



Is the Global Missing in the Local?

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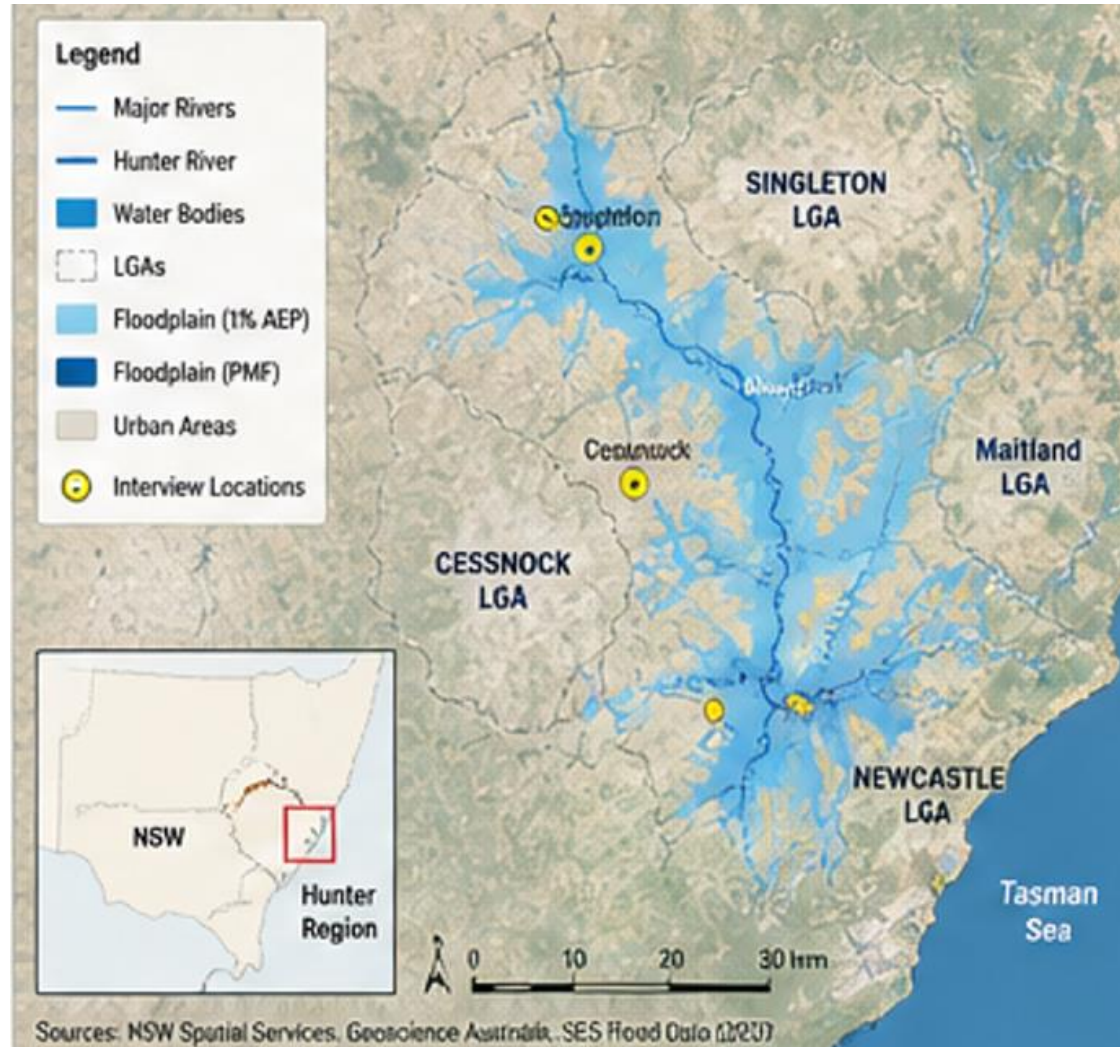




