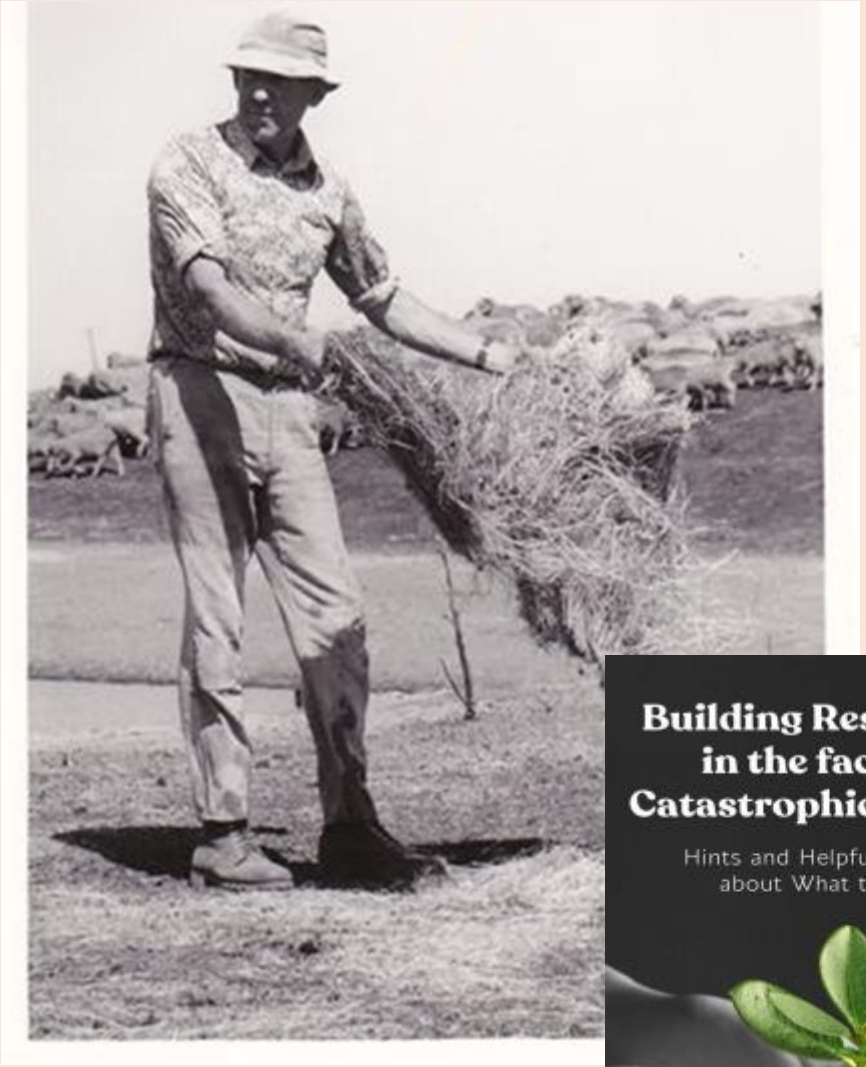
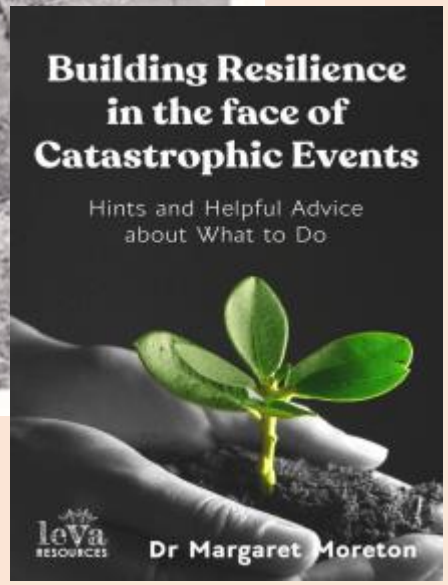
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

WHO AM I ?




Building Resilience in the face of Catastrophic Events
Hints and Helpful Advice about What to Do
leVa RESOURCES
Dr Margaret Moreton

AFTER the DISASTER
Recovery for Australia's Children
Royal For West
unicef

Community resilience - do we understand it and are we holding back?
with DR MARGARET MORETON
Principal, Leva Consulting
Doing Disasters Differently

AIDR HANDBOOK SHOWCASE
Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience
WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST, 3:30PM AEST
GUEST SPEAKERS
Dr Margaret Moreton
Leva Consulting
Alana Pedler
Australian Red Cross
Peter Middleton
Tasmania Fire Service

WHO AM I ?– Part 2

Research Question: “What do community members do (and see others doing) after a natural disaster, that helps their community to recover?

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, and systems exposed to hazards to survive, adapt, and thrive in ways that improve outcomes in the next disaster event and improve community well-being more broadly.

Residents watch a large bushfire as seen from Bargo, 150km southwest of Sydney, on December 19, 2019.
Photo credit: Peter Parks/Contributor

OUR MISSIONS

Our blueprint identifies three missions, to be achieved by 2025:

FIRE SHIELD

What if a fire never became a disaster?

Mission: reduce the scale and impact of bushfires by being able to extinguish dangerous fires within an hour by 2025.

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

What if every community had the skills and resources to mitigate their disaster risk and bounce back stronger?

Mission: lift Australia's 50 most vulnerable communities to be on par with Australia's 50 most resilient communities by 2025.

HEALTHY LANDSCAPES

What if our environment was optimised for risk reduction and natural ecosystem resilience?

Mission: halve hazard exposure in Australia's 50 most fire and flood prone regions by 2025.

OUR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES MISSION

MINDEROO FOUNDATION

THE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES MISSION

Lift 50 of Australia's most vulnerable communities to be on a par with Australia's most resilient communities by 2025. We will achieve this through community-led resilience planning, leadership development and community capacity building, and by working in partnership.

MINDEROO FOUNDATION

OUR VISION ~ FOR WHAT RESULT?

- A network of resilient communities who activate throughout the year to build their own community's resilience, and to support the resilience of other communities, regardless of location, population characteristics or community socio-economic status.
- A network of community leaders who lead that resilience effort and connect with communities across the country
- Young people who understand the International, Australian and local contexts for disaster resilience and have the knowledge, skills and motivation to activate and work together to lift disaster resilience and reduce our (individual and collective) vulnerability in the future
- A collaborative partnership between government, NGO, business sector and communities – with openly shared alignment and information to guide resilience building action.

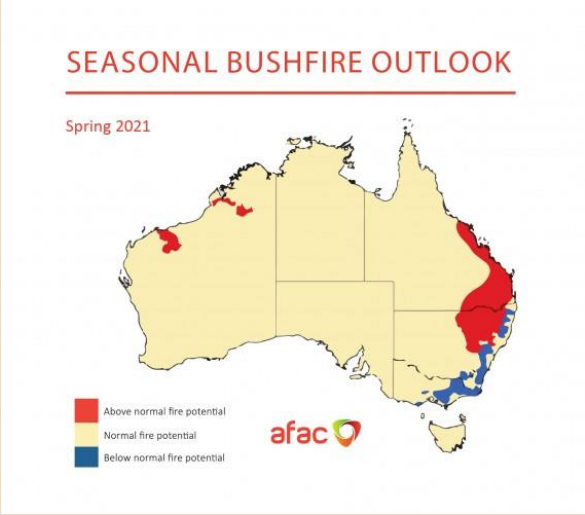
MINDEROO FOUNDATION

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

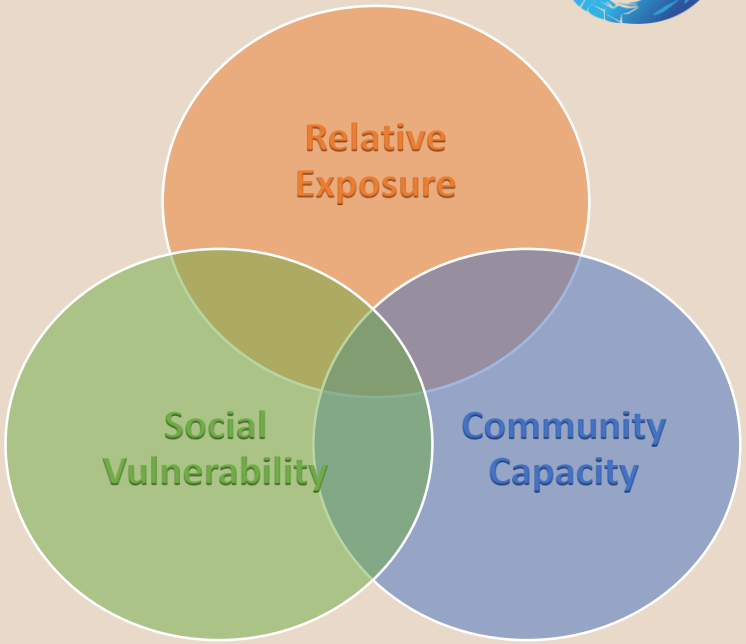
Accounting for Nature
Advance Connecting Australians Globally
Allianz
AustCyber
afac
Australian Academy of Science
Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience & Safer Communities
AEMO
Australian Institute of Botanical Science
Australian Lions Foundation
the power of humanity
Australian Red Cross
BackTrack
BlazeAid – Helping Communities Rebuild After Natural Disasters
BCG Boston Consulting Group
bushfire&natural HAZARDS CRC
Business Council of Australia
CommonwealthBank
Conservation International
Credit Suisse
Deloitte.
dendra systems
Disaster Relief Australia
FINCH
Firetech Connect
Fortescue
GIVIT – goods for good causes
Hertz
Hourigan International
iag
Insurance Council of Australia
IUCN
KPMG
Lifeline
Macquarie Bank
MOVEMBER
Munich RE
nab
National Bushfire Recovery Agency
OPTUS
NSW Government
Resilient Cities Catalyst
Risk Frontiers
Rotary
Science & Technology Australia
SUNCORP
Swiss Re
Telstra
The B Team Australasia
The Nature Conservancy
The Salvation Army
The Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust
TURNER
Wesfarmers
Westpac
Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation
Minderoo Foundation

Where do we begin?

Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology



RISK FRONTIERS

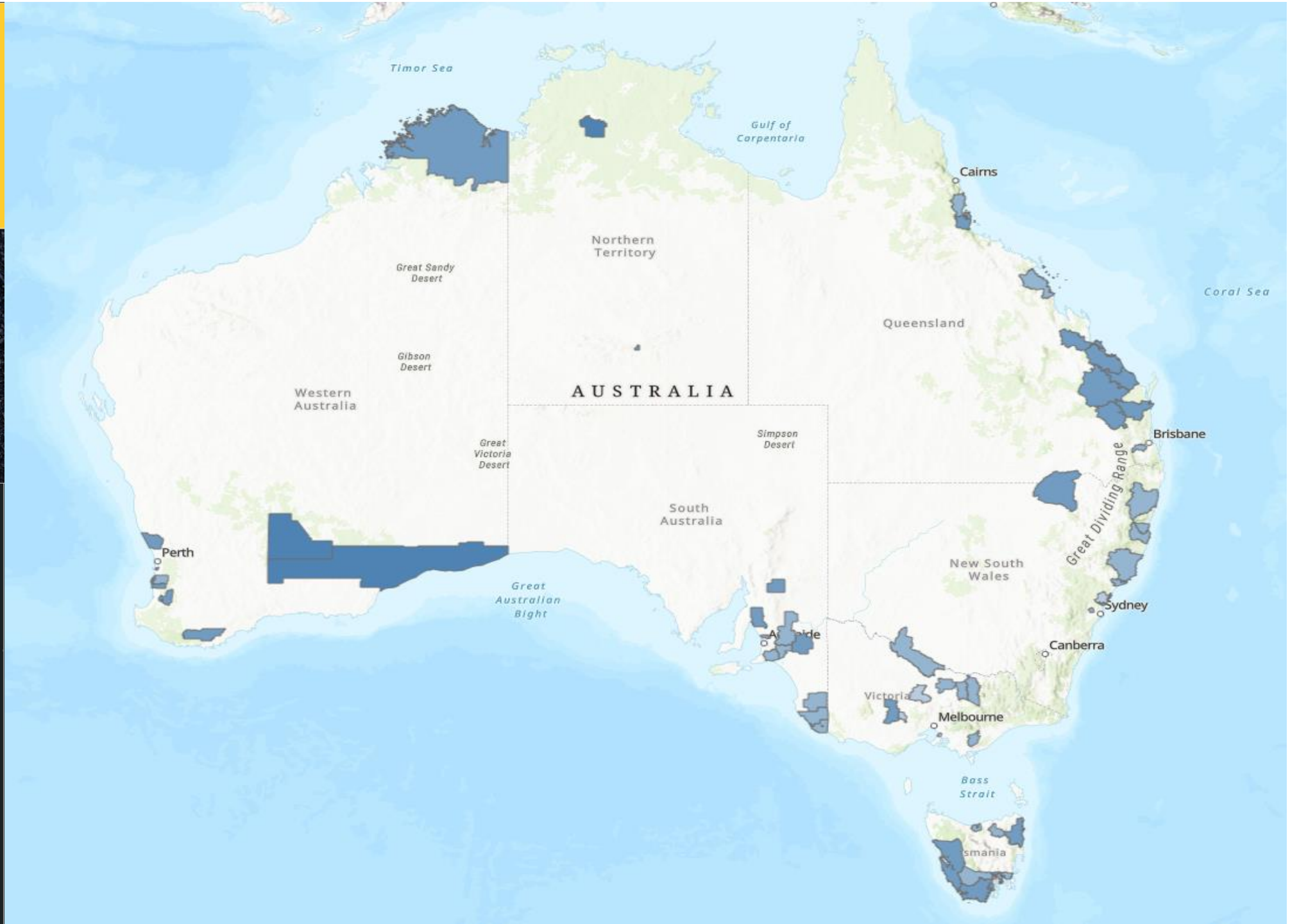


Main Index Category		Metric	Indicator
Relative Exposure	1/3	Physical Exposure to Hazard	Ratio of Buildings at Risk
			Emergency FOIs at Risk
			Community FOIs at Risk
		Physical Vulnerability	Physical Vulnerability [Building Age]
		Cat Modelling	Cat Modelling [AALs]
Social Vulnerability	1/3	Community Disadvantage	Community Disadvantage [IRSD]
		Community Health	Premature Deaths
			Avoidable Deaths
			Deaths
		Mental Health	Kessler Mental Health
			Chronic Mental Health
Community Capacity	1/3	Community Connected-ness	Number of Volunteers in the Community
			Population Change
			Distance to Education Facilities
			Distance to Health Facilities
			Distance to Emergency Facilities
			Distance to Community Facilities
		Social protection and governance	Distance to Larger Urban Centre
			Grants Awarded
			Distance to Major Roads
			Distance to Railway Stations
		Knowledge and experience	Disasters past 10 Years
			New residents past 5 Years
			Internet Access
		Self Protection	Unemployment
			Household Income
			Housing Stress
			Needing Assistance
			Underinsurance
		Livelihoods	Hachmann Index
			Livelihoods at Risk

MINDEROO FOUNDATION

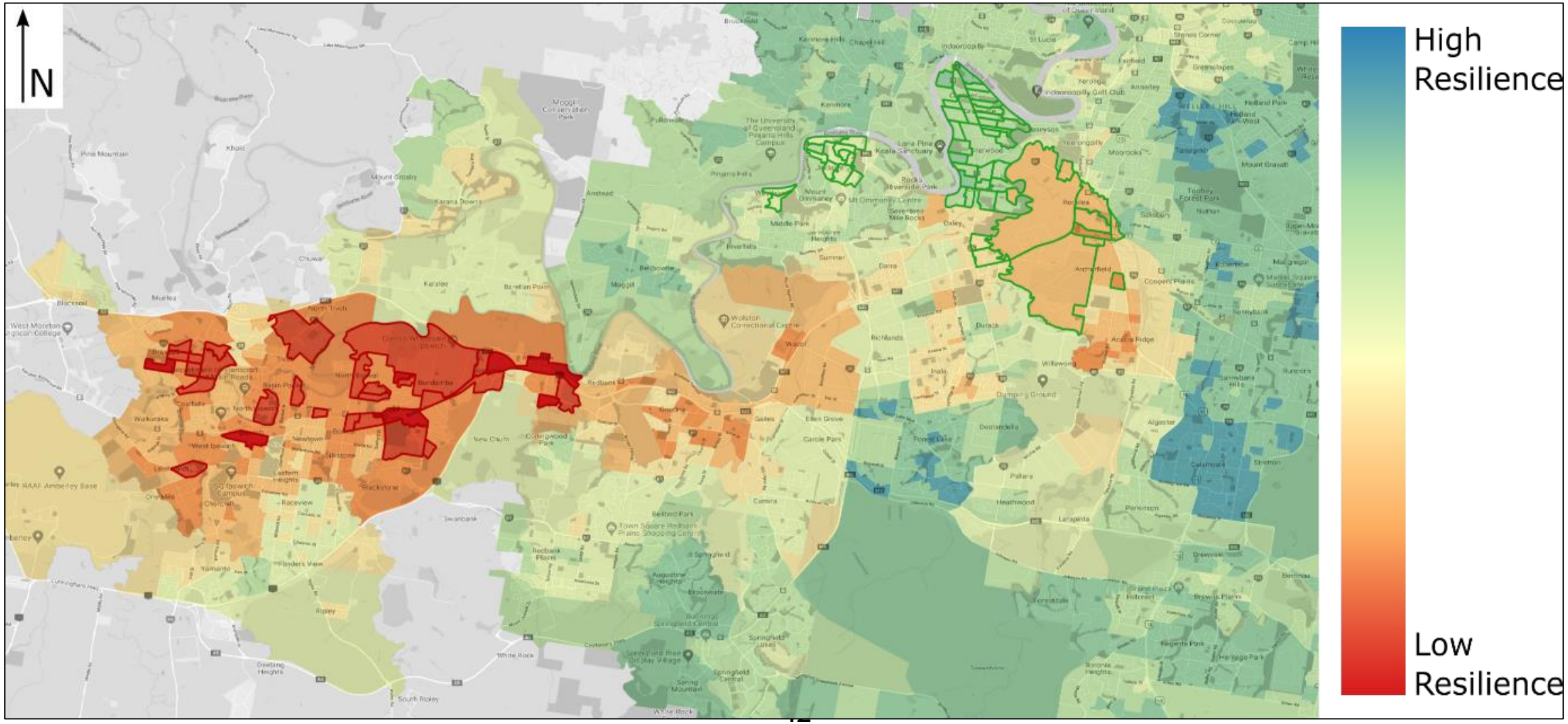
FIRE AND FLOOD RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

Resilience Index



Regions ‘up close’

We consider the locations (SA1s) within the bottom 20% of the Relative Exposure component of the Resilience Index so that locations are taken into consideration that are sufficiently exposed as to place their populations under pressure that they need to be resilient to.



