



2024-25

Major Incidents Report



Acknowledgement of Country

AIDR acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the various lands on which you all join us from today and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in this event.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters across Australia.



Housekeeping

- You will remain muted and your camera will not be activated for the duration of today's event.
- Today's event will be recorded and made available after the event.
- Please enter questions for our speakers in the Q&A function, not the chat box.
- Please use the chat box to share any thoughts or reflections during the presentation
- Please be respectful to each other when posting your comments or questions.



Welcome

John Richardson

Executive Director

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)



Scan to download 2024-25
Major Incidents Report



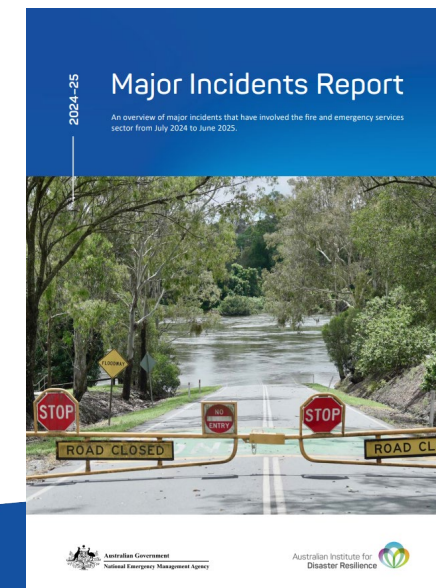
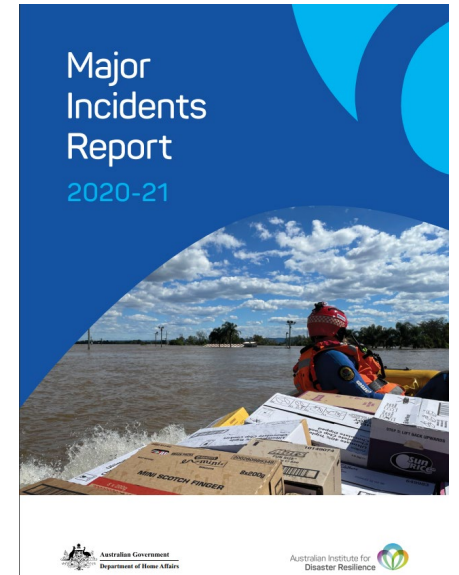
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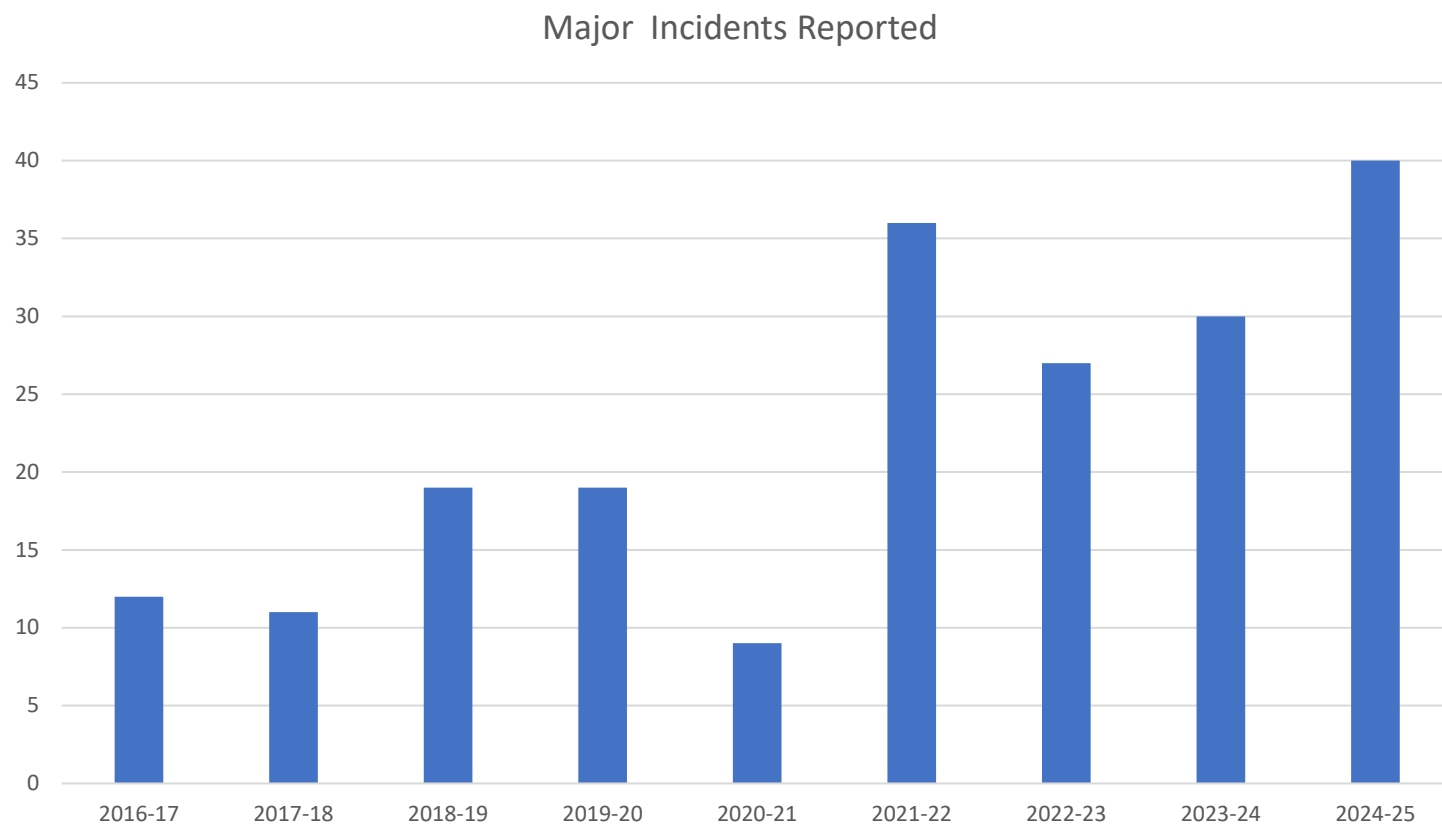


