooperation and further support devolved disaster risk reduction planning and management at local and risk-appropriate regional levels.
		24 Better align disaster risk and related disciplines which result in similar local impacts, particularly physical climate risk mitigation and adaptation and drought, to simplify and streamline governance, plans and effort.

PRIORITY 1: UNDERSTAND DISASTER RISK

The first priority in the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework aims to improve understanding and awareness of disaster risk. Underpinning a disaster-resilient community is knowledge and understanding of local disaster risks.

We all share responsibility to understand these risks, and how they might affect us now and into the future. By understanding the systemic nature and extent of risks, we can seek to avoid or minimise their impacts, and inform the way we prepare for, and recover from disasters.

During consultation, we heard two key outcomes are required under this priority. First, all Australian society must know their disaster risk and responsibilities and the effective measures they can take to reduce this risk. Second, an effective, connected and multidisciplinary disaster risk reduction knowledge system must exist to research, develop, translate and share the information and data needed about disaster risk so it can be managed.

An effective, connected and multidisciplinary disaster risk reduction knowledge system must exist to research, develop, translate and share the information and data needed about disaster risk so it can be managed.

Consultation on this priority revealed the following themes:

- create a shared picture of disaster and natural hazard risk informed by climate information, and relevant to future scenarios. This will help us understand who and what is at greatest risk. This should indicate the limitations and information sources, the assumptions made and values prioritised. Importantly, this picture should be tested across a range of sources before release
- develop tools and methods to guide and support the awareness and management of systemic disaster risk across society. These should be tailored to relevant audiences, based on a consistent evidence-base drawn from authoritative sources, which are trusted by and appropriate for the end user
- integrate undervalued or non-traditional forms of knowledge and ways of knowing, including traditional knowledge, local knowledge, community feedback, lived experience, and transdisciplinary approaches such as sociology, and support the use of scenarios which extend the imagination

- increase transparency of risk disclosure so risk is not blindly passed down to those who are least able to mitigate it
- build the capability of relevant organisations to understand disaster risk through improved access to information which is relevant to the situation (e.g. banks and the disaster risk of a mortgage to mortgage applicants, councils and the risk of a land parcel to developers etc.)
- use the same language across the system, from warnings to education campaigns and media statements. It must be meaningful and understandable to people, and mindful of the differing meanings of the word 'resilience' in disaster-affected communities
- understand the way different groups understand risk information and tailor information to empower action.

Outcome 1 focuses on ensuring the right information about risk is created, available and understood at the right time to inform hazard risk mitigation plans and appropriate implementation actions.

Outcome 2 focuses on information sharing, translation and communication. This includes, but is broader than, technical capabilities, better information sharing, knowledge and ability. The aim is to enhance our understanding of systemic causes of risk, exposure and vulnerability and identify what is needed to further build and sustain mature and diverse networks that listen, learn and work together to reduce disaster risk.



Outcome 1

An increased understanding of disaster risk across Australian society.

NATIONAL ACTION 1:

Create consistent, accessible information tools, guidance and programs to help everyone better understand their disaster risk and responsibilities, prepare risk mitigation plans and take appropriate action to manage their risks.

This action aims to support all Australians to develop a more holistic understanding of disaster risk and individual responsibilities. It aims to not only consolidate, connect and integrate new and existing climate and disaster risk information, but to tailor the tools and guidance for end-users so that information is consistent, accessible, and available at the right time to inform decisions.

We have learned from Australia's National Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework that information about disaster risks does not, on its own, lead to risk reduction. It must be accessible, tailored and understood, and it must be clear why the information is important to the decisions of the end user so they can use it to take appropriate action. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework recognises the wealth of disaster risk data, information and knowledge which already exists.

"We must devise better processes, protocols and methodologies for transfer of knowledge and resources between different scales of response, national, state, local, community"

Participant: From Risk to Resilience Summit, 2022

Implementation Ideas

To better connect people, communities, organisations and industries with the information they need to reduce disaster risk, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- creating clear, consistent information on risk across all natural hazards, including where to get help to reduce risk which meets the needs of end-users
- developing a greater understanding of risk at the national level including national risk outcomes and national risk profiles
- creating common approaches to risk assessments, and communicating the results using a multidisciplinary lens to enable action across all domains
- including disaster risk reduction within school curricula, supporting school-based risk mitigation plans and providing templates for children to engage their households in risk reduction planning
- providing open access to information about options for reducing risks and managing hazards
- ensuring authoritative local and regional hazard mitigation plans are kept up-to-date and actively shared with communities on a regular basis
- ensuring local connection with platforms and frameworks for delivery and understanding of integrated early warning and evacuation advice
- aligning and harmonising our language across the disaster management system, from warnings, to education campaigns and media statements, to make it accessible and meaningful for people to understand.

NATIONAL ACTION 2:

Improve disclosure of disaster risk across all stakeholders to support a shared understanding of risk and the development of hazard risk mitigation plans.

This action aims to reduce the creation and transfer of risk, by addressing information gaps, to support the development of hazard mitigation plans and decision-making in a range of other contexts. Greater transparency and aligned planning, as well as associated policy and regulation, can reduce the creation of new risks and prevent the transfer of risk to those who are not aware of, or able to deal with them.

We have learned that disaster risk is growing, not only because of the increased intensity and frequency of extreme events, but because our exposure and vulnerabilities are amplified by decisions and behaviours across the system, including those associated with where and how we live and work. This risk creation is further exacerbated by risk transfer, often to those who are ill-equipped to deal with such risk.

“The private sector has a key role to play by fostering risk-informed business behaviour that includes disclosure of risk, communication of their contribution to resilience building and workplace safety, among others.”

The Bali Agenda for Resilience, 2022

Implementation Ideas

To ensure risk is not opaquely transferred to those least able to mitigate it, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- creating and maintaining alignment between local, state and national assessments of natural hazard risk, to create a national picture
- undertaking systemic risk assessments for local areas which identify hazard threats and system interdependencies, and taking these assessments into account in settlement plans and ensuring any residual risk is disclosed and passed on to developers and purchasers
- disclosing disaster risk profiles alongside property transactions to household and land purchasers, prior to exchange
- implementing risk disclosure schemes such as the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures
- ongoing alignment of data collection and application through common data approaches, increasing data literacy and measuring what matters.

Case Study Outcome 1

Improving evidence-based decision-making – National Climate Risk Assessment

The Commonwealth is taking strong action. We are helping Australians prepare for weather and climate events. We are developing Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment. The Risk Assessment will help understand the risks and impacts to Australia from climate change.

The National Climate Risk Assessment is part of the \$28 million budget measure. It will be delivered over 2 years from 2023. The Risk Assessment will identify and prioritise the things that Australians care for the most. It will focus on those that are of national significance and are at risk of impacts from climate change.

The Risk Assessment will provide an objective and science-based evidence for decision-making. It will help others across government, industry, and communities to conduct their own climate risk assessments.

State, territory and local governments have developed their own climate risk programs over the years. The Risk Assessment will build on the work already done. It will deliver a shared national framework. This will inform national priorities for climate adaptation and resilience actions. It will enable consistent monitoring of climate risk across Australia.

The Risk Assessment will deliver a baseline of current climate risks. This will include new and emerging risks. This will ascertain Australia's national priorities for climate adaptation and resilience action. The Risk Assessment will draw on the expertise and capability of world-leading scientists through the Australian Climate Service. The Australian Climate Service is a partnership between the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Geoscience Australia.

Case study provided by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Outcome 2

An effective and connected disaster risk reduction knowledge system that provides a solid foundation for action.

NATIONAL ACTION 3:

Collaborate to harmonise and improve how data, information and research is produced, shared, tailored and used to inform effective approaches to risk reduction.

This action aims to support collaboration and cohesion between producers and users of information by better using data and evidence to support decision-making at every level. It will improve availability and consistency of information tailored to users' decision-making needs.

We have learned through consultation that there is a feeling of disconnect between locally-led risk reduction planning and innovation, and 'top down' national processes. Sharing knowledge from the bottom up, top down and across the system will ensure we all have the information needed to drive collective action.

Internationally, the *Political declaration of the high-level meeting on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework* called for member states to ensure "that disaster risk data and information are accessible, interoperable and available in easily understandable formats for public and private sector use in decision-making in all sectors."

"National government agencies can support subnational authorities in translating government objectives into initiatives to strengthen resilience by providing hazard information; by providing training and technical expertise in areas such as hazard mapping and risk assessment; by encouraging the development of local disaster databases; and by establishing financial incentives for subnational government progress in this area."

Investing in Resilience: Ensuring a Disaster-Resistant Future, Asian Development Bank, 2013

Implementation Ideas

For those in the system to better connect across disciplines and communities, produce meaningful outputs for end-users and empower them to reduce risk, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- creating safe platforms for sharing data that addresses intellectual property, privacy or security concerns
- hosting and participating in non-traditional forums such as 'hack-a-thons' and 'mission-challenges' across public, private and non-government sectors, bringing together insights to address key challenges
- convening regular forums to create, reinforce and sustain relationships to share knowledge, including outcomes from research and reflections from community disaster experiences
- identifying critical priority information and knowledge gaps and targeting efforts to improve our understanding of knowledge systems and the analysis to address the gaps
- developing more tailored information products and guidance for communities and other users (e.g. in languages other than English and which meet cultural needs)
- creating a shared understanding of key concepts, data and information to drive the better use of data and evidence, to support decision-making at every level.

NATIONAL ACTION 4:

Build evidence, intelligence, and insights by integrating local knowledge and lived experience, including traditional knowledge, to inform effective decisions.

This action aims to build upon, enhance and integrate what already exists to ensure a fulsome evidence base for decision-making.

This action aims to ensure we draw on multiple knowledge systems and ways of knowing to inform decisions and actions to reduce disaster risk.

We have learned from Australia’s National Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework that we need broader inclusion and participation in disaster risk reduction; with local lived experience and traditional knowledge being important sources to address our challenges.

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements noted the importance of First Nations’ land management and how local knowledge has successfully informed land management for tens of thousands of years. This knowledge is drawn from observation, ongoing interaction, active custodianship, and adaptation to changing circumstances of Australia’s landscapes. Greater recognition of First Nations land and fire management practices was also identified.

“We call on governments and stakeholders to uphold the guiding principles of the Sendai Framework and ensure that the capacities, networks, resources, and insights of all people are incorporated into planning, decision-making and implementation of disaster risk reduction initiatives.”

Co-Chairs’ Statement: Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2022

Implementation Ideas

To ensure First Nations and local communities are empowered to lead decision-making that draws upon local and traditional knowledge, and lived experience through genuine partnerships across the system, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- formalising and communicating the important role of local, experiential, and traditional knowledge in informing strategic and operational decisions
- encouraging meaningful engagement in design processes and building enduring relationships
- co-designing frameworks, policies, and or strategies with First Nations peoples that embed ‘Caring for Country’ as a first principle in disaster risk reduction efforts
- building governance mechanisms to safely embed traditional knowledge and science into institutions
- conducting co-design with communities to understand what they value and their knowledge of vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation options
- including multidisciplinary learning, from sociology through to ecology, to ensure social cohesion and ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction are included in risk reduction plans, policies and programs as appropriate risk reduction measures.

NATIONAL ACTION 5:

Facilitate continuous improvement through monitoring and evaluating risk reduction activities and sharing lessons.

This action aims to facilitate and support the measurement, evaluation and sharing of lessons from disaster risk reduction activities, so we can scale up effective disaster risk reduction efforts.

The Systemic Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (SysMEL) project and associated tools will enable the measurement and evaluation of Australia's disaster risk reduction interventions.

This will help us see whether we are collectively reducing disaster risks, achieving progress and identifying any gaps against the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and outcomes of the National Action Plans.

This requires a collective commitment to participate in the SysMEL from all sectors that will ensure we learn, improve and build our shared understanding of what works, and what doesn't.

We have learned the value of sharing lessons and the importance of being able to accurately understand, quantify and measure our disaster impacts, loss, damage and successes.

While the SysMEL project will develop a national system for risk reduction as it matures, we need to continue to improve monitoring, evaluation, and learning practices. Creating informed, targeted interventions where we work together to design and implement policies, programs and projects will drive effective risk reduction.

“Quality assurance and monitoring supports accountability and builds consistency across all levels of disaster management arrangements. With the goal of promoting best practice and continuous improvement across all phases of disaster management, these encourage the best use of resources, and best possible outcomes for our communities.”

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, 2020

Implementation Ideas

To engage with the SysMEL, undertaking monitoring and evaluation activities where appropriate and share lessons learned, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- adopting adaptive management processes to support continuous improvement based on sound research, modelling, monitoring and evaluation, and lessons management
- establishing accurate baselines through national-level risk assessments
- improving equipment and data collection to support prioritisation of risk reduction activities
- enabling measurement evaluation and exchange of learning across the system to inform decisions
- contributing to the SysMEL framework and participating in assessment activities, such as the national survey, and sharing case studies to regional, state and national platforms.

Case Study Outcome 2

Kurna Cultural Burning at Field River

Kurna have been on site undertaking land management activities including the cultural use of fire at the Field River. The works, supported by the Green Adelaide Board, have included 21 operational days for a team of three, and participation and educational sharing at six community events. Future steps for the program including supporting greater involvement from the Kurna community, supporting Kurna with sharing the story of their journey, supporting training and development within Green Adelaide and the Department for Environment and Water, and the development of process structures. As a part of the collaboration between collaboration between Green Adelaide, the Kurna Land Management Team and Firesticks Alliance, new full-time positions have been created to support four Kurna People to continue this work across Kurna Yarta and beyond.

There is considerable research and evidence to suggest a correlation between an absence of Traditional Aboriginal Ecological Land Management Practices and large scale, extreme weather events, such as bushfires. For many thousands of years, Aboriginal People managed their land with fire, using 'cool burns' to clear land, germinate seed and attract animals. Conversely, as the reduction in Aboriginal Land Management practices has steadily occurred, a larger unmanaged fuel load has accumulated resulting in hotter fires, less habitat and food for animals, and an increase in invasive species.

The preservation and application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge is intrinsically linked with Healthy Country/Healthy Community principles. Reaffirming Aboriginal Fire Management as a critical component of natural resource management, underpinned by positive ecological outcomes, will contribute to climate adaptation in a raft of ways; at community level with vast social benefits for Aboriginal Communities; at an agency level as partnerships with Traditional Owners diversify and the collective knowledge is applied to manage country; and at a National level as Australia combats increasing average temperatures and catastrophic weather events.

Case study provided by the Department for Environment and Water, South Australia

Case Study Outcome 2

Return to Cultural Burning

During June 2022, Goreng-Menang Noongar Elders undertook a series of small cultural burns on Nowanup country, about 150 kilometres North East of Albany.

The burning was led by the Elders who selected appropriate locations to achieve cultural and environmental outcomes and commenced the burning using traditional techniques.

The outcomes from the day made it clear to those involved that cultural burning is **'Healing Country, Healing People.'**

Why is this important?

Critical to the success of the burns was the opportunity for the Elders to apply longheld cultural burning practices and express their custodial responsibilities involved with Caring for Country. For over 60 years, cultural burning has been absent from this Country.

"We want to make the old way become the new way by handing this down to our younger generation coming through. And when I say hand it down, I'm talking about non-Aboriginal people as well as Noongars. That's a way of walking forward together." – Uncle Eugene Eades, Goreng Menang Noongar Elder

Working in partnership

The University of Western Australia (UWA) Albany Campus, Gondwana Link, the Nowanup Rangers and the DFES Bushfire Centre of Excellence (BCoE) Cultural Fire Program collectively supported the burning by bringing diverse skillsets and expertise together.

UWA's 'Walking Together' Project played an important role in capturing learnings as part of their collaborative research.

"Cross-cultural science is the idea of bringing Indigenous and Western science together to better understand how we can care for Country and look after the bush." – Ursula Rodrigues, PhD candidate, UWA Albany.

BCoE's Cultural Fire Program

The Cultural Fire Program will enhance understanding, knowledge and application of cultural fire practices in WA, including the safe and respectful integration of cultural and contemporary practices within the bushfire management sector.

"The cultural burns were an excellent opportunity for us to demonstrate our program in action. It enabled cultural burning on Country, strengthened our networks and relationships and supported knowledge sharing."

– David Windsor, Cultural Fire and Partnerships Coordinator, BCoE

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and thank the Goreng Menang Noongar Elders for welcoming us onto their Country, and respectfully acknowledge UWA, Gondwana Link and the Nowanup Rangers.

Case study provided by Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Western Australia

PRIORITY 2: ACCOUNTABLE DECISIONS

The second priority in the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework aims to improve risk-informed decision-making. Leaders and decision makers at all levels need to be empowered to make inclusive, risk-informed decisions.

During consultation, we heard that two key outcomes are required under this priority. Firstly, all relevant decisions must address disaster risk. Secondly, leaders and decision-makers must take disaster risk into account in their decisions, informed by inclusive processes with people who have a stake in the result of the decision. They must also have the capability to make risk-informed decisions in the face of uncertainty.

Consultation on this priority revealed the following themes:

- decision-making should be risk-informed, inclusive and sustainable, guided by community need
- connect the complexity of disaster risk reduction with how people perceive risk and make decisions
- provide Australians with confidence and security about their future, supporting their decisions by outlining a clear set of deliverables with states, territories and Australian Government mitigation priorities through plans with commitments and funding
- build capability to address disaster risk in policy, program and investment decisions through improved understanding of the systemic nature of disaster risk. This includes recognition that reducing disaster risk is only achieved when a coherent and consistent approach sits alongside climate mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development
- create ways for including diverse individuals and groups in decision-making processes
- develop methods to incorporate a wider set of values (e.g. models of Caring for Country) and trade-offs in decision-making, because values that are not measured, are excluded from decision-making
- encourage place-based, community-led, locally-implemented, regionally-coordinated approaches to disaster risk reduction
- remove the 'blame' culture in the initial response to give leaders the courage to create environments to do things differently, or operate with imperfect information and make the best decision
- invest in people not just things. Build competencies, capability and capacity (e.g. enable youth to act for their present and future), and develop, promote, and reward different ways of leading, including systems leadership which supports action through strategic learning and ethical, collaborative approaches.

Leaders and decision-makers must take disaster risk into account in their decisions, informed by inclusive processes with people who have a stake in the result of the decision.