EXISTING FRAMEWORKS...

A GAP

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FRAMEWORK

ENGAGING RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY THOUGHT LEADERS

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

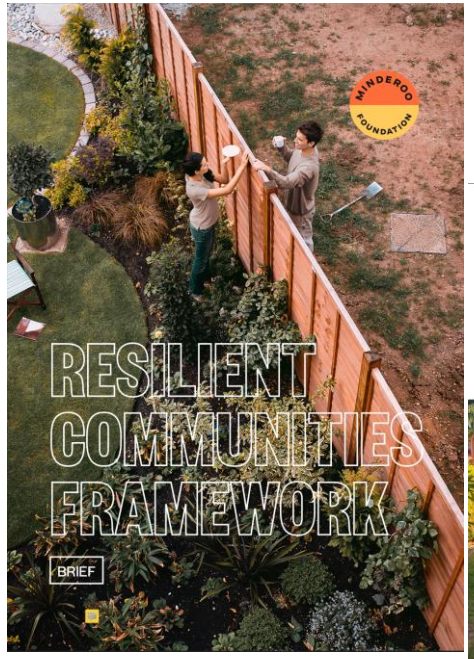
Australian National University

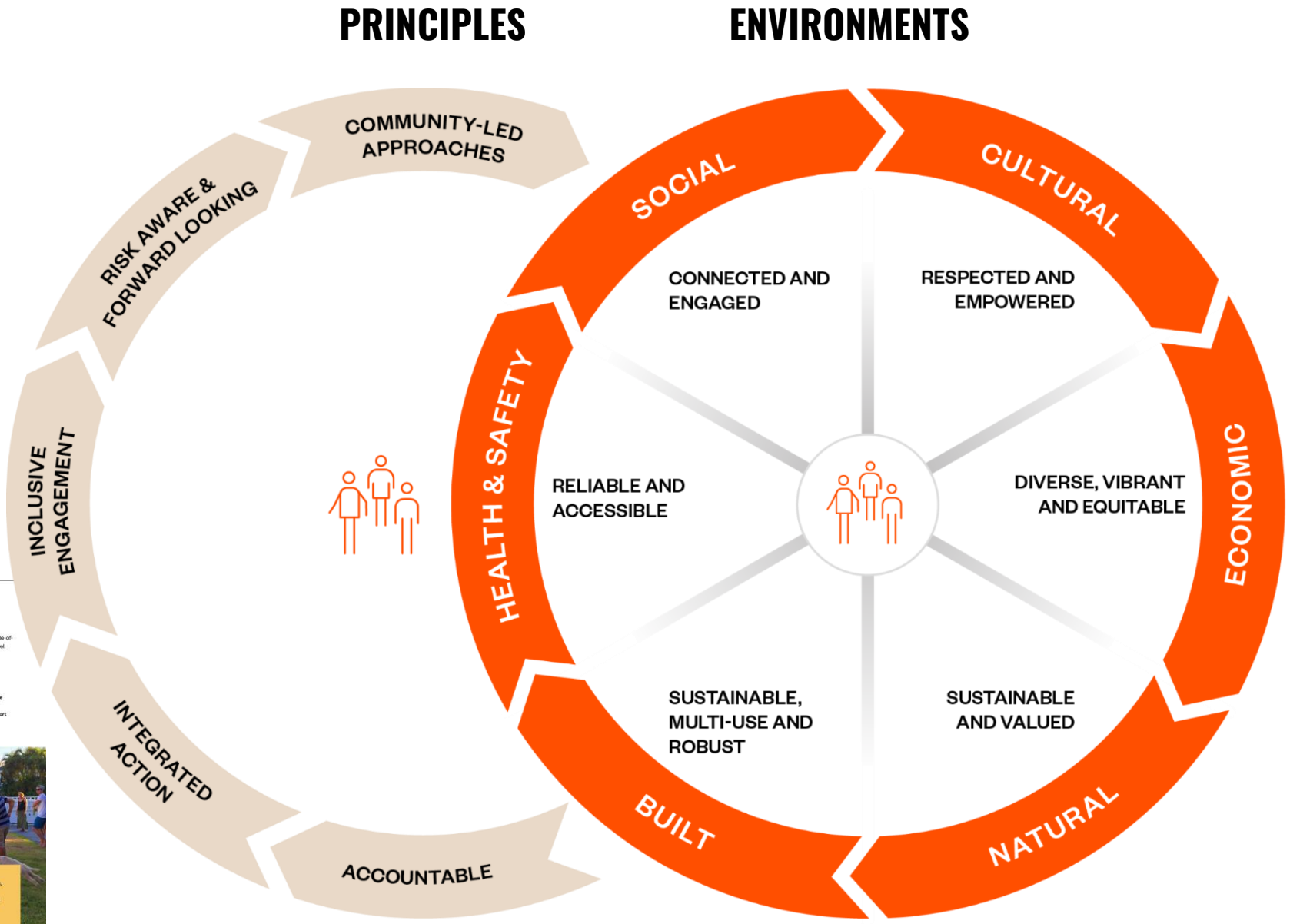
Australian Red Cross

EllisKent Consulting

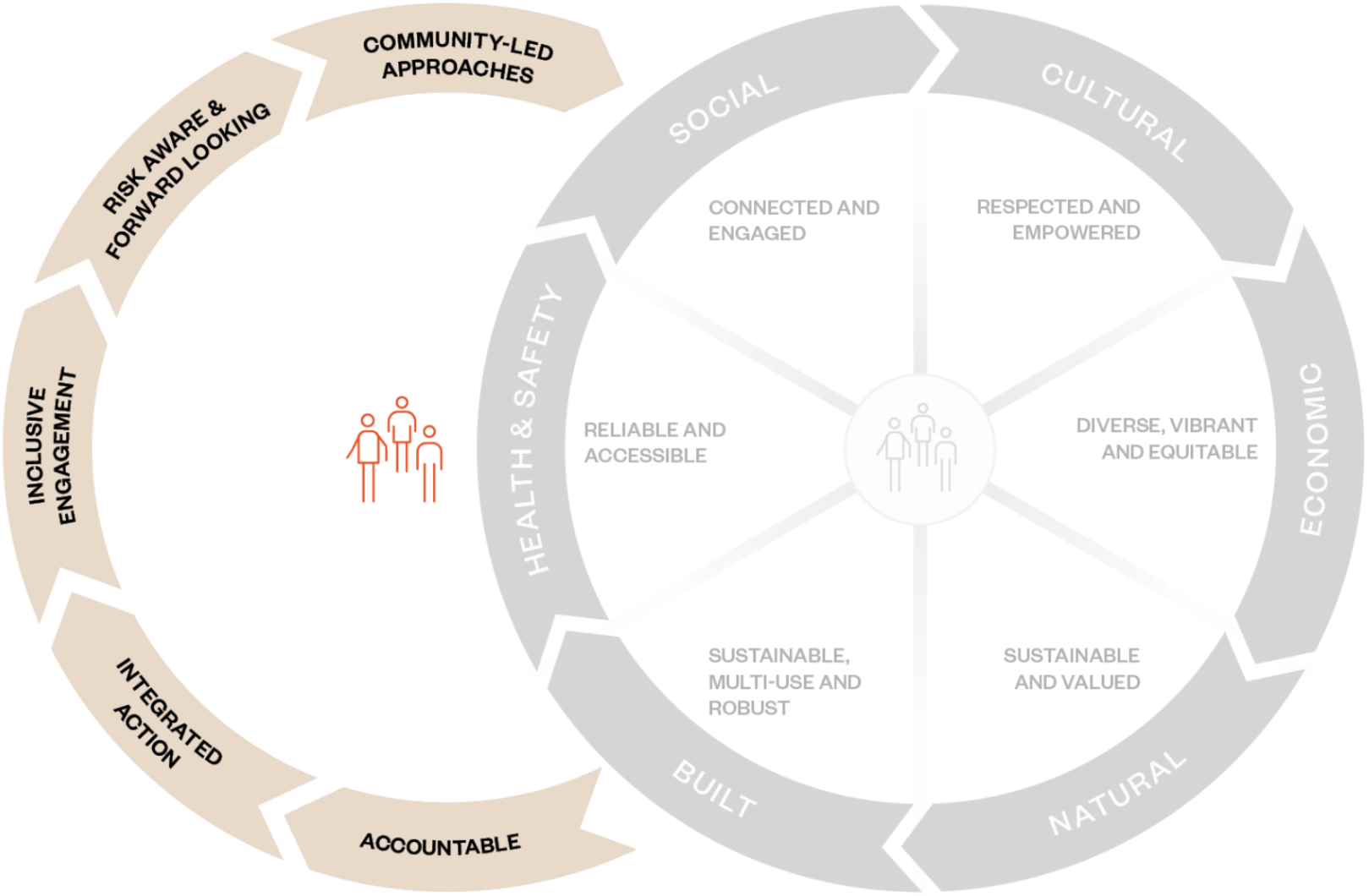
FRRR Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FRAMEWORK





PRINCIPLES


COMMUNITY-LED APPROACHES
RISK AWARE & FORWARD LOOKING
INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT
INTEGRATED ACTION
ACCOUNTABLE
SOCIAL
CULTURAL
ECONOMIC
NATURAL
BUILT
HEALTH & SAFETY
CONNECTED AND ENGAGED
RESPECTED AND EMPOWERED
DIVERSE, VIBRANT AND EQUITABLE
SUSTAINABLE AND VALUED
SUSTAINABLE, MULTI-USE AND ROBUST
RELIABLE AND ACCESSIBLE

PRINCIPLE

Community-Led Approaches

Strengthen the ownership and decision-making power of community members, and ensure all efforts reflect and leverage a community's unique context, history, assets and local knowledge.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Community-led projects are proven to be especially effective and durable over the long term. By establishing a sense of shared dialogue, decision making, and ownership of local development efforts, community members are empowered to engage with resilience building projects in ways that strengthen local leadership, accurately address local context, and ultimately lead to better outcomes during times of crisis.

