

National disaster recovery principle 4: Coordinate all activities

Speed read

- Successful recovery requires a planned, coordinated and adaptive approach, between communities and partner agencies, based on continuing assessment of impacts and need.
- Recovery should have clear decision-making and reporting structures and sound governance, which are transparent and accessible to the community.
- Recovery should be guided by those with experience and expertise, using skilled, authentic and capable community leadership and revolve around local community participation.

Key points

Key recovery stakeholders include:

- impacted communities, individuals and families
- local, state, territory and commonwealth government
- schools, universities and other education providers
- non-government organisations
- local community and social service organisations
- local community groups
- emergent groups
- emergency services
- local businesses
- industry networks and associations.
- insurance companies and banks
- media
- utilities and statutory authorities.

Each of these groups is vital to recovery and has a unique and important role to play. Coordinating and supporting the work and priorities of these groups is a complex task. Often groups will see their specific needs as most important, and opinions are likely to differ when establishing recovery priorities.

Pre-event recovery structural arrangements. Some communities have established local emergency planning committees or groups to proactively plan for disasters within their area. Collaborating to develop collective emergency management goals and solutions can strengthen the capacity and relationships that will be drawn upon before, during or after a disaster.

Post-event recovery operational structures. Recovery is most effective when managed by either a recovery committee or an identified recovery coordinator (supported by a recovery committee). The first action is to develop a community recovery action plan to detail priorities, resource allocation and management. The recovery action plan provides the strategic direction and operational actions required to facilitate successful recovery at all levels. Recovery management structures should be based on needs identified by the community.

Management of recovery services, information and resources should occur at the local level, be supported by specialist advice and be based on a capacity building model.

Common management structures

Recovery committee	The strategic decision-making body for recovery that helps identify priorities, develops and maintains a recovery plan, and monitors and coordinates the activities of agencies.
Recovery task groups or taskforce	Have specific expertise to provide support and advice on particular operational or policy issues.
Local community consultation groups	Established to give community members the ability to meet, provide input and guidance to the recovery process.
Local and state/territory government committees	Local government plays a key role in recovery at the community level, based upon state/territory emergency management arrangements. Committees at the state and territory level guide and support recovery policy and planning, and also ensure resourcing of recovery activities.
National-level committees	Guide and support strategic recovery policy and planning. Agreements for Commonwealth support during an emergency are currently provided in the Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) and Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements.
International arrangements	There are also plans in place for offshore events that affect Australian residents and require their repatriation. One arrangement is the Australian Government Plan for the Reception of Australian Citizens and Approved Foreign Nationals Evacuated from Overseas (AUSRECEPLAN).
Public-private partnerships	Private sector plays a critical role in building and sustaining community resilience and supporting whole-of-community recovery. It is embedded in the affected community in the form of electricity providers, insurance companies the banking sector, telecommunications, local media, retail outlets, private physical and mental health providers, private education providers and major employers.
Not-for-profit, community service and local organisations and groups	Are integral to effective recovery, through contributing to the development of policy and practice, contributing local knowledge and experience, and particularly in the provision of a range of services throughout affected communities.

Thought should be given to the scale and impact of a disaster and available assistance before initiating public appeals.

Any appeal should support nationally agreed principles of disaster resilience and recovery—including the empowerment of disaster-affected communities and promotion of long-term sustainable recovery. Cash grants empower people affected by a disaster event to choose how they support their own recovery; they are easily targeted to meet immediate needs and they are likely to stimulate the local economy.

Take action

- Put up the [National Principles for Disaster Recovery poster](https://bit.ly/RecoveryPrinciplesPoster) in your office or recovery centre (bit.ly/RecoveryPrinciplesPoster)
- Use the [Checklist: Applying the principles post-disaster](https://bit.ly/RecoveryPrinciples) (SRRG 2018) (bit.ly/RecoveryPrinciples)

More information

- [Community Recovery Handbook](#) (AIDR 2018)
- [Australian Emergency Management Arrangements Handbook](#) (AIDR 2019)
- [Running Australian Disaster Relief Funds](#) (ATO 2017)