Outcome 3 focuses on the systemic nature of disaster risk and how decision-makers operate across all sectors and at all levels, from individuals and households, to communities at the local, regional, state, and national levels. This includes through the development of hazard mitigation plans and preparedness plans for the residual risk, and the linkages between climate mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Outcome 4 focuses on helping all decision-makers build confidence and capability to make risk informed decisions, often in ambiguity. The aim is to create an enabling environment for decision-makers across sectors, and at all levels, to incorporate disaster risk reduction considerations into their thinking.

Outcome 3

Disaster risk is addressed in all relevant decisions.

NATIONAL ACTION 6:

Create hazard mitigation plans and scale across different levels, from individual and household plans through to community, regional, state and national plans.

This action aims to support the creation of hazard mitigation plans, from individual and household plans, to community, regional and state plans which establish proactive mitigation priorities.

We have learned through consultations, that planning for disaster risk is inconsistent and does not always adopt a systems-approach. Risk is different according to local context. Communities have differing social structures, dependencies and exposures, alongside differing strengths.

“Planning is an essential element of being prepared for and responding to natural disasters. To be effective, that planning needs to address a wide range of factors and involve all levels of government, private sector entities, non-government organisations, communities and individuals”

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, 2020

Implementation Ideas

To create and implement hazard mitigation plans at individual, household, community, regional, state/territory and national levels, as well as ensure these plans are interconnected and aligned across jurisdictions, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- providing guidance for common approaches to hazard mitigation planning, and direct guidance for those more removed from technical or practitioner-level knowledge
- supporting development of plans by those with experience or expertise, including providing surge support for planning, dynamic responses and significant mitigation and recovery initiatives to support resilience
- creating and participating in open risk discussions with those moving into the area, whether residential, commercial, or other, to ensure risk is known and connected with local plans
- taking a participatory approach to planning, including representation from everyone the plans will cover, in developing, reviewing, updating and implementing, to ensure priorities are grounded and shared
- incentivising the creation and implementation of risk reduction plans with activities recognised in monetary terms, such as decreased rates, insurance premiums, or tax incentives (e.g. bushfire plans, business continuity plans etc.)
- incentivising and embedding cross-border collaboration and consistency in risk reduction planning, thereby reducing inequities based on notional boundaries
- facilitating plans for those with specific needs, including people with disability (e.g. Person-Centred Emergency Plans), people from non-English speaking backgrounds, First Nations people, people experiencing homelessness, people at risk of domestic violence, the young and the aged.

NATIONAL ACTION 7:

Strengthen risk-informed decision-making across all systems to address disaster risk and deliver co-benefits.

This action aims to support decisions-makers in the disaster management and risk reduction spaces as well as 'mainstreaming' disaster risk reduction in other decision-making contexts (e.g. social, environmental, energy or health policy).

We have learned through consultations that a big-picture approach to disaster risk reduction is needed to mobilise all sectors in decision-making that builds resilience.

"In other inquiries and in a number of submissions from private sector bodies, state and local governments, and emergency responders we heard a desire for greater investment in mitigation. We also heard that mitigation in many cases can be a cost-effective means of managing risk. The CSIRO contended: A \$1 investment in climate adaptation or disaster risk reduction saves between \$2 and \$11 in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction."

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, 2020

Implementation Ideas

To consider disaster risk in decisions across all systems and deliver co-benefits, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- increasing awareness and understanding of disaster risk and systemic risk across a range of portfolios and decision-making contexts outside of the emergency management domain, including among businesses and community members
- increasing awareness of disaster risk reduction in adjacent spaces, and coordinating across stakeholders and sectors to better realise co-benefits (e.g. social, health, economic or environmental etc.)
- increasing the knowledge of all stakeholders by sharing experiences, lessons, good practice, training, and education
- facilitating horizontal and vertical community-based disaster risk reduction to build capability and connections.



NATIONAL ACTION 8:

Strengthen risk-informed land-use planning, building control systems and settlement decisions to minimise the creation of new risk and address legacy risk.

This action aims de-risk the built environment and to embed resilience, generational planning equity and sustainable development, as core principles in planning and development. This action also seeks to combine these principles with betterment, ensure decisions and investments protect what is at risk, as well as generate value and deliver co-benefits for communities. These principles will underpin future planning, development and infrastructure decisions, such as land use or urban planning, to reduce existing risk and the creation of new risk.

We have learned from the findings of the Royal Commission that land-use planning is an important mechanism governments can use to manage exposure to natural hazards. The Royal Commission also recognised that decisions have far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for exposed and vulnerable communities in relation to future natural hazards. Australia's National Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework also highlighted that land-use planning plays a critical role in building resilience across cities and regional communities.

“Member States and stakeholders should pursue adaptive, vertically and horizontally integrated risk governance within socioeconomic and development planning that allows prospective risk reduction able to deal with uncertainties and surprises inherent in transforming social, technological and ecological systems and address vulnerabilities, exposures and contextual factors”

UNDRR Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, 2023

Implementation Ideas

To focus on how disaster risk is considered in land-use planning, building control systems and settlement decisions actions could include – but are not limited to:

- creating tools for infrastructure, building and industry planners and approvers, to assess disaster risk and guide development decisions
- incorporating future climate and disaster risk reduction considerations into strategic land-use planning, regional and local planning, such as through narrative scenarios, and promoting the use of hybrid approaches that draw on quantitative data alongside narrative scenarios
- including natural hazard risk reduction education in built-environment-related trade courses
- ensuring building codes for new houses are fit for purpose and cities grow in less disaster prone areas
- improving national consistency of hazard-specific building standards and supporting voluntary compliance with local supply chains to decrease cost
- promoting the use of embedding betterment, value creation and resilience building requirements into relevant processes, standards, codes, and specifications
- improving alignment between land use and other strategic planning (e.g. transport, infrastructure, energy etc.) across all levels of government
- understanding the built environment as a set of interconnected systems, and tracking the risk reduction measures needed across these systems to address the legacy risk of individual assets
- mainstreaming disaster risk reduction strategies into rural and urban development planning, water management, preservation of ecosystems, and management of rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and all other areas prone to droughts and flooding
- supporting local disaster risk reduction strategies with relevant legislation, infrastructure regulations and risk-informed land-use planning and multi-hazard urban risk assessments.



Case Study Outcome 3

Regional approach to flood risk management: Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Case Study

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley (the Valley) has one of the highest flood risks in NSW, if not Australia, due to its large population and unique catchment characteristics. The Valley covers around 500km² of floodplain in Western Sydney and is made up of a mix of urbanised areas interspersed with peri-urban and agricultural landscapes.

Floods here can be extensive, rapid, deep and slow to dissipate, causing significant impacts to people's lives, livelihoods and homes. The extent and depth of flooding is influenced by the unique 'bathtub' effect created by the geography of the Valley. Most river valleys tend to widen as they approach the sea. The opposite is the case in the Hawkesbury-Nepean. Large upstream catchments flow into the Hawkesbury-Nepean River, and narrow sandstone gorges downstream between Sackville and Brooklyn create natural choke points. Floodwaters back up and rise rapidly, causing deep and widespread flooding across the floodplain. The effects are much like a bathtub with multiple taps turned on, but only 1 plug hole to let the water out. Flood risk in the Valley is already substantial and will likely increase over time with increasing urbanisation, population growth and climate change. The Valley has a long history of flooding, most recently in July 2022, March 2022 and March 2021. These were relatively small floods (1 in 10-20 chance per year flood events), yet still contributed to loss of life (in 2021), significant property damage and high economic costs. Additionally, around 36% of the region's population speak another language in their homes. Most of the current population have only experienced minor flood events, with residential turnover of around 30% every 5 years.

continued over

PRIORITY 2: ACCOUNTABLE DECISIONS *(continued)*

Case Study Outcome 3

**Regional approach to flood risk management:
Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Case Study *(continued)***

The management of flood risk is a shared responsibility between local, state and federal governments. This means activities undertaken to manage flood risk in the valley sit within a multilayered regulatory and policy framework. Given the fact that the flood problem in the valley spans multiple local government areas, an integrated and coordinated approach with local government, state government, business, industry and community partners working together at a regional level is required. In 2017 the NSW Government endorsed the Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities Flood Strategy (the Flood Strategy) which included a range of targeted actions designed to deliver nine outcomes across the following areas: improved flood risk information, infrastructure risk reduction measures, strategic road and land use planning, an aware, prepared and responsive community, improved weather and flood predictions, best practice emergency response and recovery, adequate local roads for evacuation an embedded measurement framework. The strategy was delivered by a multi-disciplinary team including flood risk management specialists, community engagement, stakeholder engagement and communications expertise, GIS and spatial data analysts, evacuation specialists, policy and strategy expertise.

This place-based, integrated approach was commended during the NSW 2022 Flood Inquiry and the Flood Strategy will now become the first regional Disaster Adaptation Plan being delivered by the NSW Reconstruction Authority.

The Flood Strategy has delivered excellent results during the first phase of the program, including delivery of a flood risk mapping tool, updating regional flood risk information, flood evacuation modelling and delivering flood resilient design guidelines for road transport planning. A key, innovative element has been a focus on community preparedness underpinned by quantitative and qualitative social research. Through a suite of integrated actions including awareness and preparedness campaigns, community outreach programs and a school curriculum program, we have worked with 14 community sectors, 38 project partners and 300-plus organisations. The Community Resilience Program was recognised for implementing best practice engagement, receiving the Floodplain Management Australia – NRMA Insurance ‘Flood Risk Management Project of the Year’ award for 2021. Research in 2021 has shown since the program began in 2017, 75% of community have seen flood information – up from 26%; 66% of residents now believe they need to be prepared for floods - up from 33%; 48% of residents were able to identify three things to do in an evacuation – up from 25%. New flood emergency procedures are now in place with many community sectors including aged care and schools

The approach is aligned to all actions of the Second National Action Plan, from promoting greater understanding of disaster risk and enabling accountable decisions through to enhancing investment decision making and governance.

Case study provided by New South Wales Reconstruction Authority

Outcome 4

More decision-makers are informed, empowered and capable of reducing risk and building resilience.

NATIONAL ACTION 9:

Incorporate a range of community values into decision-making processes that acknowledge the broader benefits achievable through inclusive disaster risk reduction.

The action aims to expand the range of values considered in decision-making, beyond those which are purely economic, such as avoided loss, or those which are limited to the protective value of built solutions, such as seawalls.

We have learned that stakeholders want the Second National Action Plan to consider more and different values in decision-making. This includes incorporating the values generated by nature, family and kinship, community, intergenerational equity and Caring for Country. This also includes values specific to the community or place, such as local amenities and social infrastructure. This action is intended to ensure risk and resilience decision-making engages with, and reconciles a range of diverse community values and drivers. Processes are also needed to reassess values, as people value things differently in stable times versus times of disruption.

“Embed ‘Caring for Country’ as a first principle, recognising that it includes people, Cultures, place, obligation, purpose, spirituality and wellbeing. Elevate people’s connection to and understanding of their dependency on healthy ecosystems, so that they value, care and prioritise environment”

NRRA Second National Action Plan Deep Dive Session, 2022

“Structures, rules, and arrangements influence whose views and priorities are considered. As the magnitude of change becomes increasingly uncertain, it is important that diverse and broad stakeholder values and knowledge are incorporated in decisions made”

Systemic Disaster Risk Handbook, AIDR, 2021

Implementation Ideas

To expand the range of values considered in decisions, with a focus on the values of the community affected by the decision, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- identifying, understanding, and reflecting community values in recovery and resilience planning and risk reduction plans
- embedding ‘Caring for Country’ principles which reflect the interwoven nature of the human, natural, and spiritual world, and its impact on wellbeing
- enhancing current risk assessment approaches to incorporate environmental, social and other values alongside the current focus on economy and built environment
- developing ways to measure and assess non-financial values in risk reduction and resilience efforts
- understanding the value of non-built disaster risk reduction approaches, such as ecosystem-based approaches or investments in social infrastructure, and applying these as part of implementing risk reduction plans
- using scenarios with communities to test and inform local value prioritisation.

PRIORITY 2: ACCOUNTABLE DECISIONS *(continued)*

NATIONAL ACTION 10:

Enable and equip decision-makers to make adaptive and agile decisions when faced with imperfect information and in a changing risk environment.

This action aims to support and equip decision-makers to make sound decisions in the face of uncertainty, complexity or when under pressure, with imperfect information. This will involve adaptive decision-making and learning.

We have learned from Australia’s National Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework that we need better decision-maker tools and methods to assist in addressing uncertainty, developing and considering options, and dealing with the different values, needs and perspectives of stakeholders.

“There is a substantial body of published Australian and international literature demonstrating that decision makers need support, in the form of decision tools, scenarios and other climate services, to use data on future climate and risk effectively”

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, 2020

Implementation Ideas

To shift from delaying decisions due to uncertainty or values contestation, and to improve outcomes and confidence in decision-making, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- building capacity of key decision-makers in systems thinking
- developing analytical decision methods and guidance to support the use of scenarios and values trade-off decisions
- supporting the creation of ‘playbooks’ that reinforce plans that are flexible, disaster risk changes as a result of interconnected systems, and decisions are being regularly reviewed
- developing and applying adaptive pathway planning methods and tools which draw on, and are aligned with, climate adaptation approaches
- changing the narrative in relation to ‘mistakes’ and ‘blame’ in disaster management and recognising that all are doing their best with the information they have at the time
- facilitating the sharing of, and engagement with, lessons, as well as celebrating incremental progress.



NATIONAL ACTION 11:

Strengthen the capability and capacity of individuals and communities to become leaders and make informed risk reduction decisions relevant to their local contexts.

This action aims to enable everyone to play a more active role in leading efforts to reduce disaster risk, by empowering them to make risk-informed decisions relevant to their context. This action seeks to support local leadership, drive social cohesion and increase participation in planning and risk mitigation activities.

We have learned that building the capability and capacity of communities is fundamental to resilience. Through consultation, stakeholders stressed the primacy of locally-led risk reduction, recovery, and response. There is a need to reduce boundaries and constraints; and enhance enablers that encourage people and communities to engage in disaster risk reduction, to make informed decisions, and build capabilities to participate in resilience-building activities. This includes non-traditional partnerships supporting local leadership through social infrastructure. For example, the spaces and places which help build and maintain social ties and trust such as libraries, green spaces and community centres.

“Communities and individuals can own their role as informed and active investors in disaster risk reduction, subject to their capacity, capability and financial position, to their own benefit and the benefit of their broader networks and economies. This requires communities to be supported to understand disaster risks and impacts relevant to what they value and the choices they make.”

National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

Implementation Ideas

To build community leadership, improving social resilience, participation, and risk-informed decision-making, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- supporting organisations and groups already building community capacity by linking these with local, regional, and state resilience plans and priorities
- encouraging place-based, community-led, locally-implemented, regionally-coordinated approaches to disaster risk reduction
- equipping the next generation of Australians to act and become future community leaders
- providing consistent education and training resources and guides to community leaders, to better prepare them to lead and engage in disaster risk reduction planning and decision-making, supported by a network, to encourage continuous improvement
- incentivising skills and capability uplift in disaster management decision-making and leadership
- recognising the strengths-base of different communities, and support them, to build regional and national capability
- incorporating disaster risk reduction into broader decision-making on climate risks and hazards, and vice versa
- establishing centres of excellence to bring stakeholders together for training and learning.

PRIORITY 2: ACCOUNTABLE DECISIONS *(continued)***NATIONAL ACTION 12:****Facilitate greater emergency management sector professionalisation, capability and participation, including volunteerism.**

The action aims to recognise that resilient communities are best supported by a proficient emergency management sector. This sector must continue to adapt, scale and operate in complex environments to support and sustain emergency management planning, and contribute to building disaster resilience in communities before, during and after disasters. This action is intended to ensure the emergency management sector is supported to deliver strong plans that are rehearsed, supported by 'peacetime' hazard mitigation efforts and champion risk reduction.

We have learned that stakeholders value a proficient emergency management sector, but that levels of participation and opportunities for capability building, enhanced proficiency and nationally consistent training are not meeting current or future needs or risks. This presents a risk to the resilience of communities to disasters.

"Communities that develop a high level of resilience are better able to withstand a crisis event and have an enhanced ability to recover from residual impacts.

Communities that possess resilience characteristics can also arrive on the other side of a crisis in a stronger position than pre-event. For example:

- a community with well-rehearsed emergency plans
- superior fire mitigation processes in the cooler months
- appropriate building controls, suitable to local hazards and risks
- widely adopted personal and business financial mitigation measures (e.g. insurance suitable to the risks)
- is likely to suffer less during an extreme fire event and is likely to be able to recover quickly; financially, physically and as a community."

Improving Community Resilience to Extreme Weather Events, Insurance Council of Australia, 2008

Implementation Ideas

To strengthen the capability of, and engagement with the emergency management sector, and increase resilience outcomes for all, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- ensuring organisations and workforces throughout the emergency management sector are adequately trained, exercised, supported, and always equipped, not just in times of crisis
- encouraging and incentivising participation in structured and unstructured volunteering opportunities that build community cohesion and resilience, particularly targeting the under-represented under 40 years age range
- recognising the mental health and wellbeing impacts of disasters on first responders, and the impact this may have on the capability, longevity and capacity of the sector, if they don't have meaningful and timely support
- promoting the value of volunteering, and supporting resilience-building capability and capacity through non-competitive or non-event linked funding streams
- creating opportunities for people to work in partnership with emergency management agencies, their local authorities, and other relevant organisations before, during and after emergencies
- understand national capability and gaps to strengthen the emergency management sector's ability to meet future national threats and risks, as informed by the Australian Disaster Preparedness Framework.

Case Study Outcome 4

Community Based Bushfire Management

Community Based Bushfire Management (CBBM) is a community development program in Victoria which takes a long-term, place-based approach to disaster risk reduction. The foundational activity of the program is to facilitate and strengthen relationships within and between communities, fire agencies and local stakeholders in selected high-bushfire risk locations. The objective is to foster bushfire risk understanding and collaborative local action.

Ten facilitators are employed in different land and fire management agencies at the regional and district scale. Through community-centred practice, the program aims to build social capital by strengthening connections and creating opportunities to share knowledge, support respectful conversations and enable informed decision making based on the values, priorities, and strengths of communities.

This long-term facilitated approach allows time for stakeholders to develop trust and respect, enabling local communities to genuinely partner with fire and land management agencies and take a driving role in what matters to them and where they live.

