

Introduction: why land use planning for disaster resilient communities?

Speed read

- The safety and protection of human life and wellbeing of communities, and the wider systems that support them, is the core objective of land use planning for disaster resilient communities.
- Considering natural hazard risk in land use planning is critical for limiting vulnerabilities, supporting resilience, and reducing future disaster losses in areas of new development.
- Land use planning is a multi-objective process that requires balancing development with a range of community requirements, supported by appropriate and up to date planning tools.

Key points

- Land use planning for disaster resilient communities requires natural hazard information, coordination, collaboration and integration with a range of sectors and capabilities (Figure 1).

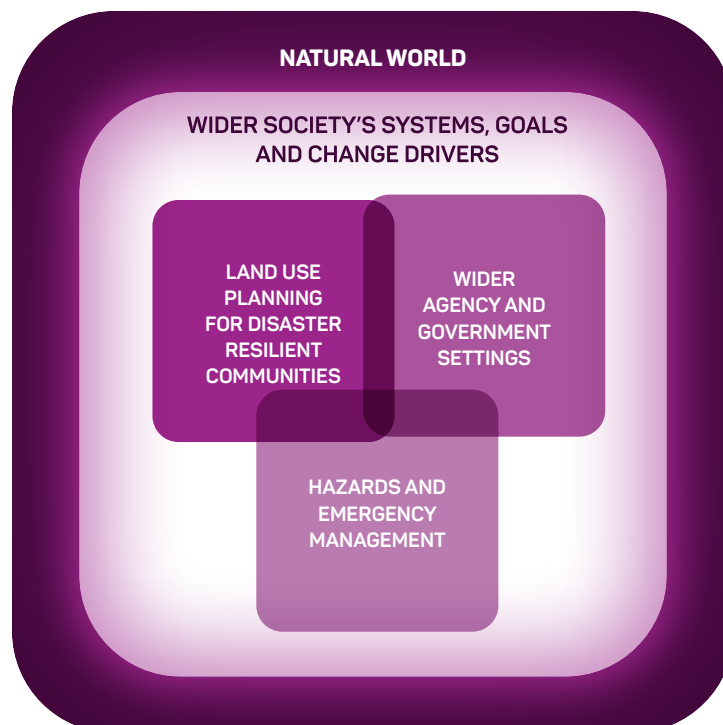


Figure 1: Process and influences of land use planning

Effective land use planning is important for shaping disaster resilient communities because:

- **Disasters are becoming more frequent and costly:** disaster resilient communities become increasingly important in a more hazard prone and vulnerable world.
- **Resilience is a shared responsibility:** A disaster resilient community is one that works together to understand and manage the risks that it confronts. This includes natural hazard and emergency managers, land use planners, built environment professionals and developers and community members and leaders.
- **Effective planning can reduce exposure and support community wellbeing:** Effective land use planning can significantly reduce disaster risk and vulnerability and enhance community resilience by governing the future use of land and influencing where development may occur and the types of assets and infrastructure that can be developed.

Benefits of focusing on disaster resilience in land use planning:

- Greater understanding of risks before they happen and development of built environment to address risks.
- Minimise the risks to people, social and economic functions during disasters.
- Using learnings from post-disaster recovery to improve settlements and assist communities over time to be more resilient.

Take action

- Reflect on how land use planning is relevant to your organisation or group.
- Download or print the quick guide on land use planning principles for easy reference.
- Watch the land use planning for disaster resilient communities [handbook showcase webinar](#).

More information

- [Land Use Planning for Disaster Resilient Communities](#) (AIDR 2020)
- [National Strategy for Disaster Resilience](#) (COAG 2011)
- [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework](#)
- [Addressing Resilience in Land Use Planning](#) (IAG 2023)