

## Webinar chat summary

### Resilience Matters webinar: The role of local government in disaster risk reduction

Tuesday 14 April 2026, 1.00pm-2.00pm

#### Presenters

- **Gemma Edwards**  
Strategic Initiatives Lead, Bega Valley Shire Council
- **Jason Collins**  
Coordinator Emergency Management, Maribyrnong City Council

#### Appreciation (small sample)

- Great job Gemma - a good summary of a big project! Great to see the focus on implementation discusses after the pilot project identifying the priority of resilient investments has been completed. Still a big job from there, well done!
- Thanks Jason - this is spot on
- Everything you are saying is so true Jason. Such high expectations on local councils and many don't have the funding, skills or capabilities.
- "Enabling community ideas rather than directing them" - so crucial!
- I would LOVE more info on your flood cards for each  
(Note: see Link from webinar presentation 😊)
- Thank you to everyone who pulled this webinar together
- Brilliant insights from Gemma and Jason, many thanks to AIDR for another excellent webinar
- thank you – a lot of it resonated with me ... both the challenges and the solutions
- Fantastic webinar, thank you.
- Thanks, Gemma and Jason - great insights
- Thanks Gemma and Jason - lots to think about

#### Comments in the chat (small sample)

- Funding too linked to disasters, not preparedness! DRFA timeframes and guidelines too rigid! We need State and Federal investment in preparedness to ensure councils and communities are best placed to lead their own recovery and resilience
- The difficulty we experience is that the timeframe for each recovery and resilience program means that there is no continuity or permanency to the work we do. The trust factor that Jason is talking about is lost at the end of each funding period as the community has a loss of faith in the resumption of the community-led activities in the future.
- So much of our thought at the moment has been on how can we make what we are doing last beyond our project without us, but it is hard as you said, as when the project is over we leave the role and the trust that the community built with us is gone no matter how much forward planning and future proofing we try to do for everything we put together.



## Invitations from participants

### **Townsville City Council invites networking and chat about Qld based challenges**

Ashleigh and Dale, my colleague and I, have stepped into the new CRRO roles within Townsville City Council and welcome any opportunity to network and chat about QLD based challenges. Please feel free to reach out anytime. Email is: [hob@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:hob@townsville.qld.gov.au)

## Links from webinar presentation

### **Bega Valley Shire Council**

<https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Home>

### **CSIRO and Bega Valley Shire Council project**

<https://publications.csiro.au/publications/publication/Plcsi:EP2021-1852>

### **Case study about resilience investments under climate change**

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/environmental-science/articles/10.3389/fenvs.2025.1504043/full>

### **DOI Handbook**

<https://www.doi.org/the-identifier/resources/handbook/>

### **Gemma's presentation from ADRC25**

[https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/11837/349-radical-transformation-in-local-government\\_edwards\\_paper.pdf](https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/11837/349-radical-transformation-in-local-government_edwards_paper.pdf)

### **Maribyrnong City Council**

<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Home>

### **Property Flood Risk Cards**

<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Residents/Emergency-Management/Flood-Recovery/Flood-resources>

## Announcements

### **Resilience Matters webinar: The role of local government in disaster risk reduction**

1.00pm (AEST), Tuesday 14 April 2026.

The recording and resources will be available here: [Resilience matters webinar series](#)

### **Lessons Management Forum**

19-21 May 2026 in Brisbane: <https://www.aidr.org.au/events/55915?locationId=55916>