Daylesford and Hepburn are communities which have been involved in CBBM since 2016. Both communities deeply value their connection to land and discussions with these communities have frequently centred on traditional cultural, ecological health and sustainable land management practices. Community-centred bushfire management has enabled a respectful, facilitated approach to ensure all parties can participate and that divergent opinions and values are appreciated.

Recently, a Bush Walk-and-Talk series was developed in response to the concern and curiosity of local residents, who observed agency operations in and around their township. The community wanted to better understand the management practices being employed, while also having an opportunity to discuss their values and concerns.

The Bush Walk-and-Talk sessions have enabled the community to walk with agency staff and local government through areas undergoing weed and fuel reduction. Agency staff, local government, Traditional Owners, community, and other stakeholders are engaging in respectful and genuine two-way conversations, which have provided multiple opportunities for appreciation of the values and approaches of all parties. This approach has resulted in greater trust and appreciation. In addition, stakeholders report feeling relief – as the process has reduced tension and distrust between stakeholders.

The most recent evaluation of Victoria's Community Based Bushfire Management (2021) recognised and described the complexity and non-linearity of community development approaches to bushfire risk reduction. It provided strong evidence of the positive outcomes and impacts of the community-centred risk reduction model and highlighted the importance of locally defined goals in strengthening community and agency capability to work together in managing bushfire risk.

Case study provided by Country Fire Authority Victoria

PRIORITY 3: ENHANCED INVESTMENT

The third priority in the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework aims to improve effective investment in disaster risk reduction for resilience.

During consultation, we heard that three key outcomes are required under this priority. Firstly, investment is strategic, targeted to mitigations which will make the most difference in areas of highest risk and take into account future climate-risk modelling. Secondly, investment in resilience must attract investors, show a return or benefit, and create strong partnerships to secure the quantum of funds needed from a range of sources. Thirdly, change is required to the broader financing and investment system to account for disaster risk and resilience. Disaster risk reduction financing strategies should work across sectors for sustainable development, encourage investment in prevention and establish an evidence base for investment in disaster risk reduction.

Consultation on this priority revealed the following themes:

- explore ways of reworking financial systems to account for the real costs of risk, particularly over the long term, across asset life spans, different values, and include factors such as sustainability, the value of ecosystems and future climate change impacts
- reconfigure or align funding models and rules, risk planning and financing, including:
 - reviewing funding rules and models to mainstream consideration of climate and disaster risk in investment decisions within government (e.g. into all new policy proposals and the Treasury’s processes)
 - bringing programs together and unifying efforts beyond existing silos to reduce the duplication of funding efforts and risk of maladaptation (e.g. retrofit for energy efficiency and retrofit for natural hazards)
 - reducing competition between community groups, non-government organisations, private organisations and government agencies in accessing limited funds
 - ensuring there is a quantum of funding for pre-disaster risk reduction and resilience which is not competitive or open to recovery activities and projects.

Disaster risk reduction financing strategies should work across sectors for sustainable development, encourage investment in prevention.

- explore opportunities to prioritise place-based, community-led, locally-implemented and regionally-coordinated projects which deliver multiple benefits. These projects should accommodate rapid change, high uncertainty and changing values. They need to consider how to minimise disruption during extreme events, and demonstrate low-regret decisions in investing in infrastructure which is resilient in a climate-changed future
- invest in place-based case studies which demonstrate expanded values, mutual benefits, and shared impact to more investors. This will help create greater confidence to invest, build capability and connect locally-implemented processes through different regional, state, and national scales, with a view to scalability or transferability to other places
- create pathways for government investment in local community capacity and capability building initiatives focused on disaster risk reduction and resilience planning and action
- invest in communities and future infrastructure, including exploring and piloting innovative projects (e.g. modelled on projects which bring the three levels of government together to build resilience).

Outcome 5 focuses on disaster risk reduction investment. It is all about helping reduce our disaster risks by supporting investment decisions which provide the highest benefit to those affected. This outcome considers investment by governments, and funding and financing by the private sector.

The true realisation of benefits may vary across domains, however they should be equitably shared and not have adverse impacts. We know values vary across society, but funding and investments should deliver value to those impacted, and reflect the values, priorities and preferences of affected and interested people and stakeholders. Progress towards this outcome will see the benefits of our investment decisions in disaster risk reduction maximised, by creating alignment across investment domains and incorporating future disaster risk into investment decisions.

Outcome 6 focuses on ensuring disaster risk reduction and resilience target investments are attractive to investors. Progress towards this outcome will see investment in resilience becoming more attractive as we support investors to identify the co-benefits and broader value of resilience investments with clear pipelines for forward investment.

Outcome 7 focuses on modernising and transforming existing models to enable new approaches to investment in disaster risk reduction and resilience across sectors. Progress towards this outcome will see opportunities to mainstream disaster risk reduction into financial decision-making, seek out partnerships, and consider opportunities to do things better. The Sendai Framework emphasises that successful recovery is increasingly being recognised as an opportunity to prepare for and build resilience to future disasters by 'building back better'.



Outcome 5

Investment provides highest disaster risk reduction benefit.

NATIONAL ACTION 13:

Align investment decisions with hazard risk mitigation plans and strategies at local, state, regional and national levels.

This action aims to ensure resilience, recovery and risk mitigation plans are current with evidence-based funding that targets areas of high risk, vulnerability and impact, and is reflective of plans. This action will minimise disruption during extreme events and low-regret decisions in over-investing in infrastructure that is redundant in the future under climate change.

We have learned there is a need to prioritise place-based, community-led, locally-implemented and regionally-coordinated projects which deliver multiple benefits. Projects should accommodate rapid change, high uncertainty and changing values.

“... more public and private investment is needed to build the disaster resilience of communities, regions and economies as the climate changes. This must be underpinned by an accepted process for valuing a resilience-building asset, feature or activity that recognises the systemic and cascading nature of climate and disaster risks and considers important environmental, social, economic and governance factors. The responsibility for financing resilience is shared, which will require shared frameworks and agreed understanding across different sectors.

This approach will help to avoid future losses and generate benefits for communities, the environment and the economy.”

Submission to Second National Action Plan discussion paper, 2022

Implementation Ideas

To align investment decisions with evidence-based hazard mitigation plans, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- supporting local councils and communities to develop and implement resilience plans which align with state and national strategies and frameworks
- working across jurisdictions to align risk reduction strategies for shared risks at a local level
- developing overarching sector-specific strategies to align and plan for participation in disaster risk reduction activities, such as for the not-for-profit sector or the insurance sector
- supporting communities to highlight and prioritise their needs for investment to lead their own resilience planning and action and deliver broader benefits
- incentivising the development and implementation of hazard-risk mitigation plans through the design and targeting of funding programs.



NATIONAL ACTION 14:

Explicitly consider future disaster risk and betterment in investment decisions for disaster-specific and other funding streams.

This action aims to integrate disaster risk reduction and unify funding programs to connect silos, minimise duplication of funding efforts and risk of maladaptation. It also aims to consider ways to standardise the consideration of risks and their true cost across financial systems, particularly over the long term, and across different streams. Other funding streams able to consider how they could create risk or build resilience include, but are not limited to, infrastructure, net zero transitions and conservation.

We have learned the cost of recovery represents a significant proportion of disaster-related costs for all levels of government and industry. While retrofitting infrastructure to a more resilient standard will incur higher costs in the short-term, it is likely to generate longer-term savings. We have also heard investments should better consider future climate and disaster risks, and value creation opportunities through building resilience and empowering communities and regions.

“Develop information and guidance materials to demonstrate how disaster risk reduction considerations can be included in financial decision making and supervision, public spending, and budgets (Improve oversight and build the financial rationale)”

Opportunities for delivering risk-informed investment:
Addressing the barriers, UNDRR, 2021

Implementation Ideas

To ensure disaster risk reduction and betterment is considered across funding streams to deliver better investment outcomes, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- investing in place-based case studies which demonstrate an expanded range of values and benefits to diverse stakeholders to create greater investment confidence
- harnessing opportunities to embed disaster risk in broader policy action, such as the transition to a net zero economy and diversification of our regional economies
- promoting a diverse range of risk-informed energy sources to support the resilience of a community or place
- exploring innovative solutions through research, partnerships or shared investments between different sectors and actors
- reconfiguring guidelines and requirements to ensure disaster risk reduction and resilience is considered in investment decisions
- ensuring investment in disaster risk reduction builds the resilience of households and communities, and prevents backsliding into poverty when disasters strike
- pursuing risk-informed approaches across all sectors and policies, including in the agricultural, health, manufacturing and tourism sectors.



Case Study Outcome 5

Disaster Ready Fund

Recognising the increasing risk posed by disasters, the Australian Government has committed to investing up to \$200 million per year over five years, from 2023-24, on disaster prevention and resilience initiatives through the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF).

Context

Thousands of Australians face bushfires, floods and cyclones every year. The DRF is helping to curb the devastating impacts of disasters by investing in important disaster prevention and preparedness projects such as flood levees, seawalls, evacuation centres and early warning systems. Projects that target systemic risk reduction to build community resilience and capability are also eligible for funding.

The DRF aligns with Australia's national disaster risk reduction obligations and priorities as detailed in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, and complements recovery funding available under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Round One

NEMA received over 300 project proposals through Round One, which were assessed in accordance with a robust and transparent process.

\$200 million in Commonwealth funds was awarded to 187 disaster resilience and risk reduction projects across Australia, including:

- almost \$65 million of Commonwealth investment for 74 infrastructure projects;
- almost \$84 million of Commonwealth investment for 74 systemic risk reduction projects; and
- over \$51 million of Commonwealth investment for 39 projects that will deliver both infrastructure and systemic risk reduction outcomes

Funding was matched by state, territory or local government or other project proponents, where possible, delivering a combined investment of nearly \$400 million.

To ensure projects are locally-driven, states and territories were expected to work closely with key stakeholders, including local governments and First Nations communities to identify and prioritise suitable projects for Round One.

Future Rounds

Consultation with states, territories, local government, not-for-profit organisations, First Nations people, insurers and other key stakeholders will continue throughout the life of the DRF to ensure strong and constructive collaboration and the achievement of the maximum public benefit possible.

Case study provided by the National Emergency Management Agency

Case Study Outcome 5

Regional Adaptive Pathways Planning – Illawarra Shoalhaven pilot

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and the CSIRO are piloting an adaptive pathways approach to disaster risk reduction in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Region of NSW. This pilot is particular to strategic land-use planning and while applying at the regional scale, this approach is designed to be both scalable and transferrable. The approach considers how we might accommodate housing and associated infrastructure in the context of a range plausible future population, climate and natural hazard events that may play out.

With a focus on strategic decision-making the approach drives more systemic risk-informed decisions and investments at scale and has been funded under the joint Australian Government–NSW Government National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The pilot demonstrates a participatory multi-hazard disaster opportunity and risk assessment approach through broad engagement with and across different disciplinary, First Nations, and community perspectives together with regional networks of public and private sector agencies to identify, deliberate and assess disaster risk reduction options and pathways that inform, enable and support delivery of housing that is safe and affordable in the context of the increasing intensity and severity of natural hazards under climate change, and through the lens of avoided costs and value creation.

With particular focus on how and where the need for housing over the next 20 to 40 years may be met, the stakeholder deliberations are providing fora for building shared understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities and consensus on the most suitable locations for, and types of, future housing and the associated ‘enabling infrastructure’ and mitigation measures required to reduce future impacts from hazards and keep communities safe.

Through this deliberative approach, the expertise of First Nations representatives and the contributions of broader community representatives are included at the earliest stages of, and throughout, the participatory processes. Their important voices provide the foundational principles, values and visions for the region and represent the desired outcomes in which the options and pathways are deliberated.

The approach is aligned to all actions of the 2nd National Action Plan, from promoting greater understanding of disaster risk and enabling accountable decisions through to enhancing investment decision making and governance.

Case study provided by Department of Planning and Environment, New South Wales

Outcome 6

Investment in resilience is attractive.

NATIONAL ACTION 15:

Create mechanisms for innovation, valuing resilience beyond avoided costs and showcase project results that demonstrate effective outcomes.

This action aims to develop ways to measure and assess the value of resilience beyond traditional economic means and drive greater investment by demonstrating a range of benefits.

We have learned the current focus of resilience decision-making is weighted toward economic and technical cost-benefit decisions. We heard this is because there are gaps in our ability to measure and analyse multiple, diverse and competing values that might be important to a community. This creates a barrier to being able to consider these values when making decisions.

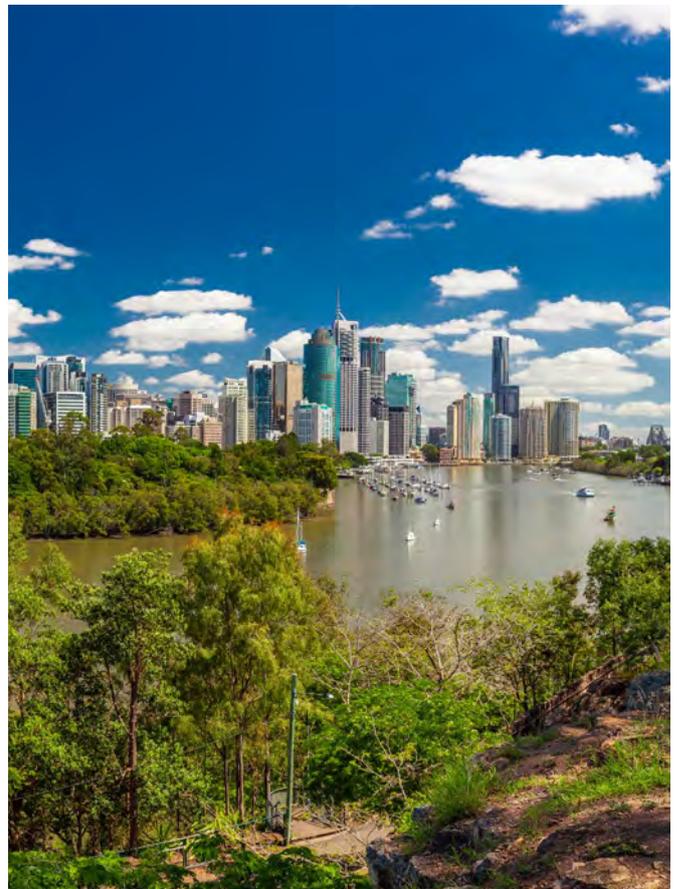
“While there have been many efforts to collect and provide open access to hazard risk, exposure and vulnerability data, and data on losses caused by disasters associated with natural and human-induced hazards, its use and interconnection with financial decision-making could be significantly expanded. This is especially the case for ensuring that the financial rationale for risk reduction, e.g. comprehensive evidence on either the financial, economic, societal and environmental costs of hazards, or the value of taking preventative actions, is in a format which is usable by the investment sector.”

Policy brief: Accelerating financing and de-risking investment, UNDRR, 2021

Implementation Ideas

To facilitate innovation and shift the way we value resilience beyond avoided costs to achieve co-benefits across the system, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- identifying new value creation and funding strategies, evaluating expanded community benefits and beneficiaries
- facilitating collaborative and coordinated partnerships that create social, economic and environmental value
- investing in a range of mitigation options, including those that are non-traditional, such as ecosystems-based approaches
- expanding the focus from the resilience of a built asset to the contribution the asset makes to the resilience of the broader network, place or system
- reporting mechanisms, such as the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, which encourage engagement and demonstrate good practice.



NATIONAL ACTION 16:

Provide the environment for sustainable funding and consistent policy settings and processes to encourage the development of pipelines of investment for disaster risk reduction projects.

This action aims to encourage collaboration between the public and private sector to identify and develop a pipeline of disaster risk reduction projects ripe for investment. This would encourage innovation and reduce competition, allow for strategic planning and prioritisation to reduce duplication and deliver greater value. It would also delineate disaster risk reduction and resilience funding to prevent competition.

We have learned traditional funding cycles and mechanisms put significant time and competition pressure on beneficiaries. We heard that the competitive grants processes are not necessarily achieving their intended outcomes, with communities competing against one another to suit government timeframes as opposed to community readiness and need.

“Recommendation 4 – Establish technical and institutional connectivity to more effectively bridge and coordinate action between climate and disaster risk information communities. The [National Disaster Risk Reduction] Framework articulates a whole-of-government, industry and society approach to disaster risk reduction. Therefore, there is a need for the national capability to assist in bridging disaster management oriented information communities and those attempting to address longer term climate risk.”

Pilot Project Outcomes Report, National Disaster Risk Information Services Capability, 2020

Implementation Ideas

To promote and enable sustainable funding models and nationally consistent policies, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- aligning funding allocations with the needs identified by communities
- submitting proposals aligned with the Second National Action Plan for funding under disaster funding and other funding streams
- improving the way the existing planning systems identify and generate options and projects
- trialling participatory granting, giving the communities most at need the authority to determine who and what to fund
- investing in nature-based solutions that sustainably manage and restore natural and modified ecosystems to address these societal challenges, effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human wellbeing, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits
- establishing standard methodologies to value and measure resilience which inform how decision-makers prioritise investments
- developing a pipeline of climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure projects with demonstrated benefits, by adopting engineering strategies that consider disaster risk at every stage of development.



Case Study Outcome 6

Investing in tourism infrastructure to enhance economic resilience in the Somerset region

The 2019 Black Summer bushfires had an immense impact on Queensland's Somerset region. To strengthen the Somerset region's economy and aid in overall recovery, the Queensland and Australian Governments invested more than \$2.6 million in upgrades to the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (BVRT) and the Mountain to Mountain connection through the joint Commonwealth and Queensland Government funded \$36.8 million Local Economic Recovery (LER) Program.

The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, a 161 km trail that follows the disused Brisbane Valley rail line, is a crucial tourism asset for the Somerset region.

The longest rail trail in Australia, it is open to walkers, cyclists, and horse riders, with the majority of users day trippers, while others explore the trail over several days and stay overnight in towns along the way.

The LER investment has seen new pathways, trailheads, solar lighting, shelters, and turfing added along the trail in Esk, Toogoolawah, Lowood, and Fernvale.

Additionally, wayfinding and interpretive signage have been installed to make the trail more accessible and inclusive.

The signs provide information about local flora and fauna, which adds value to the trail experience and encourages visitors to pause and appreciate their surroundings.

The Mountain to Mountain connection upgrades have also enhanced tourism and recreation links between Mount Glen Rock and Blanks Mountain.