Background

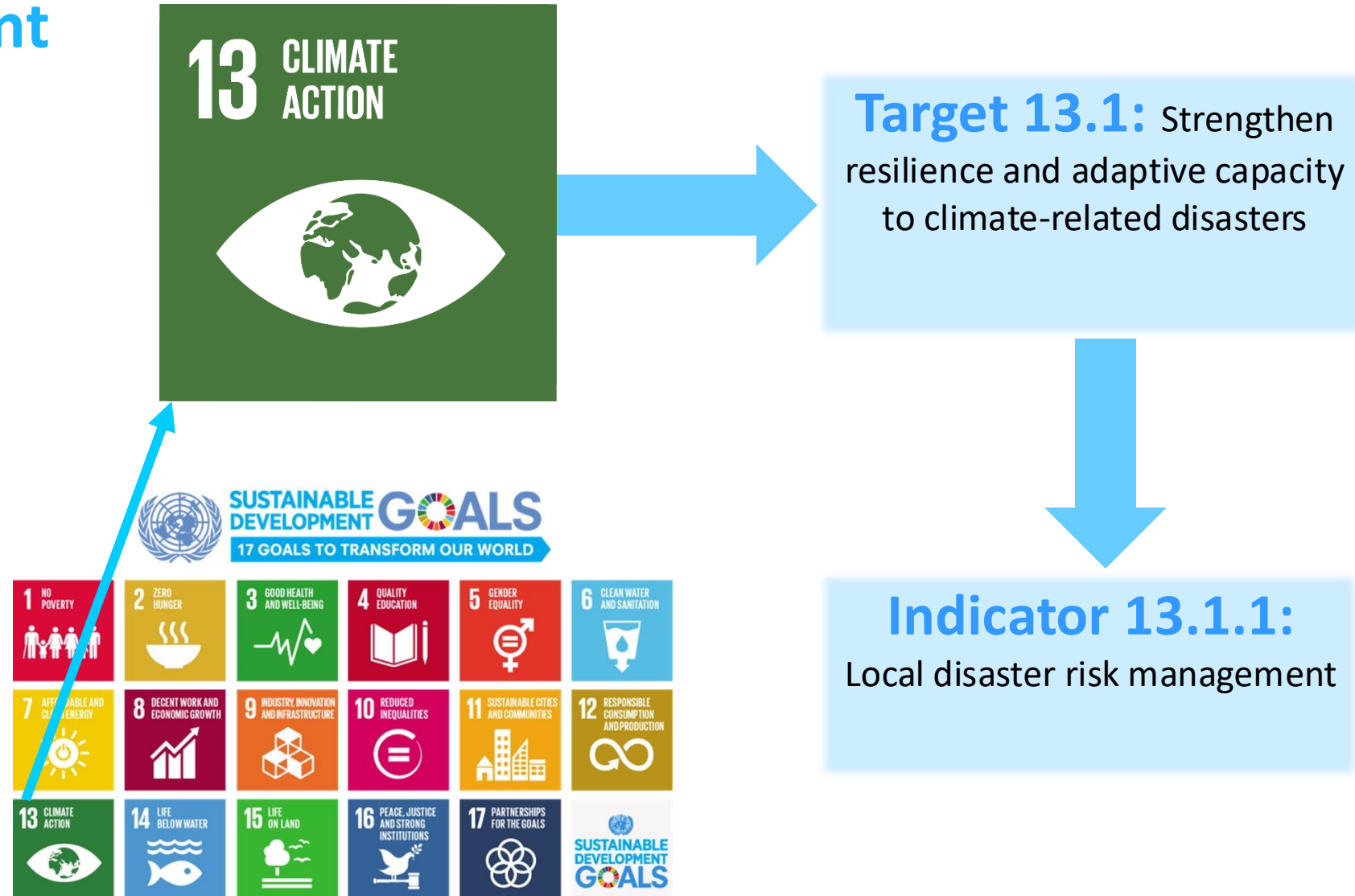
- Increasing floods in NSW Hunter Region.
- Climate change intensifies flood risk. Repeated flood impacts and growing climate risk.
- SDG 13 on Climate Action focuses on resilience – focused on SDG 13, seeking to examine the critical challenge of floods in the Hunter, piloted in two LGAs (Cessnock and Singleton).
- The project sought answers to how local resilience to and adaptive capacity for floods can be improved in the Hunter to address SDG 13.
- Need to connect global frameworks to local action.







SDG Alignment





Why this study matters

- Climate change is increasing flood frequency and intensity.
- Local planning remains based on historical risk.
- Can SDG 13 and the Sendai Framework improve local resilience?
- *Key point: Inadequate localisation of global frameworks.*





Findings from the Literature

- The localisation and mainstreaming of SDG 13 on climate action can support tangible municipal climate actions in the Region.
- However, while it is acknowledged that SDG localisation is needed to address sustainable development challenges, there is a gap in practice and research to guide local government attempts at SDG localisation.
- SDG 13 implementation at the local government level is not well-understood.
- In practice, efforts to implement SDG 13 have not been publicly communicated.
- Barriers to the implementation of adaptive flood risk management
- Lack of evidence on the best approaches at the local level.
- Limited knowledge and capacity.
- Limited indicators for the local government on global frameworks including the SDGs and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).