On the other hand, by failing to leverage a community's unique leadership, needs, desires, and assets, practitioners run the risk of developing short-lived solutions that overlook the best interest of local residents and do not benefit from or strengthen their knowledge and capacities.

PRINCIPLE

Risk Aware and Forward Looking

Draw from a wealth of knowledge and experience to understand and respond to risk, and recognise that the past is not always predictive of a changing future. Create a vision of a more resilient future that community members can align around.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Traditionally, risk managers (and resilience builders) have focused on past events to understand risk, estimating the 100-year flood or historic bushfire exposure. While that is still an important perspective, climate change and other macro trends, like shifting migration patterns, increased population growth and land use in vulnerable, exposed or high-risk locations, underscore the point that the past is not always a good predictor of the future in the 21st Century. The most resilient communities are able to imagine uncertain futures and events, and plan and act accordingly.

Additionally, communities can use forward looking processes to imagine secure futures for all, another important tool for aligning community actors around multibenefit actions that contribute to strengthening resilience.

PRINCIPLE

Inclusive Engagement

Ensure broad and equitable participation of those who represent a community's diverse perspectives, priorities and histories.

WHY THIS MATTERS

At its core, resilience demands whole of society interventions that require broad engagement across diverse communities. By engaging with representatives from all groups, a community enhances social cohesion, better understands the full magnitude of the challenges it faces and is able to deploy holistic interventions that will prove more successful for the entire community in the face of disaster, given the diverse perspectives that will influence the development process.

Without representation from, and engagement with, all of a community's diverse groups before the next disaster, communities will continue to face inequitable recovery cycles where excluded groups, those often most impacted by disaster, may lack the resources and support necessary to prepare, respond, and recover.

PRINCIPLE

Integrated Action

Align efforts across sectors and disciplines utilising a collaborative approach to support and advance holistic, coordinated and shared outcomes.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Resilience-building involves efforts across many diverse systems and stakeholders. For efficiency reasons however, our society has evolved into sectors and silos organised around organisation type, such a public, private or nonprofit, as well as professional disciplines, such as transportation, health or housing or land use and planning.

Ensuring alignment and collaboration between these silos is a resilience issue for two reasons. First, during large-scale disasters we see cascading impacts across sectors. Too often, vulnerabilities that originate in one sector are not recognised by other sectors. Traffic engineers designing a new highway may not fully anticipate the impacts on health, economy or culture. The second reason is that working in an integrated way across sectors and silos allows communities to leverage diverse areas of expertise to ensure that a single intervention results in multiple benefits to its residents, thus strengthening the community's ability to respond to a variety of crises and their consequences.

PRINCIPLE

Accountable

Hold self and others accountable for decisions, actions and outcomes, including the responsibility for learning and continuous improvement, in a way that builds trust and promotes transparency and a sense of shared ownership.

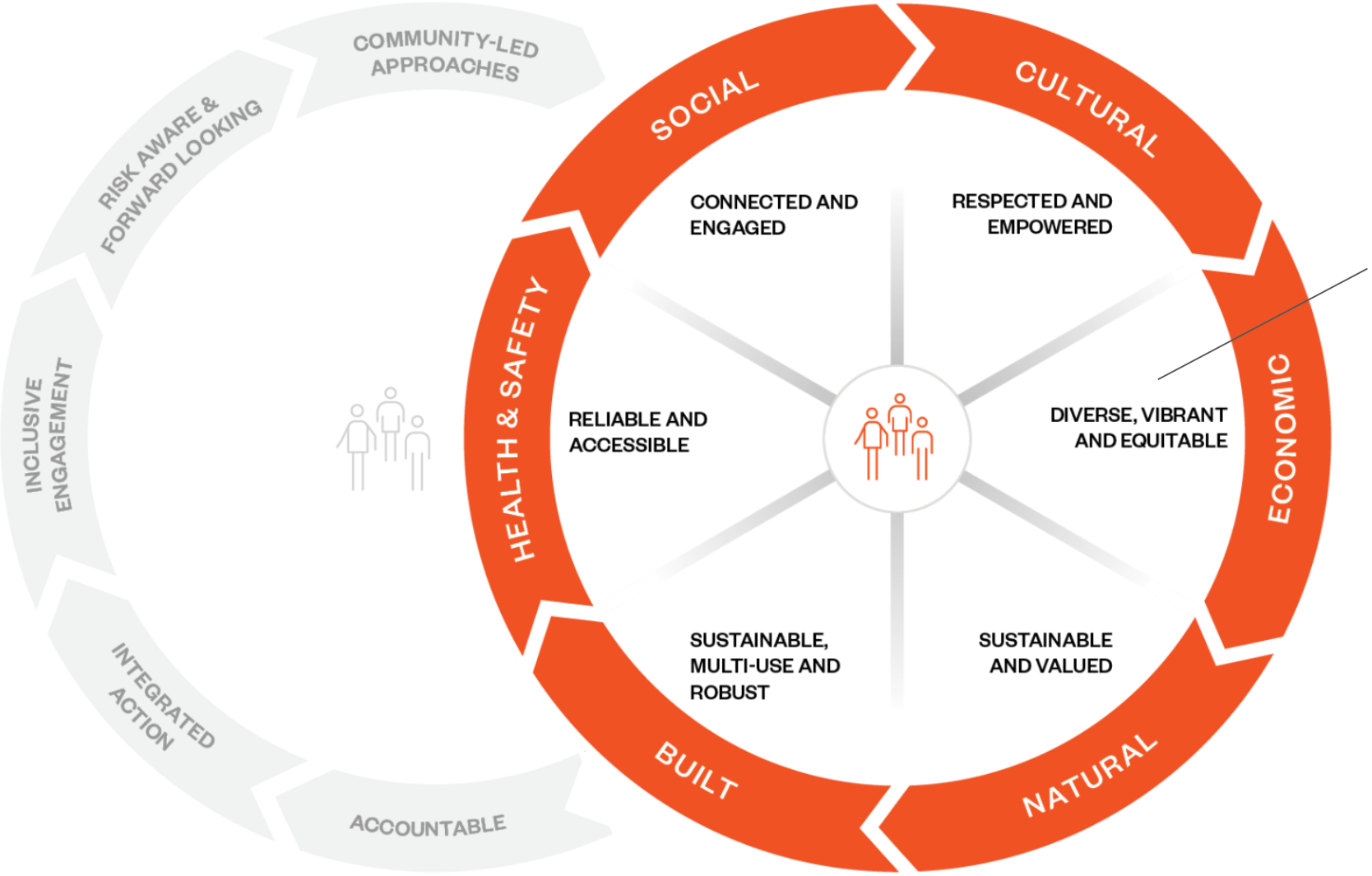
WHY THIS MATTERS

Resilience-building is often a multi-year (or even generational) process involving efforts across many diverse stakeholders. As such, it is critical to put mechanisms in place to specify and track key roles, responsibilities, lessons and progress towards goals over time. Without this accountability, a project is at risk of incompletion, a ‘watering down’ of multi-benefit outcomes, and a missed opportunity to learn from failures and scale successes.

When all parties remain transparent and committed over time, communities are more willing to engage with and trust practitioners — enhancing the productivity of ongoing and future preparation, recovery, and resilience building efforts.

ENVIRONMENTS

Environments are made up of interconnected **systems and assets**



Qualities describe the optimal state of those environments.

ENVIRONMENT

Connected & Engaged **Social Environment**

Social cohesion is prioritised and diversity is celebrated. Community leadership and governing mechanisms are clear, purposeful and trusted. Residents are empowered to create and participate in civic opportunities. Educational opportunities are varied, accessible and effective. Social infrastructure creates common ground between diverse residents and forms the basis of a larger sense of belonging and collective life.

SYSTEMS AND ASSETS

A community's people, governance, leadership and social networks, civic and educational institutions, justice and rule of law.

QUALITIES

Connected & Engaged

ENVIRONMENT

Respected & Empowered **Cultural Environment**

Community members' knowledge, histories and identities are valued and celebrated. Culturally informed knowledge and practises are utilised before, during and after disaster. Residents develop and engage in diverse cultural activities.

SYSTEMS AND ASSETS

A community's customs, identities, history, wisdom, arts, cultural responsibilities and landmarks.

QUALITIES

Respected & Empowered

ENVIRONMENT

Diverse, Equitable & Vibrant **Economic Environment**

Economic activities do not entirely depend on one sector; the local and greater regional economy is thriving; there is sufficient investment in resilience building; and there are minimal economic disparities between groups.

