

## Regulatory systems, land use management plans, and implementation processes for disaster resilient communities

### Speed read

- Legislative and regulatory frameworks play an important role in land use planning for disaster resilient communities.
- Strategic plans are a critical instrument to direct new development to suitable locations and limit development in areas where risks are considered unacceptable when balancing disaster risk reduction with other development priorities.
- The consideration of disaster resilience during development and renewal of spatial plans can greatly contribute to disaster prevention and yield significant returns on investment as it limits new risks.

### Key points

#### Establishing and maintaining the regulatory system

- It is fundamental that risk assessment processes are established for all planning decisions and disaster risk tolerance is outlined in legislative and regulatory framing of land use planning.
- The legislative and regulatory framing level of land use planning controls guides new development. Review and ensure the ongoing appropriateness of the core elements underlying a communities' disaster resilience
- Ongoing review and improvement of the legislative and regulatory framework is critical to producing a system that appropriately- and proactively- enables, coordinates and guides disaster resilience across the different levels of planning.

#### Plans for managing land use, development, and growth

**Strategic plans are critical to direct new development to suitable locations and limit development in areas where risks are considered unacceptable.** Planning instruments must consider current and future risks and establish measures to treat risks to new development.

#### **Land use planning instruments for disaster resilient communities are:**

- **Local planning schemes** are the main mechanism of development control that include policy, zoning, overlays, and provisions based on performance criteria.
- **Geographically specific land use planning instruments** for managing change. These are important in balancing other development priorities with disaster risk reduction considerations.
- **Strategic plans** can be the most effective mechanism for avoiding or reducing the exposure and the impact of new development on natural hazards. This includes regional plans and future growth or expansion area plans.

## Processes to develop and review spatial plans

- Community engagement and participation are crucial for success.
- Geographically specific land use planning instruments that are continuously improved through evidence are critical to avoid or reduce the exposure and impact of new development
- Certain levels of risk may be tolerated, provided that the risks are known and managed.

## Plans for managing land use, development and growth

- Ideally, higher levels of planning trigger disaster resilience considerations, including the assessment and treatment of risk, and integrate the processes with the relevant organisations.

## Ongoing land use planning and implementation

### Day to day application of land use planning for disaster resilient communities

- Land use planning can play a significant role in decisions about where new development occurs, the design, characteristics, and layout of development, and the activities that occur for a specific location.
- Planning and urban development is largely driven by projects. This makes mainstreaming disaster resilience considerations into planning permits and development approvals critical.
- The private sector should be made acutely aware of this, as they might have insufficient knowledge about the hazard and prioritise short-term, individual gains above long-term, collective development goals.

## Take action

- Apply the risk matrix and 'As Low As Reasonably Practicable' (ALARP) principle to categorise and assign risk treatment options found in the Land Use Planning for Disaster Resilience Communities Handbook.

## More information

- [Land Use Planning for Disaster Resilient Communities](#) (AIDR 2020)
- 'Further issues and directions' can be found in Chapter 7 [Land Use Planning for Disaster Resilient Communities](#) (AIDR 2020)