Building the Disaster Resilience of the NSW Community

Disaster Ready Councils Regional Forum
October-November 2017
Support and assist the Minister for Emergency Services,
• Capability development: training, exercises, grants
• Coordinate recovery functions for those impacted in NSW
• Provide disaster welfare functional area services
• Disaster funding policy and banker
Branches

 Capability and Planning
 • Capability development
 • Emergency risk management
 • Training, exercises and evaluation

 Response and Recovery
 • Recovery capability
 • Operational support and coordination
 • Community engagement
 • Establish Recovery Centres
 • Support Recovery Committees

 Emergency Management Policy and Co-ordination
 • EM Policy
 • Supporting SEMC/SRB

 Natural Disaster Expenditure and Governance
 • Grants administration
 • Natural disaster funding and policy
 • Grants administration

 Disaster Welfare
 • Welfare Services Functional Area
Projected disaster costs

Projected total economic cost of natural disasters, 2011–50
NSW Context

Central West & Riverina/Murray Floods 2016
- long running event with huge impacts on agricultural industry

Kurnell storm event 2015
25 homes destroyed and up to $206m of damage

Blue Mountains Fires October 2013
222 homes destroyed and $183.4m of damage

Significant increases in duration of heatwaves
Case study
March 2017 North Coast Severe Weather Event

- 10 evacuation centres and 3 Disaster Welfare Assistance Points
- Disaster Welfare Assistance Line received 3014 calls over 15 weeks
- 1532 disaster affected people registered
  - 569 people in commercial accommodation
  - 593 people in evacuation centres
- Total of $2,872,000 including payments for immediate assistance
- 4,000 volunteers registered
  - 263 Community Partner Volunteers gave over 4399 hours of time
Disaster Resilience Reform

- Increasing resilience at state, regional and local levels:
  - Focusing on risk rather than event
  - Supporting vulnerable communities
  - Building resilience and adapting to climate change

- Elements
  - State Level Emergency Risk Assessment (SLERA)
  - Emergency Risk Management (ERM) Framework
  - State level Reform (Emergency Management Disaster Resilience Review)
  - Local implementation
2017 State Level Emergency Risk Assessment

2017 SLERA

Top priorities

- Land use planning
- Data and risk modelling
- Climate change
- Local emergency planning
- Infrastructure resilience
- Business continuity planning
- Exercises
- Funding
- Community engagement
- Public warnings
Commonwealth Disaster Funding Reforms

- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) will replace the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA)
- Driven by 2015 Productivity Commission Inquiry and 2015 audit by the Australian National Audit Office
- Essential Public Asset funding will be based on *estimates* of reconstruction costs, not actual costs

Key change for councils - More emphasis on:
- Demonstrating pre-disaster condition of asset
- Demonstrating that the damage is caused by the disaster
Council resilience

- Emergency management is core business for Council

- Understanding and mitigating local risks and exposures

- Preparing the community for disasters

- Recovery capability at local level: Local Recovery Toolkit

Contents
- Introduction to the guidelines
- Guideline 1: Local Recovery Committees
- Guideline 2: Managing Recovery Centres
- Guideline 3: Recovery Action Plans
- Guideline 4: Communicating in Recovery
- Guideline 6: Disaster Appeals
Community resilience

- Know your risk
- Plan
- Get ready
- Be aware
- Look out for each other

GET READY
For disasters
Disaster Preparedness Program

Intended outcomes

- Delivery & piloting at a local level:
  - Local risk training module & template
  - Local & regional planning training module
  - Capability & capacity development assessment tool
  - Local information sharing portal
  - Lessons management assessment for local exercise.

- EM conference- professional development opportunity for LEMOs and community reps.


- EMOS training at a local level delivered.

- Improved Emergency Management structures to include community and business sectors into preparedness and recovery planning.
Disaster Preparedness Program

Proposed Phases

- **Foundation**
- **Phase 1 - Existing**
- **Phase 2 – New programs**
- **Phase 3 – Sustain & innovate**
Challenges of implementation

- Dependent on buy-in from stakeholders at all levels.
- Needs to be underpinned by governance and accountability.
- Scale of Local Government Areas (LGA).
- Need to embrace a cultural shift from response to prevention.
- Need for a common language or risk terminology across hazards.
- Improved engagement of community members in the process.
- Lack of available resources for ERM implementation.
Contact us

Capability and Planning

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