SYSTEMS AND ASSETS

A community's economic activities, workforce, businesses, household livelihoods, goods and services, social services and occupational opportunities.

QUALITIES

Diverse, Equitable & Vibrant

ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable & Valued **Natural Environment**

Natural assets and ecosystems are understood, valued, invested in, and managed to maintain a wide array of services, safeguard culture and tradition, support local amenity, enhance biodiversity, and mitigate natural hazard risk.

SYSTEMS AND ASSETS

A community's biodiversity and ecosystems, land management, wildlife, natural resources, agriculture, water and air.

QUALITIES

Sustainable & Valued

ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable, Multi-Use & Robust **Built Environment**

Infrastructure promotes socioeconomic and ecological processes that enhance equity and wellbeing. It is designed to withstand hazards, has appropriate redundancy, and is not over-reliant on a single asset.

SYSTEMS AND ASSETS

A community's residential and commercial buildings, transportation, communications and information systems, and utilities

QUALITIES

Sustainable, Multi-Use & Robust

ENVIRONMENT

Reliable & Accessible **Health and Safety Environment**

All residents feel safe, secure and informed. Essential and emergency services actively plan for all phases of the disaster cycle, and prioritise residents' and their own staff's physical and mental health and wellbeing. Comprehensive, transparent and contextually appropriate law enforcement promotes safety and security for all community members.

SYSTEMS AND ASSETS

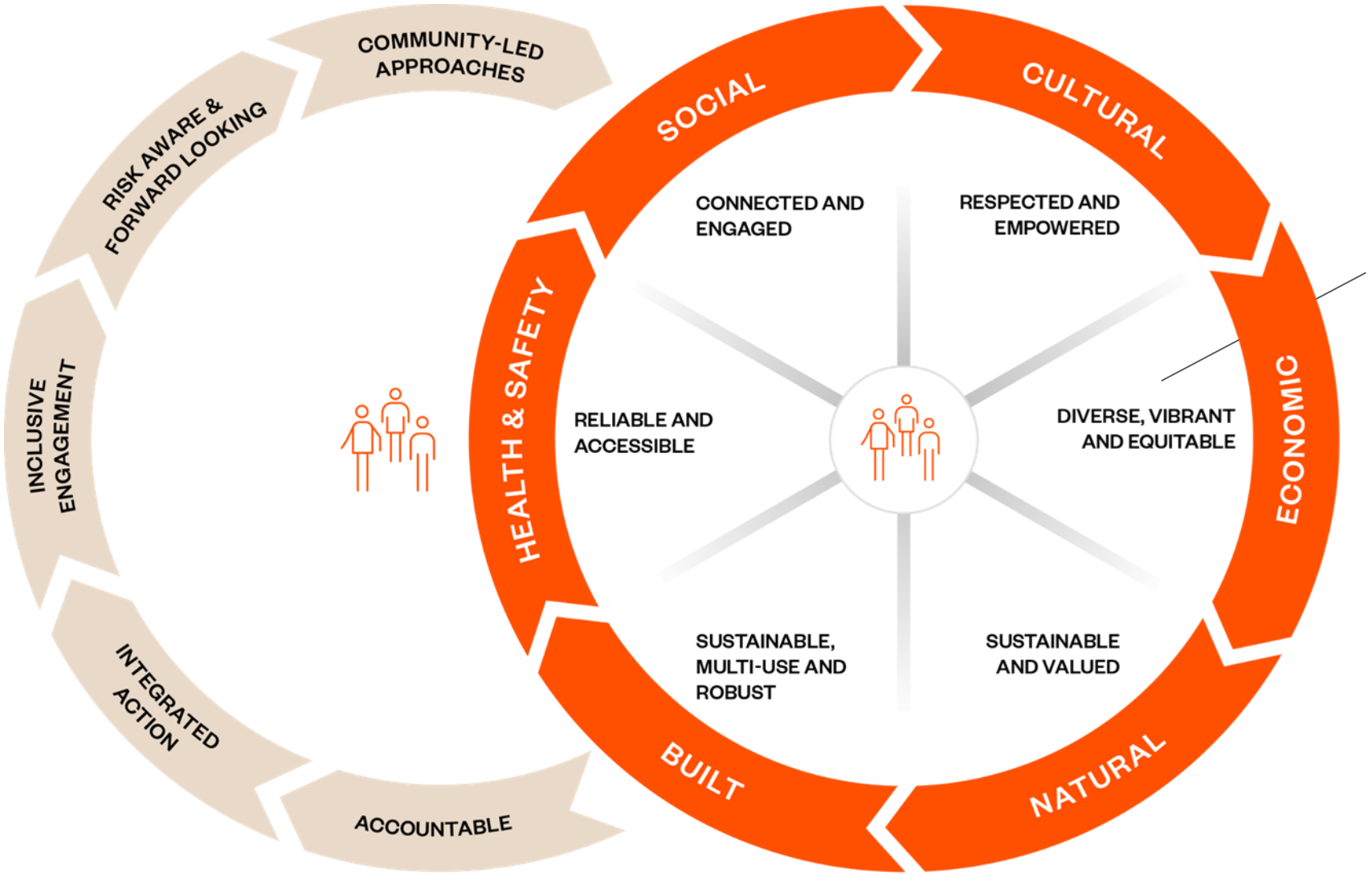
A community's health facilities and services, disaster planning, essential and emergency services.

QUALITIES

Reliable & Accessible

ENVIRONMENTS

Environments are made up of interconnected **systems and assets**



Qualities describe the optimal state of those environments.

COMMUNITY-BASED WORK | Ways of Using the Framework

Using the definition of resilience, the specific principles and environments, the tools, and/or Framework as a whole, to:

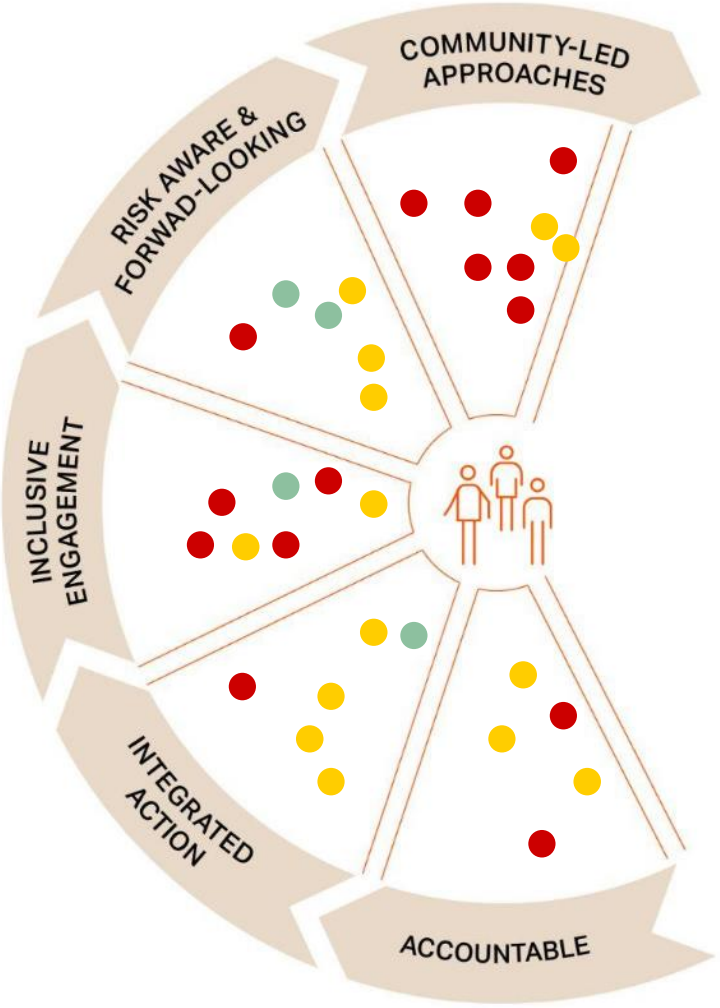
1. Socialize resilience as a concept – *use the definition and the broad outline of principles, qualities and environments to introduce holistic resilience thinking* ***(Roadshow)***
2. Guide engagement with communities – *use principles to intentionally structure engagement*
3. Start a conversation about resilience strengths and weaknesses of a community – *use the principles and environment/qualities to assess a community's resilience areas and prioritize key actions at the beginning of an engagement* ***(Assessment & Prioritization Tool)***
4. Develop Resilience plan/strategy document – *use the Framework to guide the development of a resilience plan in a community with principles, environments, qualities helping structure the plan and providing a consistent thruline for goals and initiatives*
5. Enhance project-level work – *use the Framework to bring additional resilience value to project design and implementation, and help project owners avoid unintended negative consequences (****Project Enhancement Tool)***
6. Monitor & evaluate progress of resilience building efforts in community – *use the Framework to track progress towards goals as measure by qualities/environments and principles*
7. Report on funded activities - *use the Framework to organize the grantee's reports to Minderoo, to enable easy aggregation across projects/communities, as appropriate*