Major Incidents Report

- 9th Major Incidents Report
- Commissioned by NEMA, in time for the National Preparedness Summit in September
- AIDR production in conjunction with NEMA, Australian Government agencies, State and Territory agencies, and the ABC
- 21 agencies and 32 individuals involved in the production

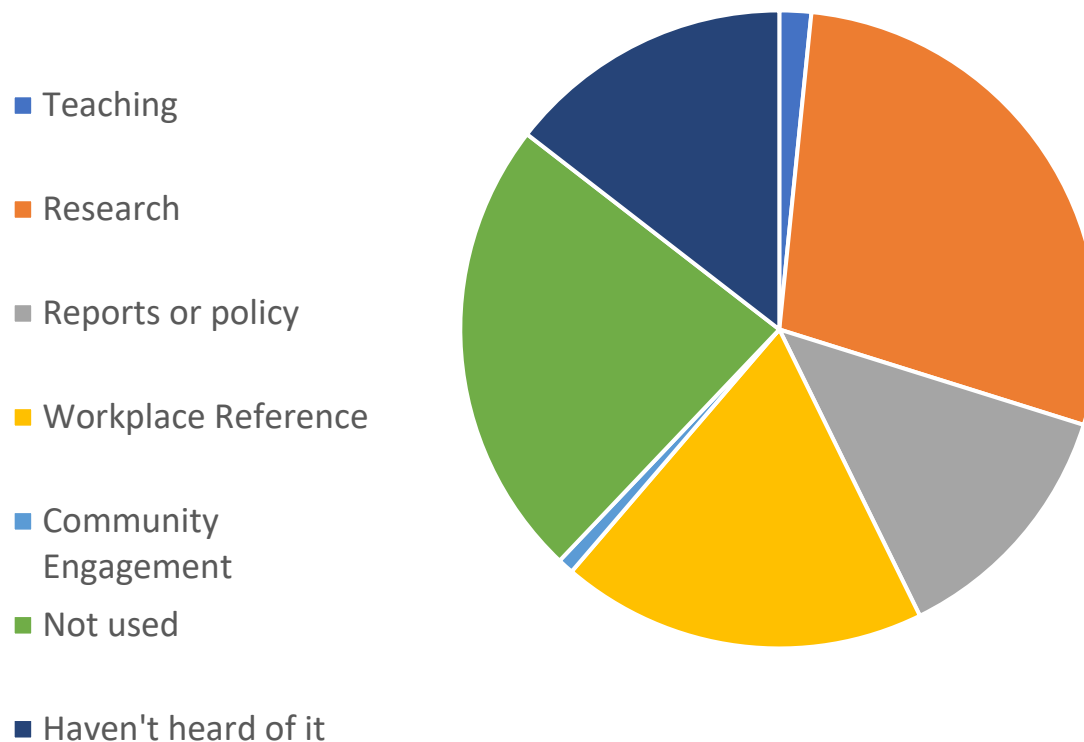


An upward trend



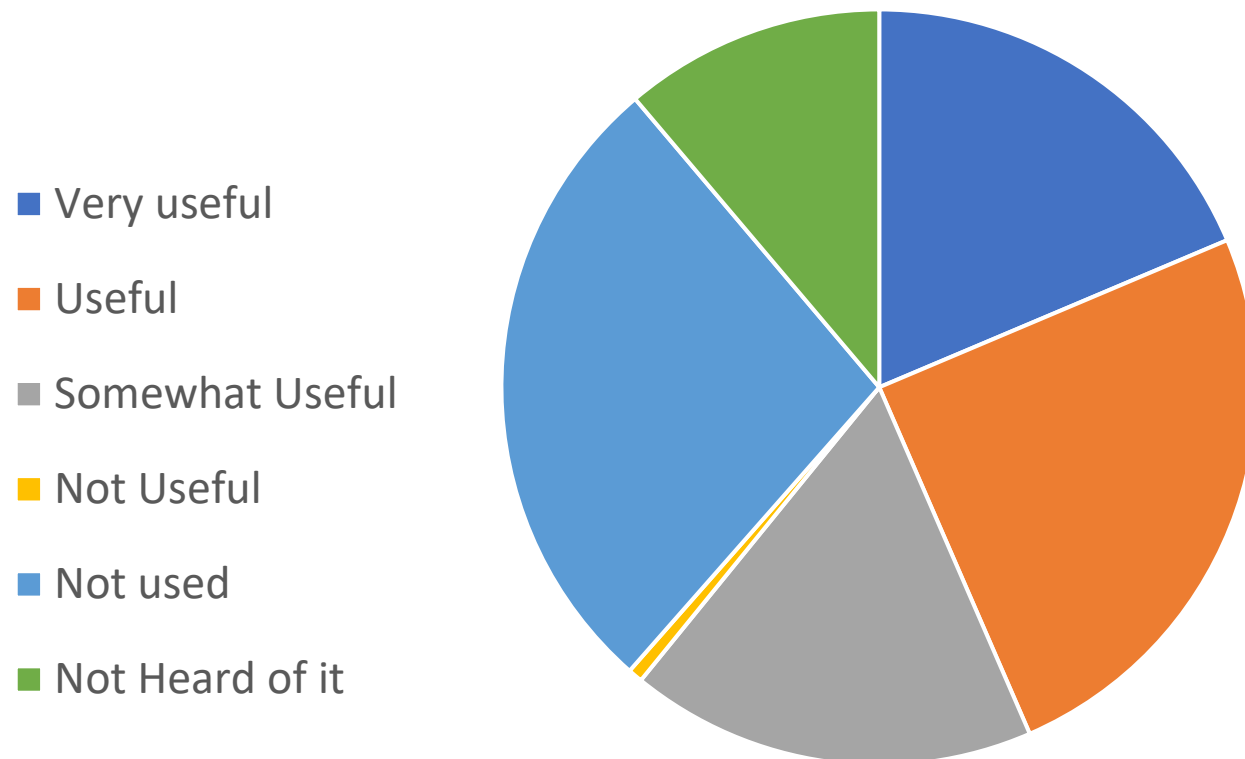


How is it used





How do people rate it?





What are people saying about it?

- Very helpful, particularly with senior students
- Helpful resource, generally, a great quick reference, but haven't used it much.
- Not overly useful when published only annually. Have individual incident reports available sooner.
- Really great link between EM and DR
- This is an essential document to capture key incidents each year. While it only really captures the event rather than all the aspects of DRR that surround the event, it is an essential document of record.
- Good learning tool especially if the subject is out of normal boundaries, eg Canberra bushfires.

Speaker Introduction

Brad Slater

Major Incidents Report Writer

Director, Krisis Consultancy





Major Incidents Report 2024-25





Major Incidents Report 2024-25

Incidents are identified based on:

- Significance to State, Territory, or National levels
- Level of damage or disruption
- Community sentiment
- Uniqueness



New South Wales SES. Wauchope bridge Flooding.



Major Incidents Report 2024-25

- 40 incidents were identified