Key Field Findings

- Findings from the field resonated with that of the literature review.
- Interviews of local stakeholders including councillors and emergency management workers indicated an overall absence of knowledge on the SDGs and SFDRR.
- Many of them did not even know about these global frameworks, despite the relevance to their context of work.
- Response dominates over resilience, focus on EM.
- Limited local capacity in DRR and CCA.
- Development in flood-prone areas; different interest groups.





AAP Image/Darren Pateman

We spoke to the exhausted flood-response teams in the Hunter Valley. Here's what they need when the next floods strike

Iftexhar Ahmed, Thomas Johnson, University of Newcastle
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People living in the Hunter region of New South Wales know all too well the devastation disasters can bring. After enduring the 2019-2020 horror bushfire season, La Niña settled in for three wet summers and residents experienced back-to-back floods.

Since early October, we've conducted nine in-depth interviews with members of flood-response teams in the Hunter for our ongoing qualitative research into how prepared these communities are for future floods. Many people in the Hunter are living in temporary accommodation. A councillor we spoke to pointed out, "there are still people living in caravans, and they'll be in caravans for quite some time".

For the Northern Rivers region, which was ravaged by record-breaking floods in February and March this year, some relief is coming.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet today announced a A\$800 million buyback scheme for residents in seven areas – including Lismore, Ballina and Tweed – where "major flooding would pose a catastrophic risk to life". Some 2,000 homeowners will be eligible for funding to sell their homes, repair damage, or make their homes more resilient.

Your recent submission to PreventionWeb: We spoke to the exhausted flood-r...



To: Iftexhar Ahmed
Cc: UNDRR PreventionWeb

3:02 AM

Dear Iftexhar Ahmed,

Thank you for your recent visit and submission to PreventionWeb: We spoke to the exhausted flood-response teams in the Hunter Valley. Here's what they need when the next floods strike

We regret to inform you that your submission does not meet our publishing criteria. While PreventionWeb serves the disaster risk reduction community and its many cross-cutting themes and issues, we only publish content focused primarily on long-term disaster risk management and resilience within a natural and man-made hazard risk preparedness, mitigation or prevention context.

Should you or your organization have other content directly related to disaster risk reduction – or further information regarding your submission supporting a disaster risk reduction element that we may have missed – we kindly ask that you submit it for review by visiting <http://www.preventionweb.net/submit/>

We do wish you the best in your work and hope that you continue to find PreventionWeb a reliable source for disaster risk reduction information.

Kind regards,

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

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Emerging Themes

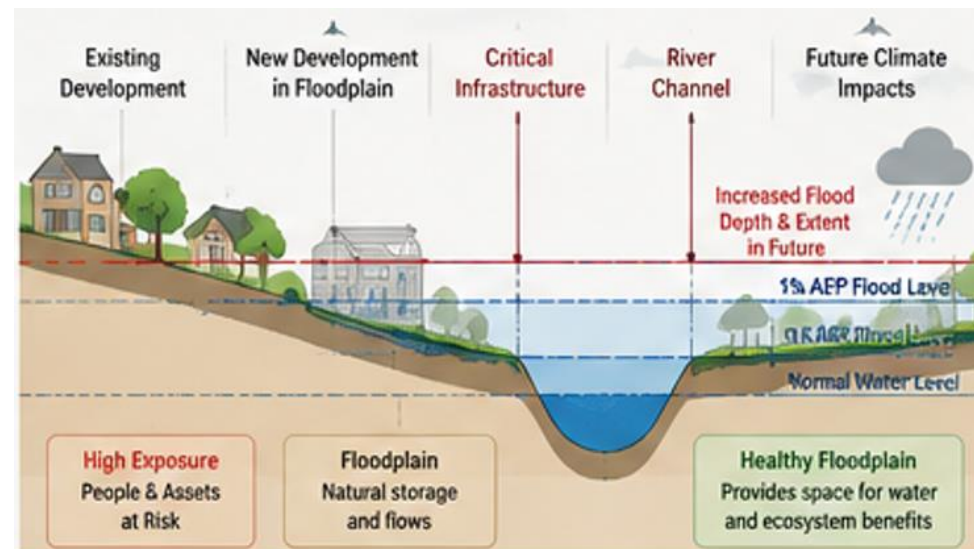
- Community resilience.
- Volunteer sustainability.
- Agency collaboration.
- Early warning (for all).
- Disaster governance.
- Risk-informed urban planning.