Alongside the new infrastructure, clearing works carried out as part of the upgrades have improved community safety by enhancing fire breaks and mitigating the risk of future bushfires.

While the LER Program supports rebuilding infrastructure that has been damaged or destroyed through natural disaster, it is about building back better: strengthening communities by supporting projects that contribute to local, regional, economic and social recovery.

The upgrades funded through the LER Program realise part of the Somerset Regional Council's broader tourism strategy, which aims to generate a 10 per cent uplift in visitation spend from \$63 million to \$73 million per annum.

This increase is projected to boost local employment, with an estimated 84 new full-time jobs set to be created.

These upgrades will drive tourism, increase visitor expenditure and create job opportunities for locals. It will also position the region to capitalise on its proximity to Brisbane and coastal tourism destinations, and tap into tourism opportunities associated with the 2032 Olympic Games.

Case study provided by from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority



Case Study Outcome 6

Savanna Fire Management in Northern Australia

The Australian Government supports early dry season savanna fire management projects across Northern Australia by issuing Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) through the Clean Energy Regulator. As at August 2023, there are 81 such projects under way, 32 of which are Indigenous-led.

As an example, the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement project uses an innovative mix of customary Indigenous fire management techniques and contemporary technology to manage fires across West Arnhem Land. The aim of the project is to reduce the area and severity of late dry-season fires and associated greenhouse gas emissions, through targeted early dry season prescribed burning. The project receives ACCUs for reductions in emissions compared to the average emissions calculated for the ten years prior to the project beginning.

As more than 50 Warddeken Rangers are involved in the prescribed burn and wildfire suppression, the project has served to re-establish an appropriate fire regime based upon traditional knowledge and responding to modern threats. The ACCUs generated provide the First Nations owned, not-for-profit company with substantial annual revenue.

Case study provided by the Clean Energy Regulator

Outcome 7

Financing and investment systems account for disaster risk and resilience.

NATIONAL ACTION 17:

Pursue innovative finance models for risk reduction initiatives, including through co-investment and public-private partnerships, to encourage greater funds towards resilience outcomes.

This action aims to drive partnerships and transdisciplinary approaches that innovate how we invest in resilience and disaster risk reduction. It will explore how partnerships can support investment and engagement and promote the opportunities and benefits of non-monetary returns for shareholders, and between all stakeholders.

We have learned the current approach to incentivising investment is not working. There is a need to explore how public and private capital could help finance new, and adapt existing, infrastructure to build resilience, reduce disaster risk and derive a financial return to investors.

“(100) Member States need to engage with the private sector to enhance incentives and mechanisms to scale up private sector investment in disaster risk reduction, This could involve Member States collaborating with financial institutions to better integrate multi-hazard, long-term risk analysis in private investment decisions, or committing to develop financial structures dedicated to disaster risk reduction, such as blended finance, resilience bonds or impact investing funds.”

The Report of the Main findings and recommendations of the Midterm Review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Implementation Ideas

To incentivise investment partnerships across the system and to enhance resilience outcomes, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- supporting and piloting innovative partnerships and delivery mechanisms
- developing the necessary tools, frameworks, governance mechanisms and policies to incentivise and catalyse investment in disaster risk reduction by the private sector and potentially the community
- exploring government co-contributions, innovative lending and investment schemes and their applicability to increasing resilience
- funding trials of business cases that explicitly consider the costs and benefits of different resilience options for different climate scenarios
- sharing best practice and contributing to the development of environment and climate risk management in the financial sector
- experimenting with new funding models that directly invest in community priorities.

NATIONAL ACTION 18:

Enable greater integration of disaster risk reduction into the financial system by exploring cooperation, optimising policy, regulatory frameworks, standards and guidance.

This action aims to adjust funding rules and models to mainstream disaster risk reduction into all policy proposals, new project proposals and designs. Applying a robust theory of change or program logic to deliver outcomes is needed to achieve this.

We have learned approaches to funding have been ad hoc, piecemeal, fragmented and siloed. Short-term and competitive funding cycles are criticised, especially when they pit community groups against each other and their local governments, or pre-disaster disaster risk reduction and resilience funding bids against recovery bids. A key message from consultations was the need for long-term resourcing of local communities to enable action.

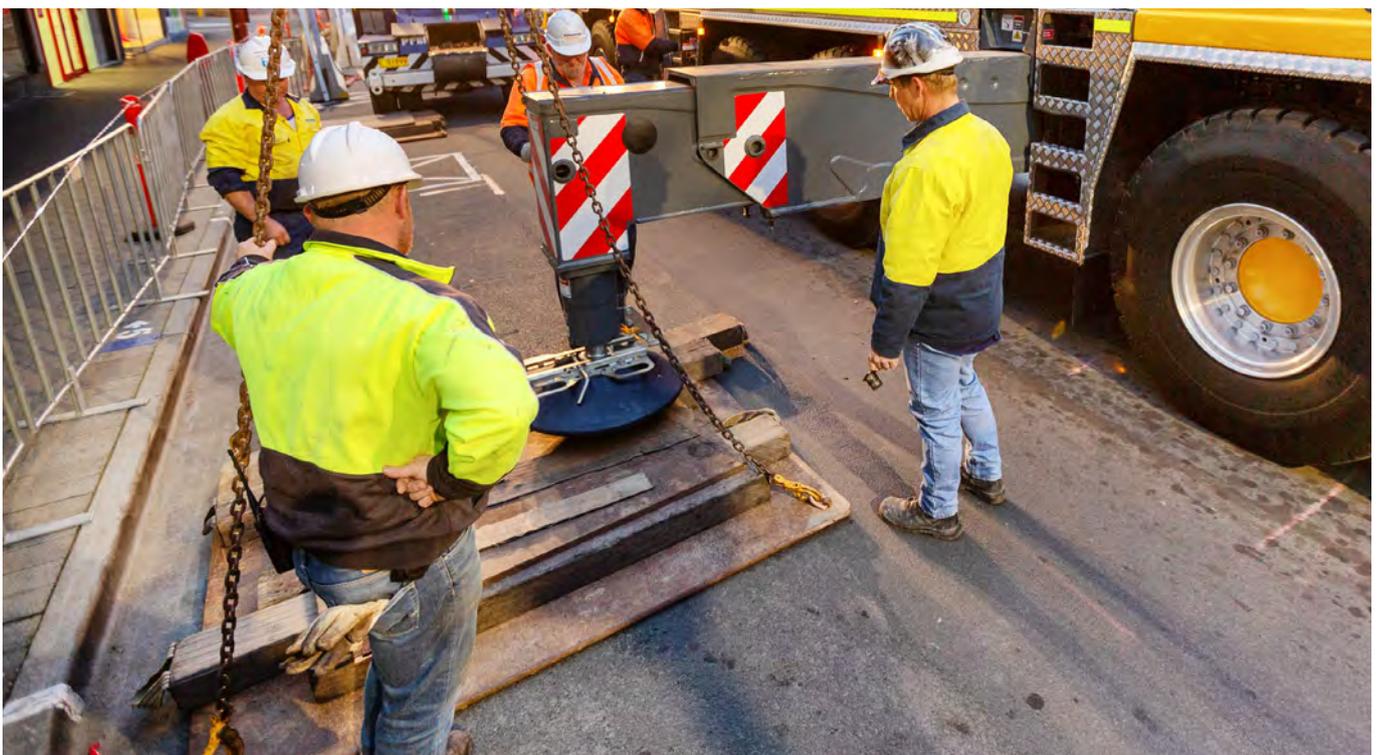
“To achieve the 2030 Agenda, disaster risk reduction must be integrated at the core of development and finance policies, legislation and plans.”

Co-Chairs’ Summary: Bali Agenda for Resilience, 2022

Implementation Ideas

To mainstream disaster risk reduction into finance systems and ensure systemic engagement and delivery of disaster risk reduction outcomes, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- supporting the development of business cases for major investment to consider climate and disaster risk
- regulating entities across the banking, insurance and superannuation industries to undertake voluntary climate-risk self-assessments. These assessments need to better align practices to manage the financial risks and opportunities created by climate change
- mainstreaming disaster risk reduction considerations into infrastructure investments by governments at all levels
- research to help sectors understand the return on investment for disaster risk reduction, particularly in relation to social resilience (non-structural).



Case Study Outcome 7

Resilient Futures Investment Roundtable

The Resilient Futures Investment Roundtable (the Roundtable, previously the Resilience Valuation Initiative) is a group of private, public, research and not-for-profit organisations collaborating to improve the way that the costs and benefits of resilience are valued to create better public and private resilience investment decisions.

The Roundtable is currently funded through the Disaster Risk Reduction Package to build capability across sectors to identify and apply approaches to resilience valuation that recognize the systemic and cascading nature of climate risk, and take into consideration the broad economic, social, environmental and governance benefits that can be achieved through resilience.

The Roundtable supports diverse organisations with different values and priorities to understand the spectrum of uses of resilience value information. Through this convening and coordination role, members are supported to navigate complexity, uncertainty and interdependencies of systems in a changing climate.

As a cross-sectoral collaboration, the Roundtable promotes a holistic approach to making decisions about when, where and how to invest in resilience. A traditional cost-benefit analysis focusses on avoided costs and losses, and does not fully integrate the wide social, governance, economic and governance benefits that can be generated by investing in resilience. The Roundtable is exploring tools and methodologies that take a holistic approach to valuing resilience, allowing for decisions to be made based on a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of funding. Taking a holistic approach to understanding the value of resilience investment can enable governments and other stakeholders to make informed, efficient and sustainable choices that address systemic challenges and foster collaboration to reduce disaster risk and build resilience.

Members have worked collaboratively to establish a shared understanding of what a robust resilience valuation approach looks like, agreeing that it should adopt a broad, systemic and whole-of-life perspective considering interdependencies and externalities, and also be functional and reliable. A scan of available tools and methodologies has identified that while there are many tools that focus on specific hazards or sectors, it is difficult for organisations to choose the most appropriate methodology for their specific context. This process identified the need to build capability across all sectors and organisations to undertake robust resilience valuation for improved investment decision-making.

To meet this need, the Resilient Futures Investment Roundtable provides a forum for cross-sector capacity building, knowledge sharing and identifying potential opportunities for collaborative partnerships on complex challenges. Members are also working together to develop guidance materials, practice cases and supporting resources and learning opportunities. These outputs are being designed to enable organisations to understand and navigate the landscape of valuing resilience, and access examples of organisations who are using robust tools to improve decisions about when, where and how to invest in resilience.

Case study sourced from the Independent review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding



PRIORITY 4: GOVERNANCE, OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

The fourth priority in the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework aims to improve governance to support disaster risk reduction action at all levels.

During consultation, we heard that two key outcomes are required under this priority. Firstly, governance arrangements need to be inclusive, enable partnerships, recognise shared responsibility and incentivise engagement. Secondly, the need to embrace multilevel and contemporary governance arrangements and practices to connect decision-making processes, including across recovery and resilience, and across disaster-risk-related disciplines with similar community impacts.

Consultation on this priority revealed the following themes:

- establish disaster risk governance arrangements which recognise distributed responsibility for identifying, reducing and managing disaster risk. This includes transitions towards systemic risk governance for disaster risk reduction and resilience across institutions, business and communities
- create multi-level and multi-sector governance with an established place at the decision-making table for all sectors of society
- invest in people and processes, not only products and 'things', including:
 - co-design processes, building competencies in ethics, having conversations about value tensions, and building networks and co-ordinating bodies and agencies to catalyse collaboration and change
 - ongoing co-ordinating bodies, regional-bridging organisations, communities of practice, innovation hubs and 'backbone' organisations for collective action, which foster cross-sector partnerships and build relationships leading to solving problems together.

Progress towards this outcome will see high value, multilevel and contemporary governance practices deliver a system that is inclusive, networked and aligned.

- co-design governance structures for funding and resourcing for and with communities, focused on common ideas of what success means
- bring together risk management governance between climate and disaster risk management to improve efficacy and de-conflict decision-making, reduce competition and streamline action towards resilience outcomes.

Outcome 8 focuses on how we govern decision-making, processes and implementation of disaster risk reduction in Australia, recognising this is a complex and multi-layered system. Progress towards this outcome will see high value, multilevel and contemporary governance practices deliver a system that is inclusive, networked and aligned. Through our governance arrangements we are able to create the authority and rules needed to make changes across the system.

We recognise the importance of diverse and inclusive representation, and that governance arrangements should further push for equity, not just representation.

Outcome 9 focuses on supporting collective ownership and responsibility at all levels and sectors for managing our disaster risk, from households and communities to businesses, organisations, and governments. Progress towards this outcome will help all Australians recognise their role in managing disaster risk and feel empowered to take ownership of this responsibility. There is no one group, solution or activity available to meet the complex disaster risk challenges we face in Australia.



Outcome 8

Disaster management arrangements are inclusive, networked and aligned, supported by meaningful partnerships.

NATIONAL ACTION 19:

Create spaces, opportunities and governance arrangements for inclusive and diverse community representation, participation and access to the disaster management system.

This action aims to support the development of mechanisms to ensure diverse voices are heard and represented in the governance arrangements for disaster risk reduction activities.

We have learned through consultation of the need for more inclusive governance arrangements and greater input from diverse and under-represented groups. Disaster risk reduction efforts need to consider the unique contexts, functional needs and systemic issues of social inequality to build resilience across communities. They need to recognise the strengths of communities, enable community and First Nations leadership and be respectful. There has been a clear call to action to provide more seats at the table, through formal governance arrangements.

“(88) Governments must develop institutional structures to engage and mobilise the expertise of scientific, academic, private sector, civil society and local stakeholders, creating platforms and spaces for such stakeholders to be listened to and exert a meaningful influence over risk-informed decision-making processes.”

The Report of the Main findings and recommendations of the Midterm Review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Implementation Ideas

To increase inclusive and diverse community representation, participation, and access to the disaster management system, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- integrating diverse groups and their representation, reflective of community composition into existing governance mechanisms, or creating dedicated arrangements where appropriate
- creating open, inclusive conversations across diverse groups, government, community, not-for-profits and the charitable sector about risk, how we reduce vulnerability and build resilience
- supporting local youth workers and peer workers to support youth-led social and environmental resilience activities, creating local youth advisory groups, and training for young people and youth workers to become community leaders
- ensuring people with disability are meaningfully engaged and empowered in the development and delivery of support needs across the disaster management system by removing any accessibility, participation and collaboration barriers, in alignment with Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021-2031 and Emergency Management Targeted Action Plan
- establishing policy and program processes that are sensitive to the needs of people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics in disasters
- co-designing local risk reduction and recovery strategies and plans with First Nations, with clear roles articulated between the disaster management sector and First Nations
- sharing and reporting to the Australian public on activities and achievements in reducing risk, to encourage connection and demonstrate efficacy of governance arrangements
- supporting social inclusion and responding to the needs of a multicultural Australia
- creating local leadership platforms to connect people across the system
- reforming policy and planning engagement practices to support First Nations leadership and participation, and broader community inclusion.

NATIONAL ACTION 20:

Form and encourage meaningful partnerships and support place-based, community-led, locally-implemented, regionally-coordinated approaches to disaster risk reduction, which ensure equity and inclusion across the system.

This action aims to support and engage local communities in the disaster risk reduction system, by helping to create networked communities that are empowered to take action in their local context.

We have learned through consultation that stakeholders want to build and drive place-based, community-led, locally-implemented and regionally-coordinated disaster risk reduction efforts. There is widespread international recognition that engaging communities and supporting place-based solutions and approaches to disaster risk reduction generate system-wide benefits.

“While the enabling, guiding and coordinating role of national and federal State Governments remain essential, it is necessary to empower local authorities and local communities to reduce disaster risk, including through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities, as appropriate.”

“To ensure the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, as appropriate, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment and the development and implementation of policies, strategies, plans and programmes of specific sectors, with a cross-sectoral approach, which should be tailored to localities and to the context.”

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
2015-2030

Implementation Ideas

To empower communities to act within their local context and reduce their disaster risks, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- supporting local decision-making bodies and arrangements, enabled through state and territory governments and the Australian Government
- establishing or maintaining national governance mechanisms, which are stable, inclusive, and empathetic
- articulating governments’ role, perspective and commitment
- developing and piloting collaborative models for community-based disaster management
- establishing a national, community-focused network, which enables and fosters knowledge sharing, peer support, capability building and influencing
- building flexibility into governance and institutional arrangements to account for localisation
- recognising the contributions of local governments in informing regional, state and national approaches to risk reduction in governance forums
- building community-owned initiatives across Australia
- creating and publicising channels through which decision-makers can easily engage and escalate risks and issues
- wherever possible, ensuring disaster risk reduction laws, policies, programs and governance address structural inequality as an underlying driver of risk.

NATIONAL ACTION 21:

Better align recovery and resilience activities, governance, funding, policy and processes to support betterment and long-term disaster risk reduction.

This action aims to enhance resilience through recovery programs, supporting communities to build-back-better. It aims to ensure people are better prepared for and more resilient to the impacts of future disaster events.

We have learned that a key challenge is viewing the emergency management prevention, preparedness, response and recovery cycle as linear. There is optimism this is evolving, noting resilience and recovery must share a symbiotic relationship in part due to increased cascading compounding events.

“A driver of successful recovery is when recovery is viewed holistically, as part of a continuum and inseparable from preparedness, response, mitigation and sustainable development.”

A driver of successful recovery is when recovery is approached in a cyclical manner wherein actions to strengthen resilience are taken both before and after disasters occur – rather than a linear approach that limits recovery action to the aftermath of an event.”

Words into Action guidelines: Build back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, UNDRR, 2017

Implementation Ideas

To ensure recovery programs support and deliver betterment outcomes and long-term resilience, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- building capacity across jurisdictions to share better practice approaches to recovery and resilience
- preparing for and building resilience into recovery operations to reduce future risks
- approaching recovery from a whole-of-system perspective, to ensure risks are not recreated and that the system is stronger for future events
- providing clear proactive guidance on betterment and betterment standards for critical community infrastructure, including those most frequently lost or damaged
- engaging with communities to understand how damaged assets are valued in the community, to assess how they should be restored or transformed to support resilient outcomes
- developing standards and guidance for building resilience into recovery programs and investment.