- 4 Case studies [QLD and NSW]
 - TC impact across multiple jurisdictions
 - We will review the NSW experience today



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Table 1. Major incidents reported during 2024-25

	Bushfire	Flood	Storm	Cyclone	Geo.	Health	Tech.	Structure fire	Conflict
International	2				2		1		1
National							1		
ACT			1			1			
NSW		2	3	1		1			
NT									
QLD		2		1					
SA	2	1	1						
TAS	1		1						
VIC	7		3			1		3	
WA	3		1						
Total	15	5	10	2¹	2	1²	1³	3	1

1. Tropical Cyclone Alfred had significant impact on both NSW and QLD and have separate case studies.

2. The Avian Influenza outbreak expanded over the 3 jurisdictions of ACT, NSW, and Victoria.

3. The CrowdStrike outages impacted Australia and Internationally.



Key themes identified

- Intensifying storm activity and more extreme temperature/rainfall patterns.
- Extended bushfire seasons and broad flooding risk areas.
- Increasing vulnerability of essential infrastructure and supply chains.
- Importance of interstate resource support.
- More complex and remote incidents challenging response and relief efforts.
- The potential for major catastrophic impacts on urban areas from cyclones.



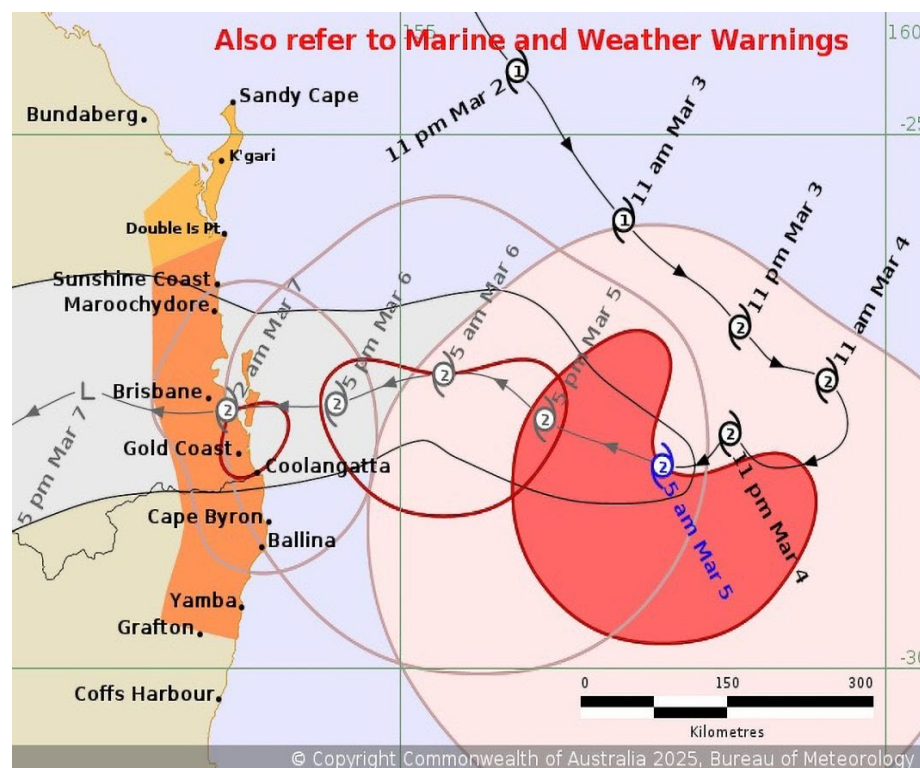
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Case Study

New South Wales - Tropical Cyclone Alfred

- Event
- Response
- Impact and consequence
- Relief and recovery
- Observations



Bureau of Meteorology 05/03/2025© 2025 Commonwealth of Australia.



