Meeting Summary

Government and Industry Insurance Forum

17 September 2026 – Virtual

Overview

The Government and Industry Insurance Forum (GIIF) brought together state, territory, and local government representatives with members of the Hazards Insurance Partnership (HIP) to provide an opportunity to work together to address the common challenges of insurance affordability and availability for Australian households.

The GIIF focused on the 4 key themes of resilience infrastructure, common evidence base of hazard risk, rewarding household and community resilience and post-disaster response/clean up.

See Attachment A for the Attendee List.

Forum In Brief

NEMA's Interim Coordinator-General Pat Hetherington (Chair) opened the forum and welcomed attendees including the Assistant Minister for Emergency Management and Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon Josh Wilson MP and CEO of the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA), Mr Andrew Hall. After brief introductions from representatives of the state and territory jurisdictions, local government associations, industry HIP members and Australian Government departments, the Chair outlined the purpose of the GIIF, HIP priorities for 2026-27 and the need for continuing stronger engagement with all levels of government on matters to improve insurance affordability and availability.

The ICA CEO noted the recognition the HIP has received with global insurance industry counterparts. He acknowledged that local governments are well placed to decide what sort of risk reduction should occur within their communities. There are no short-term fixes for improving disaster resilience and the ICA are ready to work with governments to target funding to where it will have the biggest impact.

The Hon Josh Wilson MP, Assistant Minister for Emergency Management and Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, provided opening remarks on the need to bring an evidence lens to decision-making. He highlighted the importance of using the best available evidence to identify and inform risk reduction efforts. He emphasised that all levels of government and the private sector have a part to play, including more private investment alongside government funding. We must be coordinated and engaged with communities to be successful in improving insurance affordability.

Information was shared by the ICA and Rhelm on their Red Tape to Resilience Project and research into opportunities for risk reduction investments. The team is currently conducting engagement with jurisdictions to gain further insight into opportunities, constraints and barriers to investment. Discussion focused on opportunities to achieve greater transparency in pricing and the recognition of effective risk reduction measures in the pricing of insurance premiums. ICA agreed to broaden their engagement on the project beyond the mainland east coast states.

The Australian Climate Service presented on the climate risk evidence base and the need to understand climate risk and how historical data is not a reliable indicator of future hazards. They showcased tools and data available now on predictions for future increased risk for different natural hazards impacting parts of Australia. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Australian Local Government Association provided information on the Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Program and the Local Government Risk Management Guide to help councils to identify, assess and manage climate risks and opportunities. Risk Frontiers also presented on the National Information Flood Database (NFID) explaining its background, purpose and role in insurance pricing.

Discussion focused on local governments' limited capacity and funding to deal with risk reduction and how that is a barrier to effective mitigation measures being implemented. Participants identified an opportunity for improved education to increase awareness of how insurers price risk and the process for councils/states to provide data and information into the NFID. Participants recognised there was more work to be done on transparency of premium pricing and the recognition of mitigation investment such as levees.

IAG shared their views on insurers' approach to pricing risk and how mitigation works are incorporated into this pricing structure. They noted that any mitigation needs to be appropriate for the risk level to impact premium pricing. The levers for risk reduction include hazard, vulnerability and exposure and the key principles are that risk reduction needs to be permanent, evidence-based and data-driven. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority spoke on the discussions held as part of the QLD Insurance Roundtables and the benefits of a state and territory level process to feed data into the NFID.

The ICA shared views on lessons learnt in post-disaster response including clean-up. There are inconsistent approaches and outcomes, and the ICA supports the need for a state and territory-wide, and nationally consistent clean-up model. Participants agreed there were complex issues involved and they would continue to work together to improve outcomes.

The Chair provided a summary of the main issues raised and opportunities for further action. The Chair invited attendees to email the HIP Secretariat with views on barriers to implementing mitigation activities and noted there was benefit and value to be obtained from this forum and more targeted engagement.

Attachment A: Attendee List

Australian Government
Minister: The Hon Josh Wilson MP, Assistant Minister for Emergency Management and Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy
National Emergency Management Agency
The Treasury
Australian Climate Service
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
Australian Securities and Investment Commission
Australian Reinsurance Pool Corporation
State and Territory Governments
Australian Capital Territory
New South Wales
Queensland
South Australia
Tasmania
Victoria
Western Australia
Local Government Associations
Australian Local Government Association
Local Government NSW
Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
Local Government Association of Queensland
Local Government Association South Australia
Local Government Association Tasmania
Municipal Association of Victoria
Western Australia Local Government Association

Insurance Sector
Insurance Council of Australia
Allianz
Hollard
IAG
Munich Re
QBE
Suncorp
Swiss Re