Case Study Outcome 8

Resilient Asset Management Project

Embedding climate resilience means we prepare for, cope with and recover from the impacts of climate change to stay productive, connected and strong. Council assets like roads, stormwater pipes and jetties support community resilience by facilitating transport, flood mitigation and community connection. It is important that our assets continue to function effectively and benefit their communities as the climate changes. Building and maintaining infrastructure is a major cost for councils, so it is vital to factor the impacts of climate change to ensure our financial sustainability.

Resilient South is a partnership between the South Australian Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham and Onkaparinga, and the South Australian Government. Resilient South launched the Resilient Asset Management Project (RAMP) to embed climate risk considerations into the way local councils think about and manage their infrastructure. This includes recognising how asset management decisions can either build or decrease regional resilience and quantifying the magnitude of climate change risks to selected asset classes and the functions they provide.

The RAMP supports councils to ensure that new infrastructure projects account for climate risks, identify risk mitigation options, understand how to retrofit existing assets to improve asset performance over time, and develop ways to fund the actions needed to meet community expectations.

The RAMP is a pilot project, with each council piloting the integration of a separate asset class. These are open space and coastal assets (Holdfast Bay), major buildings (Marion), bridges (Mitcham) and stormwater infrastructure (Onkaparinga). Roads were selected as an additional asset class to be piloted across the entire region, recognising the importance of roads to our regional economy and resilience. The RAMP brings together leaders from local government, industry, and academia to undertake work that has been recognised as critical to underpin the sustainability of our communities. The approach developed through the RAMP will be shared for use by local governments and other agencies.

Case study provided by the Department for Environment and Water, South Australia

Case Study Outcome 8

Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

Increased disaster resilience is a long-term outcome, requiring a coordinated and strategic approach to address systemic challenges, climate change and build safer, stronger, more resilient communities.

The Queensland Government is committed to strengthening disaster resilience so our communities are better equipped to deal with the increasing prevalence of natural disasters. The Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2022-2027 (QSDR), launched in September 2022, promotes a systems approach to resilience that connects with a range of agencies and sectors to deliver improved outcomes for Queensland.

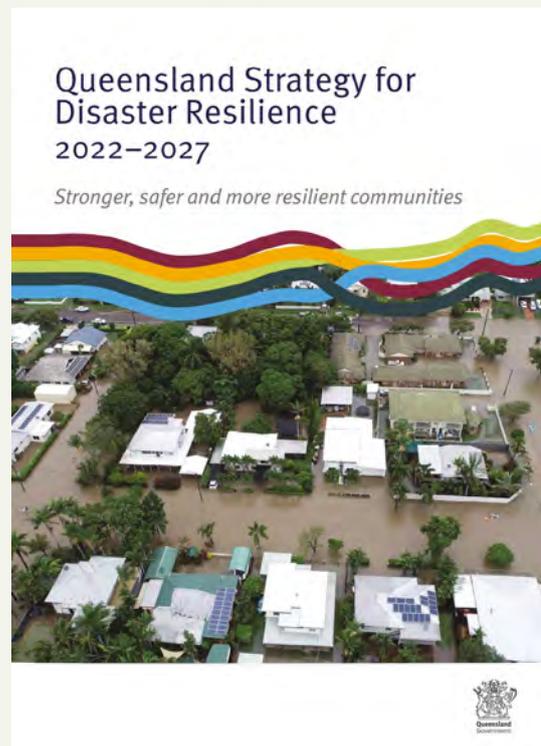
Over the past decade, Queensland's thinking has evolved. We've moved from having a reactive approach to recovery to an approach that is strategic, proactive and planned. The QSDR is designed to guide how Queensland can continue to strengthen its disaster resilience, based on local and regional needs. A key challenge will continue to be the need for strengthened cooperation between all levels of government, and partnering non-government organisations, private sector and academics to build on existing frameworks and research to continue to strengthen resilience.

A systems approach to disaster resilience is required to tackle existing and emerging threats. Looking forward, we need our leaders in communities, governments and other organisations to consider and recommend resilient results when making decisions, investments and developing core services, products, infrastructure and mitigation activities.

The updated QSDR aims to achieve this by embedding resilience activities into business as usual and mandates the need for collaboration across stakeholders to ensure the 4 objectives, 19 strategic commitments and 52 actions are clearly outlined with agreed responsible lead agencies for delivery.

Resilience is a shared responsibility and the success of the QSDR will depend on the collective effort of individuals, communities, businesses, and state agencies. The first round of progress reporting on the QSDR has shown all identified actions are currently in progress and on track. This has created visibility across Queensland Government of the collective efforts to strengthen resilience.

Case study provided by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority



Outcome 9

Increased recognition of shared ownership and responsibility for risk management.

NATIONAL ACTION 22:

Understand barriers to risk reduction to ensure all in Australian society are empowered to reduce risk without disadvantage.

This action aims to identify the barriers to collective action in risk reduction and the required steps and actors who can remove them.

We have learned actors across the system are limited or do not have the right incentives to act or make decisions that would reduce their disaster risk. This could relate to barriers such as regulations and policy in other domains, costs and their ability to access the solution. It's clear there is an eagerness to do more to reduce disaster risk, but there are constraints to action in other policy domains because disaster risk reduction has not always been considered. Identifying these blocks and who is responsible for remedying them will empower Australians to act across a broader set of contexts.

“Bali Agenda for Resilience called for transformation of risk-governance mechanisms to ensure that management of risk is a shared responsibility across sectors, systems, scales and borders. Examples show that working transversally across ministries and departments at all levels can help governments break institutional silos.”

The Bali Agenda for Resilience, 2022

Implementation Ideas

To ensure all of society is empowered to participate in disaster risk reduction where they can and explore opportunities to remove barriers and disincentives, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- undertaking meaningful community-led conversations to understand experiences of disasters and set agendas for recovery and risk reduction plans
- developing implementation templates and guidance on how to create an implementation plan across contexts
- identifying activities underway or planned that support the delivery of National Actions and Outcomes
- referring gaps in capability and capacity to monitoring and evaluation processes to better understand what people need to create their plans
- seeking help from experts in the community to co-create informed plans
- identifying and removing barriers to reducing disaster risk
- using behavioural research to inform targeted education and awareness raising activities for highest risk areas.



NATIONAL ACTION 23: **Strengthen mechanisms to improve cooperation and further support devolved disaster risk reduction planning and management at local and risk-appropriate regional levels.**

This action aims to support place-based and locally-led approaches to disaster risk reduction by continuing to strengthen and mature the arrangements and mechanisms at local, regional and state levels. It will provide state-level strategic oversight and harmonisation, streamlining future funding considerations and applications through clear priorities and capacity building.

We have learned that place-based, locally-led approaches empower communities and that lived experience and knowledge provide valuable insights to what matters most to different communities and groups. Through improving cooperation at different levels, more meaningful planning and management can take place to break down silos and inform broader scale decisions.

“Communities require genuine decision-making power to lead their recovery from disasters, reduce disaster risk and build thriving and resilient futures.”

Second National Action Plan, Discussion paper submission, 2022

Implementation Ideas

To ensure disaster risks are managed with local community participation and ownership and at the most appropriate level, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- developing, implementing and maintaining locally-led plans and strategies that align with regional, state and national strategies to prioritise high-value risk reduction strategies
- strengthening governance mechanisms with a focus on reducing systemic vulnerabilities
- engaging with communities, sectors and groups for deliberation and input into local plans and understanding of their regional links
- considering opportunities to align day-to-day decision-making with local disaster risk reduction planning
- reviewing plans regularly to ensure they are updated, and aligned to local, regional, state and national frameworks and plans, where relevant
- supporting community needs-based policy development that focuses on risk reduction and driving down inequality.



NATIONAL ACTION 24:

Better align disaster risk and related disciplines that result in similar local impacts, particularly physical climate risk mitigation and adaptation and drought, to simplify and streamline governance, plans and effort.

This action aims to support, align and coordinate strategic approaches to disaster risk reduction across the climate and drought spheres. It recognises the similarity in the way communities experience and respond and looks to provide better informed decision-making and aligned effort across the system.

We have learned through lived experience that Australia is facing increased frequency and intensity of disasters due to climate change, including bushfires, floods, cyclones and heatwaves. This poses a significant challenge in adapting to disaster impacts and reducing risks to communities, infrastructure and the economy. Similarly, drought is often raised by stakeholders as a 'natural disaster', though its slow onset and responses need to be tailored accordingly.

"The creation of governance arrangements that support integrated understanding and management of risks across all sectors, scales, and domains, and are reflective of the broadened scope of hazards and risks, is key to accelerating Sendai Framework implementation. This requires a shift in the locus of responsibility and accountability for preventing risk creation and reducing existing risk, away from a single centralised agency, to coordinated, risk-informed decision-making and investment by all State institutions and all of society.) Essentially, no longer treating disaster risk reduction as a sector, but as an outcome."

Report of the Main findings and recommendations of the Midterm Review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Implementation Ideas

To ensure disaster risk management and related disciplines are not duplicating effort, but share a vision for disaster risk reduction, actions could include – but are not limited to:

- designing place-based programs that reflect local priorities, community values and embed both resilience and adaptation to a range of stresses from natural hazards, which are increasing in severity due to climate change
- aligning drought, climate change adaptation plans and hazard mitigation plans to address the common underlying vulnerabilities and the common impacts of climate, drought and disasters on communities:
 - this could be achieved by developing and using nationally consistent climate scenarios and risk information across the three spheres, and ensuring aligned and complementary approaches are adopted to deal with immediate, medium and long-term risks.
- creating sector-specific information bases that help businesses assess the effects of changing climate on their own physical risks
- identifying options for strategically-guided funding streams that address community needs and build drought, climate and disaster resilience.



Case Study Outcome 9

Resilient by Design – Victoria’s Critical Infrastructure Arrangements

Context: In July 2015, Victoria introduced new legislative and policy arrangements to improve critical infrastructure resilience and reduce disruption of services to the community due to emergencies. Victoria’s arrangements are leading practice as an effective framework to manage critical infrastructure and build strong partnerships between industry and government.

Stakeholders: Critical infrastructure provides important services to the community – safe drinking water, reliable transport, communications, energy supply, food and grocery items, banking, healthcare and government services. The community would experience significant impacts if these services were disrupted for a prolonged time. For this reason, in Victoria, industry and government work hard to bolster the resilience of critical infrastructure.

Approach: Victoria’s critical infrastructure arrangements are enshrined in legislation and encourage an ongoing focus on preparedness, collaboration, information sharing, situational awareness and maintaining trusted relationships. The strength and success of Victoria’s critical infrastructure resilience framework has been evident in recent years as Victoria has responded to frequent emergency events. The genuine collaboration between industry and government, and the resilience approach adopted by Victoria’s critical infrastructure sectors has contributed to the reliability of services essential to the Victorian community.

Case study provided by Emergency Management Victoria

Case Study Outcome 9

Coordinated Disaster Risk Reduction – Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

The bushfire disaster in the ACT in 2003 destroyed 500 homes and took the lives of 4 people on the urban interface of Canberra. In response to this disaster the ACT restructured the Emergency Management arrangements for the Territory including the development of a Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP).

The SBMP is the overarching document that directs all levels of bushfire planning in the ACT. Its purpose is to provide a strategic framework to protect the ACT community from bushfires and reduce resulting harm to the physical, social, cultural and economic environment of the Territory.

To achieve this, the SBMP sets objectives and actions for:

- agency and community preparation and response for bushfires
- bushfire hazard assessment and risk analysis
- bushfire prevention, including hazard reduction
- adaptive management to apply best practice to bushfire management and prevention practices in the ACT in a changing environment.

Over the past 18 years, under the Emergencies Act 2004, the ACT Emergency Services Agency has successfully delivered four Strategic Bushfire Management Plans (SBMPs), each spanning five years.

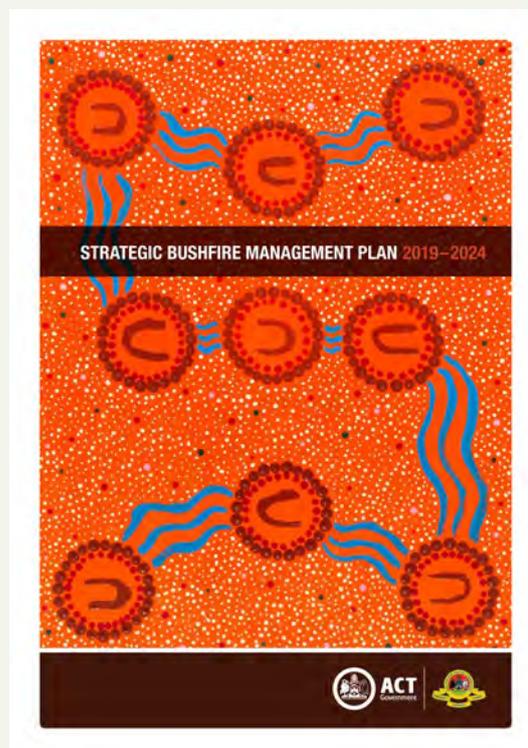
The SBMP has delivered improvements in disaster risk reduction across the four disaster management phases of planning preparedness response and recovery. Highlights include:

- Improved practices in urban planning
- coordination of bushfire risk mitigation.
- Improved community education and engagement
- Support and enabling of rural land managers
- Development of bushfire fighting capacity and capability
- Enhanced risk analysis and planning capabilities.
- Implementation of lessons learned nationally and internationally.

The coordinated approach to bushfire risk mitigation has improved the ACT resilience in the face of other disasters, from storm to pandemic. The emergency arrangements, policy and procedures that support planning and response to bushfire hazard, complement and enhance the capabilities across the community and agencies in what is now an increasingly multi hazard environment.

The ACT will build upon the success of the SBMP to continue to deliver against the National Actions delivering improved governance, informed decision making and a community prepared for disasters. The strength of the SBMP lies in the engagement across government and community to deliver the shared objectives.

Case study provided by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Australian Capital Territory



NEXT STEPS

Managing disaster risks will remain everyone's responsibility, as we continue to face serious hazards over the coming years and decades.

The Second National Action Plan is designed to provide a pathway for all sectors of society to actively participate in reducing our risks. Each sector of society should reflect on how they can best contribute to its implementation.

For **Governments**, there is the opportunity to align work already underway across portfolios to implement outcomes and national actions, and to identify priority areas to implement new activities in line with national, state, regional and local strategies.

Non-government sectors and businesses may wish to identify the outcomes and national actions which most impact them, including things they can do to align their activities to implement as well as share the good practices that are already underway in disaster risk reduction, via [The Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments \(SFVC\) online platform](#). Through the platform, they can show specific contributions to the Sendai Framework and highlight their achievements.

There is an important role for individuals to play in implementing the Second National Action Plan. This includes understanding their disaster risks, responsibilities and the actions they can take in all the roles they have in life, how disaster risk can be taken into account in individuals' decisions, helping develop hazard mitigation and preparedness plans, and connecting individuals to their local community through planning and sharing of risk information and local knowledge.

As Australians take forward implementation of the Second National Action Plan, the **Australian Government** will work to align policy, programs and funding with the Second National Action Plan.

The National Emergency Management Agency will further consider how it can support sectors to develop their own plans and provide avenues for national engagement, including through hosting national discussions on priority areas to bring together different actors and approaches to implement systemic solutions. The need for a **National Platform** to support national conversation and engagement, and share case studies was also a key theme identified through the consultation to develop the Second National Action Plan to facilitate a culture of collecting, measuring and learning to accelerate action.

Governance, Monitoring and Evaluation

While all Australians have ownership, the Australian Government, through the National Emergency Management Agency, is the steward of the Second National Action Plan.

The National Emergency Management Agency and the Australian Climate Service are establishing a Systemic Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning System (SysMEL) to monitor and report on implementation of the Second National Action Plan.

The SysMEL will inform future disaster risk reduction policy decisions and assist our understanding of whether we are doing the right activities, in the right way, across the system, to meet the outcomes of the Second National Action Plan. The emphasis is on active strategic learning to assess which interventions are effective in addressing complex problems.



APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Affected	<p>People who are affected, either directly or indirectly, by a hazardous event. Directly affected are those who have suffered injury, illness or other health effects, who were evacuated, displaced, relocated or have suffered direct damage to their livelihoods, economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets. Indirectly affected are people who have suffered consequences, other than or in addition to direct effects, over time, due to disruption or changes in economy, critical infrastructure, basic services, commerce, or work, or social, health and psychological consequences.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Betterment	<p>For the purposes of the DRFA, infrastructure 'betterment' is considered to be the restoration or replacement of a damaged essential public asset to a significantly more disaster resilient standard than its pre disaster standard.</p> <p>(Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements)</p>
Build back better	<p>The use of the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases after a disaster to increase the resilience of nations and communities through integrating disaster risk reduction measures into the restoration of physical infrastructure and societal systems, and into the revitalization of livelihoods, economies and the environment.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Building code	<p>A set of ordinances or regulations and associated standards intended to regulate aspects of the design, construction, materials, alteration and occupancy of structures which are necessary to ensure human safety and welfare, including resistance to collapse and damage.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Capacity	<p>The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within an organisation, community or society to manage and reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience. Capacity may include infrastructure, institutions, human knowledge and skills, and collective attributes such as social relationships, leadership and management.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Climate change adaptation	<p>Climate change adaptation refers to adjustments in ecological, social or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects. It refers to changes in processes, practices and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change. In simple terms, countries and communities need to develop adaptation solutions and implement actions to respond to current and future climate change impacts.</p> <p>(UNFCCC)</p>
Climate risk	<p>The potential for adverse consequences for human or ecological systems, recognising the diversity of values and objectives associated with such systems. In the context of climate change, risks can arise from potential impacts of climate change as well as human responses to climate change. Relevant adverse consequences include those on lives, livelihoods, health and well-being, economic, social and cultural assets and investments, infrastructure, services (including ecosystem services), ecosystems and species.</p> <p>(IPCC)</p>

Term	Definition
Compounding Disasters	<p>Compounding disasters may be caused by multiple disasters happening simultaneously, or one after another. Some may involve multiple hazards – fires, floods and storms.</p> <p>Some have cascading effects – threatening not only lives and homes, but also the nation’s economy, critical infrastructure and essential services, such as our electricity, telecommunications and water supply, and our roads, railways and airports.</p> <p>(Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements)</p>
Critical Infrastructure	<p>The physical structures, facilities, networks and other assets which provide services that are essential to the social and economic functioning of a community or society.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Damage	<p>Disaster damage occurs during and immediately after the disaster. This is usually measured in physical units (e.g., square metres of housing, kilometres of roads, etc.), and describes the total or partial destruction of physical assets, the disruption of basic services and damages to sources of livelihood in the affected area.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Decision-makers	<p>Individuals, groups, organisations or entities who make investment, spending, policy, program, legislative, regulatory, resource allocation, planning or lifestyle decisions.</p> <p>(NDRRF)</p>
Disaster	<p>A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Disaster management	<p>The organisation, planning and application of measures preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Disaster Ready Fund	<p>The Australian Government has established the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) through the Disaster Ready Fund Act 2019. The DRF is providing up to one billion dollars over the next five years, from 2023-24 for natural disaster resilience and risk reduction across Australia.</p> <p>(NEMA)</p>

APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY (*continued*)

Term	Definition
Disaster resilience	<p>Rather than define disaster resilience, the NSDR 2011 focuses on the common characteristics of disaster resilient communities, individuals and organisations. These characteristics are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functioning well while under stress • successful adaptation • self-reliance, and • social capacity <p>Resilient communities also share the importance of social support systems, such as neighbourhoods, family and kinship networks, social cohesion, mutual interest groups, and mutual self-help groups.</p> <p>(NSDR 2011)</p>
Disaster risk	<p>The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity. The definition of disaster risk reflects the concept of hazardous events and disasters as the outcome of continuously present conditions of risk. Disaster risk comprises different types of potential losses which are often difficult to quantify. Nevertheless, with knowledge of the prevailing hazards and the patterns of population and socioeconomic development, disaster risks can be assessed and mapped, in broad terms at least. It is important to consider the social and economic contexts in which disaster risks occur and that people do not necessarily share the same perceptions of risk and their underlying risk factors.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Disaster risk governance	<p>The system of institutions, mechanisms, policy and legal frameworks and other arrangements to guide, coordinate and oversee disaster risk reduction and related areas of policy.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Disaster risk information	<p>Comprehensive information on all dimensions of disaster risk, including hazards, exposure, vulnerability and capacity, related to persons, communities, organisations and countries and their assets.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Disaster risk management	<p>Disaster risk management is the application of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies to prevent new disaster risk, reduce existing disaster risk and manage residual risk, contributing to the strengthening of resilience and reduction of disaster losses.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Disaster risk reduction	<p>Disaster risk reduction is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development. Disaster risk reduction is the policy objective of disaster risk management, and its goals and objectives are defined in disaster risk reduction strategies and plans.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>

Term	Definition
Emergency	Emergency is sometimes used interchangeably with the term disaster, as, for example, in the context of biological and technological hazards or health emergencies, which, however, can also relate to hazardous events that do not result in the serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society. (UNDRR)
Emergency Management	Emergency management involves the plans, structures and arrangements which are established to bring together the normal endeavours of government, voluntary and private agencies in a comprehensive and coordinated way to deal with the whole spectrum of emergency needs including prevention, response and recovery. (AIDR) Emergency management is also used, sometimes interchangeably, with the term disaster management, particularly in the context of biological and technological hazards and for health emergencies. While there is a large degree of overlap, an emergency can also relate to hazardous events that do not result in the serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society. (UNDRR)
Exposure	The situation of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities and other tangible human assets located in hazard-prone areas. (UNDRR)
Financing	The investment of capital or money for a specific purpose. (NDRRF)
Funding	The provision of financial resources, whether through a supply of money or commercial resources, for a specific purpose. (NDRRF)
First Nations	First Nations Australians has been used to encompass two very distinct cultural groups: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. While it is a generic term, it acknowledges the diversity of Australia's First Peoples. Recognising the significant diversity within these two groups, these groupings are umbrella terms, within which sits a large array of different nations, each with their own culture, language, beliefs and practices. (AIATSIS)
Hazard	A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards may be natural, anthropogenic or socionatural in origin. (UNDRR)
Impact	Disaster impact is the total effect, including negative effects (e.g., economic losses) and positive effects (e.g., economic gains), of a hazardous event or a disaster. The term includes economic, human and environmental impacts, and may include death, injuries, disease and other negative effects on human physical, mental and social well-being. (UNDRR)
Land management practices	Land management practices describe the way that land is managed - the means by which a land use outcome is achieved. (DAFF)

APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY (continued)

Term	Definition
Mitigation	The lessening or minimising of the adverse impacts of a hazardous event. (UNDRR)
National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework	The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Framework) guides national, whole-of-society efforts to proactively reduce disaster risk in order to minimise the loss and suffering caused by disasters. (Home Affairs)
National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction	A generic term for national mechanisms for coordination and policy guidance on disaster risk reduction that are multisectoral and interdisciplinary in nature, with public, private and civil society participation involving all concerned entities within a country. (UNDRR)
Natural hazards	Natural Hazards are predominantly associated with natural processes and phenomena. Geologic, meteorological, or biological hazard. (UNDRR)
Place-based	Place-based approaches are collaborative, long-term approaches to build thriving communities delivered in a defined geographic location. This approach is ideally characterised by partnering and shared design, shared stewardship, and shared accountability for outcomes and impacts. Place-based approaches are often used to respond to complex, interrelated or challenging issues—such as to address social issues impacting those experiencing, or at risk of, disadvantage, or for natural disasters. (QLD Department of Housing)
Public-Private-Partnership (PPP)	A PPP can broadly be defined as a long-term arrangement between the public and private sector for the development, delivery, operations, maintenance, and financing of service enabling public infrastructure. PPPs offer opportunities to improve services and achieve better value for money in the development, maintenance and operation of service-based infrastructure. (NSW Treasury)
Preparedness	Measures to ensure that, should an emergency occur, communities, resources and services are capable of coping with the effects; the state of being prepared. (NSDR 2011)
Prevention	Measures to eliminate or reduce the incidence or severity of emergencies. (NSDR 2011)
Recovery	As a process, recovery is the process of coming to terms with the impacts of a disaster and managing the disruptions and changes caused, which can result, for some people, in a new way of living. Being ‘recovered’ is being able to lead a life that individuals and communities value living, even if it is different to the life they were leading before the disaster event. As an outcome, recovery is the restoring or improving of livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and ‘build back better’, to avoid or reduce future disaster risk. (Australian Disaster Recovery Framework)

Term	Definition
Rehabilitation	The restoration of basic services and facilities for the functioning of a community or a society affected by a disaster. (UNDRR)
Resilience	The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management. (UNDRR)
Response	Actions taken directly before, during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected. (UNDRR)
Retrofit	Reinforcement or upgrading of existing structures to become more resistant and resilient to the damaging effects of hazards. (UNDRR)
Risk	The likelihood of harmful consequences arising from the interaction of hazards, communities and the environment; the chance of something happening that will have an impact upon objectives. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood; a measure of harm, taking into account the consequences of an event and its likelihood. (NSDR 2011)
Risk Transfer	The process of formally or informally shifting the financial consequences of particular risks from one party to another, whereby a household, community, enterprise or State authority will obtain resources from the other party after a disaster occurs, in exchange for ongoing or compensatory social or financial benefits provided to that other party. (UNDRR)
Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements	The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (Royal Commission) was established on 20 February 2020 in response to the extreme bushfire season of 2019-20 which resulted in loss of life, property and wildlife and environmental destruction. The report was tabled in Parliament on Friday, 30 October, 2020. (Royal Commission)
Society	A society is a grouping of individuals, which is characterised by common interest and may have distinctive culture and institutions. It includes all levels of government, non-government organisations, communities, businesses and individuals. (New World Encyclopedia)
Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and balances social, economic and environmental concerns. (IPCC)

APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY (continued)

Term	Definition
Systemic disaster risk	<p>Systemic risks emerge from the interactions of climate change and natural hazards, with the complex, interdependent and interconnected networks of social, technical, environmental, and economic systems. These risks are not necessarily obvious using traditional hazard-by-hazard risk assessments and revealing them requires an understanding of the degree of magnitude of failure across these systems that could suddenly or gradually exceed society's capacity to cope.</p> <p>(United Nations Global Assessment Report 2019)</p>
Systemic Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (SysMEL)	<p>The SysMEL will monitor the progress of systemic disaster risk reduction activities, specifically to understand the barriers and enablers to undertaking these activities and to gather insights and learnings.</p> <p>(Australia's National Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework)</p>
Traditional knowledge	<p>Traditional knowledge refers to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples. Developed from experience gained over the centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment, traditional knowledge is often transmitted orally from generation to generation. It tends to be collectively owned and can be expressed in stories, songs, folklore, proverbs, cultural values, beliefs, rituals etc.</p> <p>(UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues)</p>
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)	<p>The lead UN agency for the coordination of disaster risk reduction. UNDRR helps decision makers across the globe better understand and change their attitude to risk. The UNDRR convenes partners and coordinates activities to create safer, more resilient communities and works globally towards the prevention of new, and the reduction of existing disaster risk.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>
Vulnerability	<p>The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.</p> <p>(UNDRR)</p>



APPENDIX 2: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN AUSTRALIA

The context for domestic disaster risk reduction in Australia spans across many scales, industries and sectors. It is important everyone in society recognises they can get involved. The information detailed below provides an overview of the broader foundational drivers for action.

There is a deep interconnectedness between the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) because sustainable development and climate change adaptation can contribute to systemic disaster risk and build resilience.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

Released in 2019 and nationally endorsed by all Australian Governments on 13 March 2020, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (the Framework) implements Australia's commitment to the Sendai Framework and establishes Australia's 2030 vision and goals for disaster risk reduction.

The Framework establishes a strategic foundation for reform, taking a whole-of-society, systems, and values-based approach to be actioned across five years from 2019-2023.

Since the Framework was released in 2020, Australia's disaster risk management system has significantly matured to better manage our complex risk landscape.

Additionally, the development of the Second National Action Plan revealed not only what stakeholders want to see, but the limitations of the current framework. The Framework is being reviewed in 2023-24 to ensure it drives progress across the remaining years to 2030.

Australia's National Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework

In 2022, Australia completed a National Midterm Review of the domestic implementation of the Sendai Framework, which contributed to the global report. The National Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework was informed by extensive stakeholder consultation conducted alongside the development of this Second National Action Plan.

Australia's National Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework identified the following four elements to make scaled-up, on-ground actions more coherent, coordinated, and effective:

1. enabling inclusive and interconnected governance and collaboration networks which assist in aligning frameworks, disaster risk reduction strategies and plans across levels of government
2. mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into other sectors to achieve more harmonised systemic interventions
3. investing in the necessary information and decision support mechanisms to enable decision-makers to address complexity and contestation in decision-making.
4. developing the frameworks, tools, data, governance, and evidence-base to enable rigorous and consistent assessment of risk, resilience benefits and returns that will enable private sector investment in infrastructure.

The National Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework overwhelmingly found that climate change is the most prevalent emerging issue which will impact Australia's ability to achieve the goal of the Sendai Framework by 2030, and beyond. This Second National Action Plan builds on these findings.

The First National Action Plan

The former Council of Australian Governments tasked Commonwealth, state and territory Emergency Management Ministers to develop the First National Action Plan in March 2020, with endorsement for the First National Action Plan gained in May 2020.

The First National Action Plan took stock of the initiatives and efforts by Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, aligned with the Framework. Development of the First National Action Plan was a critical step towards national recognition that reducing disaster risk could not be achieved by the traditional disaster management sector alone.

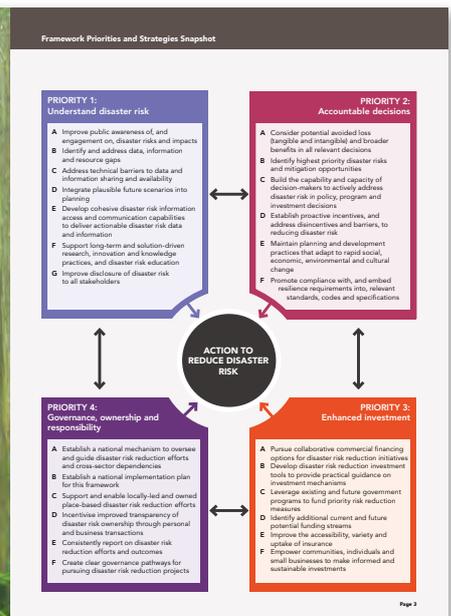
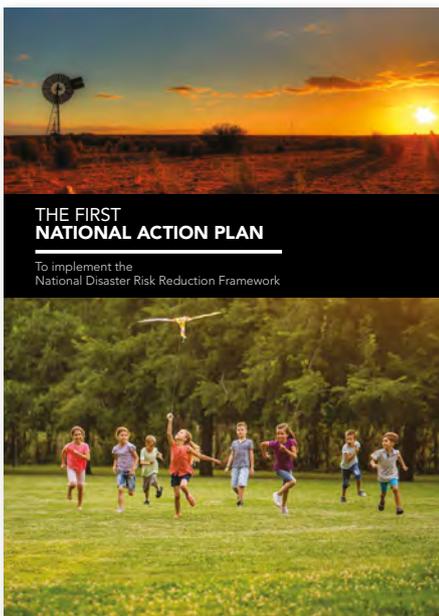
The First National Action Plan highlighted work that was underway to mature Australia’s national disaster risk reduction system. Some of these foundational activities included:

- establishing a new national climate and disaster intelligence capability, now known as the Australian Climate Service, to provide improved data and intelligence on climate and disaster risks and impacts to support decision-making
- publishing the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority’s *Prudential Practice Guide on Climate Change Financial Risks* and *Climate Vulnerability Assessment* to collectively understand and assess the impacts of a changing climate

- developing the Systemic Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, to measure the extent to which disaster risk reduction activities were occurring across Australia’s disaster risk reduction system
- hosting the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Brisbane, bringing together government ministers and officials, representatives from the private sector, non-for-profits, civil society, and vulnerable groups to progress disaster risk reduction efforts.

The First National Action Plan championed shared responsibility, showing by example that disaster risk reduction requires coordinated action and across government portfolios and policy areas. It consolidated these shared efforts and made preliminary steps towards bringing together efforts across the system. In taking stock, the First National Action Plan also highlighted future areas for action.

Consultation during the development of the Second National Action Plan reiterated support for National Action Plans as a meaningful implementation mechanism.



APPENDIX 3: DEVELOPING THE SECOND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Significant consultation was undertaken to develop the Second National Action Plan (the Plan), including online and in-person workshops, a *From Risk to Resilience Summit*, and public and direct stakeholder consultation.

This consultation process provided value beyond the input to the document and ensures the Plan represents a collaborative, inclusive effort reflecting diverse stakeholder perspectives and experiences from across Australia. Key themes are reflected where appropriate under the actions and refer to Appendices 4-7 for further information on the inputs to the Plan.

Inputs to the Plan include:

Domestic inputs: There has been increased cross-sector efforts at national, state, and local levels to deliver reforms to the emergency management and disaster risk reduction system since the first National Action Plan. This has occurred while simultaneously experiencing and having to respond to disasters. This maturing of the system and action at all levels of government has provided a solid foundation from which this Plan now builds upon. See Appendix 4.

Consultation process: To ensure the Plan is a truly national and strategic document, extensive consultation was undertaken across sectors, groups and scales in 2022-23. See Appendix 5.

Post-disaster event reviews: This includes the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements* and other national and jurisdictional inquiries and reviews conducted since 2020. See Appendix 6.

Global inputs: Australia is party to a range of international agreements relevant to disaster resilience and risk reduction and is committed to domestic action to support their implementation. The foundation of Australia's risk reduction work and this Plan sits under the UNDRR Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as other global inputs and influences. See Appendix 7.

Consultation: Key emerging themes

Overall, there was a clear message that all of society is a part of how we do things differently to drive effective risk reduction action. Eight cross-cutting themes emerged from the consultation and the engagement activities exploring the desired future state and actions. These are outlined below in the table.

The key themes reflect the importance of involving people in the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, and ensuring their needs and perspectives are considered. This includes a focus on building social capital, community resilience and empowering individuals to take action to reduce their own risk, as well as promoting a more inclusive decision-making approach that considers the needs of diverse groups, including First Nations people, youth, people with disability, and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Furthermore, consultation highlighted the need for greater use of nature-based solutions and traditional knowledge in building disaster resilience. This includes a recognition of the important role ecosystems and biodiversity can play in reducing disaster risk, and the need to engage with traditional landowners and custodians of knowledge. This is so we can better understand and incorporate traditional approaches to disaster risk reduction, including 'Caring for Country' and earth-centred processes such as 'greenprints' (creating regenerative societies that live within ecological limits).

In doing things differently, consultations reiterated that people-based assets and social capital is key. This includes developing community competencies, enhancing capability through collaboration, building on community strengths, deeply listening to community needs, and extending into regionally cohesive replicable, scalable, and sustainable action.

A summary of the eight high level themes that cross-cut the Framework priorities:

Key themes	Description	Framework priority
Take a contemporary, integrated approach to Disaster Risk Reduction	Take a big-picture, integrated approach to disaster risk reduction to mobilise all sectors to build resilience for the long-term. Accelerate efforts to reduce the drivers of vulnerability and disaster (e.g. emission reduction, poverty, inequality, social determinants of health). Shift mindsets and ways of thinking about disaster risk reduction to resonate with whole-of-society agency and action.	1, 2, 3, 4
Incorporate a broader range of values into decisions and investment.	Incorporate a broader range of values into decisions and investment (including social, cultural, wellbeing, heritage, wildlife and environmental as exemplified by 'Caring for Country'). Develop ways to measure an expanded range of values for decision-making, and methods to support trade-off decisions that deal with uncertainty, long time horizons, and multiple objectives. Use cross-sector case studies to test, demonstrate and build confidence.	1, 2, 3
Integrate broader forms of knowledge and brokering	Integrate broad forms of knowledge and ways of knowing (e.g. including First Nations, transdisciplinary, lived experiences). Enhance collaboration and coordination using knowledge brokering organisations. Invest in people and capability, including systems leadership and volunteers. Engage the arts, culture, and humanities to communicate complexity and engage through emotions.	1, 2, 3, 4
Create ways for diverse people and groups to be included in decision-making processes.	Create ways for diverse people and groups to be included in decision-making. Provide a seat at the table for First Nations and underrepresented groups through formal governance processes. Create agency and develop competencies for young people to act for the future, including through formal education, social media, and other means.	2, 4
Invest in place-based, locally led and implemented, regionally coordinated processes to act.	Invest in place-based, locally led and implemented, regionally coordinated processes to act. Use existing groups and structures. Build infrastructure (grey, blue, green) that delivers multiple benefits.	2, 3, 4
Reduce incentives for risk creation and use equitable risk transfer mechanisms	Reduce incentives for risk creation and risk transfer, particularly where risk is transferred to those not aware, or who cannot afford or are unable to deal with the risk. Generate equitable, legitimate, and transparent transfer mechanisms for residual risk.	2, 4
Review funding rules and models to deliver disaster risk reduction outcomes	Review funding rules and models to deliver disaster risk reduction outcomes across portfolio and sector areas and groups, including smarter, more efficient and aligned investments. Reduce competition between community groups, NGOs, private organisations, and government agencies in accessing limited buckets of funding and encourage collaboration to ensure the funding for pre-disaster disaster risk reduction/resilience is not directly competing with response and recovery activities and projects.	2, 3, 4
Build a national platform for case studies, learn from effort and focus on collecting and measuring appropriate and accessible information.	Measure what matters. Research and communicate community case studies because what works locally is nationally relevant. Build outcomes frameworks to guide actions at all levels and across a range of sectors and organisations. Embed a learning culture, and implement systemic monitoring, evaluation and learning to accelerate effective action.	1, 2, 4

The key challenges

We know disaster and climate risk is complex.