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FRAMEWORK

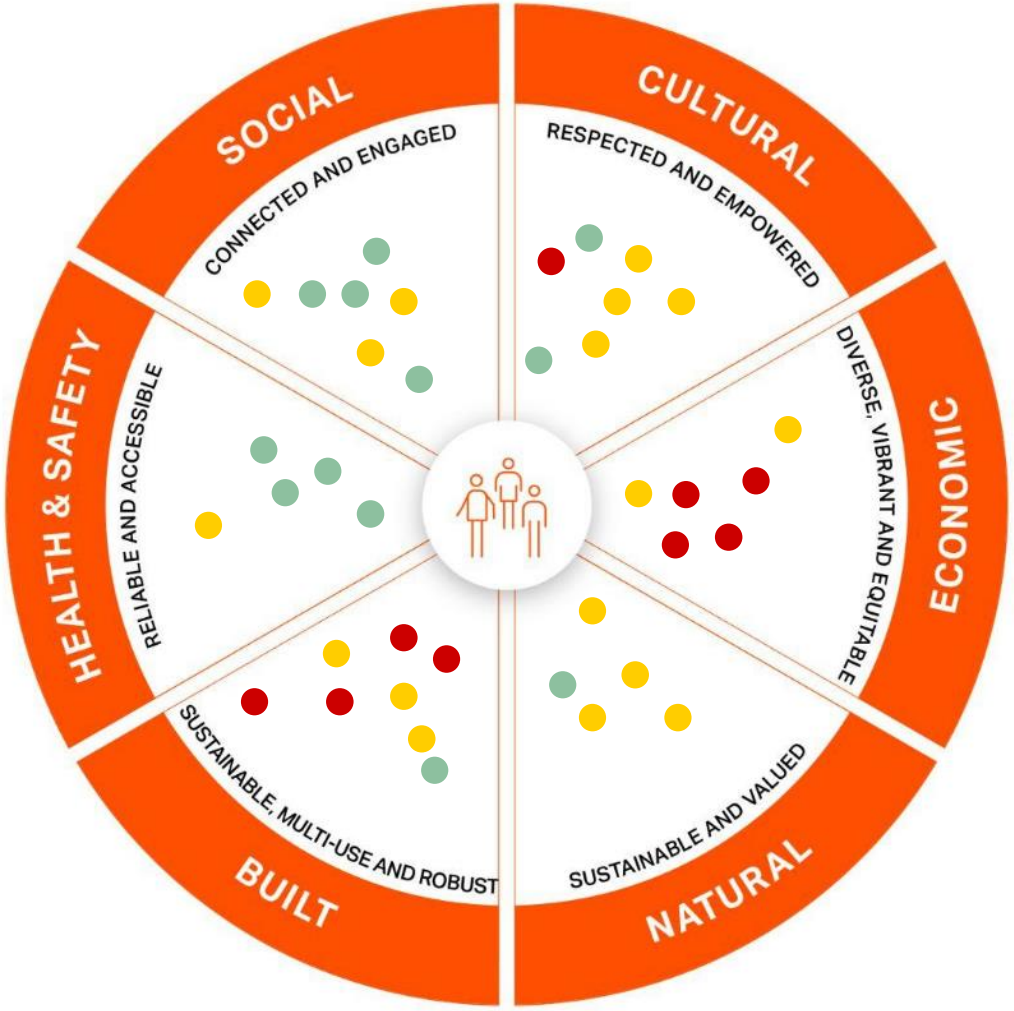
IN PRACTICE | Ballarat, Victoria

ASSESSING AND PRIORITIZING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FOCUS AREAS

PRINCIPLES



ENVIRONMENTS



ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE VALUE OF PROJECTS

Intervention

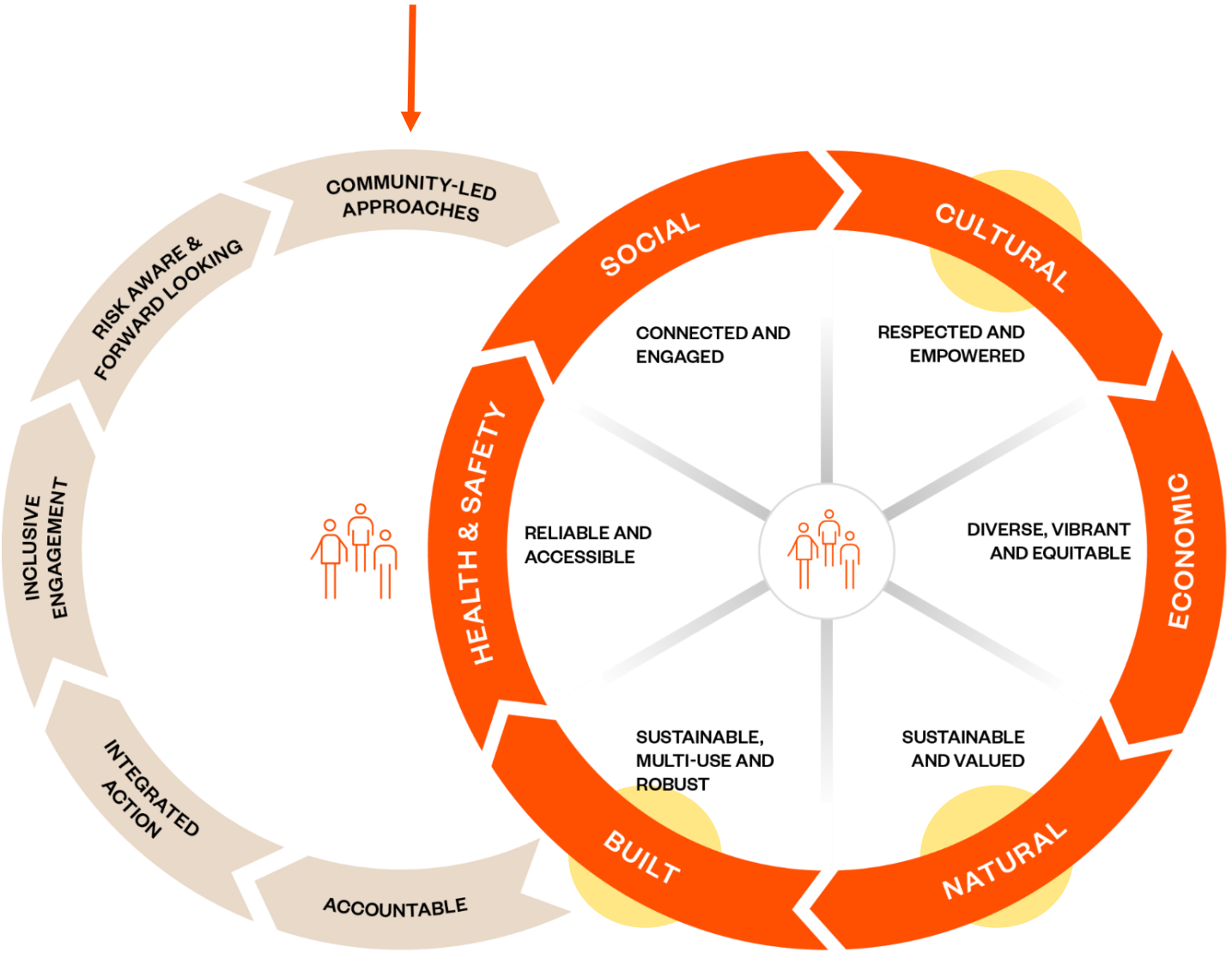
Capacity building/training program for young leaders

Challenge

Community-led processes not effective

Dividend

- Enhanced community leadership pipeline
- Addresses inequality
- Cultural inputs
- Focused on fire/flood



Our community based projects…

COMMUNITY-LED LEADERSHIP AND RESILIENCE

DISASTER RELIEF AUSTRALIA

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

EllisKent Consulting

MINDEROO FOUNDATION

OUTCOMES:

Enable communities to lead in building local resilience to disasters

Support community leadership development

AUSTRALIAN RESILIENCE CORPS

1 min video ( )

OUR PURPOSE

To harness our nation's collective strength to prepare and protect us from fires and floods before they occur.