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Speaker Introduction

Joe Buffone

Deputy Coordinator General, Emergency Management and Response Group

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)





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2024-25 Major Incidents Report

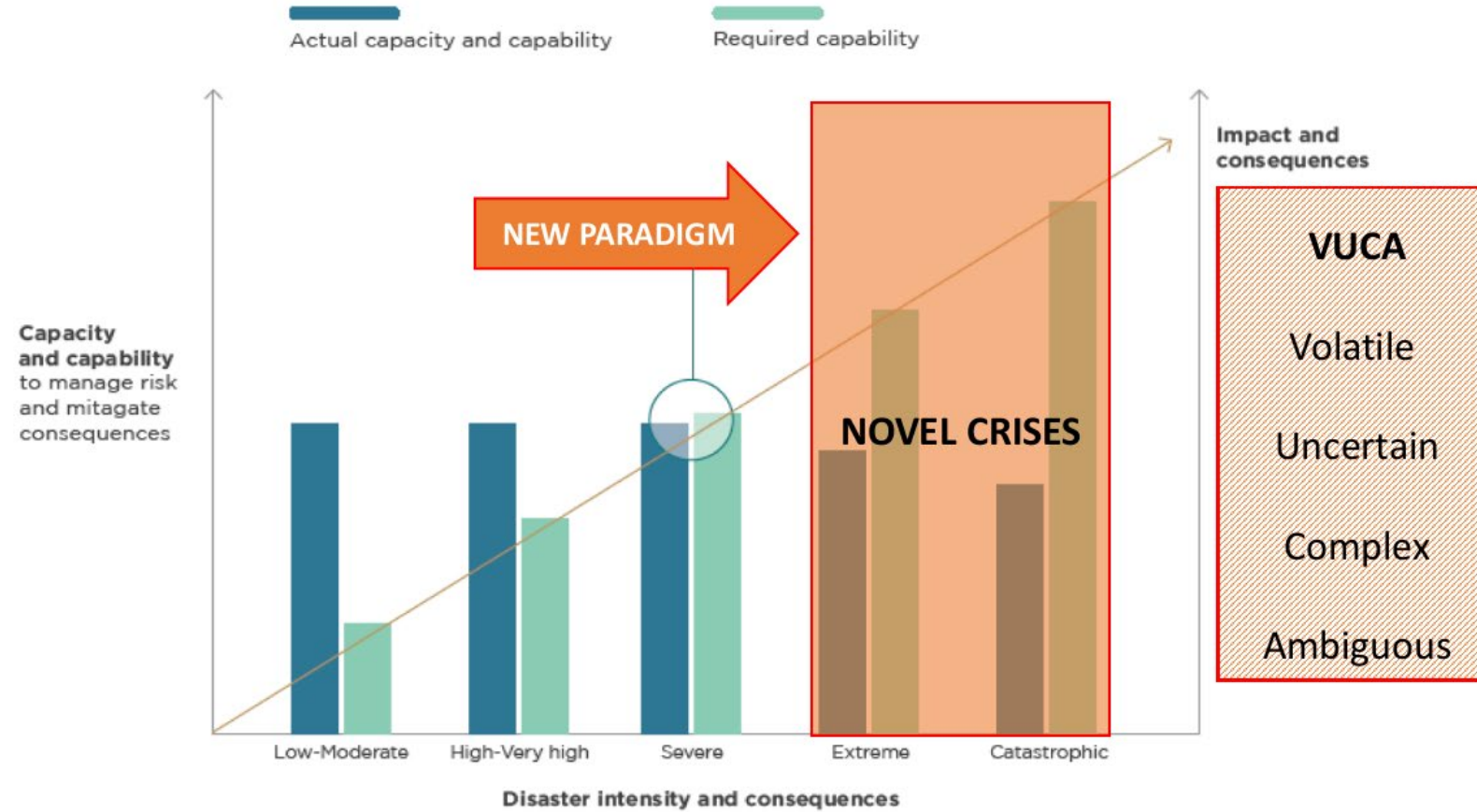
Joe Buffone PSM

Deputy Coordinator General Emergency
Management Response



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Crosweller M, Tschakert P. Climate change and disasters: The ethics of leadership

Complicated vs Complex

Complicated problems originate from causes that can be individually distinguished. They can be addressed piece-by-piece—for each input to the system there is a proportionate output. The relevant systems can be controlled and the problems they present admit permanent solutions.

Complex problems result from networks of multiple interacting causes that cannot be individually distinguished. They cannot be addressed in a piecemeal way, and they are such that small inputs may result in disproportionate effects. The problems they present cannot be solved once and forever but need to be systematically managed.