The Second National Action Plan consultations identified changes in the current and future operating environment within a dynamic political, social, economic and policy landscape surrounding disaster risk reduction, resilience, and adaptation. This is amplified by natural hazards becoming more frequent and intense due to a changing climate. Essential services are more interconnected and interdependent than ever before, and people and assets are more exposed and vulnerable due to cascading shocks and stresses.

The decisions we each make about where to build, work and live can create, amplify, or reduce risks, meaning this risk landscape is ever-changing and increasingly complex. There was recognition that key to reducing disaster risk is acknowledging and addressing the systemic creation of risk.

Understanding how hazards intersect with vulnerability and exposure is fundamental to understanding and then reducing risk.

It was repeatedly acknowledged that addressing these challenges will require a coordinated effort from all levels of government, emergency management agencies, communities, sectors and individuals. It will require a focus on prevention and preparedness, as well as a willingness to adapt and innovate in response to new and emerging threats.

Key Challenges

Several broad challenges contributing to disaster risk reduction were identified, including:

- 1. Climate change impact:** Australia is facing increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters due to climate change, including bushfires, floods, cyclones, and heatwaves. This poses a significant challenge in adapting to impacts and reducing risks to communities, infrastructure, and the economy.
- 2. Governance complexity:** Australia's disaster risk, climate risk and emergency management are governed by a complex web of federal, state, and local government agencies, making it difficult to coordinate risk reduction, prioritise efforts, and share hazard and risk information effectively.
- 3. Building resilience in response and recovery:** The emergency management Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery cycle has previously been viewed as a linear step model. This has evolved over time. It is now widely accepted that resilience and recovery must share a symbiotic relationship in part due to increased cascading compounding events. We must enhance resilience through recovery programs, while the community has funding, motivation and attention.
- 4. Limited citizen engagement:** The lack of public awareness and engagement hinders disaster risk reduction efforts. Many Australians are unaware of the risks they face and actions they can take to reduce those risks. Accessible and reliable risk information, tools and guidance are crucial to increase public awareness and encourage engagement in risk reduction measures.
- 5. Risk prioritisation:** The absence of contemporary, nationally comparable risk information, along with the different methodologies and risk assessments across governments and disciplines, the complexity and uncertainty of natural hazard risk mitigation plans, and the impact of climate change make it challenging to identify and prioritise risks. This hinders the ability to allocate resources effectively.
- 6. Funding and investment gap:** Disaster risk reduction requires significant investments from both public and private funding sources. However, attracting sufficient investment from the private sector is challenging, and quantifying the value of resilience and creating value for investment is critical.
- 7. Social vulnerabilities:** Social and economic inequality leads to different impacts on marginalised communities during and after disasters, with First Nations' peoples, people with disability, youth, and those experiencing gender-based discrimination being more vulnerable. Disaster risk reduction efforts need to consider the unique contexts, functional needs, and systemic issues of social inequality to build resilience in these communities.
- 8. Urbanisation and population growth:** Past approaches to urbanisation have led to development in risk areas. The increase in urbanisation and population growth in Australia exposes densely populated areas to natural hazards and infrastructure vulnerabilities, presenting significant challenges in disaster risk reduction.
- 9. Ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss:** Ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss have reduced the natural protection against natural hazards and the loss of ecosystem services, contributing to the impact severity of disasters such as bushfires, heatwaves and floods.

2030 Vision for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Framework vision is to enable and empower Australian society to actively reduce disaster risk and limit the impacts of disasters on communities, economies, and the environment. Our national ambition is for all sectors of society to understand and adapt to the social, environmental, technological, and demographic changes that have the potential to prevent, create or exacerbate disaster risks.

The change we seek through implementing the Framework is that all sectors of society:

- make systemic disaster risk-informed decisions
- are accountable for reducing risks within their control
- invest in reducing climate and disaster risk to avoid or limit the loss and damage when disasters occur.

To achieve this, we will:

- by 2025, **align** our collective efforts and resources around this Plan
- by 2030, **unify** and harmonise systems and processes that integrate efforts to strengthen resilience into the fabric of society
- by 2050, **integrate** cultural, social, environmental, and economic values in decision-making to ensure natural hazards have minimal impact on community and country.

Further information on these elements and timelines can be found in the [Catalysing Change Workshop report](#).

APPENDIX 4: DOMESTIC INPUTS

Over the last three years, since the release of the First National Action Plan, there has been increased cross-sector efforts at national, state, and local levels to deliver reforms to the emergency management and disaster risk reduction system while simultaneously experiencing and having to respond to disasters.

This maturing of the system and action at all levels of government provide a solid foundation for this Plan to build on. It is worth recognising the good work that has taken place, particularly to respond to disaster events and build resilience through recovery. At the national level government systemic shifts have supported disaster risk reduction.

Creation of the National Emergency Management Agency

On 1 September 2022, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) was established to provide end-to-end oversight on disaster risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery in Australia at the national level. Formed through a merger of the National Recovery and Resilience Agency and Emergency Management Australia, NEMA provides national leadership and coordination across the emergency management continuum. NEMA is working to ensure that Australia is more resilient to disasters by leading national disaster risk reduction and emergency management efforts, in line with the Framework, and through informed strategic oversight and guidance.

Funding for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Australian, state and territory governments committed \$261 million (50:50) over five years from 2019-20 to 2023-24 to a [Disaster Risk Reduction Package \(DRRP\)](#). The DRRP funds risk reduction initiatives aligned to the Framework. The Australian Government contributes \$130.5 million to the DRRP, comprising:

- \$104.4 million to support states and territories in reducing disaster risks at the state and local level through the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction
- \$26.1 million to deliver national projects, in consultation with the states and territories, which reduce disaster risk at the national level for the benefit of all Australians.

Note the final round of the DRRP was allocated in June 2023 and a review of the program will take place.

The Disaster Ready Fund

A new funding stream for disaster risk reduction was established by the Australian Government in 2022-23, the [Disaster Ready Fund \(DRF\)](#). The DRF will provide \$1 billion over five years, with up to \$200 million available per year to states and territories, for projects related to natural disaster resilience and risk reduction around Australia. The DRF seeks to mitigate potential disaster loss and damage, reduce harm, loss of life, property loss and the impacts on economic productivity.

The DRF is given effect through the [Disaster Ready Fund Act 2019](#). It is intended as an enduring fund to provide all levels of government, as well as affected stakeholders, with the certainty need to plan for robust investments in resilience projects to reduce systemic disaster risk and the impacts of disasters. Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Emergency Management announced the successful DRF Round 1 projects on 7 June 2023.

The DRF is delivering against the recommendations of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into National Disaster Funding in 2015 for up to \$200 million per year on disaster resilience, with funding matched by states and territories. It directly contributes to Australia's obligations under the Sendai Framework and Australia's National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework. It is also supported by calls from industry and civil society, such as Insurance Council of Australia's 2022 [Building a more resilient Australia](#) report, and the Climate Council and Emergency Leaders for Climate Action's [The Great Deluge: Australia's New Era of Unnatural Disasters](#) which have both called for prioritised investment in resilience and adaptation.



APPENDIX 5: CONSULTATION INPUTS

Australia's journey towards the 2030 goal of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework is an ambitious but achievable one, with the support of all stakeholders and a commitment to a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction.

Work began on the development of the Second National Action Plan (the Plan) in late March 2022 through consultation and engagement with hundreds of stakeholders through a mixed methodology approach. It was conducted in partnership with the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) and in conjunction with Australia's National Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, through workshops, submissions to a formal discussion paper, a survey and a *From Risk to Resilience Summit*. The range of themes and ideas emerging from this process was comprehensive and captured in summary reports.

Consultation, delivered in partnership with AIDR, commenced with a set of exploratory dialogues on the key stakeholders recognised as having the knowledge and experience to begin identifying the Plan components and consultation process.

The first public facing consultation occurred in early April 2022, with a thought leadership webinar hosted by AIDR and the then National Recovery and Resilience Agency. This was followed by:

- the Catalysing Change workshop
- a discussion paper
- the Reducing Disaster Risk in Australia survey
- six online and two in-person deep dive conversations
- a charities roundtable
- the *From Risk to Resilience Summit*.

Online discovery discussions

Online discovery discussions were held 21-23 March 2022. Three two-hour sessions were conducted. Attendees were from various sectors and recognised as having the knowledge and experience to identify what should be included in the next Plan, as well as considerations for ongoing consultation. 33 people attended the online discovery discussions.

Thought leadership webinar

The thought leadership webinar was held on 4 April 2022. This webinar was the first public facing consultation activity. During the webinar the then National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) provided an overview of the agency, the Framework, and the intended approach to develop the Plan. 412 people attended the webinar live and it can be viewed online: <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/second-national-action-plan-for-disaster-risk-reduction/>

Catalysing Change workshop

The Catalysing Change workshop took place on 7 April 2022 in Sydney. The workshop was an opportunity for participants to build upon the themes identified in the online discovery discussions. The day was divided into four sessions. Session one focused on the NRRRA's plan for developing the Plan, with an explanation of the stages and how these would build upon each other using a process of inclusive dialogue. Session two sought to establish a collective vision for achieving disaster risk reduction in Australia using multi-staged, guided conversations focused on three time horizons: 2025 (alignment); 2030 (unity); and 2050 (realising our vision). Session three asked participants what already exists (i.e. Frameworks) and what they thought the National Action Plan needed to do. Session four asked the question: how do we get there? 46 people attended. The Catalysing Change Summary Report is available here: [Catalysing Change Summary Report \(aidr.org.au\)](https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/catalysing-change-summary-report/)

Developing the Second National Action Plan Discussion paper

A discussion paper was released on 9 May 2022 and sought feedback and comments from a range of voices and sectors to identify nationally significant transformational actions to reduce disaster risk. Responses to the discussion paper contributed to a shared understanding of the key challenges to address and the development of a Plan by all sectors, for all sectors. The discussion paper encouraged responses from stakeholders to share experiences and insights related to the role they play and the things that would help them or their organisation contribute more effectively to reducing disaster risk and building resilience.

At the close of submissions in June 2022, 61 submissions were received in the following categories:

- 29 submissions from government organisations (12 federal, 15 state, 2 local)
- 4 from private sector
- 17 from not for profit
- 4 from academia
- 5 from individuals
- 2 from other.

Survey data

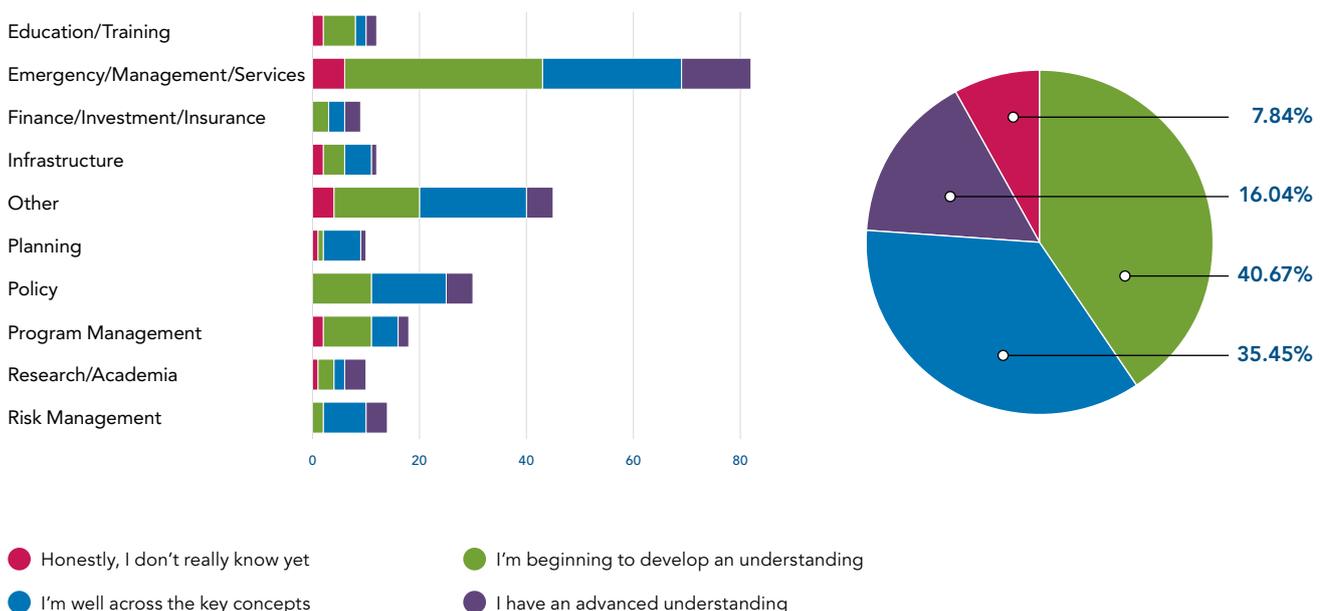
The *Reducing Disaster Risk in Australia Survey* was open to all members of the public and organisations from 9 May 2022 to 14 June 2022 to inform the development of the Plan and contribute to the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework. Stakeholders were invited to take part and share their views. The Survey sought feedback on a range of systemic disaster risk issues to establish a baseline of Australia’s understanding of disaster risk reduction and the broader national disaster risk reduction system. The survey closed in June 2022. Below are some of the high-level results:

The charts below relate to the level of understanding about ‘systemic disaster risk’. 21 respondents selected they don’t know yet, 109 selected they are beginning to develop an understanding, 95 selected they are well across the key concepts and 43 selected they have an advanced understanding.

213 respondents selected that they did not think there has been a reduction in disaster risk since 2015, and the varied and complex nature of risk creation seemed well understood by those who completed the survey.

In prevalence order, the most inhibiting factors to including disaster risk reduction into decision-making included: Institutional arrangements; Capacity (time, resources, staff); Formal rules (policy, legislation) and access to the right information.

Q1 Your understanding of ‘systemic disaster risk’...



The *From Risk to Resilience Summit* Summary Report is available here: [From Risk to Resilience Summit Report \(aidr.org.au\)](https://aidr.org.au)

Cross-sector panel

A panel of resilience experts and national leaders were brought together in early 2022 to steer the development of the Plan, setting the course for synergies across the system to ensure it is a truly national plan from inception. This panel comprised a broad range of members, including from the insurance industry, environmental consulting, the finance sector, philanthropic organisations, humanitarian organisations and government.

Disaster Risk Reduction Time Limited Working Group

The Disaster Risk Reduction Time Limited Working Group (the Working Group), formerly the Sendai Time Limited Working Group, provides a forum for national coordination of disaster risk reduction policy, including progress against the Sendai Framework and other related reporting.

The Working Group, made up of policy experts from state and territory and Australian governments, contributed significantly to Australia's domestic Midterm Review of implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Systemic Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning System (SysMEL) and were engaged in the early development of this Plan to implement the Framework.

Charitable, Not-for-Profit and Philanthropic Sector Roundtable

The Charitable, Not-for-Profit and Philanthropic sector were engaged in various capacities throughout the drafting of the Plan, through participation in workshops, consultations and summit and providing feedback via written submissions. The Roundtable on 16 May 2023 provided an update on the Plan and a workshop was held to explore the key emerging themes for the sector: plans, strong communities, collaboration and understanding risk.