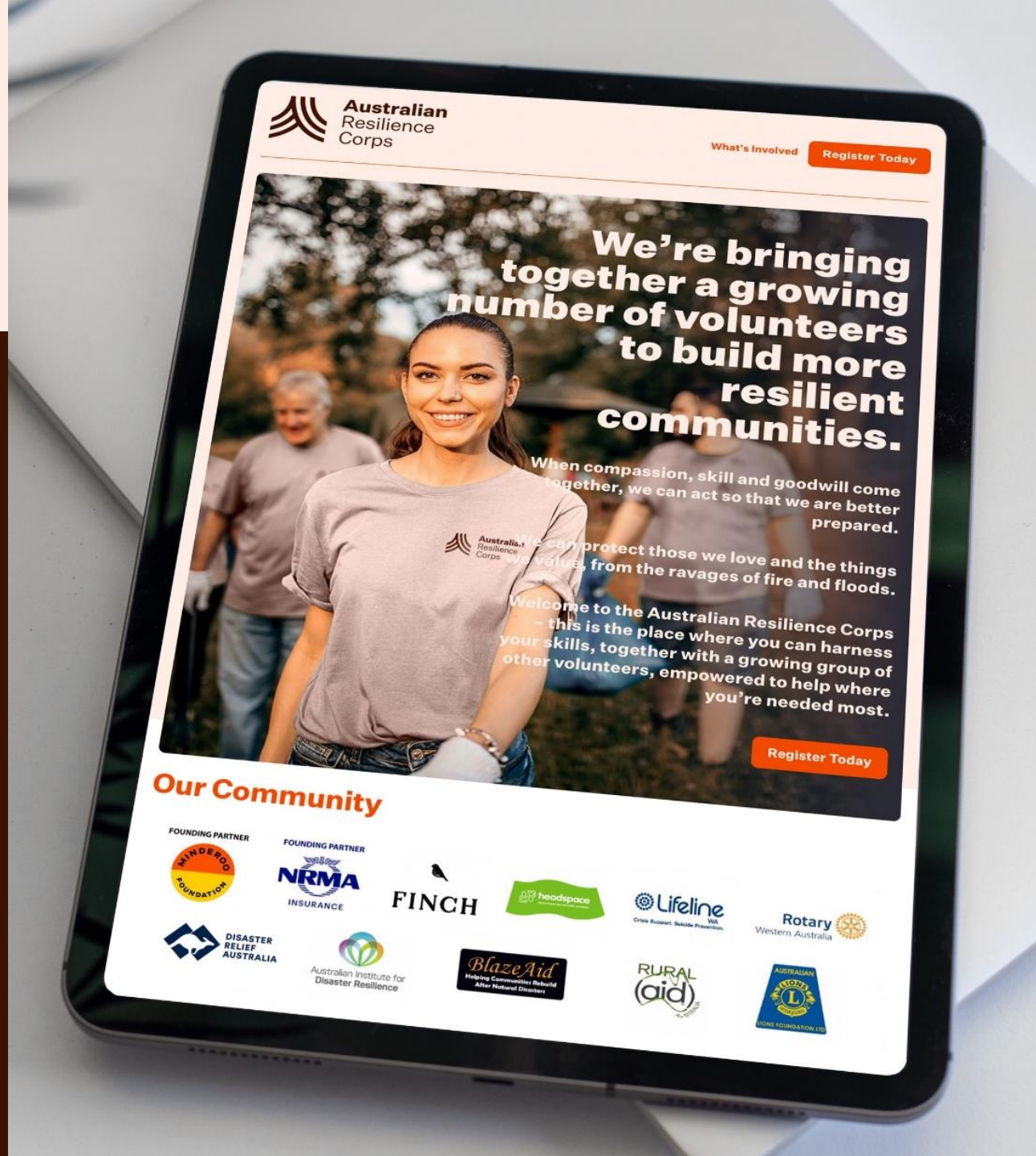
Australian Resilience Corps

Australian Resilience Corps

With ambition to be the nation's largest on-call volunteer and training resource, for the preparation and protection against the devastation of fire and flood.

Connecting the right help with those who need it most, with and through partners.

To assist in helping existing volunteer organisations prepare communities in the off-season.



The Advertiser

WE'RE FOR SA

Wanted: recruits for new disaster force

THERE IS

A FIRE INSIDE

ALL OF US

Adrian Turner
CEO, Minderoo Fire and Flood Resilience Initiative.

January 4, 2020 is indelibly marked in the memories of the three Turner brothers, who came close to losing their lives, as a firestorm ripped its way through Palmyra in the Kangaroo Valley in NSW Southern Highlands, threatening everything in its wake. The events that followed, sparked a fire inside Adrian Turner and within days of defending his older brother Nick's property, he agreed to steer one of the boldest initiatives of his career. This month sees the launch of the first ever nationwide volunteer network, the Australian Resilience Corps, the sole purpose of which is to protect Australia from future fire and flood.

The launch of the Australian Resilience Corps is personal for you – tell us about your experience in the bush fires of 2019–20?

It was hell. I would never wish it upon anyone. We expected the fire to come from one side. It came from three. It was just fury. Chronic conditions. Pitch black with 30 metre high and 250-metre-wide flames. We fought for about 6 and a half hours. My brother is an architect and he'd built to code. For months leading up he'd cleared vegetation from around the house and had made a conscious effort to prepare in case the fire came through. I believe, preparation and active land management saved the property and us. The houses on either side of the property were destroyed.

"It was hell. I would never wish it upon anyone. We expected the fire to come from one side. It came from three. It was just fury."

Three days later you get a call – which ultimately changed your life. How so?

I'm standing at home and still smelling like smoke and fire and Andrew Forrest from Minderoo Foundation calls to ask me if I want to lead an initiative, not focusing on response to disaster, but on resilience. You see, 97% of our spend nationally is on response and recovery. We see amazing people put up their hand to help clean up afterwards and deal with the aftermath – but its upside down. It's not really going to solve the core of the problem. Having just been through the fires, it was pretty hard to say no.

How would you describe the Australian Resilience Corps?

The Australian Resilience Corps is driven by the Minderoo Foundation Fire and Flood Resilience Initiative, with and through existing volunteer organisations. The aim is to create the largest network of volunteers to help communities implement locally developed plans to improve their resilience before natural disasters strike. Preparedness is key. Minderoo Foundation and NRMA Insurance, as a founding partner of the Australian Resilience Corps, are working with the country's leading volunteer organisations and corporate Australia. There's a role for everyone, with 6 different training modules for whichever volunteer organization that people may have an affinity with. From mental health support to landscape management, we can direct people to where help is needed most. We'll match the volunteers to the time and place they can have the biggest impact.

Do you believe the Black Summer bush fires were a tipping point?

These fires were one of the worst in our nations living history. I do think we're at a tipping point, and I also believe that if everybody plays a small part, we can bring about change and tip it back. We need to get off the pot as a country, lock arms together and galvanise. We need to come together. The Australian Resilience Corps is a national army of volunteers to lift resilience against fire and flood, in the off season. If we're constantly investing our resources in responding to extreme weather events and there's more of them, we never have the capacity to prepare. What we're wanting to do is to mobilise the whole country before disaster strikes.

Volunteer project to build defences against fire and floods

By David Sparkes on AM

Share

Download 1.78 MB

You know the saying in safeguarding your own health, prevention's better than cure.

"We all have a sense of purpose and its core to being human. It's the essence of who we are and what drives us."

You described the feature length documentary film 'A Fire Inside' as the lightning strike for the Australian Resilience Corps, what do you mean by that?

This film talks to the power of help and highlights the extraordinary spirit of volunteerism during the Black Summer bush fires. The Australian Resilience Corps is part of a bigger ambition to inspire all Australians to get behind that help. I think we all have a fire inside. We all have a sense of purpose and its core to being human. It's the essence of who we are and what drives us. The film shows the importance of volunteerism and the impact it has and how personally satisfying it is. We hope it inspires everyone.

What kind of activities will aspiring volunteers be able to join in the future?

In 2022, volunteers will be able to join "Muster" activities in communities that are vulnerable to fires and floods to help prepare. These volunteers will have completed resilience training with whatever volunteer organisation that resonates with them. Then, not unlike Clean Up Australia Day, we will come together to volunteer and work with communities to prepare before fires and floods strike. The Muster activities will be defined by each local community. They understand better than anyone where help is needed most.

You are bringing a lot of different volunteer organizations together, what's the response been like?

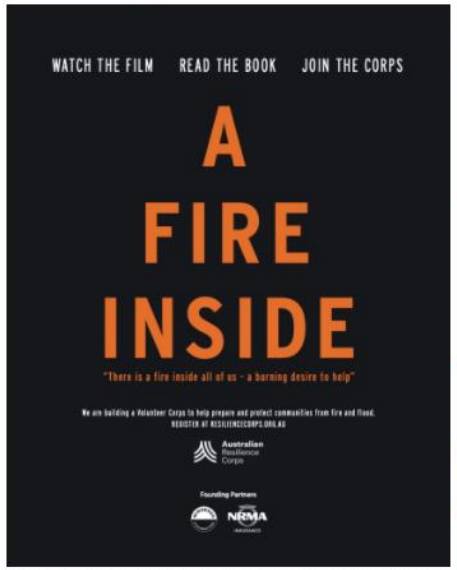
The response to create a national army of volunteers has been incredible. So far, the initiative is supported by Volunteering Australia, Disaster Relief Australia, Red Cross, Rural Aid, Lifeline Australia, Lions, Rotary WA, BlazeAid and the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience (AIDR). Corporate Australia is also stepping up to promote the Australian Resilience Corps to their employees. Joining the Corps isn't about standing in front of a fire and fighting. Volunteerism is so broad. There is something for everyone of every age. There's good work that's going on, we just want to help amplify it.

WATCH THE FILM · READ THE BOOK · JOIN THE CORPS

REGISTER AT RESILIENCECORPS.ORG.AU | Australian Resilience Corps

Campaign Brief

A FIRE INSIDE: NRMA INSURANCE BACKS A FILM, BOOK AND A NATIONAL RESILIENCE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT



CB Exclusive – Watch the film. Read the book. Join the Corps. NRMA Insurance has released 'A Fire Inside' – a significant project including a feature length documentary and a book – to create a national movement in partnership with Minderoo Foundation, to mobilise Australia's largest contingency of volunteers to prepare and protect Australia from future natural disasters. Renowned and multiple award winning creative, Nick Worthington, was engaged as a writer on the documentary, 'A Fire Inside', and to lead the creative direction of the broader project.

NRMA Insurance's data shows Australia's going to be facing more extreme temperatures, more acute droughts, longer and more

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BRENDAN CANTY

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email address

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The Daily Telegraph

Volunteers enlist to fight disaster

Australian Resilience Corps members Mark Reilly, Emily Copley-Moorby, Monique Lehane and Adil Jain at North Head. Picture: Richard Dobson

EXCLUSIVE
JOE HILDEBRAND

YOUNG people and volunteers from across Australia are being called upon to join a new disaster army to defend the country against fire and flood in a national service-style campaign to be launched on Monday.