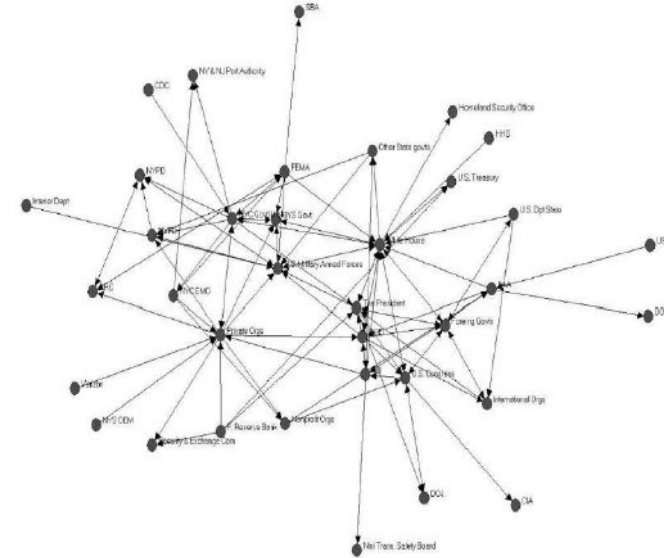
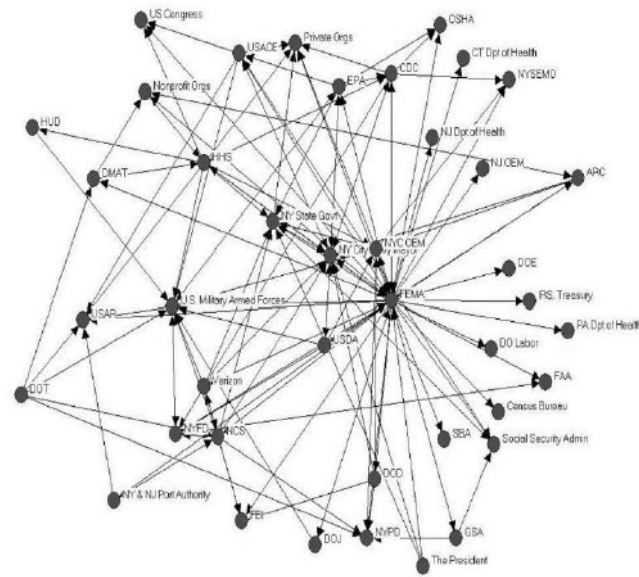
– Roberto Poli, Author of *Working with the Future: Ideas and Tools to Govern Uncertainty*



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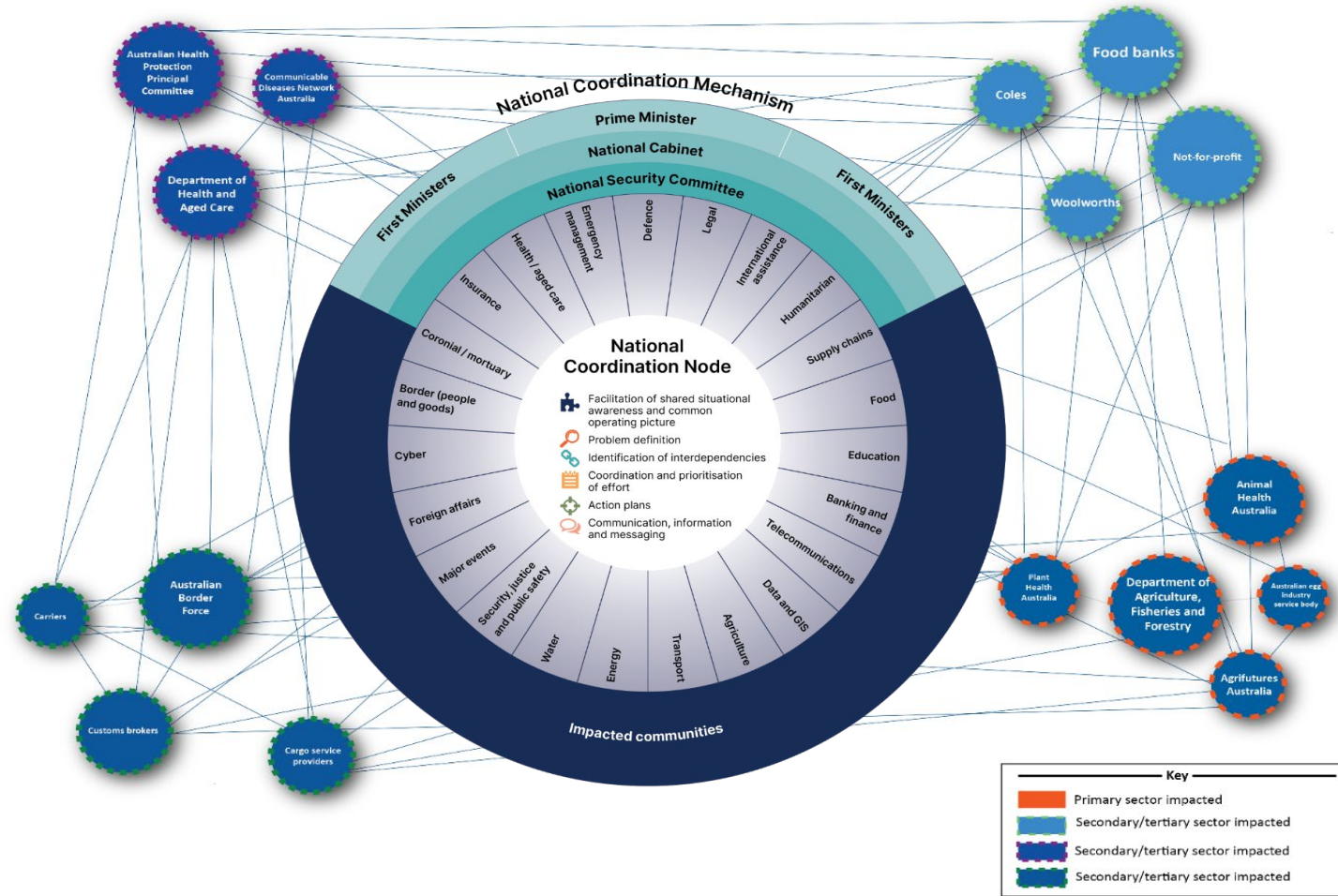
Inter - organisational networks





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Good practice principles for arrangements to manage catastrophic crises