Urban Development Challenge

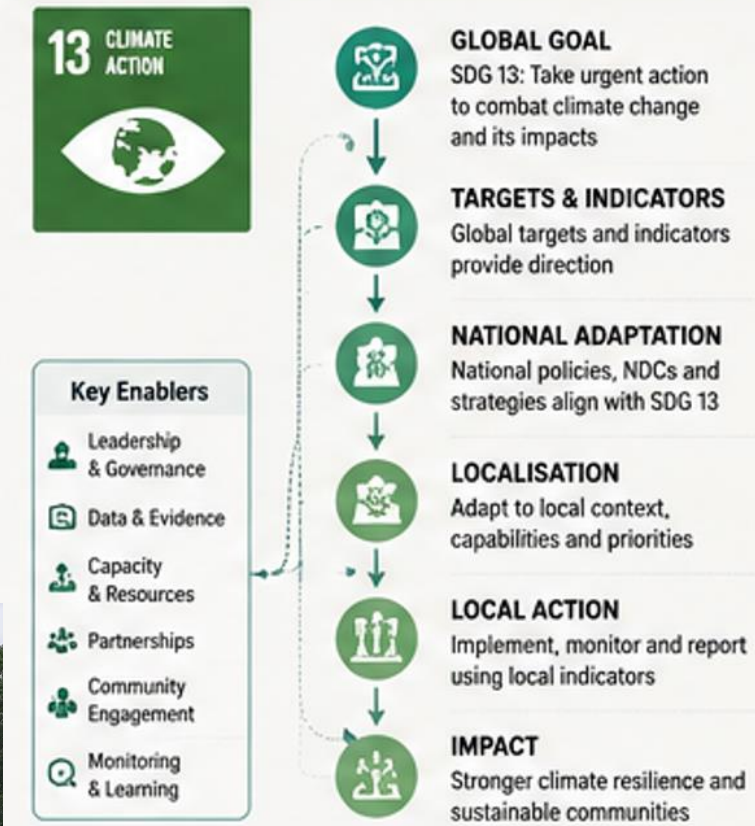
- Community resilience.
- Need for risk-informed planning.
- Avoidance of continued development on floodplains.
- Build Back Better.





Global-Local Gap

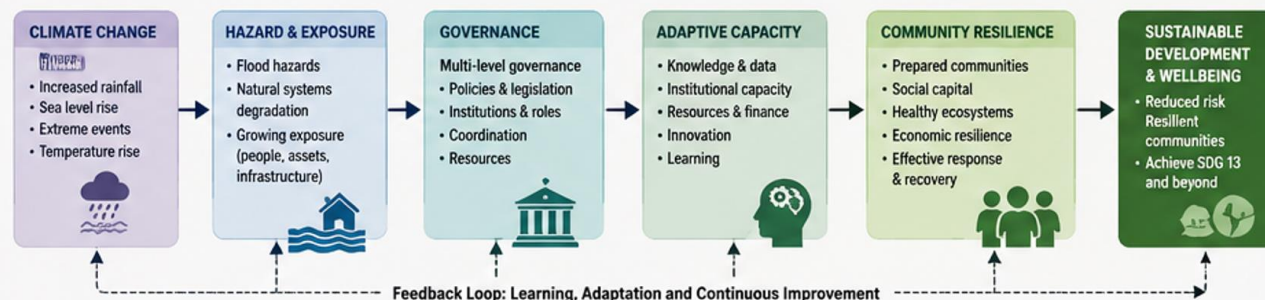
- Global: SDGs, Sendai, adaptation.
- Local: emergency response, recovery.
- Need localisation.





Areas to Address

- Global: SDGs, Sendai, adaptation.
- Community engagement.
- Improve warnings.
- Support volunteers.
- Collaborate.
- Integrate DRR & climate adaptation.
- Mainstream SDGs.





Key Messages

- Localise SDG13.
- Shift from response to resilience.
- Risk-informed planning.





The Wider Picture

- Hunter Region reflects broader Australian regional challenges.
- Bridging global frameworks and local implementation is essential.





Improving Local Resilience to Floods in the Hunter Region to Address Sustainable Development Goal 13

The University of Newcastle, Australia



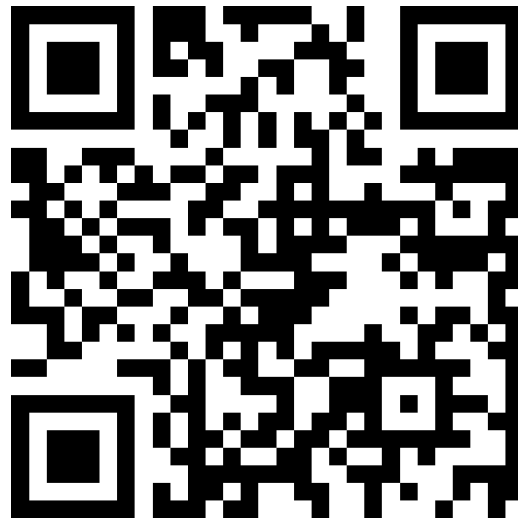
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