

Planning to reduce risk from tsunami

Speed read

- Tsunami risk can be reduced through a range of risk reduction activities and good planning.
- Emergency planning should be undertaken with communities.
- Emergency plans, including evacuation plans, should be tested on a regular basis to ensure they are effective and adapted to changing risk or emergency procedures.

Key points

- Tsunami risk may be reduced through the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems, the use of structural defences and land-use planning approaches.
- Emergency preparedness for tsunami includes emergency planning, capability development, community engagement and running exercises to practice plans.
- Tsunami emergency plans should be developed with community involvement.
- Evacuation planning is a very important component of emergency plans, and these plans should be regularly practiced through running exercises. What is learnt from running exercises can then be used to improve emergency plans and procedures.
- Technology to detect tsunamis and early warnings are critical in reducing the possible impacts.
- Tsunami detection includes seismometers, tsunameters and tide gauges. It is also important to think about where tsunameters are placed and how information is given to the organisations that put out warnings. There is also new technology emerging to help improve how we detect tsunamis.

Take action

- Consider the 3 types of risk mitigation activities when planning to reduce tsunami risk.
- Use the references included in Chapter 4 of the *Tsunami Emergency Planning in Australia Handbook* to familiarise yourself with tsunami detection methods and risk reduction strategies.

More information

- [Tsunami Emergency Planning in Australia Handbook](#) (AIDR, 2025), Chapter 4
- [Emergency Planning Handbook](#) (AIDR 2020)
- [Evacuation Planning Handbook](#) (AIDR 2023)
- [Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience Handbook](#) (AIDR 2020)
- [Tsunami Knowledge Centre](#) (Bureau of Meteorology, n.d.)