- 1 Arrangements must allow for a **nationwide approach**
- 2 Arrangements must allow for a **collaborative** and **coordinated approach**
- 3 Arrangements must allow for **decentralised decision-making** and **distributed execution** supported by **centralised strategic coordination**
- 4 Arrangements must allow for **flexibility, improvisation** and **scalability**
- 5 Arrangements must allow for the **integration of civilian** and **emergent capability**
- 6 Arrangements must promote and **embrace foresight** and **sense making**
- 7 Arrangements must **foster interoperability**
- 8 Arrangements must be supported by **planning processes**
- 9 Arrangements must be **responsive** and **support** elected officials' **decision making** and **crisis leadership**

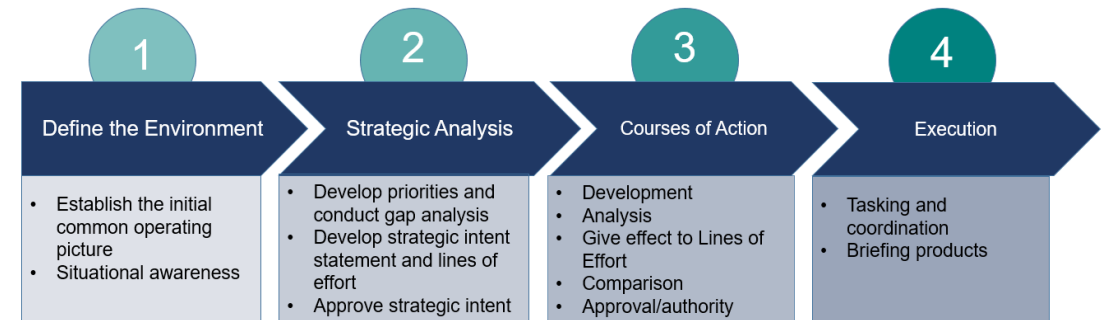
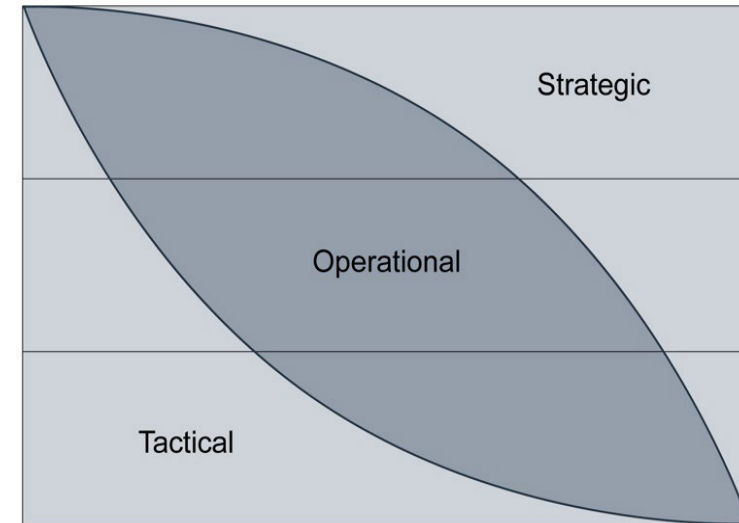
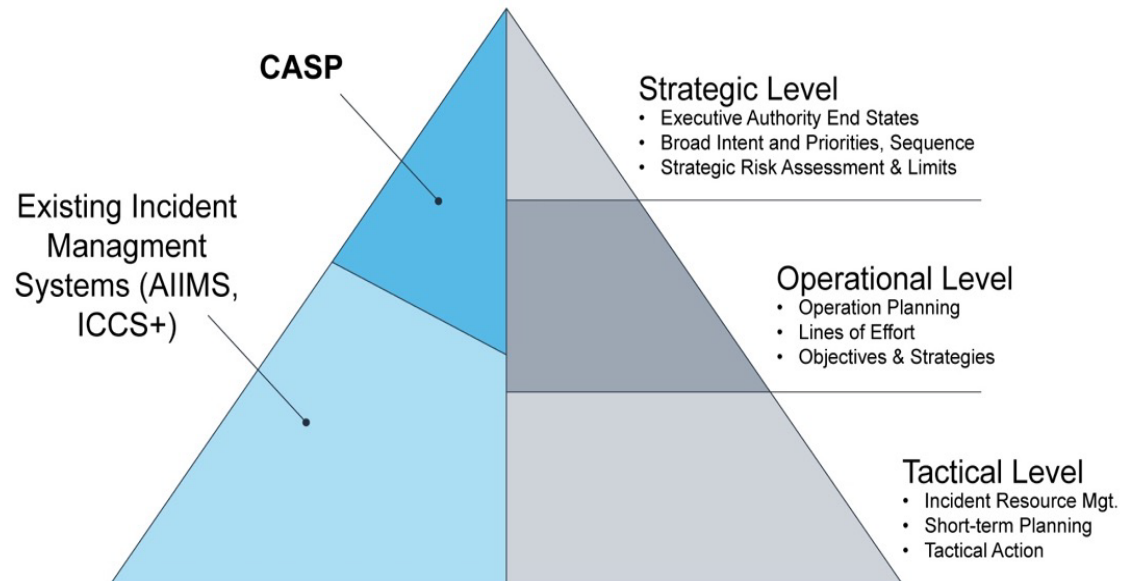
Consequence Management vs Hazard Management

A consequence approach moves the focus from a specific hazard, such as fire or flood, to broader consequences which may affect a community, regardless of hazard source.