States and territories engagement

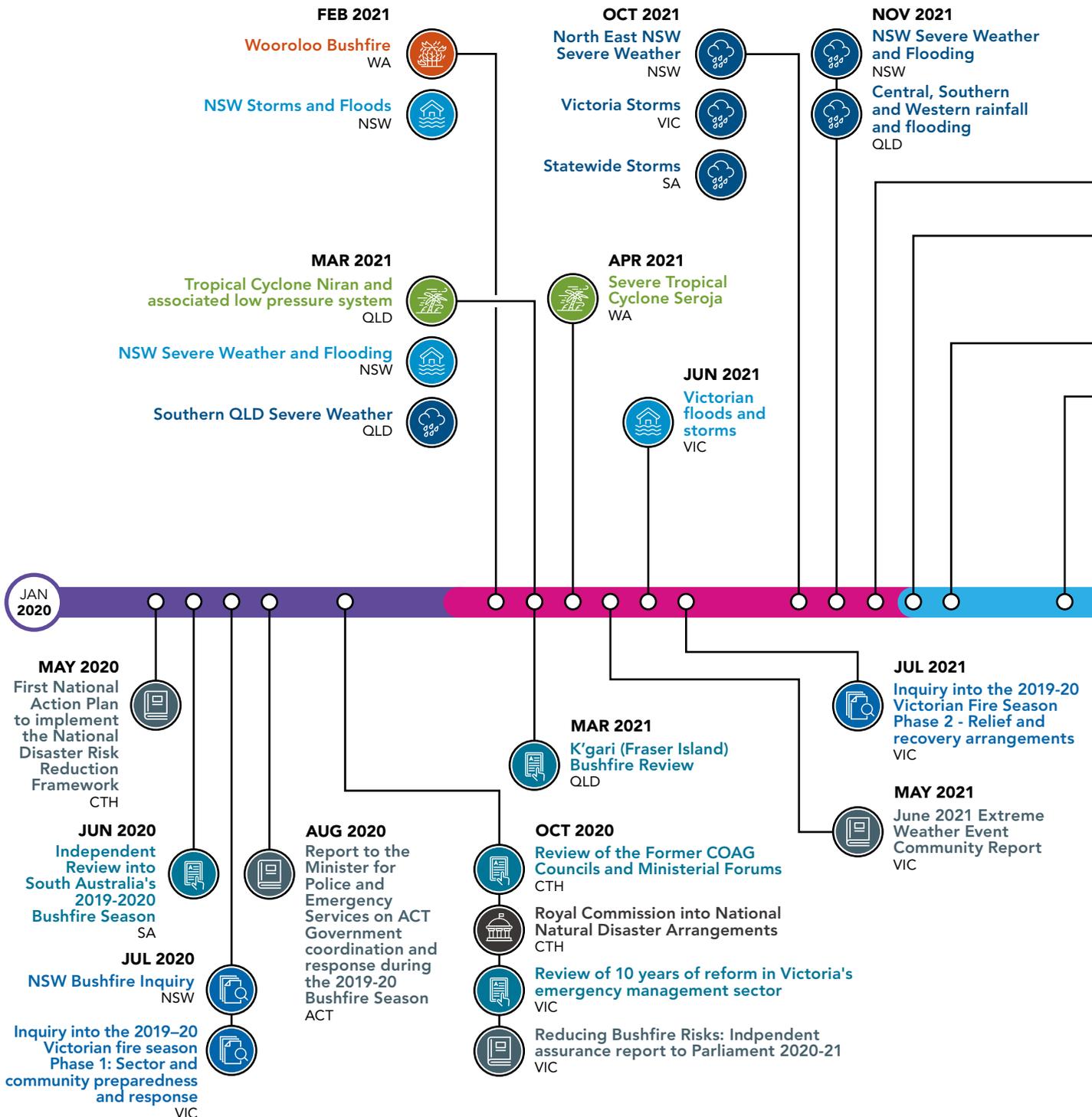
The success of the Plan is dependent on the document creating the authorising environment for all in society to act. States and territories, with their different contexts, priorities and maturity in managing disaster risk provided vital feedback throughout the development of the Plan. This ensures it is a truly national document. Over mid-2023, feedback from states and territories was instrumental in refining the Plan.

Direct engagement with AIDR

The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) was a key partner in the consultation process to inform the design and development of the Plan. As a thought leader, and trusted voice of diverse stakeholders, AIDR was instrumental in bringing together stakeholders, across stages of the Plan's development, including consultation throughout 2022, and refinement in 2023.

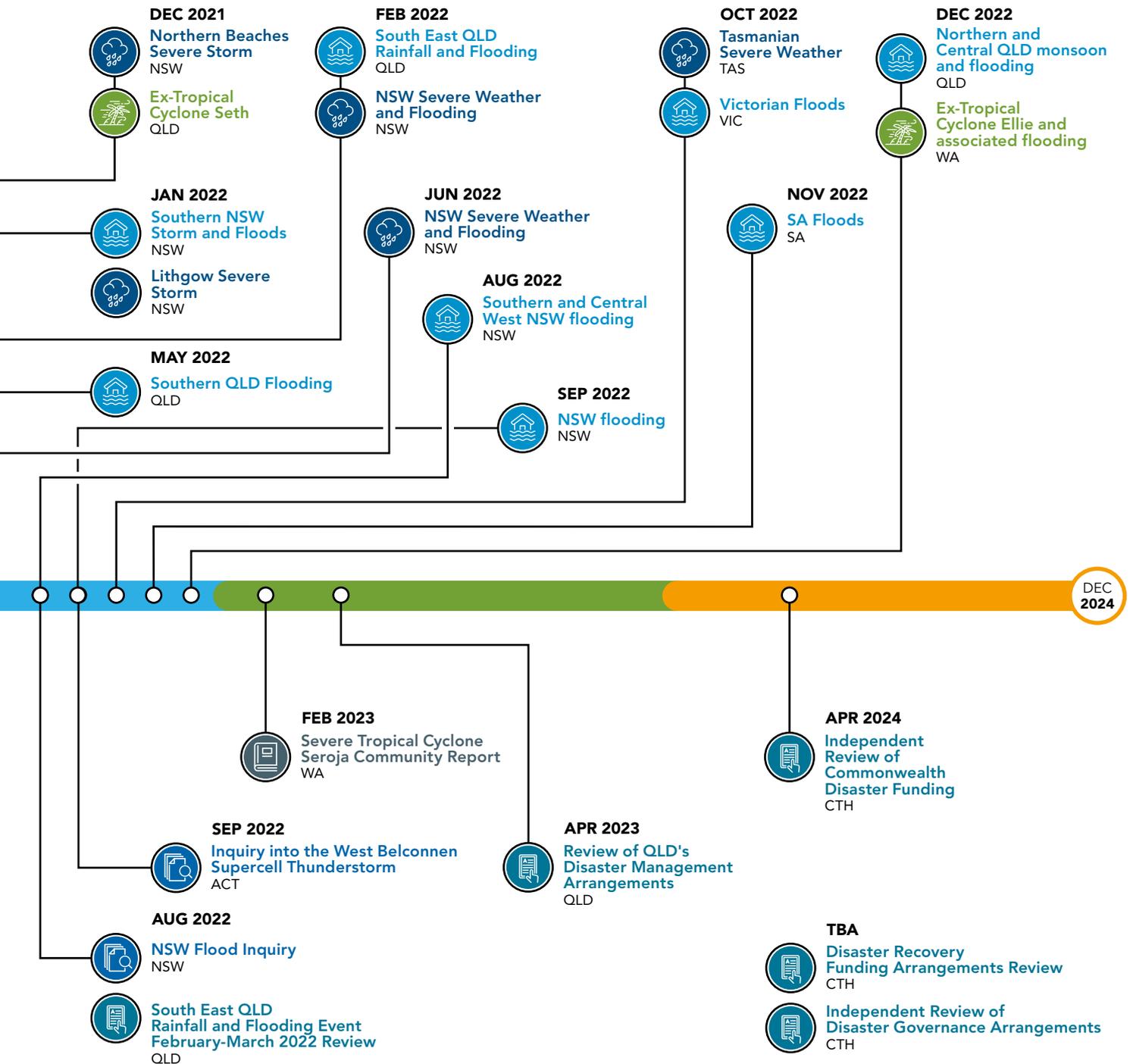
APPENDIX 6: REVIEWS AND OTHER INPUTS

Following the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires, a *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements* (Royal Commission) was completed. The Royal Commission’s report made recommendations to improve arrangements that are being implemented by governments today. Relevant to this Plan, the Royal Commission noted:



“National frameworks and strategies generally establish sensible principles. It has, however, been difficult for us to determine the extent to which these principles have been, or will be, translated into tangible outcomes (24.18).”

Multiple jurisdictions also conducted inquiries and reviews, including into flooding events across New South Wales and Queensland – the *South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding February to March 2022 Review* and the *2022 NSW Flood Inquiry*. These reviews have led to transformative changes nationwide since the publication of the First National Action Plan.



APPENDIX 7: GLOBAL INPUTS

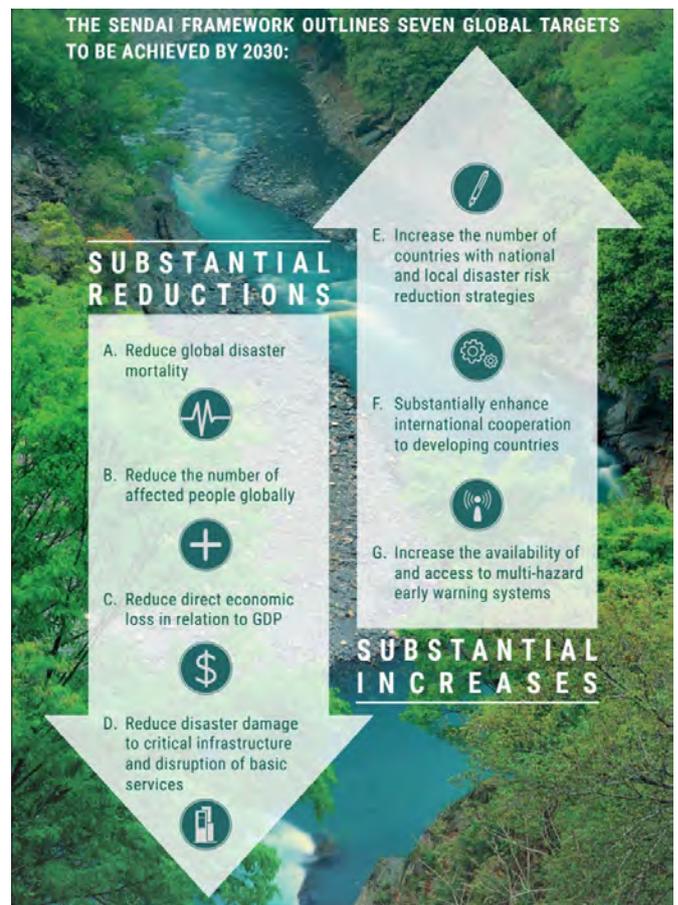
Australia is party to a range of international agreements relevant to disaster resilience and risk reduction and is committed to domestic action to support their implementation.

The foundation of Australia's risk reduction work and this Plan is the UNDRR Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Other global inputs and influences which informed this Plan are explored in more detail below.

The Plan incorporates national actions which give effect to our learnings from Australia's National Mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework, refined to align with recommendations from the Global Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework and the accompanying report of Good Practices in Disaster Risk Reduction. The development of the Plan has also taken account of a breadth of global inputs that will continue to shape how we implement the national actions.

The wide range of global inputs include:

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The Paris Agreement
- Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 and Australia's contribution
- Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and The Bali Agenda for Resilience
- Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers Meeting and The Nadi Declaration 2022
- Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
- G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development
- United Nations' New Urban Agenda
- UNDRR Principles for Resilient Infrastructure



The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

In 2015 UN Member States, including Australia, agreed on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 – the global blueprint for building the world's disaster resilience. It was adopted alongside the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognising the need for coherence across these efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The Sendai Framework seeks to achieve a substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health in the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries. It focuses on the adoption of measures that address the three dimensions of disaster risk (exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity, and hazard's characteristics) to prevent the creation of new risk, reduce existing risk and increase resilience.

The Global Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework Report 2023

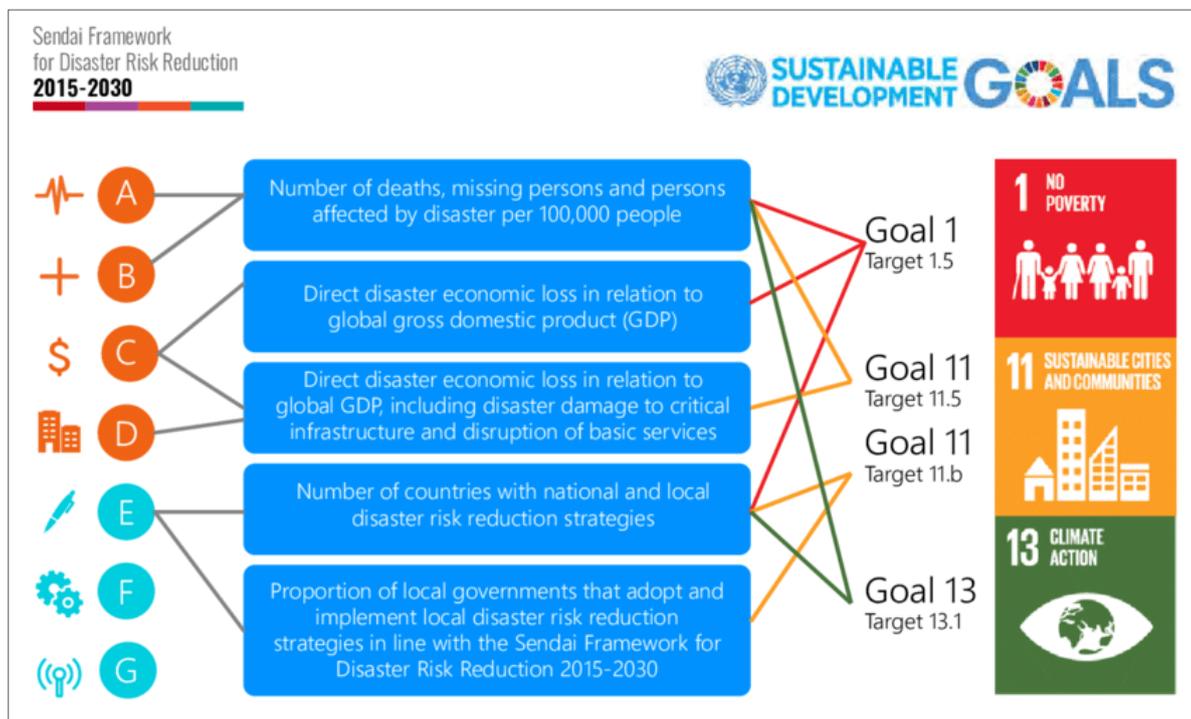
In early 2023, a Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework was released by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). It assessed global progress towards the priorities of the Sendai Framework. The review looked at member state implementation from 2015 to 2022, identifying implementation challenges, context shifts and actions to accelerate implementation from 2023 to 2030.

The review identified the need for shifts in:

- global and local risk governance, accountability, and responsibility
- how risk is treated in the global financial system
- reconfiguring metrics of growth so that they are compatible with planetary boundaries and human wellbeing, as opposed to wealth concentration and risk accumulation
- shifting the temporal frame from short-term to long-term thinking in decision-making.

The review identified Australia as leading through examples of international good practice including:

- **Sendai Priority 1:** Understanding Disaster Risk: Embracing Indigenous Knowledge and nature-based solutions to tackle climate-change-induced disaster risks.
- **Sendai Priority 2:** Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk: Systemic Disaster Risk Handbook. The program targets leaders in government, business, and communities across all sectors, and beyond those traditionally responsible for emergency management.
- **Sendai Priority 3:** Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience through the Disaster Ready Fund; invest up to \$200 million per year from 2023 - 2024 in disaster prevention and resilience initiatives.



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, the Framework lists 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that recognise ending poverty and other deprivations must go together with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises and reaffirms the urgent need to reduce the risk of disasters. There are specific opportunities to achieve SDGs through reducing disaster risk. For example, by reducing exposure and vulnerability of the poor to disasters or building resilient infrastructure. There are also several SDGs, targets that can contribute to reducing disaster risk, and building resilience, even where disaster risk reduction is not explicit

The Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The 2015 Paris Agreement is the premier international treaty framework for addressing climate change. Australia and 195 other countries have ratified the Paris Agreement with aims to limit global temperature increase to below 2 degrees and pursue efforts to limit increase to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster resilience, and align global financial flows consistent with low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.

The Paris Agreement builds on the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change that sets out a common objective to prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system by stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system.”

Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022

The sixth edition of the United Nations Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction – Our World at Risk: Transforming Governance for a Resilient Future 2022 (GAR 2022) explores how, around the world, structures are evolving to better address systemic risk. The report offers valuable recommendations to reduce risk and increase resilience.

It also details how innovations in systemic risk modelling offer a promising mechanism to better anticipate and respond to risk. The report shows how governance systems can evolve to reflect the interconnected value of people, the planet and prosperity.

The GAR 2022 identifies three key actions that have contributed to the framing of the Plan:

1. Measure what we value
2. Design systems to factor in how human minds make decisions about risk
3. Reconfigure governance and financial systems to work across silos and design in consultation with affected people

Australia’s contribution to the GAR 2022

In 2022, Australia submitted a contributing paper to the GAR 2022 titled *National leadership: How a change in thinking about vulnerability and systemic disaster risk is shaping nation-wide reforms and national programs of work in disaster risk reduction in Australia*¹.

The paper explores how Australia is learning to navigate the governance challenges and implement strategies to address complex, systemic risks. It includes a focus on national leadership and describes the styles and competencies of leadership that are useful for convening in contested and complex environments. It also explains how reframing disaster provides a new way for leaders to think and talk about systemic climate and disaster risk.

¹ <https://www.undrr.org/publication/national-leadership-how-change-thinking-about-vulnerability-and-systemic-disaster-risk>

Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

The seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, Indonesia, resulted in the Bali Agenda for Resilience – delivered by the co-chairs.

While there has been some progress, such as in the development of new financing mechanisms and better linkages with climate action, the data still points to insufficient investment and progress in disaster risk reduction in most countries, especially in investing in prevention.

Risk understanding remains limited, particularly risk from emerging and future hazards with government policies remaining largely reactive. Effective disaster risk management is often hindered by siloed and limited inter-sectoral and trans-boundary approaches.



Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers Meeting

The Nadi Declaration was adopted on 16 September 2022 at the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers Meeting, to acknowledge that ministers responsible for disaster risk reduction and disaster management in the Pacific can collectively and individually galvanise meaningful action towards the achievement of strengthened levels of resilience.

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Convened by the UNDRR and co-hosted by Australia, the APMCDRR brought together UN Member States, intergovernmental organisations, international and national organisations, and stakeholder groups to accelerate progress on disaster risk reduction. The APMCDRR was held in September 2022 under the theme From Crisis to Resilience: Transforming the Asia-Pacific Region's future through disaster risk reduction.

G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group

In 2023, as part of its presidency, India established the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group to draw attention to encourage collective work by the G20, undertake multi-disciplinary research and exchange best practices on disaster risk reduction. India's proposed priorities during its G20 presidency include:

1. Global coverage of Early Warning Systems for all hydro-meteorological disasters
2. Increased commitment towards making infrastructure systems disaster and climate resilient
3. Stronger national financial frameworks for disaster risk reduction
4. Strengthened national and global disaster response system to address the consequences of increasing frequency and intensity of disasters
5. Increased application of ecosystems based approaches to disaster risk reduction.

Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development

Heads of state and government and high representatives gathered in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015 to affirm their strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity.

United Nations' New Urban Agenda

The New Urban Agenda was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito, Ecuador, on 20 October 2016. Members adopted a shared vision that envisages cities and human settlements that adopt and implement disaster risk reduction and management, reduce vulnerability, build resilience and responsiveness to natural and human-made hazards and foster mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

UNDRR Principles for Resilient Infrastructure

The report describes a set of normative goals and desirable outcomes for systemic resilience of infrastructure and the targets to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Specifically, it seeks to further progress on Sendai Framework Target D – to substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.





THE SECOND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

To implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

