



# Australian Disaster Resilience Index Workshop



The Australian Disaster Resilience Index is an industry-first snapshot of the capacities for disaster resilience in Australian communities.

Understanding these capacities, and how they differ from place to place, will help communities, governments and industry work together to cope with and adapt to natural hazards such as bushfires, floods, storms and earthquakes.

Join the Lead Researcher for the Australian Disaster Resilience Index, Dr Melissa Parsons from the University of New England, for this hands-on, experiential workshop that will provide a customised exploration of the research and website tools in your local or agency context.

The Australian Disaster Resilience Index will support you with activities such as:

- Policy development
- Resource planning
- Recovery planning
- Community engagement
- Community profiling
- Urban planning
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Emergency planning
- Business development
- Research and modelling
- Strategic planning
- Risk assessment
- Community planning
- Regional development

## Learnings

- Learn how to use the website tools to explore place-based disaster resilience, coping and adaptive capacities
- Work through a real-life example of using the website tools to enhance your planning and decision making, with expert guidance on hand
- Develop an understanding of the factors that enhance or constrain disaster resilience in your local area
- Connect with peers to share ideas and learn how the Index is being used in other organisations
- Find out more about the underpinning research



Australian Government  
National Recovery and  
Resilience Agency



Australian Institute for  
Disaster Resilience



# About our facilitator

MP A/Prof Melissa Parsons

Melissa Parsons is a river scientist with broad-ranging research interests in river monitoring and assessment, large flood disturbances, river ecology, river and floodplain resilience, building resilience to natural hazards, public policy, psychological responses to environmental change, and water resource management. Melissa works at the interface between theory and practice, and examines the ways that concepts such as resilience, scale and adaptive management can advance environmental and natural hazard management outcomes.

Melissa led the development of the Australian Disaster Resilience Index. In conjunction with the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and Australian emergency service agencies, the index was used to conduct the first national-level assessment of disaster resilience in Australia ([www.adri.bnhcrc.com.au](http://www.adri.bnhcrc.com.au)). Melissa teaches courses in natural hazards and has supervised PhD students in areas of river and floodplain science, psychology and natural hazards. Prior to joining UNE, Melissa worked on several large-scale environmental assessment programs, including the National Carbon Accounting System, the Sustainable Rivers Audit and the AUSRIVAS river health assessment. Her post-doctoral research examined the ecological effects of the February 2000 floods across southern Africa on the rivers of Kruger National Park.