For example, a shortage of liquid fuels resulting from a supply chain disruption may be caused by flood, windstorm, pandemic or fire. While the management of the individual hazard may differ, the consequence for the community requires a coordinated response across agencies to re-establish fuel supplies, regardless of the event causing the disruption.

KEEP ASKING THE – SO WHAT???

Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning (CASP)





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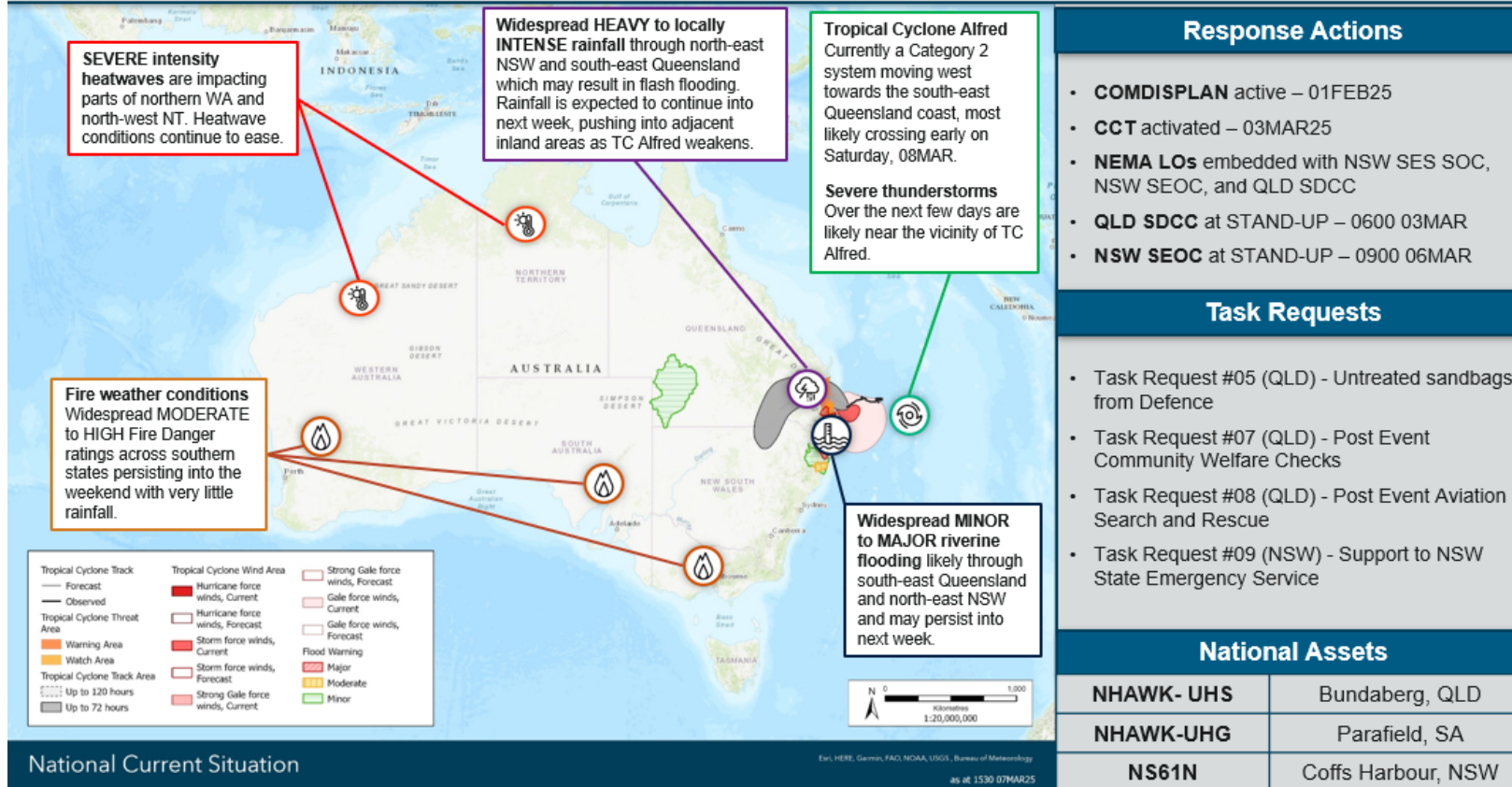
NEMA Dashboard – TC Alfred – SE QLD/NE NSW

Information current as at 1600 hrs AEDT, 07MAR25

OFFICIAL

NATIONAL OUTLOOK

- TC Alfred is expected to cross the Moreton Bay Islands early Saturday morning, 08MAR, before crossing the mainland coast, between Noosa and Beenleigh later Saturday morning.
- Impacts are expected to be most severe on the southern edge of the system, with MODERATE to MAJOR flooding forecast for multiple catchments.
- A forecast severe storm surge is expected to cause further damage and inundation to low-lying coastal areas of south-east QLD and north-east NSW.
- A WATCH and ACT is current for an ongoing bushfire in Windy Harbour, WA. There is a POSSIBLE threat to local communities.



Response Actions

- **COMDISPLAN** active – 01FEB25
- **CCT** activated – 03MAR25
- **NEMA LOs** embedded with NSW SES SOC, NSW SEOC, and QLD SDCC
- **QLD SDCC** at STAND-UP – 0600 03MAR
- **NSW SEOC** at STAND-UP – 0900 06MAR

Task Requests

- Task Request #05 (QLD) - Untreated sandbags from Defence
- Task Request #07 (QLD) - Post Event Community Welfare Checks
- Task Request #08 (QLD) - Post Event Aviation Search and Rescue
- Task Request #09 (NSW) - Support to NSW State Emergency Service

National Assets

NHAWK- UHS	Bundaberg, QLD
NHAWK-UHG	Parafield, SA
NS61N	Coffs Harbour, NSW

NEMA's Role in the AGCMF



Australian Government Coordinating Agency for Natural Hazards and Space Weather

NEMA maintains responsibility for several pre-existing and new national plans, and has set roles and responsibilities under those plans.