The new Australian Resilience Corps is an unprecedented joining of community groups and organisations from across the country into a single national force to combat and prep against natural disasters.

It will train volunteers in everything from landscape and property management to mental health and resilience planning and aims to be the nation's largest on-call volunteer and training resource for fire and flood preparation and protection.

The Resilience Corps brings together a coalition of groups including Disaster Relief Australia, the Red Cross, Rural Aid, BlazeAid, Lifeline, Lions and Rotary and is backed by former RFS hero and now Resilience NSW chief Shane Fitzsimmons.

It was founded by Andrew and Nicola Forrest's Minderoo Foundation along with NRMA Insurance.

The Forrests said they had been overwhelmed by the huge volunteer and community efforts in the wake of the 2019-20 bushfires and wanted to harness that energy into disaster prevention.

"Seeing the outpouring of help following the Black Summer bushfires and hearing from communities themselves inspired us to work with partners to provide opportunities for Australians to direct their goodwill to off-season activities," the couple said in a statement.

"By coming together to prepare each year for fires and floods we can make the seemingly impossible possible and make our communities resilient to the devastation caused. 'This is a program for Australia."

Mr Fitzsimmons said: "We know there is often a surge of people volunteering in the aftermath of a disaster, which demonstrates the community spirit and desire to help, which is at the core of our Australian spirit. But it is also crucial that people get involved before disaster strikes so we can ensure that we are prepared and ready to spring into action for the next event."

Monique Lehane said she had signed up to stop herself from feeling helpless when disaster struck.

"I was living in Sydney during the Black Summer and remember feeling helpless on the smoky days where all we could do was watch the news and donate some money," the 25-year-old said.

"To be able to help the farmers with my hands, see the fire-burnt land with my eyes and connect with the farmers and fellow volunteers is a very eye-opening and inspiring experience that keeps me wanting to come back."

Emily Copley-Moorby came from London to Australia in 2019 as the fires began to take hold. "I was motivated to start volunteering because I had been witness to the devastation of Black Summer first-hand, yet also to the kindness that had sprung from it," she said.

Disaster Relief Australia CEO Geoff Evans said prevention was key in tackling natural disasters. "It's already too late once there is smoke on the horizon," he said.

For details go to resiliencecorps.org.au

Disaster army up for fight

Volunteers step up

JOE HILDEBRAND

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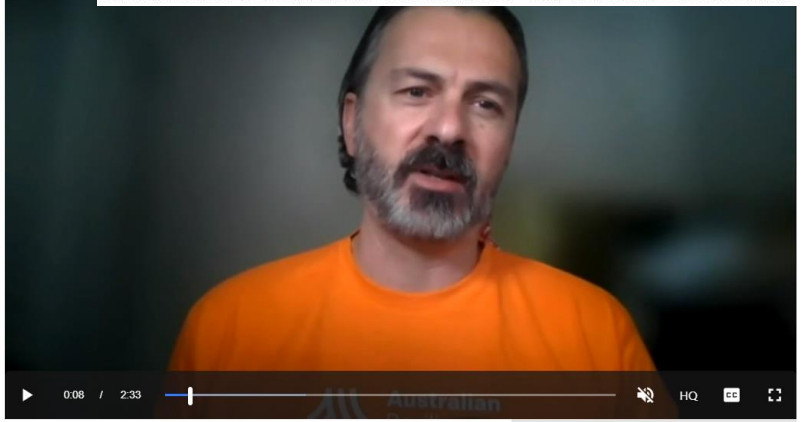

ABC NEWS

Nationwide volunteer project is being launched to assist with natural disasters

HOW DOES IT WORK FOR A VOLUNTEER?

1. GO TO THE WEBSITE

Find out about the volunteer program, what it entails, see some profiles of volunteers, fill out a form to tell us about your skills and interest.

resiliencecorps.org.au

2. EARN A SKILL

Complete a basic training module provided by our Volunteer Partners on one of 6 topics:

- Introduction to Volunteering
- Introduction to Resilience
- Resilience Planning
- Mental Health
- Landscape Management
- Property Maintenance

3. MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Check calendar of resilience based volunteer activities offered through partners, select activity and contact volunteer partner to register for that activity.

Australian Resilience Corps

MEET SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

Monique Lehane
BlazeAid
I love surfing the East coast, when I head off on a trip, I try and add a day or two to stop in at a BlazeAid camp along the way. I surprise myself with how much I want to keep going back, the connection to communities, other volunteers and the impact we have, has been amazing.

Rick Sneeuwjagt
Rotary Western Australia
I volunteer with Rotary to help communities improve bushfire preparedness and overall resilience. I help local agencies and community groups to identify the risks within their community and then develop actions to increase the safety for all.

Davina Pye
DRA
I find volunteering extremely rewarding. Whether I am out on the tools, working on logistics, drone mapping or any other activity, it all provides help to those in need. I am very happy to lend my skills to anything that will lighten the load for local communities, and also help to build more resilient communities.

Adam Moss
QLD Fire & Emergency Services & DRA
I work closely with communities to build awareness and capability about the importance of getting prepared for natural hazards like fire and flood. In my experience, the strengthening of these community bonds enables safer and more resilient communities.

What about the next generation?

https://www.coolaustralia.org/resilient-australia-education-resources/

Questions and Discussion

THANK YOU!

mmoreton@minderoo.org

VARIABLES of community resilience

The following example variables are strongly indicative of communities being more or less vulnerable or resilient in the face of future fire and flood

Principles: COMMUNITY-LED APPROACHES | RISK AWARE & FORWARD-LOOKING | INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT | INTEGRATED ACTION | ACCOUNTABLE

← Vulnerable Community	Resilient Community →	Environments
• Few opportunities for engagement and participation • Lack of integration or sense of belonging • Disregard for local needs by decision makers	• Strong social cohesion and connection between diverse groups • Clear, purposeful and trusted leadership • Accessible educational and social opportunities • High participation in civic opportunities	**SOCIAL** Connected and Engaged
• Imposed mainstream cultural preferences • Overlooked or misunderstood cultural practises • Limited engagement in diverse cultural activities	• Respected identities, histories, and knowledge • Understood, valued, and elevated cultural practices • Welcomed and accessible cultural activities across diverse groups	**CULTURAL** Respected and Empowered
• Under resourced emergency services • Lack of trust in first responders and law enforcement • Inability or difficulty to meet basic needs	• Well prepared emergency services • Safe, secure and informed residents • Comprehensive and transparent law enforcement • Prioritised physical and mental wellbeing of all residents	**HEALTH & SAFETY** Reliable and Accessible
• Disinterest in ecosystem health • Short-term valuation • Extractive and damaging land use	• Sustainably managed and valued ecosystems • Enhanced biodiversity • Protected culture and tradition of the natural environment	**NATURAL** Sustainable and Valued
• Overreliance on a single asset • Vulnerable or aging infrastructure • Single-benefit assets, managed in silos	• Forward-looking zoning and codes • Appropriately redundant assets • Full sustainability throughout lifecycle of an asset	**BUILT** Sustainable, Multi-use and Robust
• Significant under employment or joblessness • Reliance on one sector • Lack of support for businesses	• High levels of economic equity and financial wellbeing • Sustained growth across multiple sectors • Thriving local and regional economies	**ECONOMIC** Diverse, Equitable and Vibrant

Potential Interventions (examples)

Economic

- State Government (Services NSW model) provides vouchers to spend $ in local businesses
- Financial skills capacity building or mentoring program for local business owners – Business Volunteers Aust.
- Disaster Recovery Business Continuity planning with local businesses – workshops and advice
- Grant writing workshops and capacity building – to fund local initiatives for local community groups and businesses

Natural

- Household and neighbourhood clearing of natural hazards - gutters, trees, undergrowth to minimise fire risk (Corps activation)
- Household and neighbourhood based clearing of drains, digging drains, and building retaining walls to mitigate flood water and runoff (Corps activation with Local Council involvement)
- Landcare activities to plant and manage species of flora that minimize fire or flood risk
- Indigenous cool burns are conducted by Indigenous groups with local emergency services

Social

- Local community days and festivals in partnership with local community groups and emergency services
- Community workshops conducted to include diverse individuals and groups, to build social connections, and participate in disaster resilience planning processes (household and neighbourhood)
- Local youth leadership program implemented to engage youth with emergency services volunteers

Built

- Working bees of local community members undertake maintenance of community buildings to enhance the resilience of priority community buildings/assets
- Funding is allocated to disaster resilient infrastructure projects - from governments, corporate sector, philanthropy
- Upgrade of disused local community building - to become a resilience hub for coordinating preparation and planning, and if an emergency arises to become an evacuation or recovery hub

Cultural

- Indigenous groups are supported to maintain and protect cultural sites of significance
- Indigenous cultural activities are undertaken to enhance the connection with the broader local community
- Local cultural groups are supported to liaise with emergency services to enhance household resilience
- Disaster resilience plans are developed to focus on asset protection of local art galleries and historic sites/landmarks

Health and Safety

- Disaster plans are developed and enacted with local aged care facilities
- Local disability groups are supported to raise hazard awareness and develop disaster plans for individuals, houses and groups
- A project is supported to engage with GPs and other health practitioners to identify risks to the provision of medical and mental health services and care and to develop implement disaster plans