One of NEMA's core roles is as the Australian Government Coordinating Agency for natural hazards and space weather.



Lead Enabling Agency for Domestic Elements of International Crises

While DFAT is the Australian Government Coordinating Agency for crises occurring overseas, NEMA acts as lead for the domestic elements of these crises. This includes coordinating the evacuation of civilians and organising Australian assistance missions travelling overseas.



Australian Government's All-Hazards Enabling Agency

NEMA is the custodian of Australian Government crisis capabilities that support some or all elements of crisis coordination across all hazards Australia may face.

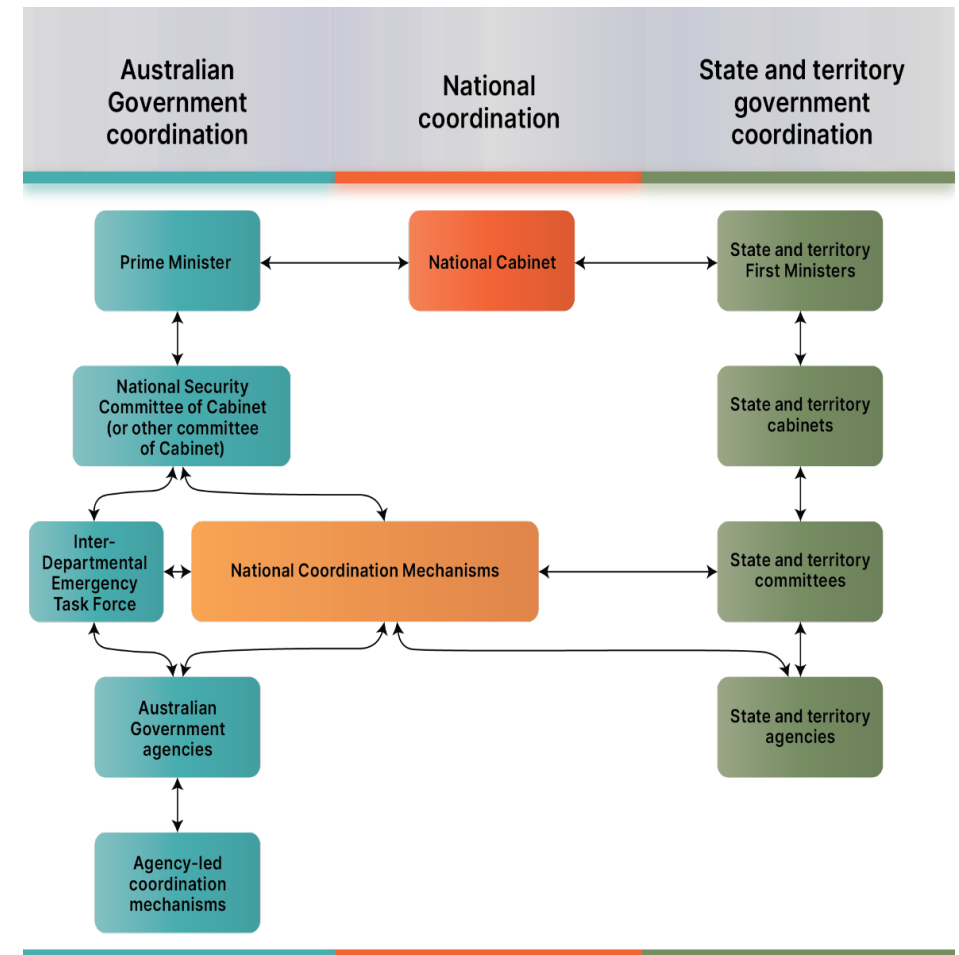


Australian Government Coordinating Agency for All-hazard Tier 4 and Novel Events

NEMA is responsible for coordinating the whole-of-Australian Government response to the most severe of domestic crises under the updated AGCMF.

Overview of the AGCMF

- Australian Government's capstone policy framing Australia's national crisis management arrangements.
- Outlines arrangements to support whole of Australian Government and national coordination in response to crisis.
- Intended for Australian Government ministers and senior officials with a role in crisis management.
- The AGCMF outlines:
 - Australian Government's **all-hazards approach to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from crises**
 - roles and responsibilities of ministers and senior officials
 - key Australian Government capabilities and mechanisms to support coordination during crises.
- Implemented through a suite of national crisis plans.
- Administered by PM&C, with support to Australian Government coordination provided by NEMA as required.



Themes of 2024-25 Report

1. Continuing climate change trends of extreme temperatures and increasing frequency and severity of natural hazard events.
2. Bushfires in Victoria and Tasmania highlighted the need for emergency management to include cultural and environmental heritage impact in planning, response and recovery.
3. Increasing number of international assistance deployments and overlapping bushfire seasons compounding resource constraints and staff fatigue across agencies.
4. Novel events, such as Avian Influenza, demonstrating the strength of coordinated communication, planning and response across all levels of government and industry.
5. Consecutive, Concurrent and Compounding effects of more frequent and intense natural hazards with additional complexity of human induced crises such as cyber.



Q&A

Don't forget to put your questions in the Q&A function.



Event concludes

Thank you for attending today's webinar.

Next webinar:

International Day for Disaster Risk
Reduction: Fund resilience, not disasters

Monday 13 October 2025,
1.00pm-2.00pm AEDT



Register now.



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